



can.heal

Newsletter – December 2025

Building the EU Cancer and Health Genomics Platform. Closing CAN.HEAL. Carrying the legacy into the Joint Action on Personalised Cancer Medicine.

CAN.HEAL in numbers

- **30 months | 42 partners | 17 countries** focused on implementation across prevention, diagnosis, and treatment
- **17 EU countries | 93 institutes** engaged around NGS-enabled personalised oncology
- **54 Molecular Tumour Boards in 11 EU countries**, with **80% embedded in routine care**
- **BALLETT pilot: 12 hospitals | 9 NGS labs | ~900 patients**, supported through weekly MTBs delivering harmonised recommendations
- **Early detection / MRD pilots: 80+ patients | 400+ longitudinal specimens | 600+ genomic and epigenetic profiles**, enabled through **60+ GDPR-compliant data-sharing packages**
- **Liquid biopsy & quality: 44 experts convened | 54 studies / 4,144 patients synthesised | 7 laboratories in a ring trial** establishing a quality baseline
- **Workforce scale-up: 3,900+ professionals enrolled** in oncogenomics e-learning
- **Reach and openness: 12,000+ website visits | 450+ X posts | 7 newsletters to 2,500+ subscribers | 21 expert interviews | 36 open-access resources**



Funded by
the European Union

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

From genomics promise to health-system delivery

CAN.HEAL concluded nine months ago, but its results continue to shape how Europe implements personalised cancer medicine at scale.

Europe's challenge is no longer scientific feasibility—it is consistent, equitable implementation. Over **30 months**, CAN.HEAL brought together **42 partners across 17 countries** to translate genomics innovation into deployable health-system assets: strengthened Molecular Tumour Boards, validated pathways for NGS-enabled decision-making, real-world pilots in early detection and minimal residual disease, and concrete progress toward liquid biopsy standardisation and quality assurance.

CAN.HEAL closed with a clear message: the project has ended, but the work continues. Its outputs are designed to be reused, aligned, and scaled—most immediately through the **Joint Action on Personalised Cancer Medicine launching in 2026**, supported by the **CAN.HEAL Cluster Roadbook (2025–2030)** and linked initiatives such as **SPARC (sparc.eu)**.

What CAN.HEAL delivered

Precision oncology that works in real settings

CAN.HEAL strengthened the practical backbone of personalised oncology in Europe:

- **54 Molecular Tumour Boards across 11 EU countries**, mapped, assessed, and reinforced: most already functioning in routine care
- **BALLETT** demonstrated national-scale deployment of comprehensive genomic profiling and MTB integration, supporting **~900 patients** across **12 hospitals** and **9 NGS laboratories**
- Clear direction on digital decision support to reduce variation and improve consistency in molecular treatment decisions

Early detection and MRD with real-world governance

CAN.HEAL validated not only tools, but also how to collaborate responsibly across borders:

- **80+ patients monitored** in multi-country pilots
- **400+ longitudinal specimens** and **600+ genomic profiles** generated
- **60+ compliant data-sharing packages** enabling secure, GDPR-aligned collaboration

Liquid biopsy and NGS: from discussion to measurable baselines

CAN.HEAL accelerated progress toward quality and comparability:

- **44 multidisciplinary experts** aligned on reference materials, reporting, and EQA needs
- Evidence strengthened through synthesis of **54 studies covering 4,144 patients**
- A **7-laboratory ring trial** establishing a foundation for future EU-wide quality frameworks

Capacity building and literacy

Implementation depends on people:

- **3,900+ healthcare professionals trained** in oncogenomics through multilingual e-learning
- Targeted upskilling for MTB operation and decision-making, alongside patient- and citizen-facing literacy tools

Celebrating the CAN.HEAL Final Event

On March 27, 2025, the CAN.HEAL Final Event in Brussels brought together experts from across Europe to reflect on 2.5 years of groundbreaking collaboration. With 42 partners from 17 countries, the project has advanced precision cancer care, from molecular tumor boards and oncology decision-support tools to public health genomics. The insights shared at the event highlight the legacy of CAN.HEAL and pave the way for continued innovation and equitable access in personalized medicine.



Visibility and openness beyond the project

CAN.HEAL ensured its outputs remain accessible and reusable:

- **12,000+ website visits, seven newsletters, 2,500+ subscribers, and 36 open-access resources** supporting continued uptake across Europe

The road ahead: from CAN.HEAL to the Joint Action on Personalised Cancer Medicine

The next phase begins where CAN.HEAL concludes. With the launch of the **Joint Action on Personalised Cancer Medicine in 2026**, CAN.HEAL's outputs provide a ready foundation for Europe's next phase of implementation.

Key priorities for 2025–2030 include:

- **Data and interoperability readiness**
Building on CAN.HEAL's governance, data, and ethics work to support secure secondary use of health data and practical alignment with the European Health Data Space.
- **Digital innovation integration**
Accelerating adoption of interoperable digital tools—such as EU-oncDST and standardised Molecular Tumour Board systems—by leveraging Europe's evolving digital framework and simplification efforts.
- **Quality, trust, and competitiveness**
Positioning CAN.HEAL's molecular diagnostics and liquid biopsy frameworks as enablers of innovation uptake, while safeguarding quality, equity, and public trust in line with Europe's life-sciences ambitions.
- **Sustained cooperation and scale-up**
Using the **CAN.HEAL Cluster Roadbook (2025–2030)** as the continuity mechanism to align partners, initiatives, and Member States under the Joint Action and beyond.

The transition from CAN.HEAL to the Joint Action marks a shift from **project-based delivery to policy-driven implementation**—ensuring that personalised cancer medicine becomes a practical reality for citizens across Europe, not a privilege of geography.

With thanks and season's greetings

We thank all partners, collaborators, and stakeholders who contributed to CAN.HEAL's success and impact.

As the year comes to a close, we wish everyone a happy holiday season and all the very best for 2026, as Europe moves forward together in advancing personalised cancer medicine.



Stay connected



SPARC

Get in Contact:

CAN.HEAL@sciensano.be



Funded by
the European Union

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.