

Official establishment of a Central Eastern European Academy of Oncology (CEEAO)
The Government of Hungary

Draft version

Topic: PROJECT CEEAO

Official establishment of a Central Eastern European Academy of Oncology (CEEAO) by the Government of Hungary, to enhance professional knowledge and skill in the field of oncology in the geographical region of Central and Eastern Europe, to decrease cancer mortality

To whom it may concern,

Cancer is a global health problem of the 21st Century, resulting in 20% of deaths in Europe. According to the World Health Organization there are more than 3 million new cases and 1.7 million deaths each year in the continent.

In the past decades complex oncological care has undergone significant development and today modern diagnostical imaging, genetics and molecular pathology, multidisciplinary oncological therapies are able to offer effective cancer treatment of several types of malignancies, in the first instance for the early stage cases.

In Europe the introduction of national programmes for cancer control (European Code Against Cancer), populational screening programs for breast, colorectal etc. cancer, the establishment of standards for specialized health professionals, the standardized quality requirements of comprehensive cancer centers, oncological units or centers, the evidence based medicine and the international or national consensus conferences have successfully created and audited effective European cancer care systems, as an essential part of the major public health goal.

Different incidence, mortality and survival rates are due to different risk factors, availability of organized screening programmes and oncological health systems, especially access to special oncological centers represents the differences between the regions and countries of the continent. Differences in national health policies, in healthcare systems, in economic and financial resources, in risk factors and cultural and historical traditions could have been counted as co-factors, responsible for worse oncological results as a complex problem in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

In order to increase the level of the oncological care systems of the region the Government of Hungary initiate the establishment of the Central Eastern European Academy of Oncology (CEEAO) as a joint effort to evolve the theoretical knowledge and skills of postdoctoral oncological professionals of the Central and Eastern European nations to more effectively reduce cancer mortality.

The concept of the Government of Hungary is that the scientific potential of the human resources involved in the oncological research and care of the countries in the region are able to offer the highest level of oncological care for our nations, but we are also confident that the importance of the cancer problem necessitate international political and professional cooperation and aimed resources.

For this purpose a CEEAO is able to offer the framework of an international postdoctoral oncological cooperation of the Central and Eastern European Nations and specialized oncological institutes of the region as equal parties to increase the efficiency and speed of modernization of clinical research and care in countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

The main aims of the initiated Central Eastern European Academy of Oncology are:

- to continuously increase the postdoctoral theoretical knowledge and skills and so the level of oncological clinical care in the region
- to facilitate evidence based, standardized protocols and clinical practice in oncology
- to facilitate as standard of care the multidisciplinary tumor board decision making process
- to facilitate international scientific and clinical relationships and cooperation
- to facilitate the clinical training of health professionals involved in oncology in the region
- to facilitate the scientific and professional contouring and separation of a dedicated surgical oncology from the level of general surgery
- to facilitate the establishment of standardized but international compatible oncological curricula and licenses
- to facilitate high quality international, multicentric clinical studies, aiming scientifically up to dated and relevant hypotheses on the highest level of evidence

- to facilitate the information of citizens about cancer, screening, multidisciplinary treatments, and rehabilitation
- in accordance to the European standards to facilitate as basic right for all women to have access of immediate and/or delayed postmastectomy breast reconstruction
- to facilitate the communication of clinical science and health policy
- to facilitate patient involved decision making and psycho-oncological care
- to facilitate the increase of financial support of modern oncological care
- to organize regular scientific meetings, workshops, live or via internet
- to regularly discuss local or regional oncological health problems, cases, journals mainly using the Internet
- to facilitate the invitation and scientific activity of experts and professionals from member countries and institutes as speaker to national or international congresses, workshops
- to discuss planned study protocols to facilitate multicentric patient enrollment and high quality scientific publications
- to present the detailed possibilities of clinical training at the member institutes and to facilitate professional visits between the member institutes of all feasibility that can be afforded (financial or non-financial)
- to establish written information for patients in different languages about cancer types, and up to dated care, aiming to establish a website of different native languages
- to gain financial support for the projects of the School by common application of European grants and foundations
- to publish textbooks representing aspects of the region as well and to translate it to local languages, even with modification, in order to resolve the language problems characteristic for Central and Eastern Europe.
- to contribute to PhD degree or other scientific work

The activity of CEEAO should focus on the first six most dangerous cancer types with the highest incidence and mortality rates, namely 1. breast cancer, 2. colorectal and gastrointestinal cancers, 3. lung cancer, 4. head and neck cancer, 5. gynecological cancers and 6. dermato-oncology. In all types of cancers primary, secondary prevention and modern oncological care are able to significantly reduce mortality rates.

The Government of Hungary is going to officially establish the CEEAO at the Regional Ministerial Conference on Partnership and Cooperation in Oncology.

On the second and third days of the conference, in the wake of the Ministerial Meeting, the First Congress of the Central Eastern European Breast Cancer Surgical Consortium and a Scientific Workshop on Oncoplastic Breast Surgery will be organized, already under the auspices of the Academy on the 12-14th of June 2019 in Budapest.

The venue of the Congress is going to be the Várkert Bazár, a World Heritage Site.

The three-day professional meeting consists of a ceremonial session on the 12th of June involving the most influential health politicians of the Central and Eastern European region. The main tasks of the session are the presentation of the different and common aspects, problems, solutions of oncological systems in the region, and the detailed presentation of the aims and structure of the Project CEEAO. An international agreement or memorandum of understanding should optimally close the session. International media presentation is highly welcome.

In Central and Eastern European countries, where economic and health-care performance is relatively weak, social organization and the emancipation of women are still emerging the evolution of breast cancer surgery is mandatory. The establishment of a well performed Central Eastern European association allows us professionals to make active contact, science, clinical practice with joint facilities to let us give the best surgical care to our breast cancer patients.

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