



Policy Event:

International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD) 2025

“Cross-border access to care, research and training”

“Reducing inequalities for children with cancer”

Hosted and Organised by MEP András Tivadar Kulja (EPP, HU)

Tuesday, 4 February 2025 (16:00-18:00 CET)

Networking Reception 18:00 CET

European Parliament, Brussels (Altiero Spinelli 3 E-2)

This edition of the annual **International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD)** meeting will focus on the pressing challenges in cross-border healthcare and research in paediatric oncology. By fostering a dynamic multi-stakeholder dialogue, the event seeks to address these challenges and explore pathways towards a future where cross-border collaboration is seamless, and inequalities in survival rates across EU Member States are eradicated.

The event will feature two engaging panel discussions. The first panel will centre on **Cross-Border Care**, addressing the challenges of accessing care under the **Cross-border Healthcare Directive** and the **S2 form**, which restrict coverage to standard care and **exclude innovative treatments** such as CAR T-cell therapy. The discussion will explore practical solutions to reduce disparities in access to specialized paediatric oncology care across Member States.

The second panel will focus on **Cross-Border Research**, examining the **obstacles to conducting collaborative research**, including regulatory and logistical barriers that impede EU-wide clinical trials and innovation. A particular focus will be on the challenges faced by non-coverage by social security of participation in innovative trials, especially when conducted outside the patient’s home country, and the lack of capacity of centres to participate in such cutting-edge research initiatives. The panel will emphasize the importance of harmonized frameworks to enhance cooperation, bridge these gaps, and foster progress in paediatric oncology research across Europe.

A significant emphasis will also be placed on the importance of training and capacity-building to ensure sustainable cross-border collaboration. Discussions will highlight the role of **twinning programmes**, where high-performing oncology centres mentor and train those in less-resourced regions to build local capacity and expertise. Additionally, **EU-wide training initiatives** will be explored, fostering the development of a unified, skilled workforce capable of delivering equitable, high-quality care and research across all Member States.

By bringing together policymakers, researchers, healthcare providers, and patient advocates, this event aims to generate actionable solutions for overcoming systemic barriers in cross-border care and research. Let’s work towards a future where innovation and collaboration thrive across borders, and survival outcomes for children with cancer are equitable throughout the EU.

PROGRAMME

1	<p>16:00 - 16:15 - Special welcome address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ MEP Andras KULJA (EPP, HU) - Host○ Uta DIRKSEN - SIOPE President (University of Essen/DE)○ Anita KIENESBERGER - CCI-E Chair
2	<p>16:15– 17:45 - Panel: Moderated discussion – Cross-Border access to care, research and training to reduce inequalities for children with cancer in Europe</p> <p>Moderator: Ruth LADENSTEIN - SIOPE Board Member, ERN PaedCan Coordinator (St. Anna Hospital/AT)</p> <p>Part 1: Cross-border access to high quality care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Ruth LADENSTEIN – SIOPE Board Member, ERN PaedCan Coordinator (St. Anna Hospital/AT)○ Delphine HEENEN - Patient Advocate, KickCancer CEO and Founder, CCI-E Committee Member○ Hana HORKA - European Commission DG SANTE, Policy Officer Unit B3 European Reference Networks○ MEP Vlad VASILE-VOICULESCU (Renew/RO)○ MEP Vytenis Povilas ANDRIUKAITIS (S&D/LIT) <p>Part 2: Cross-border access to research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Gilles VASSAL - SIOPE Policy Lead and ITCC Former President (Gustave Roussy/FR)○ Nicole SCOBIE - Patient Advocate, Chair of ACCELERATE, CCI-E and ITCC Committee Member○ Annika NOWAK - European Commission DG RTD, Head of Sector for EU Cancer Mission○ MEP Tomislav SOKOL (EPP/HR)○ MEP Nicolás González CASARES (S&D/ES)
3	<p>17:45 –18:00 –Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ MEP Andras KULJA (EPP, HU) - Host○ Uta DIRKSEN - SIOPE President (University of Essen/DE)○ Anita KIENESBERGER - CCI-E Chair
	<p>18:00 – 19:00 –Networking Reception</p>