



Newsletter – Issue No. 2
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Advancing Supportive Care in Paediatric Oncology Across Europe



As the project continues to progress, the past months have marked an important phase of consolidation and development. Key efforts have focused on strengthening collaboration across partners, advancing core research tools, and expanding ON-COME's visibility within the European and international scientific community.

At the heart of these efforts lies ON-COME's overarching objective: to improve the quality of life of children and adolescents with cancer, ensuring they and their families receive not only effective treatment, but also comprehensive psychosocial, neuropsychological, and nutritional support throughout their journey.

In this second edition, we highlight recent developments across the project, including progress in Work Package 2, emerging synergies with other European initiatives, and ON-COME's growing presence in international scientific discussions.



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Progress in WP2: Mapping and Standardisation of Psycho-Oncological Services

A central ambition of ON-COME is to establish a comprehensive and harmonised understanding of supportive care services for paediatric oncology patients across Europe. This includes psycho-oncological, neuropsychological, and nutritional services, key components of holistic cancer care that remain unevenly implemented across countries.

Work Package 2, led by Fondazione Policlinico Universitario Agostino Gemelli (FPG), is at the forefront of this effort, focusing on the mapping and standardisation of unified psycho-oncological services.

Following the 5th WP2 meeting held in March 2026, important progress has been achieved in both the conceptual and operational dimensions of this work. At the core of WP2 is the development of a comprehensive mapping survey, which is currently in its finalisation phase. This survey will serve as the primary data collection tool of the project, enabling the systematic gathering of comparable information across multiple European countries.

The survey is designed to capture:

- the availability and structure of services
- levels of clinical integration
- accessibility for patients and families
- existing gaps and disparities

The survey employs a multidimensional approach that integrates psycho-oncological, neuropsychological, and nutritional domains. This methodology facilitates cross-country comparisons across various healthcare systems.

To support effective dissemination, WP2 has established a network of national and international contacts, alongside country-level focal points, ensuring broad outreach and engagement across up to 20 countries.

Together, these outputs will provide a strong evidence base to support more equitable and integrated models of care across Europe.

The work also reflects the complexity and diversity of healthcare systems, requiring careful coordination and methodological alignment. Current efforts include translation and cultural adaptation of survey materials, alignment with external initiatives, and the development of strategies to maximise response rates.

At the same time, WP2 is proactively addressing potential challenges, such as low survey participation, delays in translation, and coordination across partners, through structured mitigation strategies, including the use of national focal points, regular coordination meetings, and shared workflows.

Overall, WP2 represents a critical step in moving from a fragmented understanding towards a coherent, evidence-based framework for supportive care in paediatric oncology.



Strengthening Collaboration: Synergies with IMPACT-EU

Collaboration across European initiatives remains a key pillar of ON-COME's strategy. In a complex and rapidly evolving research landscape, building synergies is essential to maximise impact, ensure efficiency, and foster innovation.

In this context, ON-COME has initiated collaboration with the IMPACT-EU project, creating opportunities for alignment and mutual reinforcement. This collaboration supports the exchange of methodologies, particularly in relation to survey design, stakeholder engagement, and data collection strategies.



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By working in parallel with complementary initiatives, ON-COME contributes to a broader European effort aimed at improving cancer care systems, while avoiding duplication and strengthening the overall coherence of research activities.

Such partnerships are instrumental in building a connected ecosystem where knowledge, expertise, and best practices can be shared effectively across projects and borders.

ON-COME on the International Stage

In parallel with its internal progress, ON-COME continues to strengthen its visibility within the international scientific and clinical community. Beyond increasing the project's visibility, participation in conferences and scientific events represents a key opportunity to engage directly with experts in the field, exchange knowledge, and gather valuable feedback. These interactions are essential to ensuring that ON-COME's activities remain aligned with real clinical needs and priorities, allowing the project to continuously refine its approach and maximise its relevance and impact.

Following the successful kick-off meeting in Rome, the project has been actively presented at both European and global events. A recent example is the multidisciplinary conference on central nervous system tumours and treatment in childhood, held in Germany on 13-14 March 2026.

During the event, Ulrich-W. Thomale and Isabel Fernandes Arroteia, representing Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, partner member of the project, presented ON-COME to an audience of leading experts in paediatric neuro-oncology.

Their presentation highlighted the project's mission to strengthen psychosocial, neuropsychological, and nutritional support for young cancer patients, while also showcasing its structured approach to mapping and standardisation. Importantly, the event provided an opportunity to engage directly with the scientific community, gather feedback, and ensure alignment with clinical needs and emerging research trends.

ON-COME's outreach has also extended beyond Europe: in November 2025, right after the project's kick-off meeting, Daniela Chieffo, ON-COME Scientific Coordinator, presented the project at the 2025 Chinese Congress on Holistic Integrative Oncology, further expanding its international reach and fostering global dialogue on supportive care in paediatric oncology.

Looking ahead, ON-COME aims to continue its engagement at major scientific events, including the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) Congress 2026 in Madrid, reinforcing its role in shaping discussions on cancer care and patient support at the international level.



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Looking Ahead

As ON-COME moves into its next phase, the focus will be on translating early progress into tangible outcomes. The upcoming launch of the WP2 survey will represent a major milestone, enabling the collection of critical data to inform future recommendations and interventions.

At the same time, continued collaboration with European partners and engagement with the international scientific community will remain central to the project's approach.

Through these combined efforts, ON-COME is contributing to a more coordinated, evidence-based, and patient-centred model of supportive care, helping ensure that children and adolescents with cancer across Europe receive the comprehensive support they need throughout their care journey.

Fresh from LinkedIn:

- [ON-COME at the CNS Tumours in Childhood Conference](#)
- [Protecting Childhood Beyond Treatment: ON-COME on International Childhood Cancer Day](#)
- [Protecting Childhood, Inspiring Futures in Science](#)



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