

2024

EONS Activity Report

Celebrating 40 Years of European Cancer Nursing



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FOREWORD

Cancer remains one of Europe's most urgent health challenges, with millions affected each year. The EU's Beating Cancer Plan offers a powerful framework for change—but its success depends on the expertise and leadership of cancer nurses.

Oncology nurses are central to prevention, treatment, and patient support. Our role is vital in improving outcomes and quality of life. The European Oncology Nursing Society (EONS) is proud to represent and empower these professionals across Europe.

This Strategy and Action Plan sets out our vision for a future where every person affected by cancer receives care from highly skilled, confident, and supported nurses. Guided by our values and driven by our mission, EONS will continue to lead through education, research, advocacy, and collaboration.

Together, we are shaping the future of cancer care, led by nurses.

Helena Ullgren,
President, European Oncology Nursing Society (EONS)



EONS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

The Challenge

Cancer remains one of the greatest health challenges in Europe. Every year, 3.5 million people are diagnosed with cancer and 1.3 million die from the disease. It is the leading cause of death in the EU, and more than 40% of cases are preventable. This underlines both the urgency of action and the potential to reduce the burden of cancer on patients, families, and healthcare systems.

The EU's Beating Cancer Plan sets ambitious goals to improve prevention, early detection, and treatment. Cancer nurses play a vital role in achieving these goals. Their expertise, leadership, and patient-centred care make a significant difference in outcomes, safety, and quality of life.

Who We Are

The **European Oncology Nursing Society (EONS)** is a membership organisation that represents national cancer nursing societies and individual nurses across Europe. We act as a strong collective voice, bringing together professionals who are committed to advancing cancer nursing through education, research, practice, and policy.

EONS exists to:

- Ensure all people affected by cancer benefit from the care of highly educated and competent nurses.
- Strengthen the professional status of cancer nursing across Europe.
- Support nurses in developing their skills, leadership, and networks.
- Influence policy to create safer and more sustainable healthcare systems.

Through our members, working groups, and partners, we work to ensure that cancer nursing is recognised, supported, and empowered at every level of care.

Our Mission

To provide leadership so that all people affected by cancer are cared for by educated and competent cancer nurses.

Our Vision

We envision a Europe where every person affected by cancer is cared for by specialist cancer nurses. Cancer nurses are confident, empowered leaders in practice, research, education, and policy, and are fully integrated within multidisciplinary teams. We also see health systems that support nurses at all career stages, ensuring smooth entry into the profession and strong career-long development.

Our Values

Equity • Integrity • Diversity • Inclusiveness • Responsibility • Respect

These values guide everything we do. They shape our strategy, influence our actions, and define how we work with members, partners, and stakeholders.



EONS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

LOOKING AHEAD

EONS will continue to champion cancer nursing by connecting professionals, advancing education and research, and raising the voice of nurses in policy and practice. Guided by our **mission, vision, values**, and the **C.A.R.E.** Plan, and through the dedication of our members and partners, we are shaping a future where every cancer patient receives the best possible care from highly skilled and empowered nurses.



The C.A.R.E. Plan

The **EONS C.A.R.E.** Plan is at the heart of our strategy. It stands for:

- **Communication** – strengthening connections with members and partners.
- **Advocacy** – raising the voice of cancer nursing in Europe.
- **Research** – generating and translating evidence into practice.
- **Education** – developing accessible, evidence-based learning.

Alongside these four pillars, we also prioritise the empowerment of early career nurses, recognising their essential role in building the future of cancer nursing.

EONS Strategy 2024–2028

Our five-year strategy provides the roadmap for advancing cancer nursing and ensuring EONS's sustainability as an organisation. It is built on five strategic priorities that expand and deepen the C.A.R.E. framework:

1. Practice

We are committed to building a strong and sustainable cancer nursing workforce. This means:

- Supporting nurses to advocate for their patients and for the profession.
- Empowering cancer nurses to integrate evidence-based, person-centred care across all settings.
- Creating opportunities for patients and families to express their needs and make informed decisions.
- Developing the tools that enable nurses to influence healthcare systems and policies.

2. Research

Research drives evidence-based care. EONS works to:

- Conduct and disseminate research that advances knowledge in cancer nursing.
- Translate research findings into practice.
- Build networks that connect researchers, clinicians, patients, and carers.
- Increase research literacy, capacity, and opportunities for nurses across Europe.

3. Education

Education is central to our mission. We aim to:

- Promote cancer nursing as a recognised specialty.
- Ensure access to flexible, fit-for-purpose, evidence-based education.
- Support programmes aligned with the EONS Cancer Nursing Education Framework.
- Provide innovative tools that help translate new evidence into practice.

4. Leadership & Management

Cancer nurses are leaders. We focus on:

- Empowering nurses to drive multidisciplinary services across the cancer continuum.
- Supporting nurses to influence policy at national and European levels.
- Addressing inequalities in cancer nursing across Europe.
- Promoting safe and healthy work environments for nurses.

5. Sustainability

To continue delivering our mission, EONS must be sustainable. We commit to:

- Staying informed about current and future cancer nursing trends and needs.
- Identifying and prioritising areas central to organisational sustainability.
- Diversifying funding and building long-term partnerships.
- Strengthening collaboration across working groups and with the Board to achieve strategic goals.



GOVERNANCE

DELIVERING ON THE EONS STRATEGY AND C.A.R.E. PLAN REQUIRES STRONG LEADERSHIP, TRANSPARENT DECISION-MAKING, AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION FROM OUR MEMBERS. EONS HAS A GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE DESIGNED TO ENSURE THAT OUR WORK REMAINS ACCOUNTABLE, INCLUSIVE, AND ALIGNED WITH THE NEEDS OF CANCER NURSES ACROSS EUROPE.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

The Executive Board acts as the trustees of EONS, overseeing the organisation's activities in line with its statutes and with Belgian non-profit regulations. Board members guide strategic direction and ensure that EONS's activities are aligned with the mission agreed by the membership. In 2024, the Board met regularly, with full-day meetings scheduled alongside key events such as ECND24 and EONS17. These meetings provided the opportunity to review progress, shape future priorities, and ensure accountability.

ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Advisory Council brings together representatives from national oncology nursing societies across Europe. Meeting once a year, the Council provides invaluable insight and advice to the Executive Board, ensuring that EONS reflects the needs and priorities of nurses in different countries. In 2024, the Advisory Council convened face-to-face during EONS17 on Friday 13 September 2024 from 14:00 to 16:00 CEST in Barcelona, enabling vibrant discussions and exchange among members.

GENERAL MEETING

The General Meeting is the highest authority of EONS, where members—both national societies and individuals—come together once a year to approve the audited accounts, review activities, and elect Board members. In 2024, the General Meeting was held online, allowing wide participation and ensuring transparency in the decision-making process, with the first meeting taking place on 17 June 2024 from 18:00 to 20:00 CEST and the Extraordinary General Meeting on 09 September 2024 from 18:00 to 19:00 CEST.

EONS OPERATIONS

EONS operations are managed by the Chief Operating Officer and a small team based in Brussels and other parts of Europe. This team works closely with the Board, Advisory Council, and members to implement activities, support working groups, and ensure smooth day-to-day functioning of the organisation.



GOVERNANCE

CANCER NURSING FUND (CNF)



EONS's commitment to strengthening cancer nursing is also supported through the Cancer Nursing Fund, established in 2020 and managed by the King Baudouin Foundation. The Fund provides grants to help cancer nurses access education and professional opportunities, such as participation in EONS conferences.

In 2024, CNF grants enabled 10 nurses to attend EONS17, helping them to build skills, share knowledge, and bring new learning back to their local communities. This investment continues to play a vital role in supporting the professional growth of cancer nurses across Europe.

Activities of the EONS President

Virpi Sulosaari, 2024

Executive Summary

In 2024, EONS President Virpi Sulosaari actively represented the Society at international and European events, highlighting the essential role of cancer nursing in policy, education, and patient care. She contributed as a keynote speaker, panellist, and faculty member across multiple forums, ensuring that the voice of cancer nurses was heard in high-level discussions on cancer policy, sustainability, patient safety, and interprofessional collaboration.

Her year was also marked by significant academic contributions, with two high-impact international publications focusing on interprofessional education and malnutrition in oncology nursing. In addition, Professor Sulosaari strengthened collaborations with major organisations including ECO, ESMO, MASCC, ESO, ESOP, CANO, ONS, and ISNCC. Through these activities, she advanced EONS's mission to promote high-quality, evidence-based cancer nursing and to strengthen the profession's role in shaping cancer care across Europe.

Meetings and Engagements

Throughout the year, President Sulosaari took part in a series of meetings and conferences that underscored the breadth of EONS's influence.

She participated in high-level discussions at the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan: Joining Forces event in Brussels and contributed as a stakeholder panellist at the Horizon 2020 Palliative Sedation Symposium in Belgium.

- She delivered keynote addresses at ECND24 (on sustainability in cancer care and the state of cancer nursing in Europe) and at the Quality Cancer Care Across the Cancer Care Continuum Conference in Croatia.
- At the ECOP6 Congress in Lisbon, she presented an interactive lecture on patient safety and interprofessional practice.
- She represented EONS at the MASCC Annual Meeting in Lille, the European Cancer Summit in Brussels, and the Tallinn Conference for Oncology and Haematology Nurses.
- A key highlight was her role as a faculty member at the EONS-ESO Masterclass in San Servolo, Italy, and as a speaker during EONS17 at ESMO 2024 in Barcelona, both of which reflected EONS's commitment to education and collaboration.
- She also contributed to EONS's 40th anniversary celebration at the Brno Oncology Days in the Czech Republic.

These activities collectively reinforced EONS's leadership role in shaping the future of cancer nursing at national, European, and global levels.

Activities of the EONS President

Publications and Launches

In addition to her leadership activities, President Sulosaari contributed to the academic advancement of cancer nursing through two significant publications:

- Interprofessional education in cancer care – a scoping review, published in BMC Medical Education (2024).
- Malnutrition diagnosed via GLIM criteria and its association with clinical outcomes, published in Seminars in Oncology Nursing (2025).

Collaborations

Collaboration remained central to her role. President Sulosaari worked closely with:

- European Cancer Organisation (ECO) – General Assembly
- ESMO – Conference contributions
- MASCC – Joint sessions at EONS17
- ESOP – Joint session at ECOP6
- ESO – Masterclass faculty; ex officio Advisory Board member
- Global nursing organisations (CANO, ACIO, ONS, ISNCC) – Joint projects, meetings, and conference abstracts

Through these partnerships, EONS has strengthened its position as a trusted voice in cancer care and ensured that European cancer nurses are represented in global oncology conversations.



Activities of the EONS President-Elect

Helena Ullgren, 2024

Executive Summary

As President-Elect, Helena Ullgren spent 2024 actively engaging in meetings, projects, and collaborations that strengthened EONS's capacity, visibility, and sustainability. She worked closely with the Board, working group chairs, and partners to expand the organisation's reach across Europe and globally. Her leadership included chairing the Scientific Committee of EONS17 in Barcelona, contributing to policy discussions, and representing EONS at high-level international conferences.

Her activities emphasised workforce sustainability, the importance of data such as the EONS Cancer Nursing Index (ECNI), and closer collaboration with patient organisations, global nursing associations, and multidisciplinary partners. These efforts reinforced EONS's role as a leader in advancing cancer nursing.

Meetings and Engagements

Online Meetings

Throughout 2024, Helena participated in regular online engagements, including:

- ISNCC planning meetings for joint sessions in Adelaide and Berlin (2025).
- EONS17 Scientific Committee meetings throughout the year, as Chair.
- Preparatory meetings for ECND24.
- Working Group support, meeting regularly with chairs as President-Elect.
- Weekly management meetings (1.5 hours).
- EONS General Meeting on 17 June, alongside Board meetings.

Face-to-Face Engagements

She also represented EONS at key in-person events, such as:

- Nordic Precision Medicine Forum, Stockholm (April) – panellist on nursing care and precision medicine.
- Cancer Patients Europe (CPE) panel on shared decision-making (September).
- National Cancer Center, Umeå, Sweden (October) – presenting ECNI data.
- Global nursing collaborations (ONS, CANO, MASCC, ISNCC) – online and during conferences.
- ECO cancer workforce meetings, contributing EONS's perspective.

Activities of the EONS President-Elect

Projects and Activities

President-Elect, Helena Ullgren contributed to several major projects:

- INTERACT100 – served as expert in a session on cancer nursing for non-nurses.
- OG project – supported planning and governance.
- PrEvCan campaign – contributed to position statements and awareness initiatives.

Publications and Launches

Her academic and policy contributions in 2024 included:

- Aspects of occupational safety: a survey among European cancer nurses, published in the European Journal of Oncology Nursing (2024).
- PrEvCan Position Statement for World Cancer Day 2024, reinforcing the commitment of the European cancer workforce to reducing health inequalities and advancing prevention strategies.

Participation in Events

President-Elect, Helena Ullgren, represented EONS at numerous international events:

- European Lung Cancer Conference (ELCC), Prague – session chair and speaker.
- ECND24 Leadership Summit, Turku, Finland.
- MASCC Annual Meeting, Lille, France – invited speaker.
- EONS17, Barcelona – Chair of the Scientific Committee, panellist, and speaker.
- ESOP Conference – presented ECNI data.
- Oncology Conference, Ankara, Türkiye – keynote speaker at joint nurse–physician meeting.
- Pancreatic Cancer Europe Webinar – panellist on cancer nursing perspectives.

Collaborations

In 2024, Helena strengthened EONS's collaboration across multiple sectors:

- Patient organisations – closer ties with PCE (education) and ECP (scientific committee, MoU in place).
- Nursing organisations – deeper collaboration with CANO, ONS, ISNCC, and Global Nurses, with an updated joint position paper in progress.
- Multidisciplinary organisations – collaboration with MASCC, including submission of a joint paper on the role of nurses in supportive care.

Key Challenges and Lessons Learned

EONS faced a challenging year, particularly with periods without a Chief Operating Officer. President-Elect, Helena Ullgren highlighted the importance of the office team to the organisation's success. Workforce issues remain a priority, and creative approaches are needed to ensure members can participate in educational opportunities.

Activities of the EONS President-Elect

Outlook for 2025

Looking ahead, President-Elect, Helena Ullgren identified several priorities for the year:

- Delivering tangible outputs for members through the Odoo platform, new grants, and educational events.
- Updating and launching the EONS Cancer Nursing Index (ECNI) and Accreditation Tool.
- Strengthening EONS's sustainability, balancing funding from pharma and EU projects, and exploring new fundraising strategies.
- Reviewing membership fees and launching a membership campaign.
- Implementing new statutes and by-laws to modernise governance.
- Enhancing Board stability with clearer processes for collaboration.
- Providing targeted support for cancer nurses in Eastern Europe.



Activities of the EONS Treasurer

Matt Fowler, 2024



Executive Summary

In 2024, the EONS Treasurer played an active role in guiding the organisation's financial management and governance. Alongside weekly management and Presidents' meetings, he participated in all Board and General Meetings, and contributed additional time to oversee financial planning and reporting. His year was also marked by external commitments, including representing EONS within MASCC and taking up a voluntary role with the European Commission's expert pool on colorectal cancer. Balancing these responsibilities with a full-time role and doctoral studies, he demonstrated strong commitment to EONS's growth and sustainability.

Meetings and Engagements

Throughout 2024, the Treasurer participated in a wide range of EONS-related meetings and events:

- Financial oversight: regular meetings with the COO and Presidents to monitor the budget, alongside dedicated sessions on the Odoo platform.
- Leadership and governance: active involvement in ECND24 Leadership Forum preparations, the Lymphoma Conference planning meeting for Lugano (2025), and GPON Advisory Council meetings.
- Workshops and collaborations: represented EONS at a series of Roche workshops on subcutaneous immunotherapy, contributed to a CANO/MASCC collaboration, and joined the "Caring for a World in Crisis" global webinar.
- Speaking roles: guest speaker at the IURFS Conference in Switzerland and presenter at ESMO.
- Member engagement: attended ECND24 and the Leadership Summit in Turku, along with multiple Patient Advisory Council meetings.

Projects and Activities

In addition to his financial duties, the Treasurer reviewed the OG visit to Estonia report in December 2024, ensuring alignment with EONS's broader goals. He also maintained oversight of project-related finances and supported the evaluation of funding opportunities.

Collaborations

Collaboration remained central to his work, with ongoing contributions to the GPON Advisory Council and joint initiatives with MASCC. These partnerships strengthened EONS's external relationships and expanded opportunities for knowledge-sharing across the global oncology nursing community.

Key Challenges and Lessons Learned

2024 was a particularly challenging year for EONS, with leadership transitions and operational pressures creating added complexity. Despite these challenges, the Treasurer expressed confidence in the organisation's current direction, highlighting the resilience of the Board, staff, and members.

Outlook for 2025

Looking forward, priorities include:

- Collaborating with cancer nurses in Ukraine to explore new ways EONS can offer support.
- Continuing in his role as Treasurer, supporting the COO and team in exploring funding opportunities.
- Prioritising partnerships with LMICs and strengthening international collaborations, including closer ties with the Foundation of Nursing Studies (FoNS).

EONS Annual Meeting (EONS17 Conference)



For the 7th year, EONS held a 3-day nursing track (numbered as EONS17) alongside the ESMO Congress 2024 which took place in Barcelona, Spain, on September 13-17, 2024.

The EONS17 conference's main theme was "40 Years of European Cancer Nursing – Shaping the Future of Healthcare".

The annual conference is EONS key event, one that offers a unique opportunity to meet with international cancer nursing community and exchange the latest evidence-based data. This conference is attended by nurses, researchers, educators, and leaders not only from European national cancer nursing societies and cancer institutions but also from around the world.

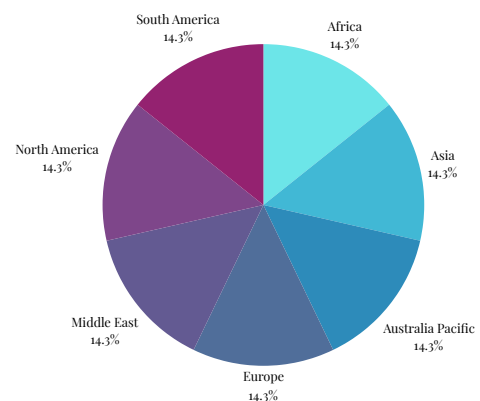
The 3-day scientific programme was developed by the EONS17 Scientific Committee (composed of 10 cancer nurse experts across Europe).

A total of 166 abstracts were submitted, 56 (33,7%) were rejected after a blind, vigorous review. To compliment the core programme (18 scientific sessions), we also offered a total of 8 industry supported satellite symposia or workshop sessions on a wide range of topics.

A total of 338 nurses registered to attend the EONS17 conference, representing 44 countries worldwide. This marks an 8% increase compared to 2023.

EONS17 Scientific Committee:

Johan De Munter, Belgium – Co-Chair, for EONS Past President
Helena Ullgren, Sweden – Co-Chair, for EONS President Elect
Virpi Sulosaari, Finland – EONS President, Senior advisor
Carlos Cargaleiro, UK – Communication Working Group representative
Fernanda Conceicao, Portugal – Advocacy Working Group representative
Karin Brochstedt Diepernik, Denmark – Research Working Group representative
Eugenia Trigos, Spain – Education Working Group representative
Hazal Ozdemir, Turkey – Early Career Nurses Working Group representative
Amanda Drury, Ireland – Research Working Group representative
Richard G. Kelly, Belgium – EONS COO



COMMUNICATION WORKING GROUP

Activity Report 2024

Executive Summary

2024 was a year of progress and change for the EONS Communication Working Group (CWG). The group expanded its impact through initiatives such as the Cancer Calendar, which became a widely used tool for promoting awareness days across Europe, and the launch of the Working Group Agents initiative, which strengthened collaboration across all EONS Working Groups.

New partnerships, including collaborations with touchOncology and MASCC, broadened opportunities to share knowledge and reach new audiences. At the same time, changes in group membership and leadership brought fresh energy and new ideas, helping the CWG become more focused and effective. Despite challenges, including a leadership transition and voluntary workload pressures, 2024 marked a turning point — laying the groundwork for a more impactful, connected, and resilient communications team.

Meetings and Engagements

The CWG actively contributed to EONS activities throughout the year:

- EONS17 Scientific Committee – co-chair participation in regular taskforce meetings until September 2024.
- ECND2024 Taskforce – monthly meetings in preparation for the Leadership Summit in Turku.
- ECND2025 Taskforce – participation from late 2024 to April 2025.
- ENTERO 2024 Conference – CWG representation in November.
- Working Group meetings – held in January, April, September (at ECND24), and December 2024.

Leadership changes in mid-2024 temporarily slowed meeting frequency, but the new Chair and Co-Chair resumed full leadership from December, ensuring stability going forward.

Projects and Activities

Cancer Calendar

The CWG maintained and promoted the Cancer Calendar, aligning communications with awareness days across Europe. While not all dates could be covered due to voluntary workload challenges, this experience led to a more focused and meaningful selection of dates for the 2025 calendar.

Working Group Agents

The Working Group Agents initiative launched in 2024, with CWG members assigned to liaise with other EONS Working Groups. This improved internal collaboration and allowed the CWG to better showcase the diverse work happening across the organisation.

COMMUNICATION WORKING GROUP

Activity Report 2024

Publications and Launches

- World Cancer Day video (February 2024), produced as part of the PrEvCan campaign.
- Cancer awareness blogs published regularly on the EONS website and social media.
- Scientific contributions at EONS17 (Barcelona):
 - Multiple oral presentations on paediatric oncology, symptom management, digital health, and occupational well-being.
 - Systematic reviews and meta-analyses presented as oral or poster sessions.
 - CWG members served as session chairs and judges at the conference.

Participation in Events

- CWG members represented EONS widely in 2024, contributing as invited speakers, panellists, chairs, and organisers at:
 - EONS17, Barcelona – multiple sessions, workshops, and symposia.
 - ECND24, Turku – participation in programme design and delivery.
 - Other international conferences – representing EONS in prevention, education, and digital health themes.

Communication and Public Relations

- The CWG continued to lead EONS's awareness and outreach initiatives, including:
 - Promoting the Cancer Calendar and key awareness campaigns.
 - Supporting the promotion of ECND24 and EONS17 across all channels.
 - Contributing to EONS's visibility in Europe through blogs, videos, and targeted campaigns.

Collaborations

The CWG initiated a new collaboration with touchOncology to produce a blog series highlighting the work of all EONS Working Groups. This project, starting in 2025, will raise awareness of oncology nursing and strengthen collaboration across disciplines.

The group also contributed to EONS's wider collaborations with MASCC and other partners, ensuring consistent messaging and broad engagement.

COMMUNICATION WORKING GROUP

Activity Report 2024

Key Challenges and Lessons Learned

Challenges in 2024 included:

- Limited resources and the voluntary nature of participation.
- Leadership transition mid-year, which temporarily reduced meeting frequency.
- Coordinating communications across multiple languages and platforms.
- From these challenges, the CWG learned the value of early planning, flexible teamwork, and close collaboration with other WGs, which will guide future activities.

Outlook for 2025

The CWG has ambitious plans for 2025, including:

- Expanding the Cancer Calendar with dynamic content.
- Updating EONS's Branding, Social Media, Video, and Podcast Guidelines.
- Developing a new podcast series in collaboration with other WGs.
- Supporting communication for the ECLIPTIC Masterclass and major EONS events (ECND25, EONS18, ISNCC).
- Strengthening outreach through new collaborations with organisations and stakeholders.
- Leading the ECO-EONS Roundtable for Young Cancer Professionals, amplifying the voices of early-career nurses.

These initiatives will further enhance EONS's visibility, strengthen its communications infrastructure, and ensure that the voice of cancer nursing continues to be heard at the European and global level.



ADVOCACY WORKING GROUP

Activity Report 2024

Executive Summary

The Advocacy Working Group (AWG) plays a key role in advancing EONS's strategic goals by giving cancer nurses a strong voice at the European level. In 2024, the group focused on three major initiatives: the EONS Accreditation Tool, the PrEvCan campaign, and preparations for the European Cancer Nursing Index (ECNI) 2025.

Highlights included refining the Accreditation Tool after its pilot, completing and evaluating the PrEvCan prevention campaign (in partnership with ESMO), and expanding the ECNI survey into 16 languages to capture the most comprehensive data to date. The AWG also published an Advocacy Toolkit, participated in the EONS17 Scientific Committee, and contributed to ECND24 in Turku. Despite challenges linked to membership transitions, the group achieved significant progress and is well-prepared for a strong year ahead.

Meetings and Engagements

- Four formal AWG meetings were held (two face-to-face: Amsterdam in March, Turku in May during ECND24).
- Additional project-specific task group meetings took place throughout the year, held online.
- AWG members also represented the group in the EONS17 Scientific Committee and the ECND24 task group.



ADVOCACY WORKING GROUP

Activity Report 2024

Projects and Activities

PrEvCan

- Since 2022, PrEvCan has been helping reduce the cancer burden across Europe through prevention, inspired by the European Code Against Cancer.
- In 2024, the campaign reached across Europe, involving more than 66 partner organisations.
- On World Cancer Day, we launched our Position Statement, backed by leading cancer organisations.
- The resources remain online in many languages, ensuring long-term use and impact.

EONS Accreditation of Safe Workplaces

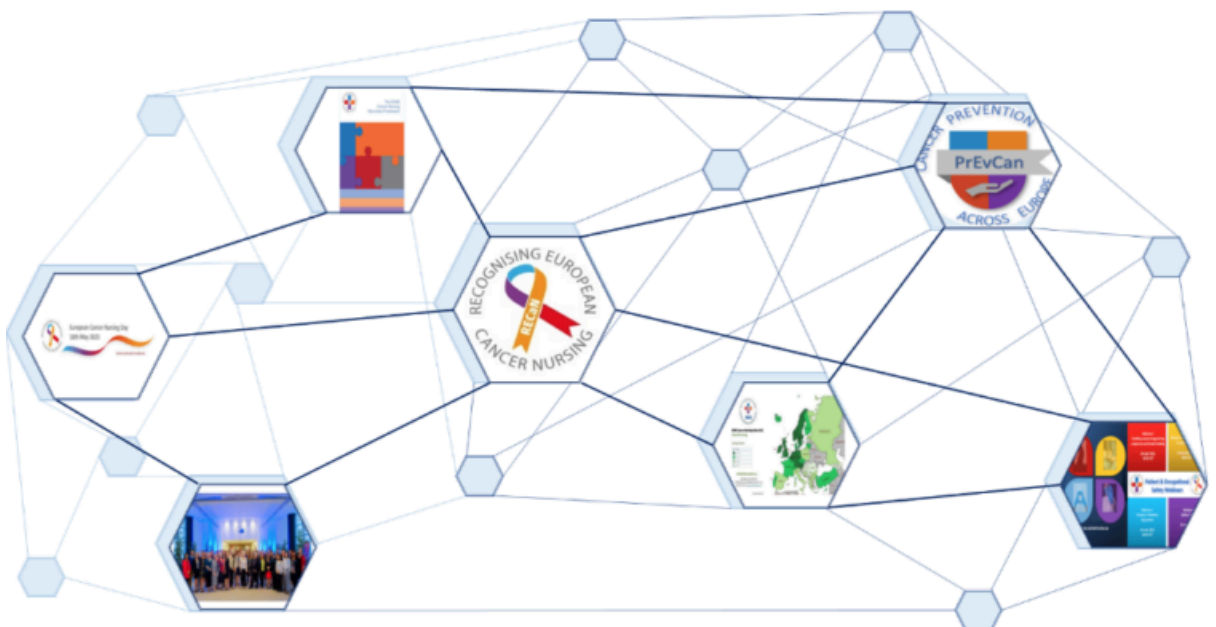
- Started in 2022, updated in 2024 and preparing for a fresh launch in 2025.
- Recognises oncology departments that provide safe, high-quality workplaces.
- This year, we completed the pilot, refined the tool, and created a new manual for nurses and managers.
- The updated version goes live in May 2025.

Advocacy Toolkit

- A brand-new guide to help cancer nurses stand up for patients, colleagues, and the profession.
- It includes easy-to-use checklists, practical tools, and guidance on advocacy in policy, education, and practice.
- Published in 2024, it's now freely available on the EONS website.

European Cancer Nursing Index (ECNI)

- First launched in 2020, with new updates in 2022 and now in progress for 2025.
- Collects vital data on cancer nursing across Europe to highlight gaps, challenges, and opportunities.
- In 2024, the survey was expanded to 16 languages and preparations began for the 2025 launch.
- Research on occupational safety has also been published in the European Journal of Oncology Nursing.



ADVOCACY WORKING GROUP

Activity Report 2024

Publications and Launches

- Sharp L, Fransson P, Fowler M, Ullgren H. (2024). Aspects of occupational safety: a survey among European cancer nurses. Eur J Oncol Nurs, 70:102595.
- EONS Advocacy Toolkit – available for download via the EONS website.
- Position Statement for World Cancer Day 2024 (with ESMO), highlighting cancer prevention and health equity.

Collaborations

- The PrEvCan campaign and other advocacy initiatives were supported by a broad network of partners, including:
- National Cancer Nursing Societies across Europe (e.g. UKONS, Dutch, Greek, Spanish, and many others).
- International Organisations: ESMO, European Cancer Patient Coalition, Youth Cancer Europe, Onco-Alert.
- Universities: institutions in Estonia, Greece, Finland, Spain, Italy, Slovenia, Ireland, and the UK.
- Healthcare Organisations: hospitals, cancer centres, and national institutes across Europe.

Key Challenges and Lessons Learned

2024 saw some challenges in succession planning, with several experienced members stepping down. At times, reduced group capacity meant greater reliance on smaller task groups rather than the full working group. The main lesson learned was the importance of proactive succession planning and regular check-ins to support members in fulfilling their roles..

Outlook for 2025

Looking ahead, the AWG will focus on:

- Launching the updated Accreditation Tool in May 2025.
- Renewed promotion of the Advocacy Toolkit (including a blog in collaboration with touchOncology in November 2025).
- Launching the ECNI 2025 survey at ECND, with results to be analysed and presented at EONS18.
- Strengthening communication and press activities to raise the profile of EONS advocacy work.
- Ensuring wide participation from nurses across Europe in the ECNI data collection.

RESEARCH WORKING GROUP

Activity Report 2024

Executive Summary

In 2024, the EONS Research Working Group (RWG) advanced EONS's research priorities by delivering a PhD research workshop, reviewing the Early Career Research Grant, and representing the research perspective within the ECND and EONS Annual Conference committees. The group closed out major multi-year projects (ABC4Nurses, RCC4Nurses), progressed priority-setting work for European cancer nursing, and supported proposal reviews for external collaborators. Planning also began for new research, including patient-centred studies and the next phase of the Research Priorities agenda. Collaboration with other EONS Working Groups continued throughout.

Meetings and Engagements

The RWG met four times during 2024: online in April, November and December, and in person in May during the ECND meeting in Turku.



RESEARCH WORKING GROUP

Activity Report 2024

Projects and Activities

ABC4Nurses (Advanced Breast Cancer for Nurses)

This two-year programme tested a six-module, multilingual online course. Nurses said the content was clear, accessible, and highly relevant. Many felt more confident caring for people with advanced breast cancer. The next step is to expand access to more countries and underserved settings.

RCC4Nurses (Advanced Renal Cell Cancer for Nurses)

Over 90 nurses joined this three-phase education programme in 2024.

- 93% said it met their expectations and supported their work.
- 95% would recommend it to colleagues.
- Confidence in caring for advanced RCC patients increased significantly.
- Translations and further refinements are on the way for 2025.

Cancer Nursing Research Priorities

We ran a Europe-wide consultation to set out a research agenda for the future of cancer nursing. The first two phases were completed, with findings already published. The third phase will be shared in 2025, helping shape workforce planning, advanced practice, and prevention.

PROMs in RCC & HCC

This project created a core set of measures to capture the experiences of patients receiving advanced kidney and liver cancer therapies. Findings were published in 2022–23 and will support the “Good Day Project” next stage.

The Good Day Project

Launching in 2025, this project asks a simple but powerful question: “What makes a good day?” for people with cancers that are less survivable. By focusing on what truly matters to patients, we hope to reshape care in meaningful ways.

PhD Research Workshop

Held every two years, this workshop helps doctoral students build their research skills. In 2024, eight students from across Europe took part, supported by RWG mentors.

Early Career Development Grant

We awarded grants to early-career cancer nurses to kick-start their research journeys. Seven applications came in, and four awards were made.

EONS Novice Researcher Dissemination Award

Each year, we highlight the best newcomer abstracts and showcase them at the EONS Annual Conference.



RESEARCH WORKING GROUP

Activity Report 2024

Publications and Launches

- Bağçivan G, Colomer-Lahiguera S, Dowling M, Kotronoulas G, Semple C, Efstathiou N, et al. Cancer nursing research priorities: findings from a cancer nurses' consultation in Europe. *British Journal of Nursing*. 2025;34(5):S10–S18. doi:10.12968/bjon.2024.0177
- Díez de los Ríos de la Serna C, Papadopoulou C, Drury A, Oldenmenger W, Wiseman T, Kelly D, et al. Preparing the ground for bespoke nursing training in advanced renal cell carcinoma care (RCC4Nurses): An international prospective study. *Seminars in Oncology Nursing*. 2024;40(6). doi:10.1016/j.soncn.2024.151749
- Sheehan S, Dowling M, Shewbridge A, Díez de los Ríos de la Serna C, Bağçivan G, Kotronoulas G, et al. Digital education in healthcare: A mixed-methods evaluation of the ABC4Nurses e-learning programme. *Nurse Education Today*. 2025;146. doi:10.1016/j.nedt.2024.106533

Participation in Events

- Bağçivan G — Research Priorities in Cancer Nursing, 6th International & 7th National Oncology Nursing Congress, Ankara, Türkiye (online), 20–22 Nov 2024.
- Bağçivan G — Research Priorities in Cancer Nursing, 17th AEOP Annual Conference, Figueira da Foz, Portugal (online), 24 May 2024.
- Drury A, Dowling M, Colomer-Lahiguera S, Efstathiou N, Semple CJ, Fernández Ortega P, Dieperink KB, Pape E, Kotronoulas G, Miguel SSA, Bağçivan G — Consensus research priorities for cancer nursing in Europe, *Annals of Oncology* (ESMO Congress 2024).

Key Challenges and Lessons Learned

Operational challenges encountered in earlier years have largely been mitigated through experience and standardisation. The PhD workshop now benefits from a reusable resource bank (curriculum, templates, evaluation tools). A key lesson is the importance of prompt knowledge capture: all workshop materials and the evaluation report should be uploaded to SharePoint within one week of workshop completion to maintain continuity and support new RWG members.

Outlook for 2025

- New study: Launch research derived from the Research Priorities agenda — What is the role of informal caregivers in cancer survivorship in self-management support? Phase 1 (scoping review) to complete by June 2026.
- Capacity building: Host the Research Proposal Workshop for European Cancer Nurses (Portugal, June 2025).
- Early-career support: Run the Early Career Research Grant cycle.
- Scientific programme: Contribute to abstract reviewing and programme development for EONS18.
- Pipeline: Progress planning and ethics for the Good Day Project and extend ABC/RCC learnings into translation and implementation strands.

EDUCATION WORKING GROUP

Activity Report 2024

Executive Summary

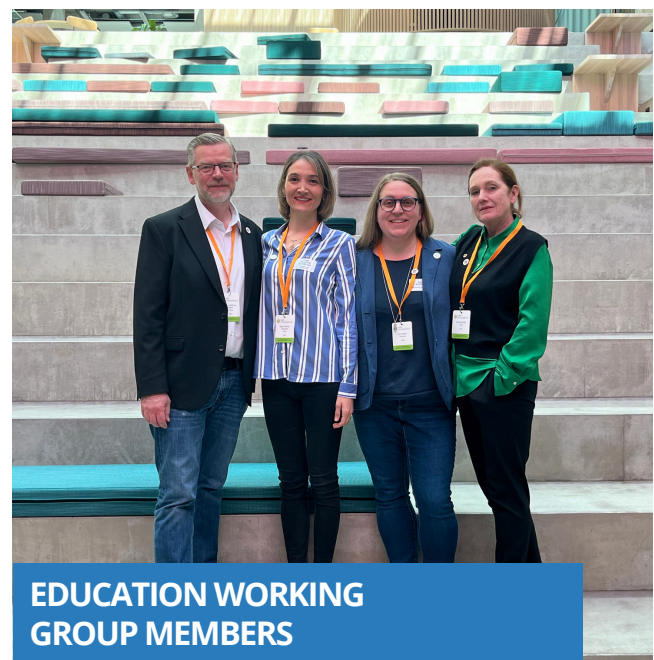
In 2024, the Education Working Group (EWG) advanced EONS's educational priorities by translating the Society's strategic objectives into practical learning programmes. The group held four online meetings and one face-to-face meeting during the year, and welcomed two new members.

Highlights included the completion of three major projects — NutriCaNurse, ABC Breast Cancer, and a webinar on early breast cancer — as well as contributions to the European College of Cancer Nursing (ECCN), with the development of new modules on Cancer Basics and Health Literacy for the Early Career Nurses track.

The group also collaborated with Roche to deliver a learning programme on subcutaneous therapy, featuring a webinar and a live session at EONS17 in Barcelona. A major milestone was the successful delivery of the EONS–ESO Masterclass in Cancer Nursing, held on the island of San Servolo, alongside the continuation of the ESO/EONS Clinical Fellowship programme. Members also played an active role in the task group for the organisation of European Cancer Nursing Day (ECND).

Meetings and Engagements

The EWG met five times in 2024: online in February, November and December, and in person during ECND in Turku (May). The group also gathered during the EONS–ESO Masterclass (March, San Servolo).



EDUCATION WORKING
GROUP MEMBERS

EDUCATION WORKING GROUP

Activity Report 2024

Projects and Activities

NutriCaNurse

A collaborative project exploring the vital role of nutrition in cancer nursing, giving nurses tools to better support patients' nutritional needs.

ABC Breast Cancer

In partnership with Pfizer, we developed new educational resources to strengthen breast cancer care.

Early Breast Cancer Webinar

In 2024, we hosted an accessible webinar to provide continuing education for nurses across Europe.

ESO/EONS Masterclass in Oncology Nursing

Held in March 2024 in San Servolo, Italy, this intensive five-day course brought together 30 cancer nurses from across Europe for advanced training, in collaboration with the European School of Oncology.

ESO/EONS Clinical Fellowship

An ongoing fellowship giving cancer nurses placements in leading European hospitals, helping them build skills and gain hands-on experience.

European College of Cancer Nursing (ECCN)

This year, we created two new learning modules (Cancer Basics and Health Literacy) for early-career nurses, and built a framework for more advanced tracks. Supported by the EU Operational Grant.

Subcutaneous Therapy

In collaboration with Roche, we delivered a webinar and a live session at EONS17, led by expert speakers and chairs.



EARLY CAREER NURSES WORKING GROUP

Activity Report 2024

Executive Summary

The Early Career Nurses Working Group (ECN WG) was formally established in January 2024, evolving from the Young Cancer Nurses Network. Its mission is to support EONS's 2024–2028 Strategy by building capacity, providing professional development, and creating networking opportunities for early career cancer nurses across Europe.

In its first year, the group launched a range of initiatives including monthly blogs, three podcasts, and three webinars. Members represented ECNs in EONS-wide projects such as EONS17, ECND24, ECCN, and the NURTURE project, while also contributing to the QualCanCare project by delivering the D2.6 milestone. Through these activities, the ECN WG strengthened the voice of early career cancer nurses and created new platforms for engagement and learning.

Meetings and Engagements

The ECN WG held six meetings in 2024, combining online sessions with representation at major EONS events:

- Online: February, March, June, December
- In-person: May (ECND24, Turku) and September (EONS17, Barcelona)



EARLY CAREER NURSES WORKING GROUP

Activity Report 2024

Projects and Activities

Nightingale Challenge Webinars 2024

We ran three engaging webinars with expert speakers and interactive Q&As. With over 180 views across YouTube and the EONS website, the sessions are now available online for anyone to revisit.

ECN Podcasts

A new series of three podcasts explored key topics for early career nurses. Viewership is steadily growing, and all episodes remain online for ongoing learning.

ECN Blog

Throughout 2024, members published 11 blogs covering the challenges and opportunities faced by early career nurses. Engagement grew steadily, with the highest readership reaching 178 views in June.

Research Project – ECNs and Cancer Survivorship

This new project is exploring early career nurses' knowledge and experiences of survivorship care. Ethics approval was secured in November, and the survey phase began in December 2024.

European College of Cancer Nursing (ECCN)

Our group contributed to the development of new educational materials and courses. A face-to-face meeting in October 2024 helped shape progress.

Research and Education Policy Document

We ensured early career nurses' voices were included in this important policy work running from late 2024 into 2025.



EARLY CAREER NURSES WORKING GROUP

Activity Report 2024

Representation in EONS Events & Projects

- EONS17 Scientific Committee: ECN WG representative contributed to session design, abstract review, and chaired sessions.
- ECND24 (Turku): Member participated in planning and delivery.
- NURTURE Project: ECN WG involved in webinar, workshop, leaflet, and presentation at EONS17.
- QualCanCare Project: Contributed webinars and podcasts; submitted Deliverable 2.6.

Publications and Launches

- D2.6 Deliverable for the QualCanCare project.
- Nightingale Challenge Webinars 2024 – available online.
- ECN Podcasts – published online.
- ECN Blog – 11 blogs published, Feb–Dec 2024.
- EONS17 abstract: Dodlek et al. (2024). A scoping review of interventions to enhance cancer nurses' psychological well-being, occupational health and resilience. *Annals of Oncology*, 35, S1183.

Participation in Events

- EONS17, Barcelona:
- Invited speakers and panellists on resilience and survivorship.
- Oral and poster presentations on occupational health and well-being.
- ECN Nightingale Webinars:
- Topics included stem cell & bone marrow transplantation, scientific writing, and resilience.
- ECCN Task Group: In-person meeting, Oct 2024.

Communication and Public Relations

The ECN WG restructured its communications by closing the former Young Cancer Nurses Facebook group and shifting activity to EONS's main social media channels, ensuring broader visibility and alignment with organisational communications.

EARLY CAREER NURSES WORKING GROUP

Activity Report 2024

Collaborations

- EBMT Next Generation Group: Co-delivered Nightingale Webinar 1.
- ECO Young Cancer Professionals (YCP): Participation in group activities and representation of ECNs.
- Active collaboration with other EONS Working Groups (Communication, Advocacy, Research, Education).

Key Challenges and Lessons Learned

- Transition: Moving from the Young Cancer Nurses network to the new ECN WG required alignment of goals, leadership roles, and processes. This slowed some early initiatives but created a stronger long-term structure.
- Mentorship and Support: Limited structured mentorship and reduced in-person interactions at times hindered cohesion and delivery. Delays also arose from limited support within EONS during group establishment.
- Agility and Communication: The experience highlighted the need for clear leadership, flexible structures, and robust communication.
- Collaboration: Partnerships with other WGs and external groups demonstrated the value of joint initiatives in increasing visibility and impact.

Outlook for 2025

- Finalise a two-year business plan for ECN WG.
- Expand support for early career nurses across Europe with new educational and networking opportunities.
- Work more closely with the other four EONS Working Groups to integrate ECN perspectives into projects.
- Strengthen collaborations with national cancer nursing societies and European Young Cancer Professional groups

APPENDIX I

For ease of access, links to all online resources and publications referenced in this report are compiled in the appendices.

Resource	Link
PrEvCan Campaign page	https://www.cancernurse.eu/prevcan
Advocacy Working Group page	https://www.cancernurse.eu/advocacy-wg-1
Nightingale Challenge Webinars 2024	https://www.cancernurse.eu/slides/nightingale-challenge-2024-20
Early Career Nurses Podcasts	https://www.cancernurse.eu/slides/early-career-nurses-podcast-19
Early Career Nurses Blog	https://www.cancernurse.eu/blog/early-career-nurses-5
World Cancer Day 2024 Video (PrevCan Campaign)	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0fzqT5SoMNY&t=2s
EONS E-learning Resources	https://www.cancernurse.eu/slides
EONS Publications	🌐 RESOURCES EONS

APPENDIX II

Publication	DOI / Link
Dodlek, N. et al. <i>CN51 A scoping review of interventions to enhance cancer nurses' psychological well-being, occupational health and resilience. Annals of Oncology</i> (2024)	https://doi.org/10.1016/j.annonc.2024.08.446
Bağcıvan G. et al. <i>Cancer nursing research priorities: findings from a cancer nurses' consultation in Europe. British Journal of Nursing</i> (2025)	http://doi.org/10.12968/bjon.2024.0177
Sheehan S. et al. <i>Digital education in healthcare: A mixed methods evaluation of the advanced breast cancer for nurses (ABC4Nurses) eLearning programme. Nurse Education Today</i> (2025)	http://doi.org/10.1016/j.nedt.2024.106533
Diez De Los Rios de la Serna C. et al. <i>Preparing the ground for bespoke nursing training in advanced renal cell carcinoma care (RCC4Nurses). Seminars in Oncology Nursing</i> (2024)	http://doi.org/10.1016/j.soncn.2024.151749
Sharp L. et al. <i>Aspects of occupational safety: a survey among European cancer nurses. European Journal of Oncology Nursing</i> (2024)	DOI: 10.1016/j.ejon.2024.102595

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