



# State of the play of the OEI Presidential Strategy

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# Cancer in Europe

- There is a large variability in Epidemiology, Economics, Health Care and Health Care Systems, and Outcomes
- Both between and within countries, yielding inequality in access to quality care
- Some of the determinants of variability/inequality are actionable



Europe' Beating Cancer Plan and Cancer Mission have the common objectives to **improve quality** and **decrease inequalities** in cancer care in Europe, in order to:

**Decrease mortality, improve survival and ameliorate QoL**

These objectives may be achieved only:

- supporting research and health care activities
- a wider participation of all Member States and Affiliated Countries
- a direct involvement of all the relevant stake-holders in the co-design and project implementation, including citizens and patients
- alignment and coordination at national and European level



# European Cancer Plans: 5 main lines of activities

- Increase knowledge (research)
- Increase access to quality care
- Fight actionable determinants of inequalities
- Involve active participation of relevant stake-holders
- Optimize synergy between funded projects



# OECI today

- OECI is the largest Worldwide network of cancer centres/institutes
- Over the past 55 years, the OECI membership increased to more than 180 members (at May 2025), covering 26 EU Member States, with an active extra European program (OECIWorld)
- About 50% of our Members are currently participating in the A&D Programme, 66 already certified
- Several quality-focussed activities ongoing
- Furthermore, OECI has now a more active involvement in European actions

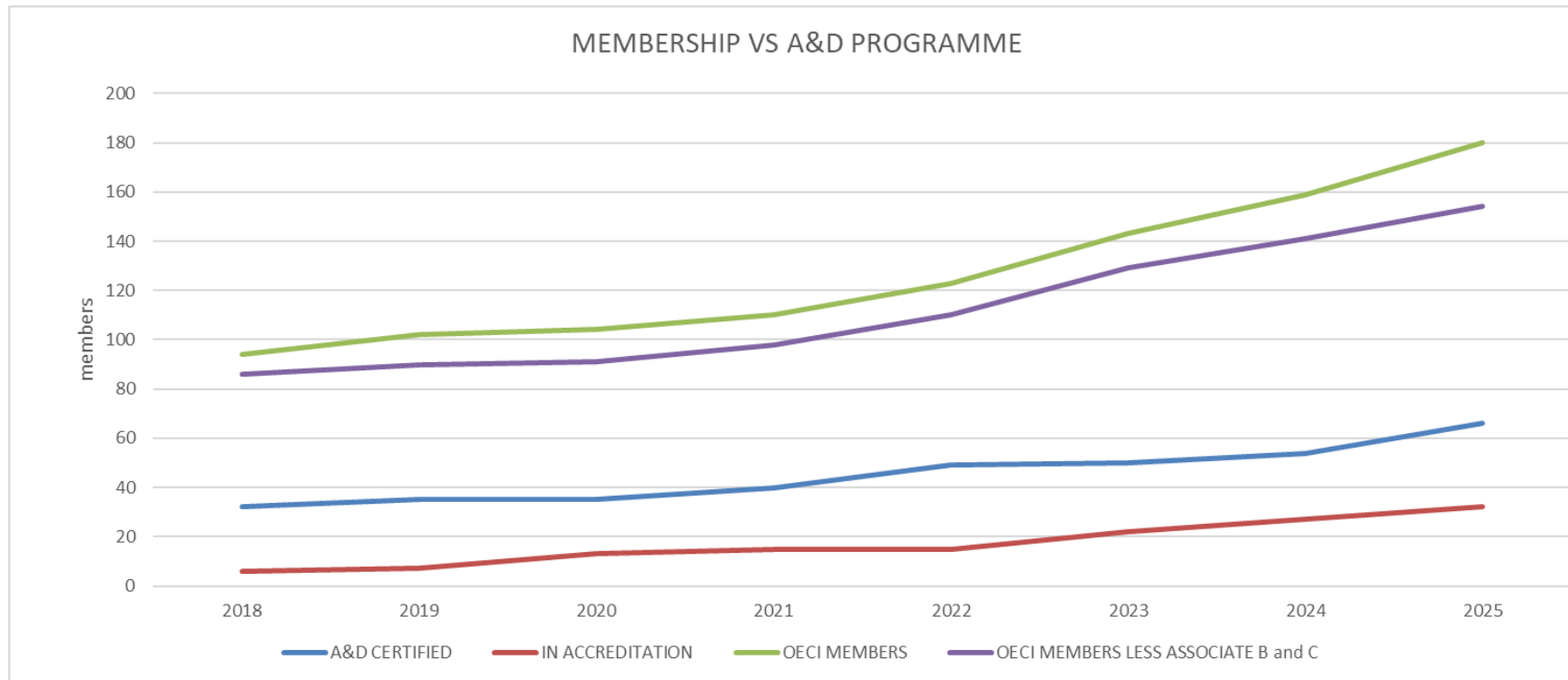


	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
ASSOCIATE A	13	11	11	16	16	17	18	19
ASSOCIATE B	8	12	13	12	13	14	18	21
ASSOCIATE C								5
<b>TOTAL ASSOCIATES</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>FULL MEMBERS</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>155</b>
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>180</b>






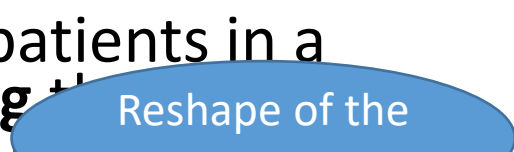



	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
A&D CERTIFIED	32	35	35	40	49	50	54	66
IN ACCREDITATION	6	7	13	15	15	22	27	32
OEI MEMBERS	94	102	104	110	123	143	159	180
OEI MEMBERS LESS ASSOCIATE B and C	86	90	91	98	110	129	141	154
TOTAL IN THE A&D PROGRAMME	38	42	48	55	64	72	81	98





# From Helsinki 2024

- Continuous education on topics that prepare **younger people** to participate in the **development** of the European oncology research agenda. 
- Involvement of new generations to prepare future managers and to **gain** from them the necessary contribution to the innovation of the field. 
- Expansion of OECI's presence in other continents in order to demonstrate **that** the approach adopted by OECI is **applicable** to different cultural and social situations **that differ from** the European one. 
- Relaunch of OECI's contribution to the involvement of patients in a continuous relationship with oncology centres, **ensuring** their participation in the preparatory phases of the research and to involve them. 
- Participation of OECI in major European research and public health projects with the involvement of our members. 



## What left

- An important issue raised at the last plenary session in Helsinki remains to be defined: the need to think about a way to return to the members, more than has been done so far, part of the scientific, educational and possibly also economic benefits generated by the OECI.
- There are, of course, several possibilities: from support for centres in economic or political crisis, to support for certification and improvement programmes, and foster collaborations between CC/CCs



# Decision taken by the extended OEI Board, yesterday

- To organize a BoD meeting focussed on issues discussed yesterday with the objective to:
  - Prepare a Strategic multi-year Plan where priorities are identified, actions planned after evaluation of their feasibility and sustainability
- To present the Plan to the General Assembly for discussion in the context of an informal virtual meeting



## What next

- The Oncology Days in Athens mark a new starting point, **both** to achieve the goals we have set **and** to address new issues
- In addition to the topics addressed in the Scientific Session, such as artificial intelligence in **diagnostics and treatments** – there are others sectors that remains underexplored and certainly deserves greater attention from OEI, for example: prevention, fight inequalities, health Services Research, etc
- **Furthermore, there is a need to** build strategic alliances with other European cancer entities and others that do not always belong to the oncology community.



## Challenges

- Some of the ongoing Joint Actions (JAs) may lead to duplication and competition between existing networks and certification systems.
- This is particularly true in the case of EUnetCCC, which plans to establish a new European network and certification system.
- During the last BoD meeting, yesterday, the topic has been raised, members had the opportunity to discuss how to manage this «hot» issue.



## Additional remarks

- A synergy meeting with coordinators of the most relevant cancer policy projects ongoing (EUnetCCC, CCI4EU, ECHOS, JANE2)
- Another coordination and alignment meeting with 4 relevant European Networks (OEI, CCE, EORTC and DIGICORE) planned soon
- A letter signed by 49 European CCs/CCCs in which Directors express concerns about the direction EUnetCCC is taking and concludes ” *...we maintain that OEI and DKH certification represent a credible and robust pathway to EUnetCCC recognition. We respectfully urge you to adopt a process that removes unnecessary barriers and embraces the clear advantages ...*».
- The position of AAC, the Italian network of 33 Cancer Institutes, that support the Italian current status (3 level certification, from regional, national and OEI) expressing doubts about the necessity and sustainability of an additional European certification





## Conclusions

We are ready to collaborate with European and national entities, and assume a leading role but, **we should not forget that**

- OEI **operates** independently of political or industrial **influences**.
- This **autonomy** allows us to act with the sole purpose of providing our patients with the best available care and ensuring that, **over time**, the majority of patients **receive treatment** in highly specialised **centres**, certified through a **quality assessment process**





## Acknowledgements

I thank Claudio Lombardo, all the Members of the Board, the participants in the four WPs, the members of the Young Board, my co-coordinators of the European Projects ongoing, and the OECI staff for their support during my Presidency.....

**and**

To Olga Balaura, her colleagues and the Greek Health Authorities for the hospitality and excellent organisational and scientific work done

I hope that the new paths forged during my presidency will continue to evolve, enriched by additional ideas linked to the pillars we have firmly anchored to a foundation of knowledge at

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Giovanni Ascoli".