



# EONS 2022 Activity Report

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## 1 EONS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Every year, 3.5 million people in the EU are diagnosed with cancer, and 1.3 million die from it. Over 40% of cancer cases are preventable. Cancer is becoming the leading cause of death in the EU. The Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, published last year, aims to reduce the cancer burden for patients, their families and health systems. Cancer nurses in Europe can have a significant impact on achieving the goals of the cancer plan. The European Oncology Nursing Society (EONS) is a membership organization, largely comprising [national cancer nursing societies](#) that serve as a channel for a constructive voice informing EONS, and vice versa, dedicated to the support and development of cancer nursing. The improvement of patient safety and better clinical outcomes for people affected by cancer and their families is central to our work: EONS' mission is to ensure that all people affected by cancer benefit from the care of highly educated, well-informed, and competent cancer nurses. Through our individual members and our national societies, we engage every year in projects to help cancer nurses develop their skills, network with each other, and raise the profile and professional status of cancer nursing across Europe.

EONS exists to strengthen the cancer nursing voice by creating an enabling environment for cancer nurses; develop the healthcare sector; serve the needs of stakeholders such as cancer organizations, ministries of health; advocate on behalf of cancer nurses and people affected by cancer; and influence public health policy.

**EONS strategy for 2018-2023** <https://cancernurse.eu/about-eons/strategy/>

**EONS' mission** – It is to ensure that all people affected by cancer benefit from the care of highly educated, well-informed and competent cancer nurses. EONS' vision is that cancer nursing will be recognised by the cancer community, national and European-level policy makers, as a profession with specialised training and qualifications available across the continent. Working conditions for cancer nurses will be optimal, providing a commensurate financial income as well as protecting and promoting individual well-being. We anticipate that this will produce a relatable improvement in the health and clinical outcomes for people affected by cancer. Finally, we envisage that all our members will become confident and empowered cancer nurses operating as leaders in research, practice and education within multi-professional teams.

**EONS' Values** – The core strength of EONS comes from our members. We recognise the diverse aspects of nursing across Europe and strive for equality for all cancer nurses regardless of gender, religion race, sexual orientation or disability. The improvement of patient safety and better clinical outcomes for cancer patients and their families is central to our work. The Society firmly believes in working in partnerships across sectors and professions who share our goals and values.

EONS delivers strategic goals and projects via four working groups "CARE" (Communication, Advocacy, Research, Education) and the Young Cancer Nurses network and their expert members. Each of the working groups and Young Cancer Nurses network has action plans to implement the strategic goals of EONS.

## **EONS' Strategic goals**

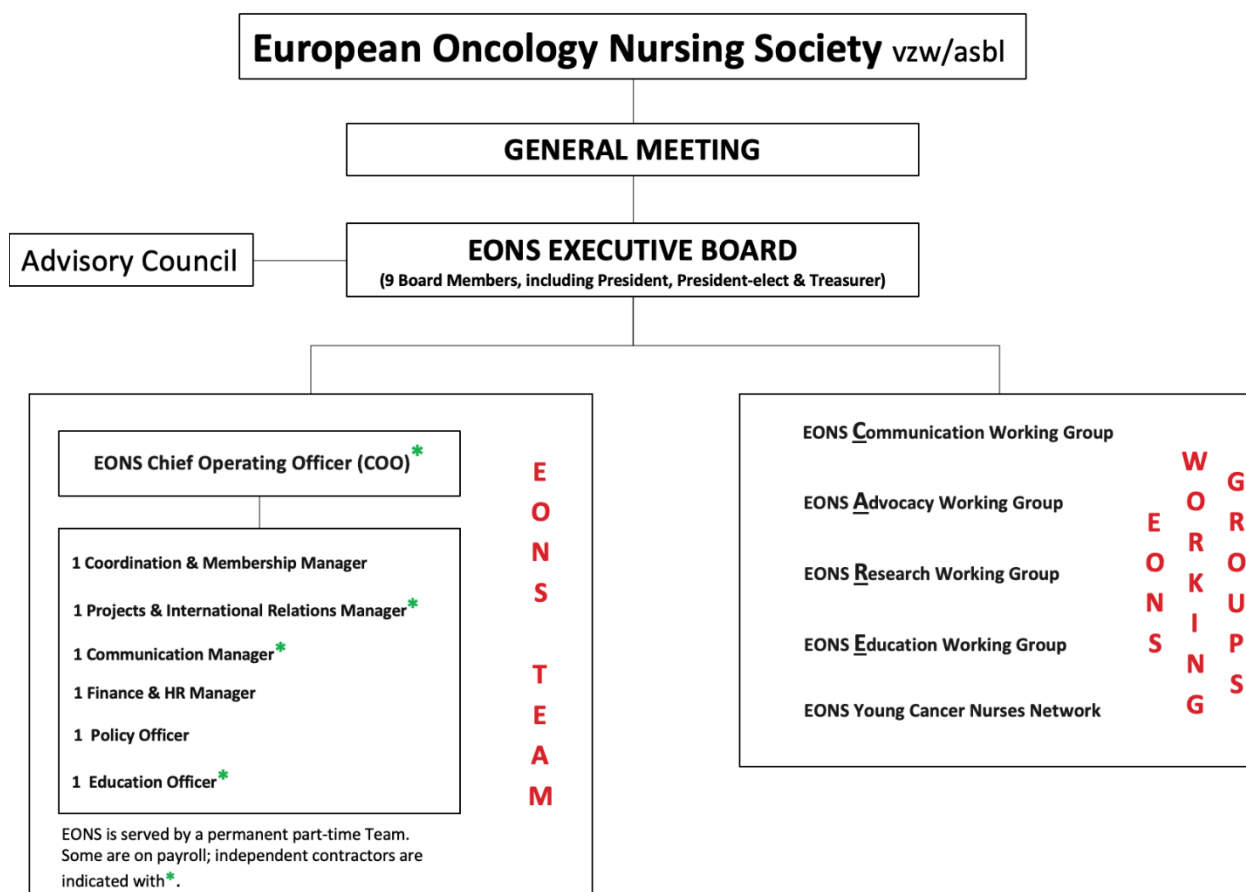
- Cancer nursing is recognised across Europe for its positive impact on the lives of people affected by cancer through C.A.R.E. – Communication, Advocacy, Research and Education
- All cancer nurses have access to specialised education that is aligned with the EONS Cancer Nursing Education Framework
- All cancer nurses gain official recognition, reward and respect as a result of the RECaN and advocacy campaigns
- All cancer nurses are connected in order to exchange and share information and support for their work
- EONS facilitates, leads and promotes collaborative cancer nursing research across Europe
- EONS leads EU-wide advocacy initiatives at the EU policy level
- EONS provides evidence-based advice to people and organizations affected by cancer on healthy lifestyles and cancer prevention

## **EONS' Organizational goals**

- Achieve financial sustainability
- Establish a collaborative system for each working group to be engaged in helping to achieve EONS' strategic and organizational goals
- Integrate the Young Cancer Nurses network fully into all EONS' work
- Engage all our members to work on our mission
- Provide support for all nurses caring for people affected by cancer through working towards our strategic goals.

## **2 GOVERNANCE**

**EONS Structure** – An Executive Board, Advisory Council, General Meeting, EONS team and EONS working groups make up the organisational structure of the European Oncology Nursing Society (EONS). These bodies collaborate to execute the identified goals and strategies of the Society and to implement activities which support the mission of EONS. The EONS Structure is captured in the below diagram.



**Executive Board meetings** – The Executive Board acts in the capacity of trustees and conducts the affairs of the European Oncology Society (EONS) in accordance with the policies determined by the Members and the Advisory Council within the laws governing Belgian not-for-profit associations. In 2022, full-day Board meetings took place on 17 January, 24 February, 29 March, 20 April and 19 May at ECND22, 14 June, 12 July, 25 August, 8 September Paris EONS15, 12 October, 18 November hybrid, 13 December.

**Advisory Council** – The Advisory Council is composed of representatives of EONS national society members and is invited on an annual basis to advise on the strategic development of the Society. The 2022 EONS Advisory Council meeting took place face-to-face meeting on 9 September 2022, in Paris, during EONS15 Congress

**General Meeting** – Both national society members and individual members are invited once a year to approve the audited accounts of the previous year and, in an election year, to vote in the EONS Executive Board and Presidential elections.

The online General Meeting took place on 13 June 2022.

## EONS Operations

The EONS Chief Operating Officer (COO) has appointed on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2022.

Cancer Nursing Fund (CNF), established in 2020 and managed by the King Baudouin Foundation, provides a unique opportunity to support the work that cancer nurses do and advance the profession of cancer nursing in Europe. The Fund is a separate entity from EONS. In 2022, CNF provided 12 grants to cancer nurses to attend the face-to-face EONS15 annual conference (total amount of €4,483.86).

## 3 COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

EONS communicated regularly with its members (national societies and individual members) throughout 2022 via three main communications platforms: website, newsletter, and social media (see more below); and also, by bulk emailing when required. Public relations were promoted by the same platforms, and via press releases, media articles, and partner organizations' social media where appropriate.

**Website** – A resource hub for the latest cancer nursing education and research information, plus updates on EONS' advocacy work and other activities. Hosts webcasts and other opportunities for online professional development. Recently redesigned and relaunched.


**E-Newsletter** – emailed monthly; contains news on EONS activities, policy, and events; calls to members to get involved, advertises learning and development opportunities within and outside EONS.

**Social Media** – Used for active participation and involvement of EONS membership in the organization's work and campaigns, and for cancer nurse networking and information sharing.

**Communications Working Group** – The [EONS Communication Working Group](#) commits to pursuing activities that contribute towards the achievement of the EONS Strategic Goals as outlined in the 2018 to 2023 Strategy. During 2022 there were several online meetings on 18 January, 18 May (hybrid), 6 July, 10 August, 19 October, and 2 December.

**ECND22 campaign** – This year's European Cancer Nursing Day (ECND22) took place on Wednesday 18 May. Its theme was: 'Supporting cancer nurses in caring for themselves and their patients'.

A powerful social media campaign – #ECND22Go4SelfCare – saw thousands of cancer nurses across Europe celebrate the day and draw attention to the importance of self-care in the workplace.

**EONS15 Conference**  – The annual cancer nursing conference, EONS15 hybrid conference took place in Paris, France, from Saturday-Monday 10-12 September 2022, in partnership with the ESMO 2022 Congress (9-13 September). The theme of our conference was: 'Quality cancer care: pathways to clinical excellence in cancer nursing'. It was a face-to-face conference.

**EONS Social Media performance** – EONS records its social media platforms' impact by assessing the number of followers at the beginning of each month.

**EONS Twitter Chats #EONSChat** – EONS Twitter Chats are used by EONS Working Groups to engage with members and the public via Twitter with the hashtag #EONSChat. EONS organized Twitter Chats in 2022:

1. 15 September 18.00 CET – Sexuality, Intimacy, and Cancer

#Sexuality and #Intimacy are topics that most of us are not so confident to speak about with our patients. However, these are also topics that are entirely necessary to discuss.

**EONS Cancer Calendar** – EONS Cancer Calendar is a campaign to support cancer awareness days and months.

## 4 ADVOCACY

The EONS Advocacy Working Group organized 7 meetings in 2022 (13/1 16/3 27/4 8/6 16/8 9/11 19/12) Work packages were allocated to defined one-off task groups:

**EONS Accreditation for “Safe workplace” for European Cancer Units** aims to develop a Framework for Cancer Nursing. Standards to be used as an instrument to promote safety, equality, and quality through European Cancer Nursing, to lead to multi-agency cooperation for standards development, and promote the constant improvement of cancer nursing, through application and audit. Work in progress during 2022, pilot to be tested in April and accreditation to be launched at ECND 2023.

**EONS Advocacy toolkit** aims to create a guide to influencing decisions that improve cancer nursing status and recognition in Europe. Work in progress during 2022, toolkit ready for launch in May 2023.

**EONS Cancer Nursing Index (ECNI)** was developed by the EONS Advocacy Working Group to illustrate the development and status of this profession in Europe. The first ECNI was ready in 2020, now during 2022 work with collecting data for an update has been ongoing. We have added open-ended questions on how covid-19 impacted the nurses and items on staffing levels. Preliminary data will be presented and ECND 2023, and later on, published in a scientific journal.

**PrEvCan** this collaborative project is ongoing and was launched in September 2022, and there are now over 60 participating organizations. The activities are ongoing, with social media campaigns, webinars, and a full updates webpage and during 2023 each month (last month October), will be focused on one of the 12 lifestyle advice. ESMO is the main collaboration partner and further activities are planned for EONS/ESMO in Madrid at the conference. We have collected data from vulnerable groups and data will be published in a scientific journal in March 2023. The PrEvCan task group is very active and meets every second week.

**EU guidelines on hazardous drugs – this was a consequence of the successful advocacy work on the Cytotoxic mutagens Directive (CMD4)**

Work during 2022, with meetings and workshops, piloting the guidelines, the project is led by the EU commission and EONS have been represented as well as other nurses from Europe, together

with ESOP and other organizations. Now the guidelines are in the EU commission for review and hopefully, this will be launched during the first half of 2023.

**ECCN and ECCN mentor group and YCN** are active groups within the AWG, but are led by other working groups. In all groups, members of the ADWG are represented

## 5 RESEARCH

### **A rapid scoping review of cancer nursing research priorities**

The RWG is conducting a rapid scoping review of cancer nursing research priorities. The results of the rapid review will inform a Delphi study identifying European oncology nurses' research priorities. A rapid review of oncology nursing research priorities is also timely as oncology survivors grapple with the effects of COVID-19 on cancer care including a new paradigm in follow-up care with the rapid and widespread adoption of telehealth, in the context of a shrinking cancer-nursing workforce.

### **A scoping review of Advanced Practice Nursing in Cancer Care**

The RWG in collaboration with nursing colleagues in Australia and South America is conducting a scoping review of advanced practice nursing roles in cancer care. An understanding of the titles, roles, education pathways, and governance of advanced practice roles in cancer care internationally will highlight comparisons between geographical regions and identify areas of service and educational needs. This will inform opportunities for future advanced practice nursing role development in cancer care and enhance cancer nursing career pathways.

**EONS annual conference** – EONS organizes a nursing track alongside the ESMO (European Society for Medical Oncology) annual Congress since 2018. In 2022, the conference took place in a face-to-face format. More information: <https://cancernurse.eu/eons15/>

**ABC4Nurses Overall Description:** <https://cancernurse.eu/education/eons-education-projects/>

ABC4Nurses Delphi (run from Autumn 2021 to March 2022: <https://cancernurse.eu/abc4nurses-delphi-study/>) - A paper for this is in review with Nurse Education Today.

ABC4Nurses Systematic review (Conducted Summer-Autumn 2021) is published in Nurse Education Today, and is listed on the EONS publication list:

Drury, A., Dowling, M., Diez de Los Rios la Serna, C., Erdem, S., Aroyo, V., Wiseman, T., Bagcivan, G. (2022)

Advanced breast cancer education for cancer nurses: A systematic review. Nurse Education Today.

Available online July 20: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nedt.2022.105477>

**PROMS:** EONS is currently running a research project, entitled: "Establishing a core set of patient-reported outcomes and measures to enhance supportive care for people treated with targeted therapies for advanced renal cell carcinoma or advanced hepatocellular carcinoma" (abbreviated as PROMs in RCC and HCC).



### The aims of the project are:

To develop a core set of patient-reported outcomes (PROs) and measures (PROMs) that are of relevance to key stakeholders, i.e., people treated with targeted therapies for advanced RCC or advanced HCC, family members, and treating clinicians.

To explore the level, extent and predictors of impact on core PROs, as measured by core PROMs, in people treated with targeted therapies for advanced RCC or advanced HCC.

This is a prospective, multinational, mixed-methods study, comprising three consecutive work packages (WP):

WP1: A rapid literature review and multinational online Delphi with strong stakeholder input will be conducted to address the first aim of the project.

The Delphi study findings were published in the European Journal of Oncology Nursing (EJON) in November 2022. It is available here: Díez de los Ríos de la Serna, C, Kotronoulas, G., Drury, A., Oldenmenger, W. and Kelly, D., 2022. A rapid review of patient-reported outcomes investigated in the context of advanced renal cell cancer or advanced hepatocellular cancer. European Journal of Oncology Nursing, p.102241. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejon.2022.102241>.

WP2: A multinational, cross-sectional survey to address the second aim of the project targeting patients from European countries is now finished and closed. Results will be published in a scientific journal.

WP3: Dissemination of the project's findings to relevant audiences and stakeholders.

Project timelines: January 2021 – September 2023

The project is led by Dr. Grigorios Kotronoulas (University of Glasgow, UK) together with co-investigators, Professor Daniel Kelly (University of Cardiff, UK), Dr. Wendy Oldenmenger (Erasmus MC, University Medical Center Rotterdam, NL), and Dr. Amanda Drury (University College Dublin, IRE). Celia Díez de los Ríos de la Serna (EONS Research assistant) will support the delivery of the project.

**RCC4Nurses:** EONS is a partner in a project called “The RCC4Nurses project: Improving the quality of nursing care in advanced renal cell carcinoma” (abbreviated as RCC4Nurses) which was granted to the University of Glasgow.

The aim of the project is to develop, deliver and evaluate an evidence-based, fit-for-practice, concise, and scalable online educational program for nurses on ‘advanced patient monitoring’ in the context of advanced renal cell carcinoma (RCC) in Europe. The RCC4Nurses project will employ a mixed-methods methodology and a sequential explanatory design. The core activities in the RCC4Nurses project will take place across three phases, as follows:

In Phase 1 (months 1-4), a scoping review of educational programmes for health professionals in the area of RCC / advanced RCC will be undertaken. Findings from this review will form the basis for a subsequent, modified three-round Delphi study, with the aim of reaching consensus on desired / required learning outcomes, content, and delivery layout of the developing educational programme.

IMPORTANT: The Delphi study Round 3 is OPEN NOW. Your feedback is very important for us!

To register and take part, follow this link. Kindly note the 3rd round is open until 16 January 2023!

You can also download the flyer for further distribution.

In Phase 2 (months 4-12), an online educational programme will be co-designed and co-developed. The programme will focus on 'advanced patient monitoring', including methods for nurses to assess and manage adverse events and unmet needs in patients living and being treated for advanced RCC.

In Phase 3 (months 13-21), implementation and evaluation of the program. First, it will be piloted in English only, with registered nurses from across Europe. The piloted program will then be translated and culturally adapted into up to three languages.

Project timeline: 3 October 2022 – 2 July 2024

The project is led by Dr Grigorios Kotronoulas, University of Glasgow, UK, together with co-investigators, Dr Amanda Drury (Dublin City University, IRE); Dr Constantina Papadopoulou (University of the West of Scotland); Dr Wendy Oldemenger (Erasmus MC, University Medical Center Rotterdam, NL); Professor Daniel Kelly (University of Cardiff, UK); Professor Theresa Wiseman (The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust / University of Southampton); Celia Díez de los Ríos de la Serna (EONS EWG co-Chair) who will also support the delivery of the project.

Find more info here: <https://cancernurse.eu/research/>

## 6 EDUCATION

**Education WG** – The EONS Education Working Group identifies learning, career development and mentorship opportunities for cancer nurses who are working with people affected by cancer across Europe, based on EONS Cancer Nursing Education Framework. EONS has updated the EONS Education framework. A task group of experts, led by EONS President-Elect Virpi Sulosaari, began the update process in September 2021. The updated Cancer Nursing Education Framework was launched at the EONS15 Congress, in 2022.

You can download it [HERE](#)

**Masterclasses** – 13th ESO-EONS Masterclass in Oncology Nursing

23-27 September 2022, Seva, Barcelona, Spain. The Masterclass in Oncology Nursing program is designed for European advanced cancer nurses as a multi-professional joint event. Five intensive days of full immersion in up-to-date cancer care will create a collective spirit of teaching and learning to improve clinical skills and patient care.

**EONS Endorsement** – EONS endorses cancer nursing educational events, which may include conferences, study days, webinars, short courses, modules, and programs of study. An overview of endorsed activities is available at <https://cancernurse.eu/education/eons-endorsement/>.

**Education projects** – EONS receives restricted funding from the industry in support of creating specific education programs.

The following projects have been completed during 2021:

**Advanced breast cancer webinar-** (ABC) with translated subtitles in French, Georgian and Spanish. Total of 232 participants viewed the webinar to date. This education webinar covers what ABC entails and how to manage various psychosocial aspects, including management of complex needs of those faced with ABC.

The following projects have been started during 2022:

**ABC4Nurses-** The project started in 2022 and has already built an education programme for cancer nurses with the aim to improve the quality of care in advanced breast cancer. The pilot will be piloted in the next months. In the project seven cancer nurse experts and two Europa Donna Turkey patient advocates are part of the TG. TG meets on as needed basis, on average 1x/month.

**RCC4 Nurses-** research and educational programme started in October 2022. With 7 co investigators and a steering committee of patients and healthcare professionals, the final aim of the project is to build an educational program for cancer nurses about advanced renal cell cancer. TG meets on average 1x/a month.

**EBC mini-series** - The latest EONS education project is dedicated to early breast cancer (EBC). The main aim is to develop a webinar mini-series for the European cancer nursing community to support them in their care for people with EBC. The goal is to provide an overview of the knowledge and skills required to care for people with EBC in three separate webinars. The webinars will be translated into the Georgian, Spanish, and Turkish languages.

**PROMs in RCC and HCC-** Establishing a core set of patient-reported outcomes and measures to enhance supportive care for people treated with targeted therapies for advanced renal cell carcinoma or advanced hepatocellular carcinoma. The task group (TG) has five members (1x PI, 3x co-PI, 1x research assistant, RA). The full TG meets 4-5x/year, with weekly meetings between PI and RA. There is a steering group consisting of PI, RA, health care professionals, and patient representatives (meets 3x/year).

**Cancer Nursing Education Framework update** – EONS has updated the EONS Education framework. A task group of experts, led by EONS President-Elect Virpi Sulosaari, began the update process in September 2021.

**European School of Oncology (ESO) sessions** – EONS has a long-lasting collaboration with the European School of Oncology (ESO) on e-sessions that are free, educational online lectures, presented by leading cancer nursing experts.

## 7 YOUNG CANCER NURSES NETWORK

**YCN Network** – The EONS YCN network brings the youth perspective to EONS' core activities and supports the EONS working groups in Communication, Advocacy, Research and Education (CARE Strategy). This network aims to build capacity and provide research and educational opportunities, empowering young cancer nurses (under the age of 35 years) to pursue their professional development and become leaders in cancer nursing. The YCN network organized meeting that was held on 1st December 2022. 18.00-19.30 PM CET

**YCNs webinars** – The EONS Nightingale Challenge Webinars 2022 provided young cancer nurses with information about personal and professional development in cancer nursing. In 2022, three webinars were held on these topics:

Webinar #1 Pain Management

Webinar #2 Adolescents and Young Adults with Cancer

Webinar #3 Second-Hand Smoking

The webinars are available on the EONS YouTube Channel.

**YCN blogs** – In June 2021, the Young Cancer Nurse network began producing monthly blogs and it's been ongoing since then. These are uploaded to the [website](#) and highlighted in the newsletter. The YCN Blog is full of advice and inspiration on how to move your career forward and build the future of cancer nursing in your country. Happy reading!

Latest YCN Blog- The importance of physical activity in cancer prevention.

By Joanna Tsatsou, Cancer Nurse Msc, PhDc

YCN Representative, Greece, EONS Communication Working Group

“Lack of activity destroys the good condition of every human being, while movement and methodical physical exercise save it and preserve it” – Plato, Greek philosopher (427–347 BC).

Exercise plays a vital role in cancer prevention, recovery, and survival. In each of these settings, patients should be counseled to exercise as vigorously as is safe and tolerable and to avoid prolonged sitting. A significant volume of research has been conducted in the field of physical activity and cancer prevention and survival.

Read the full blog (Part of PrEvCan – the EONS cancer prevention campaign)



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