

# Estonian Cancer Network (ESTCAN)



## COUNTRY

Estonia

## LOCATION

Tartu and Tallinn  
/ National network

## PERIOD

November 2024  
– September 2025

## SCOPE

National

## CORE PARTNERS

10 funding partners including major hospitals, universities, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Estonian Health Insurance Fund, the National Institute for Health Development, and the Estonian Cancer Society

## OVERALL MATURITY CHANGE

From 35% to 51%  
(+16%)

The CCI4EU Deep Dive in Estonia supported the development of the Estonian Cancer Network (ESTCAN) as a national Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructure, bringing together hospitals, universities, public authorities, and patient organisations and representatives from across the country.

The intervention focused on three priority areas – structure of the CCI, clinical research, and patient pathways – with the aim of strengthening national coordination and supporting a more integrated, research-driven, and patient-centred cancer infrastructure.

# Focus Areas



Structure of the CCI

Clinical Research

Patient Pathways

## Why This Deep Dive



Estonia was selected for a Deep Dive as a country with a clear national ambition to strengthen coordination across cancer care, research, education, and innovation through the newly established Estonian Cancer Network. The country brings together strong clinical institutions, digital foundations, engaged public authorities, and a committed professional community.

At the same time, there was a clear opportunity to build on these strengths by further aligning efforts across institutions and translating national ambition into a more structured and sustainable Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructure. Estonia's size, agility, and collaborative culture also created favourable conditions for coordinated development and implementation.

The Deep Dive provided a structured framework to support this next stage of development, helping stakeholders define shared priorities, strengthen leadership alignment, and advance a more integrated national approach to cancer care and research.

# Work Performed



3 onsite Deep Dive visits in Tartu and Tallinn, including situational analysis, intervention design, and consolidation

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Thematic workshops, SWOT analysis, and multidisciplinary discussions with national stakeholders

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Provision of targeted recommendations to strengthen governance, patient pathways, clinical research, and education and training

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Preparation of an observership visit to support knowledge exchange

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12 supporting webinars held between November 2024 and September 2025 to ensure continuity and alignment between visits

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Participation in regional conferences, coaching activities, and online training

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Development of a structured roadmap with defined priorities, timelines, and responsibilities, supporting both strategic planning and early implementation

# Key Developments



Consolidation of ESTCAN as a national Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructure rather than a single Comprehensive Cancer Centre

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Stronger alignment among stakeholders around a shared national vision

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Progress from fragmented planning toward a more structured and coordinated approach to governance and strategic development

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Improved positioning of clinical research as a core component of the infrastructure, with clearer plans for centralisation and coordination with the National Centre for Translational and Clinical Research

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Enhanced education and training efforts in clinical research

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Growing visibility and planned expansion of patient involvement in research

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Advancement of the lung cancer pathway pilot as a national reference model

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Establishment of a shared understanding of patient pathways as system-level tools integrating multidisciplinary care, data, and evaluation

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Measurable maturity gains across governance-related structures, interfaces, clinical research, and patient pathways

# Next Steps



The Deep Dive laid the foundations for a more coordinated national cancer infrastructure, but continued progress will depend on sustained leadership and long-term strategic support. The future roadmap includes:

- Formalisation of governance structures and cooperation arrangements across ESTCAN

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- Development and implementation of a long-term strategic plan for the CCI

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- Establishment of working groups to support national cancer care guidelines and harmonised practices

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- Creation of a visualisation tool to monitor ESTCAN development and outcomes

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- Further development of a centralised clinical trial infrastructure in collaboration with the National Centre for Translational and Clinical Research

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- Establishment of a scientific directorate, scientific advisory board, and dedicated grants office

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- Continued expansion of education and training activities for oncology professionals and clinical research staff

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- Implementation and evaluation of the lung cancer pathway pilot, alongside development and rollout of standardised patient pathways for additional tumour types

# Photo Report

