



Unlocking Cancer Research Collaborations and Synergies

Work Package 8 – Task Cancer Research (WP8.2.3)

Our goal is to improve cancer care across Europe by fostering collaborations and unlocking synergies in cancer research ecosystem

23 countries

46 Institutions:
20 Cancer Centres & Hospitals
13 CCCs

306 Person months

In 2025, WP8.2.3 launched a comprehensive survey to map the cancer research ecosystem across EUnetCCC. The primary goal was to uncover each institution’s unique strengths, pinpoint existing challenges, and identify barriers to progress. A key objective was also to determine the most pressing cancer-related topics that could benefit from international collaboration within the EUnetCCC network. Drawing on the insights gathered, WP8.2.3 will initiate collaborative networks and targeted events and activities centered on selected topics (cases) - prioritizing clinical-impact and research opportunities, with a patient-centered mindset.

- Case 1: How to succeed at de-escalation studies (2026)
- Case 2: Join forces to tackle treatment resistance
- Case 3: Functional precision medicine – from bench to bedside
- Case 4: Unleashing the potential of AI to transform cancer diagnostics and treatment guidance



Case 1 De-escalation 2026

De-escalation symposium

Why de-escalation and where are we now?

Improve the quality and increase the number of clinical De-escalation trials

**EUnetCCC symposium
“Innovating Cancer Care Through De-escalation Studies”**

March 5-6th 2026,
Netherlands Cancer Institute,
Amsterdam

In collaboration with
EUROPEAN ACADEMY
OF CANCER SCIENCES

Open physical meeting for 200-300 participants

STANDARD OF CARE

DE-ESCALATION PROTOCOL

Side effects

Health care cost reduction

Ethics

Late effects

Equivalent or better oncological outcome

De-escalation studies focus on reducing treatment intensity while ensuring the effectiveness of cancer therapies, ultimately enhancing patients' quality of life by minimizing side effects and toxicity. This symposium will delve into the critical challenges and necessary steps for initiating successful de-escalation trials. Our goal is to identify best practices that will ensure de-escalation is a viable option for patients who might benefit, by building inter-disciplinary networks.

Biobanking and biomarkers

Sample, data and code sharing for expansion of cohorts and validation of research findings

New discoveries and faster implementation of research findings into clinic

Network

Webinars, courses, workshops, hackathons

Dynamic and sustainable

Research twinnings

Staff and knowledge exchange, visits

Long lasting collaborations

Patient and public involvement in cancer research

Motivation and education of researchers, clinicians and patient representatives to strengthen collaborations

Increased relevance and quality

Digital platform

Sharing information, calls for funding, best practices, guidelines and SOPs

Active user contributions

