

ONCOVALUE Experts Highlight the Potential of Real-World Data to Improve Cancer Care in Europe

External experts endorse hospital-led adoption, cross-country collaboration and patient-centred evidence as key priorities for the future exploitation of ONCOVALUE results.

Helsinki, 19 October 2026 – The ONCOVALUE project brought together its Project Steering Board and External Expert Advisory Board on 29 September 2026 to review the project's progress and discuss how its results can support the future use of real-world data in cancer care, health technology assessment and clinical decision-making.

ONCOVALUE is developing an AI-based framework to help European cancer hospitals generate and use high-quality real-world evidence on the effectiveness of cancer therapies. During the meeting, project partners presented advances in real-world data standardisation, artificial intelligence, medical imaging and clinical-text analysis, cross-country validation, data infrastructure, education and exploitation.

Real-world evidence is becoming essential

External experts emphasized the growing importance of real-world evidence for health technology assessment, particularly in oncology, where new treatments may be submitted for assessment with immature evidence or surrogate outcomes.

Cláudia Furtado highlighted the need to disseminate not only the project's scientific publications, but also its practical lessons on the infrastructure and methodologies required to produce usable real-world data. She also stressed the importance of preserving clinically meaningful information when hospital data are transformed or standardized.

The project's validation studies already include datasets from different European countries. This cross-country dimension is particularly relevant in view of the European Health Data Space and for research areas, such as rare cancers, where pooling or comparing data across institutions can be essential

From technical results to hospital adoption

The experts broadly endorsed the project's value proposition and recognized institutional adoption as the most credible pathway for the sustainable use of ONCOVALUE results.

Brett Johnson underlined the importance of demonstrating how ONCOVALUE solutions can be incorporated into hospitals and clinical workflows. He suggested using the participating hospitals and validation sites as examples of implementation and collecting evidence from clinicians on usability, efficiency gains and potential time savings. Multidisciplinary tumour



boards were also identified as a promising setting in which integrated clinical, imaging and electronic health record data could support cancer care.

Markus Kalliola stressed that institutional ownership can provide continuity beyond individual research projects. When hospital management uses and maintains real-world data infrastructures for its own operational and decision-making needs, these infrastructures can offer a stronger foundation for future research, commercial collaboration and innovation activities.

The external experts also recommended clearly explaining when federated analytics, common data models and AI-based extraction are appropriate and where their limitations lie. These approaches should not be presented as universal solutions, but as complementary tools whose suitability depends on the study, data and clinical context.

Keeping patients at the centre

Jenni Tamminen-Sirkiä highlighted that real-world evidence should extend beyond clinical variables. Patient-reported outcomes and quality-of-life information are necessary to understand how cancer and its treatment affect people's everyday lives.

Her contribution reinforced the importance of engaging patients and patient organisations alongside hospitals, clinicians, researchers, health technology assessment bodies, public authorities and industry stakeholders when planning the future adoption and sustainability of ONCOVALUE results

Building on the project's results

The meeting confirmed that ONCOVALUE has made substantial progress across its technical and clinical work packages. The project has developed and tested approaches covering structured and unstructured hospital data, imaging and text-based AI tools, cross-country validation, data-quality processes and real-world evidence generation for health technology assessment.

Partners are also progressing with scientific publications and studies examining the use of hospital real-world data in areas including lung and breast cancer. The consortium will use the project's remaining months to complete its validation, dissemination, education and exploitation activities.

The experts' recommendations will inform the final development of the ONCOVALUE exploitation strategy. The main priorities emerging from the discussion were:

- disseminating infrastructure and methodological lessons alongside scientific results;



- demonstrating the feasibility of generating and using real-world evidence across countries;
- strengthening adoption pathways within hospitals and clinical workflows;
- clarifying the appropriate applications and limitations of AI, federated analytics and common data models;
- incorporating patient perspectives and quality-of-life outcomes;
- combining stable institutional support with research and industry collaboration for continued development.

Looking ahead

The ONCOVALUE Final Symposium will take place on **2 February 2027** at the Netherlands Cancer Institute in Amsterdam. The event will offer the consortium, external experts and stakeholders an opportunity to explore the project's results in greater depth and discuss future exploitation, dissemination and collaboration opportunities.

About ONCOVALUE

ONCOVALUE, *Implementing value-based oncology care at European cancer hospitals: an AI-based framework for assessing the real-life effectiveness of novel cancer therapies in real time*, is an EU-funded project supporting cancer hospitals in generating and using high-quality real-world evidence. Its objective is to contribute to more informed clinical, organizational and health technology assessment decisions through improved data infrastructures, methodologies and AI-supported solutions

Website: [Visit the ONCOVALUE website](#)



Funded by
the European Union

Funded by the European Union. Grant Agreement N° 101095245. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Commission. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.