EUnetCCC
ONEFORALL · Co-funded by the European Union

PATHWAY #1
Certification Pathway
& Capacity-building

EUNETCCC ENGAGEMENT PATHWAYS

THE EUCCC CERTIFICATION

Pathway to certification

Candidate centres designated by their National Competent Authorities will be invited to apply for the EUCCC certification through an online self-assessment, leading to an onsite audit and the certification attribution. This certification aims to foster excellence through a continuous improvement approach.

1 Designation Process
3 waves

> **2** Certification application including online self-assessment
6 to 11 months

> **3** On-site audit, Reporting and Improvement plan
2 to 4 months

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1 **Designation Process** · 3 waves

Decision from the Designation and Assessment Committee

During the Joint action, countries are requested to designate candidate centres for the EUCCC Certification. Eligibility is based on clear and transparent admission criteria and will be confirmed by a Designation & Assessment committee

What you need to do as a designated centre:

- Create your account in the online tool (e-tool) and complete your profile.
- Fill out the application form with basic information about your centre (structure, governance, activities).
- Appoint a Centre Coordinator and a Project Team Leader.

What you get:

- Access to public documentation: criteria, glossary, obligations, user-guide
- Initial feedback from the Program Coordinator.
- A decision from the Certification Board:
  - If approved→ you can move to the next step
  - If not approved → you are provided with detailed explanation and orientation to capacity-building activities before re-submitting.

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2 **Certification application including online self-assessment** · 6 to 11 months

Quality assurance review

Final Go / No-go to on-site audit

What you need to do:

- Set up a project team (4–5 people) to manage the process.
- Develop an internal plan (timeline, evidence collection).
- Complete the detailed self-assessment in the e-tool:
  - Answer each required criterion.
  - Attach required documents.
  - Explain gaps and planned improvement actions.
- Declare any conflicts of interest for the audit team composition.

What you get:

- Full access to the e-tool (forms, guides, templates).
- Quality Assurance Review: technical completeness & sufficiency of your application.
- Go/No-Go decision:
  - If Go → you can prepare for the on-site audit.
  - If No-Go → you are provided with detailed feedback & orientation to capacity building activities before reapplying.

Reading key: Validation gates   Link to capacity building activities

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The process is punctuated by four decision checkpoints to ensure readiness, impartiality and quality, and it is designed to be iterative and supportive.

The estimated timings presented are indicative for **the complete certification process**. It does not take into account exceptional statuses (e.g. OECI / DKH certified CCCs) for whom the certification steps may differ in tasks and completion time.

4 Certification attribution
1 to 2 months

5 Follow-up and Improvement plan implementation

3 On-site audit, Reporting and Improvement plan · 2 to 4 months

What you need to do:

- Finalize the visit agenda with the coordinator and lead auditor.
- Prepare logistics: rooms, document access, staff availability.
- Participate in interviews and observations during the visit.
- Review the draft audit report (factual check).
- Develop and submit a 12–24 month improvement plan in the e-tool.

What you get:

- A closing meeting with a verbal overview of findings.
- Confirmation of next steps (report, improvement plan).
- The final audit report validated by the audit team.
- Formal advice on areas to strengthen (without technical consulting).

4 Certification attribution · 1 to 2 months

Final review validation & Certification Board decision

What you need to do:

- Respond promptly if clarifications are requested before the final decision.

What you get:

- Certification Board decision:
  - If positive, you are certified → you receive an official letter and a attend ceremony within 3 months.
  - If negative, you are not certified → you receive a letter with reasons and reapplication guidance.

5 Follow-up and Improvement plan implementation · once EUCCC certified

What you need to do:

- Submit a 12-month progress report on your improvement plan.
- Provide an annual report every December (indicators, innovations).
- Prepare for renewal: start the new process within 18 months before expiry (certificate validity: 5 years).

What you get:

- Feedback from the coordinator and Board after each report.
- Option for intermediate self-assessments to track progress.
- Continued access to the network and improvement resources (webinars, tools, peer exchange).

ADDED VALUE OF THE CERTIFICATION

What makes the EUCCC Certification stand out for you as a centre?

1 **Accessing resources via the EU Network of CCCs (knowledge, expertise-sharing, cross-border collaborations):**

- **Providing tools** to structure care pathways
- Participating in **common research projects**
- **Sharing patient management** and guideline IT support tools

2 **Promoting continuous quality improvement, with clear benefits in terms of:**

- **Coordination** (encouraging team collaboration, different sizes of centres, working together, providing tools to structure care pathways, etc.)
- **Visibility** (more attractive to healthcare professionals and pharmaceutical companies to host clinical trials)
- **Funding** opportunities

3 **Fostering a shared EU ambition, for more equity in patient access to high-quality care, supporting cancer care national systems:**

- **Alignment of national standards** with EU-level expectations
- **Support difficult healthcare reforms** by providing a structured framework
- **Promotion of better organization** and deployment of resources

CAPACITY BUILDING

Capacity building activities

A key objective of EUnetCCC's Joint Action, is to **ensure the certification remains dynamic and future-oriented**. To achieve this, we are developing a capacity building framework designed to support institutions and centres applying for EUCCC Certification, **helping them gain lasting value from the capacity-building process.**

You can think of this **support as a structured, hands-on readiness and improvement programme** that accompanies - and continues beyond - your certification journey. It brings together :

1 ## A maturity-based pathway
Including a readiness checklist, gap analysis, and a maturity model spanning the 7 domains of the Standards. This pathway helps you clearly see where you are today and what matters most for the next steps in your journey.

2 ## A catalogue of activities
A rich set of resources you can draw on as you progress: preparatory and domain-specific guidelines, mutual learning opportunities such as pairing and mentoring, coaching, teaming, plus webinars on critical standards and short podcasts tackling adoption challenges—all designed to help you implement the Standards step by step.
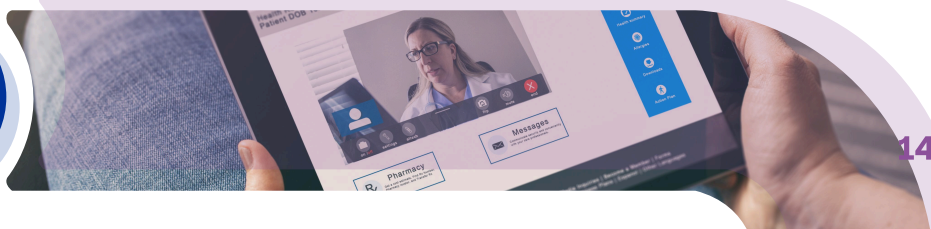
3 ## A network layer
Aligned with the activities of the EU Network of CCCs, ensuring that peer learning and collaboration remain at the core—so that improvement never happens in isolation.

⚠️ **The program is not a one-off training**. It is a continuous, needs-driven system that supports your centre from the very first contact, through certification, the 12-month progress check, annual reporting, and renewal.

ACTIVITIES

Overview of the proposed capacity-building activities

Below, for every step of the cerrtification pathway, you will find **a clear view of the capacity-building and support activities available to guide you along the way.**

1 →**Allowance to apply**

- **Orientation** to the preparatory process and the 7-domain model
- **Readiness/maturity check** to understand your baseline and plan your next steps.
- **Preparatory Guideline** to help you consider the overall challenge and make initial arrangement.

2 →**Certification application**

- **Diagnostic gap analysis** mapped to the 4-level maturity model, highlighting where to focus first.
- **Domain-specific guidelines & webinars** on critical standards to help you address high-impact gaps quickly.
- **Pairing, mentoring, coaching, and teaming opportunities** to de-risk implementation (e.g., consortia governance or tracer methods).

3 →**On-site audit**

- **Targeted "how-to" sessions** (e.g., turning self-assessment notes into auditable practice)
- **Peer tips** from centres that have tested similar audit sequences in pilots and field-tests.

4 →**Reporting and improvement plan**

- **Capacity-building tracks** tailored to your plan (e.g., guideline packs, mentoring cycles, coaching on quality-system fixes).
- **Quality-improvement indicators** to monitor progress—aligned to the Joint Action's evaluation framework and, from 2026, a continuous monitoring system.

5 →**Certification attribution**

- **If certification is not achieved, you remain in the improvement stream,** with access to the same capacity-building resources to prepare for re-application.
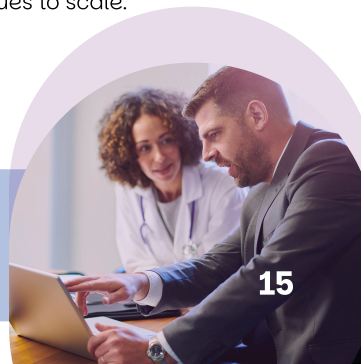
6 →**Follow-up and improvement plan implementation**

- **Activities within the EU Network of CCCs** to share and adopt what works in practice.
- **ongoing learning opportunities,** including new webinars and guides as the programme continues to scale.

Priorization & inclusion

To keep capacity building focused and fair, the Joint Action uses capacity-building levels and selection criteria (e.g., whether the country has CCCs/CCs, your maturity level, and readiness). This defines priority access to high-touch items (pairing, coaching), while open resources (guidelines, webinars) remain broadly accessible.

EUCCC CERTIFICATION · FAQ

How is the Certification created, tested and improved?

The EUCCC certification process takes into consideration the previous Joint Action CraNE's outcomes. The ongoing completion of the scheme has involved a collaboration of more than 40 stakeholders across Europe and is the result of a thorough consultation and collaboration process. The initial version of the certification framework is currently tested with nine hospitals across Europe, relying on the commitment of 45 experts per domain, all of them committed to improve the scheme thanks to their expertise and feedback from the ground.

What evaluation criteria and thresholds apply?

Evaluation criteria:
- Based on 7 domains (Care, Prevention, Governance, Education & Training, Research, Innovation, Integration of Research and Care).

Certification requires:
- ≥70% average across all standards in each domain, and
- ≥80% average across core standards per domain.

Is the field test a real certification?

No. The field test is a rehearsal to validate and improve the framework, tools, and processes before the official roll-out. It does not result in certification.

When does the official certification start?

- Framework revision: December 2025 (after in-house testing feedback and April 2026 after on-site testing feedback).
- Roll-out period: Early 2026 through October 2028.
- Certificate validity: 5 years, with renewal starting within 18 months before expiry.

How long does the process take from application to decision?

The full certification pathway can take 18 to 24 months to complete.
Other specific pathways are being developed, such as the fast-track pathway for European CCCs already certified by existing certification schemes like the DKH or OECI ones.

EUCCC CERTIFICATION · FAQ

What documents or evidence do we need to prepare?

- Complete all e-tool forms with justifications.
- Attach required documents (policies, KPIs, governance charts, quality indicators).
- Describe non-compliances and improvement actions—these feed your improvement plan.

Will we receive feedback if we don't meet requirements?

Yes—at every validation gate:
1. After the application examination.
2. After the quality Assurance Review.
3. After the Final Go/No-Go for on-site audit.
4. After the certification attribution decision. If you're not ready to be certified, you'll be oriented to capacity-building before re-applying.

What happens if we are not certified?

You remain engaged thanks to:
- Access to capacity building activities (gap analysis, mentoring, webinars,...).
- Participation in network events (through the EU Network of CCCs).
- A clear re-application path after readiness is demonstrated.

Can we reapply if unsuccessful?

- Yes. After completing capacity-building and showing readiness. The minimum interval is yet to be determined, but your capacity building advisor will guide you.

What support is available during the process?

Four pillars:
1. Diagnostic gap analysis and priority plan.
2. Guidelines per domain and webinars on critical standards.
3. Mentoring, pairing, coaching, and teaming for high-impact gaps.
4. Continuous quality improvement monitoring with indicators.

Completed by:
- Templates & tools in the e-tool.
- Weekly open Q&A sessions and bilateral meetings during field test.
- Peer learning via WP8 network activities.

EUCCC CERTIFICATION · FAQ

Is there a cost?

There will be a cost to the certification. As determined by European rules and the regulation of the EUnetCCC Joint Action, 80% of the cost will be covered by the Joint Action. The remaining 20% will have to be covered by the centres.

What support is available after certification?

- 12-month progress review and feedback.
- Annual reporting.
- Access to webinars, guidelines, and network events for continuous improvement.
- Optional intermediate self-assessments.
- Renewal support before the 5-year validity ends.

How does this align with OECI/DKH or national schemes?

This certification will take into consideration existing certifications (e.g., national systems such as in Germany or OECI Accreditation & Designation) offering an accelerated certification pathway for DKH and OECI certified CCCs.

EUCC certification, while offering a new public scheme recognized at the EU and Member States level, will deliver tangible benefits providing: a transparent benchmark; a consistent quality in care, education and research through high standards and harmonized processes; clear targets with practical guidance for centres to reach excellence and detailed plans for continuous improvement.

Where do we access resources and tools?

The following resources will be accessible on the website eunetccc.eu in the first or second quarter of 2026. Members of the Joint Action will be able to create an account to access :
- The self-assessment e-tool for forms, evidence, and improvement plans.
- The Resource Centre / Knowledge Map (portal) for guidelines, templates, and learning materials.
- The EU Network of CCCs space for peer exchange and mutual learning.
Guidelines for account creation will be communicated to Joint Action members when available.

What are the inclusion criteria for capacity-building?

Open resources (guidelines, webinars) are available to all.
High-touch support (mentoring, coaching) is prioritized for:
- Centres in the certification process.
- Countries without CCCs/CCs or with lower maturity levels.

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