

Press release

Through Cross-Border Cooperation in Oncology towards Better Healthcare and More Time and Hope for Cancer Patients – A Better Life with Diagnosis and Care

In November 2024, the General Hospital "Đorđe Joanović" Zrenjanin, in cooperation with the "Pius Brînzeu" Emergency County Clinical Hospital Timișoara (Romania), launched a project titled **"Cross-border cooperation to foster the resilience of clinical management in cancer patients by establishing best practices in personalized molecular-based diagnostics, treatment, and long-term care – CROSSCARE"**. This project is being implemented within the framework of the Interreg IPA Romania–Serbia Programme.

The "CROSSCARE" project addresses the issue of unequal access to healthcare services, specifically targeting cancer, which poses a serious health threat in both partner countries in terms of incidence, prevalence, and mortality. "CROSSCARE" aims to foster cross-border cooperation in the field of oncology, focusing on diagnostics and capacity building, which will improve healthcare services regarding both the life expectancy and quality of life of oncology patients. New medical equipment, joint procedures, knowledge exchange, and training sessions will enable the mapping of the genetic profile of cancer in the region and the creation of joint therapeutic strategies to tackle oncological issues, including immunotherapies.

Utilizing advanced equipment and methods (NGS – Next-Generation Sequencing, flow cytometry, qRT-PCR, cytotoxicity assays), the project will develop guidelines and implement precise diagnostic procedures and personalized therapies for oncology patients in the cross-border region. Following surgical treatment, all collected data will be processed and interpreted using an algorithm-based expert software system, which will provide therapeutic recommendations for solid tumors.

On October 9, 2025, Zrenjanin will host the first medical seminar within the project. It will cover the latest aspects related to surgical procedures performed on oncology patients, while a section will also be dedicated to methods for tissue and cell processing for genomic, immunophenotypic, and cytotoxicity assessments.

The project implementation began on November 28, 2024, and will run until November 27, 2026. The total value of the project is €1,833,281.50, of which €1,558,289.27 represents European Union co-financing.

The project is co-financed by the European Union through the Interreg IPA Romania–Serbia Programme.