

## EANM Roadmap 2024-2029 - Nuclear Medicine Looking Towards 2029 Achieving better patient care with Nuclear Medicine

*October 2024*



The European Association of Nuclear Medicine (EANM) is committed to advance the field of Nuclear Medicine for the benefit of all patients across Europe. **With the new legislative term, we seek to collaborate with the new European Parliament and the new European Commission to address key health priorities.**

As we embark on a new political cycle, there is a strong hope that the new legislative mandate will bring a **more robust response from the EU to the complex challenges faced by the healthcare sector.** In response to the 2024 European elections and the substantial leadership changes, the purpose of this document is to raise awareness of the Nuclear Medicine sector and inform decision-makers of the community's expectations in shaping future Health policies together.

Driven by a steadfast commitment to ensuring **all patients in Europe have equal and timely access to high quality Nuclear Medicine services**, EANM looks forward to actively engaging with all stakeholders to build a more sustainable and equitable health environment.

**Let's make this legislative mandate a milestone: together, we can build a future where Europe's healthcare is at the cutting edge, delivering the best possible care for our patients.**

# 1

## Bringing the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan to full speed

The past years have shown that Europe's Beating Cancer Plan is effective, with impactful new EU-level legislations, productive multi-stakeholders' actions and ambitious European projects underway. The first outcomes are beginning to materialise. While the results of the high-level political commitment of the last 3 years are now evident, there is no room for complacency. Looking ahead at the new mandate and envisioning 2029, much remains to be done for cancer patients across Europe and **EU investment in the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan must continue.**

With advancements in Radioligand Therapy and the potential it holds for new cancer treatments, the Nuclear Medicine community remains dedicated to **keeping cancer policy a priority on the EU agenda.** Political commitment should be restated to ensure it supports and embraces new developments in Nuclear Medicine, thereby strengthening an innovative European Union. Expanding the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan in the coming years would mean establishing a European network of national comprehensive cancer centres, continuing to unlock the potential of digital innovation in cancer care and achieving the vision of equal access to treatment for all cancer patients.

# 2

## Empowering Our Healthcare Workforce

Healthcare professionals are the **backbone of our healthcare systems**, yet we face significant shortages that threaten both patient care and innovation.

Addressing these workforce shortages requires **proactive strategies to attract and retain talent.** We need policies that promote a sustainable work-life balance, competitive remuneration, and opportunities for professional growth. By doing so, we can build a **resilient and motivated workforce**, prepared to tackle the healthcare challenges of tomorrow.

Investing in **comprehensive training and continuous education programs** is essential to equip our workforce with cutting-edge knowledge and skills. This not only enhances patient care but also drives innovation and efficiency within our healthcare systems. Prioritising education and continuous professional development will ensure that healthcare professionals remain leaders in their field, ready to meet the growing and diverse healthcare needs of our population.

As the European Parliament prepares for its next legislative mandate, **it is time to prioritise the needs of healthcare professionals.**



*"The future of healthcare and Nuclear Medicine hinges on the strength and expertise of our professionals. By investing in training, support, and strategic planning, we ensure that our dedicated professionals can deliver exceptional care and drive medical advancements. **Their well-being and development must be central to European institutions' agendas.**"*

Paola Anna Erba, EANM President 2025-2026

### 3

## Taking Actions to Fight Europe's #1 Killer

Continuing to fulfil past commitments can go hand in hand with pursuing new agendas.

The evidence is clear: without **substantial political commitment, leadership, and expertise to create a different landscape for cardiovascular health in Europe**, the burden of cardiovascular disease on patients, health systems, and society in Europe will only grow. Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) are currently the leading cause of death globally and Nuclear Medicine diagnostic tools play an increasingly important role in the early detection and monitoring of these diseases.

The Nuclear Medicine community calls for the new European Commission and the new European Parliament to develop a **holistic approach to Cardiovascular Health**. A comprehensive policy plan for cardiovascular health would make a significant contribution to addressing the disease burden in a **coordinated manner across the EU**.

From prevention to early detection and treatment, a CVD Plan could support investments in basic and translational CVD research, promote and supportive environment for well-designed clinical trials and establish a European Cardiovascular Health Data Knowledge Centre.

### 4

## Streamlining Access by Optimising Regulatory Frameworks

**Cutting-edge healthcare depends on robust and forward-thinking regulatory frameworks.**

Radiopharmaceuticals play a vital role in the diagnosing and treating a wide range of diseases, from cancer to neurological disorders. Due to their unique characteristics, radiopharmaceuticals require a **regulatory framework tailored to their specific characteristics and challenges**.

The EANM is committed to advocating for a regulatory environment that ensures the safe, effective, and timely availability of radiopharmaceuticals across Europe. However, current European regulations and standards consider radiopharmaceuticals under the same umbrella as other medicinal products which does not adequately address the specific needs of Nuclear Medicine. This approach hampers development and delivery of radiopharmaceuticals, as they are subject to a complex and fragmented regulatory environment.

As the European institutions embark on their next legislative mandate, the Nuclear Medicine community calls for **the design of an optimal and efficient regulatory framework to enable easy and equal access to Nuclear Medicine for all patients in need**.



*"A flexible regulatory framework for radiopharmaceuticals is crucial for innovation and patient care. As the EU Pharmaceutical Legislation is revised, we must ensure regulations adapt to advancements, enabling timely access to cutting-edge treatments while maintaining safety and efficacy standards. **This balance is essential for advancing nuclear medicine.**"*

Wim Oyen – Chair of EANM Policy & Regulatory Affairs Council

## 5

### Strengthen The Supply of Critical Medicines

The next legislative term will be pivotal in addressing the supply and shortage of medical radioisotopes. Medical radioisotopes are indispensable for diagnosing and treating wide range of disorders, yet their supply chain is fragile. **Shortages can disrupt patient care and delay critical diagnostic and therapy procedures.** It's essential for European institutions to prioritise securing a reliable and steady supply of these vital radioisotopes.

**Increasing domestic production** is a crucial step forward. By **expanding our own production capabilities**, we can reduce reliance on international sources and better meet our healthcare needs. **Innovative production technologies** can further ensure a sustainable and efficient supply chain.

In addition, collaboration is crucial. **Strengthening ties with global partners** can help mitigate the risks of shortages and build a more resilient supply network. **Strategic investments** and clear, **supportive policies** are necessary to maintain the availability of medical radioisotopes.

The coming years present a unique opportunity to make substantial progress. By overcoming these challenges, we can guarantee timely, life-saving treatments for patients across Europe.



*"In recent months, the EANM has been delighted by the increased attention of European policymakers towards the nuclear medicine specialty, especially their strong political commitment to securing the supply of medical radioisotopes. We have seen a collective willingness to identify innovative actions that support access to crucial nuclear medicine services for patients across Europe. **Now, it is time to implement these initiatives, and the EANM remains dedicated and ready to cooperate in the coming years.**"*

Michel Koole – EANM Scientific Liaison Officer

## 6

### Paving The Way for A More Innovative Europe

At the European Association of Nuclear Medicine, we believe that the **future of healthcare lies in relentless research and bold innovation.** As the European Parliament embarks on its next legislative mandate, it's time to double down on fostering a culture of cutting-edge research and ground-breaking innovation.

Research is the engine that drives medical advancements. By **prioritising funding** and support for Nuclear Medicine research, we can unlock **new effective diagnostic tools and treatments** that save lives and improve quality of care while reducing costs. Encouraging collaboration across borders and disciplines will accelerate the pace of Innovation and ensure that Europe remains a global leader in healthcare.

Innovation isn't just about new ideas—it's about transforming those ideas into real-world solutions for patient care. **Streamlined regulatory pathways** and **support for research institutions** can turn promising concepts into revolutionary treatments. This means faster, more effective care for patients and a healthier future for all of us.