

Recognizing Cancer Nursing across Europe Where do we stand?



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Agenda



- 1 RECaN-Project**
- 2 EONS Cancer Nursing Education Framework**
- 3 Actual & future steps**



RECaN-Project

“Specialized cancer nursing continues to be frustrated by a continuing **lack of uniform regulation and recognition** across Europe. Yet, despite this situation, cancer nursing provides an undeniable **added value** in terms of **patient outcomes**.”
ECCO position statement 2017



01
Systematic
Review of
Cancer
Nursing Trials

02
Comparing
Cancer
Nursing in 4
European

03
Advocating
at National-
& EU-Level

3 Phases

RECaN-Project – Phase I

Systematically identify the roles, types of cancer nursing interventions and their effectiveness and cost-effectiveness



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A scoping review of trials of interventions led or delivered by cancer nurses

Andreas Charalambous^{a, b}, Mary Wells^c, Pauline Campbell^d, Claire Torrens^d, Ulrika Östlund^e, Wendy Oldenmenger^f, Elisabeth Patiraki^g, Lena Sharp^{h, i}, Iveta Nohavova^j, Nuria Domenech-Climent^k, Manuela Eicher^l, Carole Farrell^m, Maria Larssonⁿ, Cecilia Olssonⁿ, Mhairi Simpson^o, Theresa Wiseman^p, Daniel Kelly^{q, r}

RECaN-Project – Phase I



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- Majority of the interventions were nurse-led and delivered by specialist cancer nurses or advanced cancer nurses
- Contribution that cancer nurses have made to evidence-based innovations & improving outcomes of cancer patients

RECaN-Project – Phase II



- Data from Estonia, UK, The Netherlands and Germany (2017)
- Clinical visits, focus group interviews, individual interviews, survey, meetings with stakeholders
- Hospital Survey on Patient Safety (n=400 nurses)
- Questions on support, work content and workplace, leadership, communication, errors, *safety*

RECaN-Project – Phase II (2017)

Item	Estonia	Germany	Netherlands	UK
Specialized Cancer Nursing Education Program	No (since 2018 yes)	Yes (much variation)	Yes (national curriculum)	Yes
Legal Recognition	No	No	Yes	Yes
Concerned of Safety	Not much concerned (work conditions!!)	Yes	Yes	Yes



Major difference of working conditions

RECaN-Project – Phase II



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RECaN-Project – Phase II

Hospital Survey on Patient Safety Culture

% of positive scores

- NL nurses scored the highest on 'event reported' and 'communication openness' and 'non-punitive response to errors'
- NL and UK nurses scored higher on 'frequency of event reported'
- German nurses rated the overall patient safety lowest and UK the highest
- Associations between overall patient safety and staffing ($p < .0001$), communication openness ($p = 0.07$), handoffs and transitions ($p = .022$), and non-punitive response to errors ($p = .024$)

RECaN-Project – Phase II

Hospital Survey on Patient Safety Culture

Differences in patient safety culture between the countries

- ❑ Cancer nurses autonomy, status, education and recognition will impact patient safety culture
- Increase availability of education for specialist cancer nurses
- Cancer nursing need to be recognized as a specialty across Europe

RECaN-Project – Phase III

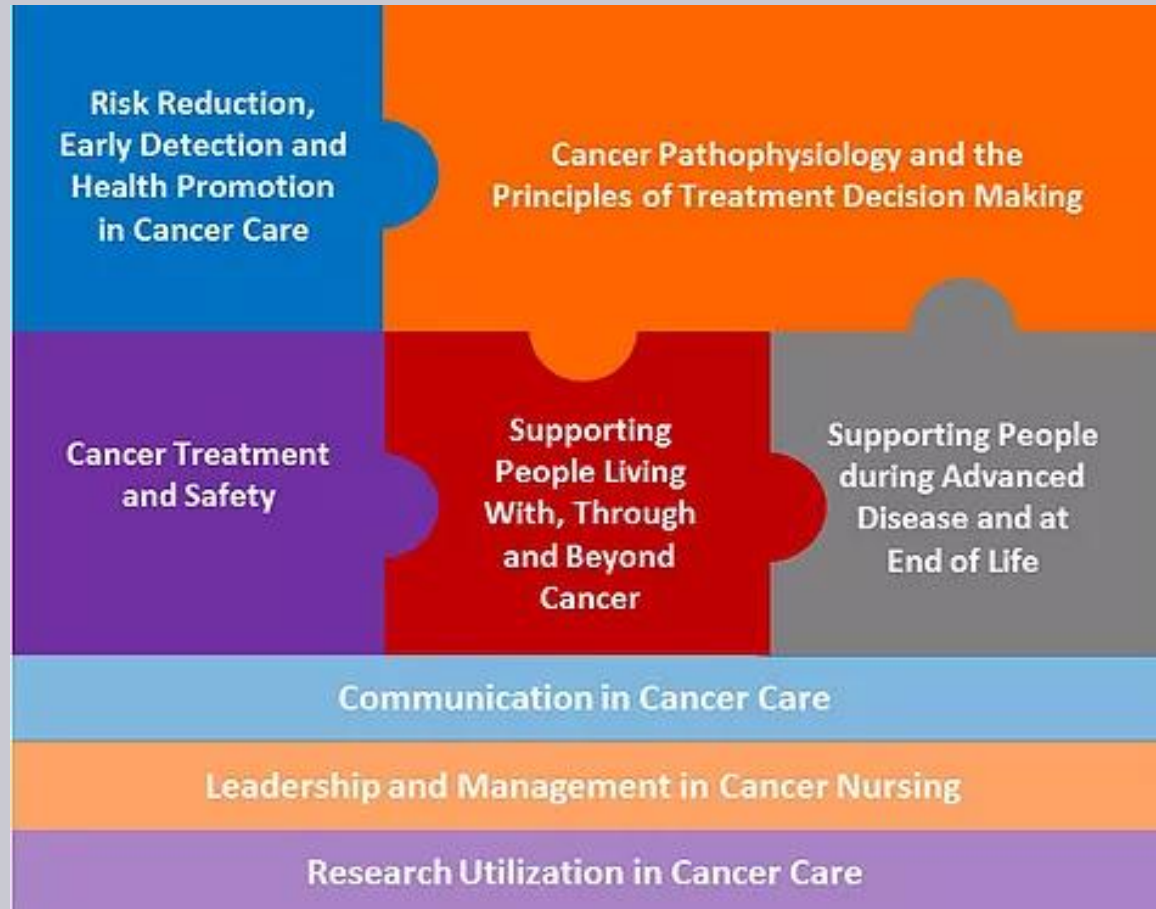
Advocating for Recognition at the EU-level



- ❑ Advocacy meeting with the MEPS Against Cancer (MAC) in the European Parliament in May 2018 to share the findings of phase I & II to support the recognition of cancer nursing as a specialty
- ❑ Findings presented at the EONS11 conference at ESMO Congress, Munich (October 2018) + different national congresses of Ca Nursing

EONS Education Framework

Knowledge
Skills
Competencies



EONS Education Framework



- ✓ Recognition EONS Education Framework by OEIC (Organisation of European Cancer Institutes)
- ✓ Quid CTF & EU Directive 2005/36/EC?
⇒ **single goal = mobility of professionals**
⇒ need support from DG Public Health
- ✓ Europe's Beating Cancer Plan should include a key position & role of specialized cancer nurses and so also the recognition of specialized Cancer Nursing!

Ongoing actions



- Mapping of Specialized Cancer Nursing Education Programs across Europe
- Mapping of Safety-issues (patient- & occupational safety) across Europe
- Use of these data for further discussions with EU policy makers
- Participation activities/roundtables on national (invitation letter) & European level cc. hazardous drugs & other issues

Future steps



- Increasing (visibility) of nursing interventions for prevention and diagnosis of cancer (EU Cancer Plan)
- Use of EONS Cancer Nursing Education Framework as a CTF ?
- Adopted in at least 1/3 of member states by competent authority
- Check & approval by the European Commission
- ***Continuing advocating/lobbying at the EU political level***
- ***Strive for an EU-Directive on the recognition of Cancer Nursing as a specialty***

Conclusion

- ❑ Proof that cancer nursing interventions contributes to evidence-based innovations & improve outcomes of cancer patients
- ❑ If EU Cancer Plan promotes equal quality/safe cancer care for all patients with cancer, then we need highly educated, specialized nurses with recognition
- ❑ Recognition of Cancer Nursing Specialty should not be restricted to mobility but also including content issues and remuneration

