



EONS 2020 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 in 2020, 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 organisation, 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 organisations, 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

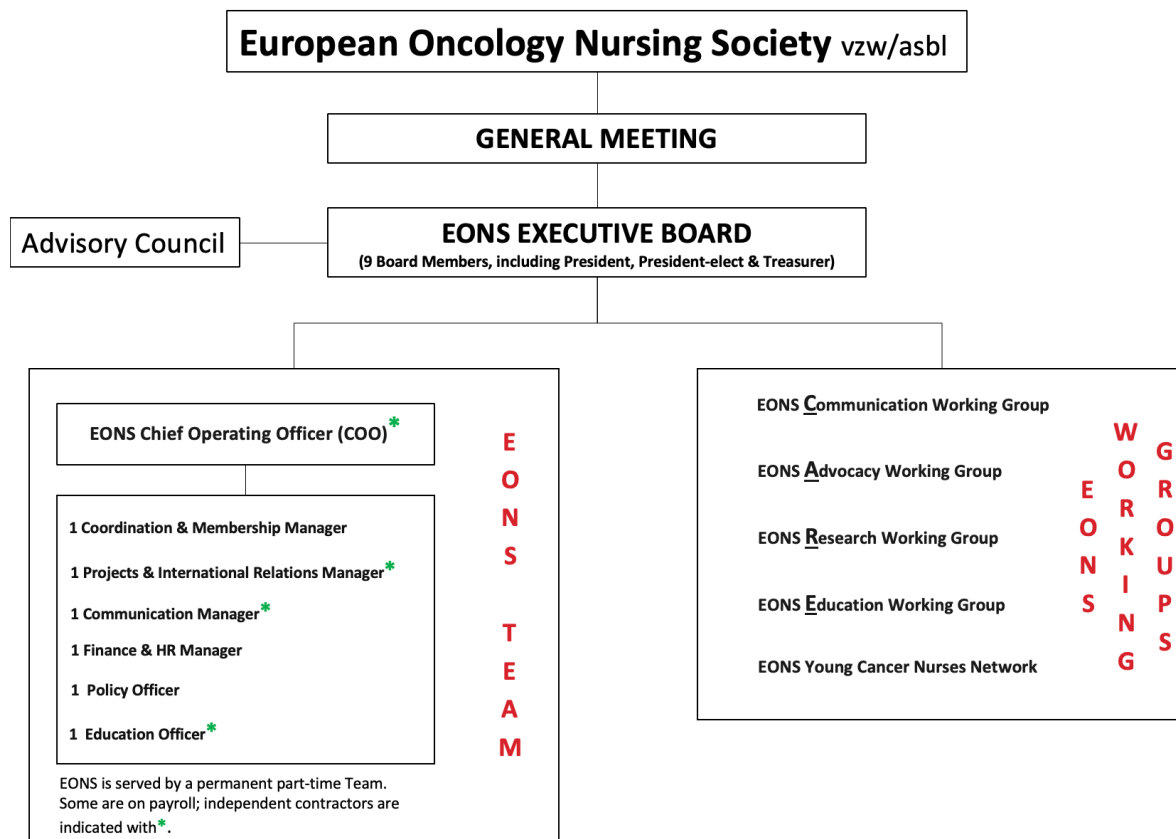
- All cancer nurses are connected in order to exchange and share information and support for their work
- EONS facilitates, leads and promotes collaborative cancer nursing research across Europe
- EONS leads EU-wide advocacy initiatives at EU policy level
- EONS provides evidence-based advice to people and organisations affected by cancer on healthy lifestyles and cancer prevention

EONS' Organisational goals

- Achieve financial sustainability
- Establish a collaborative system for each working group to be engaged in helping to achieve EONS' strategic and organisational 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.



EONS Board meetings – The EONS 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 2020, Board meetings took place on 5 March, 25 May, 15 June, 20 July, 6 August, 2 September, 5 October, 4 November and 2 December. All these meetings took place online, due to the Covid-19 restrictions, except for the March Board meeting, which took place as a face-to face meeting immediately before lock-downs across Europe.

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 Extra General Assembly took place on 30 June 2020 on-line with its main purpose being the approval of EONS asbl first set out financials as a Belgian association.

The 2020 EONS Advisory Council meeting took place online on 19 September from 11.15 to 12.00 CET.

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 2020 General Meeting took place as an online meeting on 19 September from 09.30-11.00.

The minutes and presentations of these meetings are available at <https://cancernurse.eu/abouteons/governance/general-meeting/>

3. COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

EONS communicated regularly with its members (national societies and individual members) throughout 2020 via three main communications platforms: website, newsletter and social media and also by bulk emailing when required. Public relations were promoted by the same platforms, and also via press release, media articles and partner organisations' social media where appropriate. The Covid-19 pandemic meant that all communication, meetings and events took place online during 2020. EONS is proud to have continued high functioning and visibility in 2020 despite the pandemic.

4. MAIN ACTIVITIES

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, a number of planned activities had to be cancelled or rescheduled as online activities.

- EONS Congress 2020

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the EONS13 at ESMO Virtual Congress 2020 took place as a virtual conference from 12.30 to 17.30 on Saturday 19, Sunday 20 and Monday 21 September 2020.

The virtual EONS13 conference offered a rich context in which to develop your learning and skills in cancer nursing. In the Nursing Track, nurses had the opportunity to strengthen their knowledge of Phase 1 clinical trials and learnt how they relate to your patients, about immunotherapy, age-specific care in oncology, quality and safety in cancer nursing, evolving cancer nursing roles, supporting informal care givers like parents and significant others, the patient experience, and much more!

For more information about the EONS13 Congress:

<https://cancernurse.eu/eons-13/>

- **EONS Masterclass 2020**

The Masterclass in Oncology Nursing programme 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.

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis, the difficult decision was made to cancel the 13th ESO-EONS Masterclass in Oncology Nursing programmed for 21st to 26th March 2020 in Seva (Barcelona area), Spain. This activity will be rescheduled to take place in 2021.

- **EONS PhD Research Workshop 2020**

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis and the situation in Spain, the difficult decision was made to cancel the Research Ph.D. Research Workshop that was planned to take place from 27-29 May 2020 in Barcelona, Spain.

- **Young Cancer Nurses Nightingale Challenge Webinar series 2020**

Young cancer nurses face a variety of personal and professional challenges that are unique to their generation, as a result of changing political and economic environments globally. The European Oncology Nursing Society Young Cancer Nurses Network aims to bring together young cancer nurses from across Europe to identify the common and unique challenges faced by this group.

The EONS Young Cancer Nursing Study has highlighted specific issues young cancer nurses experience in Europe relating to training, education and mentorship. In response to the issues identified in the EONS Young Cancer Nursing Study, the Young Cancer Nurses' Network Nightingale Challenge will provide young cancer nurses with an opportunity to engage in a series of educational webinars which provide information about personal and professional development in cancer nursing. While the webinars are designed to respond to the identified needs of young cancer nurses, the webinar series is open to nurses of any age or career stage. Recordings of the webinars will be made available to registered participants.

Webinar 1: Compassion fatigue, burn-out, resilience and balance

Webinar 2: Young Cancer Nurses, You Can Be a Leader Too!

Webinar 3: Developing a National Young Cancer Nursing Network

Webinar 4: Career Advice – Developing your Career – Advanced Practice

Webinar 5: Career Advice – Developing your Career – Research

Webinar 6: Career Advice – Developing your Career – Education

Webinar 7: Career Advice – Developing a Clinical-Academic Career

For more information and to see the webinars

<https://cancernurse.eu/nightingale-challenge-2020/>

- **European Cancer Nursing Day 18 May 2020**

The event took place online and it turned out to be a huge success.

2020 year's theme was "Health Equality and Access to Universal Care", which aligns with World Health Organisation (WHO) designation of 2020 as the International Year of the Nurse and Midwife in a year-long celebration the work of nurses and midwives and reflects a key WHO goal.

The theme, and associated campaign hashtag #ECND20Go4Equality, highlighted the challenging conditions cancer nurses and patients face in accessing equal quality cancer care, advocating for a reduction in all health inequalities and increased access to universal healthcare.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic – which is putting huge extra pressure on cancer nurses and patients everywhere and meant that our celebrations had to be entirely virtual – the day was highly successful, with the involvement of many cancer nurses throughout Europe.

EONS launched a number of important new initiatives, including the Cancer Nursing Index, the Cancer Nursing Fund, a Guide to Establishing a National Cancer Nursing Society, and presented the EONS Strengthening Equality in Healthcare Award 2020. You can find out more about all of these below – and view pictures of that cancer nurse posted on social media on this special day.

For more information

[European Cancer Nursing Day 2020 #ECND20Go4Equality - EONS - The European Oncology Nursing Society \(cancernurse.eu\)](https://cancernurse.eu/eons-2020/#ECND20Go4Equality)

- **EONS Endorsement**

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

- **Nutrition in cancer – “NutriCaNurse”**

“NutriCaNurse” is a short name for the latest EONS education project – an education webinar for cancer nurses. The main aim is to provide guidance regarding the knowledge, skills and competencies in nutrition for nurses who care for people affected by cancer.

The webinar on Nutrition in Cancers took place on 26 November 2020. It covered issues around cancer and malnutrition and described the main causes and mechanisms associated with nutritional problems in cancer patients. There was a focus on the different tools used to evaluate risk, the treatments and care interventions available, and on educating patients about this important part of their recovery.

The complete webinar can be accessed on the EONS YouTube channel or at <https://cancernurse.eu/education/eons-education-projects/>

- **EONS Cancer Nursing Index 2020**

In the RECaN project EONS highlighted important differences in cancer nursing across Europe. EONS Cancer Nursing Index 2020 was developed by the EONS Advocacy Working Group to illustrate the development and status of this profession in Europe. The index (with scores from 0-100) includes 22 items covering the following dimensions: Education and Career Development, Patient and Occupational Safety, Recognition, Working Conditions and Impact and Workforce.

The Index is based on data from the following sources;

- A range of data bases including the EONS Survey on Patient and Occupational Safety (anonymous survey, available in 9 languages, with over 650 responses from cancer nurses in 40 countries)
- Interviews with leading cancer nursing experts. Nurses from 40 of 42 invited countries participated
- Work force statistics (from ec.europa.eu/Eurostat and OECD)

A scoring system was developed by EONS Advocacy Working Group to reflect the level of development for the different Index dimensions/items. For items with a variety of responses from the same country, the most frequently reported response was used. The purpose of the Index is

primarily not to rank some countries as better than others but to illustrate cancer nursing profiles, differences and areas in need of development. The Index could be used in the development of cancer nursing in each country but also for general European progress.

For more information:

<https://cancernurse.eu/advocacy/eons-cancer-nursing-index-2020/>

- **Cancer Nursing Fund**

The Cancer Nursing Fund (CNF) was established on European Cancer Nursing Day 2020.

The CNF is managed by the King Baudouin Foundation. The Fund is a unique opportunity to support the excellent work that cancer nurses do and advance the profession of cancer nursing in Europe.

The CNF's purpose is to ensure that all people affected by cancer benefit from high-quality care delivered by highly educated, well-informed, and competent cancer nurses across the disease continuum. Donations to the CNF are made via the [EONS website](#) or the [KBF website](#). The Fund supports activities in four areas: education, capacity building, research and innovation.



Johan de Munter

EONS President