

Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructure Ireland



COUNTRY

Ireland

PERIOD

November 2024
– September 2025

TARGET COVERAGE

National cancer care
and research
ecosystem

OVERALL MATURITY CHANGE

From 44% to 56%
(+12%)

The objective of the CCI4EU intervention in Ireland was to support the development of a national Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructure (CCI) by engaging all cancer centres and relevant stakeholders, including the National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP), the National Cancer Registry Ireland, local hospitals, universities, and primary and community care.

The three Deep Dive visits aimed to provide detailed insights to inform targeted interventions across the selected priority domains of the CCI. In addition, the process facilitated knowledge exchange based on practices from other European countries, supported the formulation of recommendations, and contributed to the development of a shared roadmap for the future evolution of Ireland's national cancer infrastructure.

Focus Areas



Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructure

Comprehensive Cancer Centre

Screening and Early Detection

Patient Pathways

Why This Deep Dive



Ireland has a strong and evolving cancer ecosystem, supported by successive National Cancer Strategies, a well-established National Cancer Control Programme, and a network of designated cancer centres with growing research capacity. The Deep Dive was designed to build on these foundations by supporting enhanced national coordination, strengthening connections between care and research, and contributing to the development of a shared roadmap for a comprehensive cancer infrastructure. Particular opportunities were identified in further aligning governance structures, advancing clinical research capacity, strengthening data sharing approaches, and harmonising patient pathways, with the overall aim of reinforcing integration and supporting continued improvement in cancer care and outcomes.

Work Performed



3 onsite visits

Mapping of the national landscape of cancer care and research, including stakeholder presentations and a joint SWOT analysis

Exploration of priority areas such as governance, clinical trials, precision medicine, and inequalities through thematic workshops and discussions, including a regional visit to Galway

Review of progress, refinement and validation of the national roadmap, and engagement with representatives from the Department of Health and the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science

Establishment of national thematic working groups (e.g. data, research, clinical research, patient pathways, education, quality and patient involvement), coordinated by the NCCP, to support structured collaboration and implementation of the CCI roadmap

Online meetings, thematic workshops, and knowledge exchange activities supporting continuous collaboration between visits

Key Developments



Progress in defining governance structures for a national CCI

Advancements in digital infrastructure planning, including Electronic Health Record (EHR) development

Advancement of discussions and strategic direction on clinical trial infrastructure

Enhanced engagement with EU initiatives such as ECHoS and EUnetCCC

Continued strengthening of focus on patient involvement and patient-centred care

Next Steps



- Formalising governance structures and roles within the CCI

- Developing and implementing a national cancer research strategy

- Advancing national data infrastructure and interoperability

- Further harmonising patient pathways across the country

- Strengthening clinical research capacity and participation in trials

Overall, the Deep Dive confirmed Ireland's strong foundations and high level of stakeholder engagement. The process supported the development of a shared vision and a structured roadmap, positioning Ireland to further strengthen integration across its cancer ecosystem and align with European initiatives in cancer care and research.

Photo Report

