Building the EU Cancer and Health Genomics Platform

Programme	EU4HEALTH
Project number	101080009
Acronym	CAN.HEAL
Start Date	1 Nov 2022
Duration	30 months

Deliverable information

WP	1 - Coordination
Deliverable related number	D1.2
Deliverable number	D2
Deliverable name	Final meeting
Deliverable Description	Report of event and agenda. This report provides a summary of the organization and discussions held during the final meeting of the CAN.HEAL project. It includes links to the presented slides and posters, which highlight the main project outputs and recommendations. The report is relevant to all stakeholders, including healthcare professionals, researchers, policymakers, and patient organizations, with an interest in genomics in cancer.
Lead Beneficiary	Sciensano
Type	Report
Dissemination level	Public
Version	Version 1
Due Date	31 Mar 2025
Delivery Date	

Revision History			
Version	**Date**	**Comments**	**Partner**

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Introduction & structure CAN.HEAL

The Europe's beating cancer plan (EBCP) is set out to tackle the entire disease pathway of cancer - from prevention to quality of life of cancer patients and survivors - with the aim to improve prevention, early detection, access to diagnosis and treatment.

The CAN.HEAL consortium addresses two of the EBCP's initiatives: 'Cancer Diagnostic and Treatment for All' and 'Genomics for Public Health'. Genomics has become increasingly relevant in cancer medicine. Next-generation sequencing technologies and analytical approaches are now being introduced into the clinic with a multitude of clinical applications, ranging from identifying individual targetable genetic alterations to monitoring treatment response. Within the CAN.HEAL consortium, organisations from 17 EU countries jointly build on ongoing studies to promote the application of genomics to improve diagnosis and treatment of cancer patients as well as to improve our understanding of the individual susceptibility to develop a certain type of cancer. Ethical and legal issues is addressed and efforts is done for training and education to raise awareness for the importance of genomics in health professionals, patients and the public.
The final goal of the project is to establish recommendations for initiatives into the EU health system to further improve the access of individuals and patients to prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer through personalised medicine.

Structure CAN.HEAL:

Website: www.canheal.eu

Report final meeting

Coordinated by Sciensano and funded under the EU4Health programme, CAN.HEAL has brought together 42 partners across 17 countries to strengthen the links between public health genomics and cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment. Over the past 2.5 years, we have worked to reduce disparities in access to innovation and to create sustainable frameworks that support the implementation of personalized medicine in real-world settings.

The CAN.HEAL project was having its final meeting in Brussels on 27 March 2025. The detailed agenda is in Annex I. The event included:

- ✓ Pitch presentations from all WPs
- ✓ Poster exhibition of deliverables and use cases
- ✓ Interactive panels on genomics, diagnostics, and treatment
- ✓ The launch of the CAN.HEAL Cluster Roadbook – a roadmap for 2025–2030 with forward-looking discussion on scaling innovation, sustainability, and synergies

The consortium was meeting to present the outcomes of the project and the road ahead.
Key achievements of CAN.HEAL include:

🧬 Recommendations for harmonising Molecular Tumour Boards (MTBs)
📊 Development of EU-wide Oncology Decision Support Tools (EU-oncDST)
🧫 Frameworks for integrating NGS and liquid biopsy in clinical pathways
🔐 GDPR-compliant guidance for data sharing and ethical use
🧠 Training and evaluation strategies to support capacity building across Member States
🧪 Application of polygenic risk scores for population-level interventions

CAN.HEAL also laid the groundwork for future alignment with European initiatives such as 1+Million Genomes, European Federation for Cancer Images (EUCAIM), JA PreventNCD, the upcoming Joint Action on Personalised Cancer Medicine, and the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan. The event was also the occasion to launch the 'CAN.HEAL Cluster Roadbook', a roadmap for 2025-2030, outlining actions, governance models, and priorities to carry this legacy forward.

All CAN.HEAL partners were invited as well as outside stakeholders including representatives from other EU initiatives (JA PCM, PCM4EU, PRIME-ROSE, JANE-2, EUNetCCC, JA PreventNCD, EPPerMed, AfricaPerMed), the European Medicine Agency, Politicians from the European Parliament, Representatives from the Committee of Regions, Health Technology Assessment Stakeholder Network, Medical Device Coordination Group Working Groups.
Around 80 participants were present at the meeting in the BIP in Brussels. All partners were represented and representatives of related initiatives (e.g. EUNetCCC, JANE-2, eCAN+, JA PCM) and the European Commission (DG Santé, DG RTD, DG Connect and HADEA) were joining too.

All slides presented at the meeting and a booklet with all posters are published on the **CAN.HEAL Zenodo Community**, which we are proud to announce is now live and growing! As part of our commitment to transparency, collaboration, and long-term impact, the CAN.HEAL project has made all major deliverables, publications, datasets, and materials openly accessible via Zenodo, a trusted open-access repository.
Links:

- CAN.HEAL Zenodo Community:
  https://zenodo.org/communities/canheal/records?q=&l=list&p=1&s=10&sort=newest

- Slides:
  https://zenodo.org/records/15125591

- Poster booklet:
  https://zenodo.org/records/15125611

Key Messages from discussions

Public Health Genomics

- Data Sharing: CAN.HEAL focuses on enhancing population datasets and polygenic risk scores, with an emphasis on the need of equitable data sharing across Europe. This requires an increase in data generation and careful consideration of ethical aspects, such as taking into account EU shared core values in patient care (see WP12 deliverable regarding Citizen and Patient Perspectives on Oncogenomic Data Reuse).

- Implementation & Equal Access: A phased approach is desirable for integrating polygenic risk scores (PRS) into healthcare, beginning in controlled academic settings. Genetic counselling workforce requirements remain a critical consideration governing the uptake timelines of this phased approach. Collaboration with the European Commission and Member States is essential to drive progress and to support national healthcare systems. Key collaborative activities include Ministries' meetings, Joint Actions, and Networks of Expertise.

Cancer Diagnostics and Treatment for All

- Data and Material Sharing: The challenges in sharing data and materials highlight the need for a unified framework and streamlined processes (e.g., via EHDS, creating profiles between researchers and Data Protection Officers).

- Centralization vs. Local Expertise: While centralizing sequencing in national hubs is being considered, it is vital to retain local expertise in cancer care.

- Molecular Tumor Boards (MTB): MTBs are essential for complex Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS) testing and should be accompanied by appropriate reimbursement mechanisms as well as with access to drugs and clinical trials.

- Oncology Decision Support Tools (oncDST): A robust learning system utilizing oncDSTs is crucial to enhance diagnosis and treatment, thereby strengthening the role of MTBs.

- Knowledge Sharing & Capacity Building: Ongoing collaboration through initiatives like EUNetCCC and JA PCM is crucial for advancing personalized medicine and improving knowledge sharing in oncology.

CAN.HEAL Recommendations

- Dissemination: Communicate key findings in simple, clear messages tailored to different audiences, including policymakers, patients, and younger generations (children and young adults).

Innovations in Cancer Diagnostics

- Liquid Biopsy: Continued exploration is needed regarding accreditation processes and instruments for integrating innovations like liquid biopsy into clinical settings. The last is a topic covered in the sustainability section of the JA PCM.

- NGS Repositories: The potential for NGS repositories to be integrated into initiatives like NoE (Networks of Expertise) or EUNetCCC is under discussion. These networks could serve as centralized platforms for storing diverse materials.

- Privacy & Genomic Data: Privacy remains a critical concern, particularly regarding the risk of re-identification. Recommendations are being developed on that concern to come to a trustworthy framework for data reuse.

Innovation Evaluation

- The evaluation framework for innovations will continue to evolve within the JA PCM.

Cluster-Building Exercise

- Clustering Approaches: The goal is to map the outputs of various initiatives; this could be formulated within the context of the patient journey. Clustering can be organized by function (e.g., EUNetCCC, JANE, ECHoS) or by the level of development (e.g. partnerships, JA PCM).
- The CAN.HEAL Cluster Roadmap will be published on the CAN.HEAL Zenodo community! It will outline concrete steps for future collaboration and policy integration, ensuring that the project's outcomes lead to sustainable advancements in cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.

General Message

- Building on Achievements: Emphasize the progress made so far and use these accomplishments as a foundation for further development and innovation.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all partners for their enthusiastic participation and valuable, constructive contributions during the meeting and over the past 2.5 years. We look forward to continuing our fruitful collaboration in the future.

CAN.HEAL Coordination Team

Annex I Agenda

https://zenodo.org/records/15124171

Goal: Disseminate final results of the CAN.HEAL project
Audience: CAN.HEAL consortium, outside stakeholders
Join from the meeting link:
https://sciensano.webex.com/sciensano/j.php?MTID=me48526a05eb52573a896bc031e3af002

9:00 – 9:20 Registration
9:20 – 9:30 Welcome Sciensano (Marc Van Den Bulcke, coordinator)

CAN.HEAL reality

9:30 – 10:30 Public health genomics: lessons learned + recommendations

Pitch presentations from WP4 (Biobanking – Genome of Europe), WP5 (Polygenic risk scores & Decision support tools) and WP6 (Building clinical utility) on applications of next-generation sequencing (NGS) in public health followed by a panel discussion.

Moderator: MHH-Ger (Co-lead)

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break

11.00 – 12.00 Cancer diagnostics and treatment for all: lessons learned + recommendations

Pitch presentations from WP7 (Prevention/early detection), WP8 (Diagnosis and treatment decision via MTB), WP9 (Treatment and follow-up) and WP10 (Oncology Decision Support Tools) on applications of next-generation sequencing (NGS) in precision medicine followed by a panel discussion.

Moderator: ACC (Co-lead)

12.00 – 12.30 WP14: Evidence-based future
Insights from WP14 on healthcare system implementation.

12:30 – 14.00 Lunch with poster session

Posters will feature project deliverables and use cases, providing further insights into the key achievements of the project.

CAN.HEAL sequels: sustainability, new horizons, roadmap

14:00 – 15:00 Implementation and innovation

Key developments in NGS, liquid biopsy, ethical-legal-social implications (ELSI), training and evaluation framework.

- 14.00 – 14.10 WP11: NGS & Liquid Biopsy
- 14:10 – 14.20 WP12: ELSI
- 14.20 – 14.30 WP13: Training & education
- 14:30 – 15:00 WP3 Evaluation

15:00 – 15:30 Coffee break

15:30 – 17:20 CAN.HEAL Cluster Roadbook

A cluster-building exercise, aimed at aligning CAN.HEAL's outputs with ongoing European health initiatives, including the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan (EBCP), the Mission on Cancer (MoC), and the Digital Europe Programme (DigEU). The CAN.HEAL Cluster Roadbook will outline concrete steps for future collaboration and policy integration, ensuring that project results contribute to sustainable improvements in cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.

- 15:30 – 15:40 CAN.HEAL universe in EBCP/MoC/DigEU 2025-2030: CLUSTER
- 15:40 – 17:10 Cluster exercise with pitch presentations to make links with other initiatives
- 17:10 – 17:20 Conclusion

Moderator: EAPM (WP1 Marc Van Den Bulcke - WP2 Denis Horgan)

17:20 – 17:30 General wrap up

Marc Van Den Bulcke – coordinator – Sciensano
Vittoria Carraro – Policy officer – European Commission (Santé)

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