

NEWSLETTER NO. 1

July 2026



Greetings from the Coordination Team



Dear readers,

Welcome to the first issue of the Hope4Kids Newsletter!

Hope4Kids – Holistic Oncologic Palliative Care for Europe's Kids – is a four-year Joint Action, co-funded by the European Union, that aims to strengthen and harmonise paediatric palliative care (PPC) across Europe for children living with cancer.

Each year, around 14,000 children and adolescents in Europe **are diagnosed with cancer**. Despite significant advances in curative therapies, these children and their families may experience suffering over the course of their illness.

Paediatric palliative care aims to improve quality of life by addressing the physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs of children with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions, and their families. Paediatric palliative care can start from diagnosis and continue alongside curative or life-prolonging treatments. Despite its importance, access to specialised PPC still varies widely across Europe, and care is often introduced too late or inconsistently.

Hope4Kids addresses these challenges by mapping PPC systems across Europe, developing evidence-based guidelines, implementing and evaluating four pilot interventions, and creating education and training programmes for healthcare professionals, parents and informal caregivers. The Joint Action also brings together a growing European network of PPC professionals.

Coordinated by the Princess Máxima Center for pediatric oncology in the Netherlands, Hope4Kids involves more than 70 organisations from 23 European countries. Through this collaboration, we aim to reduce inequalities and ensure that every child and family can access high-quality PPC, wherever they live.

In this newsletter, you will find updates on project activities, highlights from the different work packages, and information on upcoming events. We hope you enjoy reading and following the progress of Hope4Kids!

**With warm regards,
The Hope4Kids Coordination Team**

Leontien Kremer
Erna Michiels
Philippine Doekes-de Brouwer
Selina van den Oever

8 Interconnected Work Packages (WPs)

WP1 Coordination

Overall project management, governance, quality assurance, and risk management.

Lead partner:

Princess Máxima Center (PMC)

Coordination team contact:

H4K@prinsesmaximacentrum.nl

WP2 – Communication and Dissemination

Dissemination of results, identification of public health implementation research priorities, development of a European PPC network.

Lead partner:

Stichting Kenniscentrum Kinderpalliatieve Zorg (KKZ)

Co-lead partner:

National Directorate General for Hospitals (NDGH-OKFŐ)

WP2 team contact:

wp2@kinderpalliatief.nl

WP3 – Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of the Joint Action and its outcomes.

Lead partner:

Fundación para la Formación e Investigación Sanitarias de la Región de Murcia (FFIS)

Co-lead partner:

University of Tartu (UTARTU)

WP3 team contacts:

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WP4 - Sustainability

Stakeholder forums, policy dialogue, sustainability strategy and synergy with other projects and organizations.

Lead partner:

Asociación Instituto de Investigación en Sistemas de Salud – BioSistemak (BS)

Co-lead partner:

Stichting Kenniscentrum Kinderpalliatieve Zorg (KKZ)

WP4 team contacts:

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WP5 – Landscape of European PPC

Mapping and analysis of existing PPC strategies, legislation and systems.

Lead partner:

Lithuanian University of Health Sciences (LSMU)

Co-lead partner:

Servicio Aragonés de Salud (SALUD)

WP5 team contacts:

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Elena Portero – eportero.iacs@aragon.es

WP6 – Evidence-based Guidelines for PPC

Development of harmonised European PPC guidelines and template of individual care plan for PPC.

Lead partner:

Princess Máxima Center (PMC)

Co-lead partner:

WP6 team contacts:

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WP7 – Pilots

Design, implementation and evaluation of pilot interventions.

Lead partner:

Fundació Privada per a la Recerca i la Docència Sant Joan de Déu (FSJD)

Co-lead partner:

Region Syddanmark (RSD)

WP7 team contacts:

Sergi Navarro Vilarrubí – sergi.navarro@sjd.es

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Catherine Gallin – catherine.gallin@sjd.es

Soren Lange Nielsen – sln@rsyd.dk

WP8 – Education, Training and Information

Development and delivery of education and training programmes for healthcare professionals and informal caregivers, and public awareness campaigns.

Lead partner:

Istituto di Ricovero e Cura a Carattere Scientifico Burlo Garofolo (IBG)

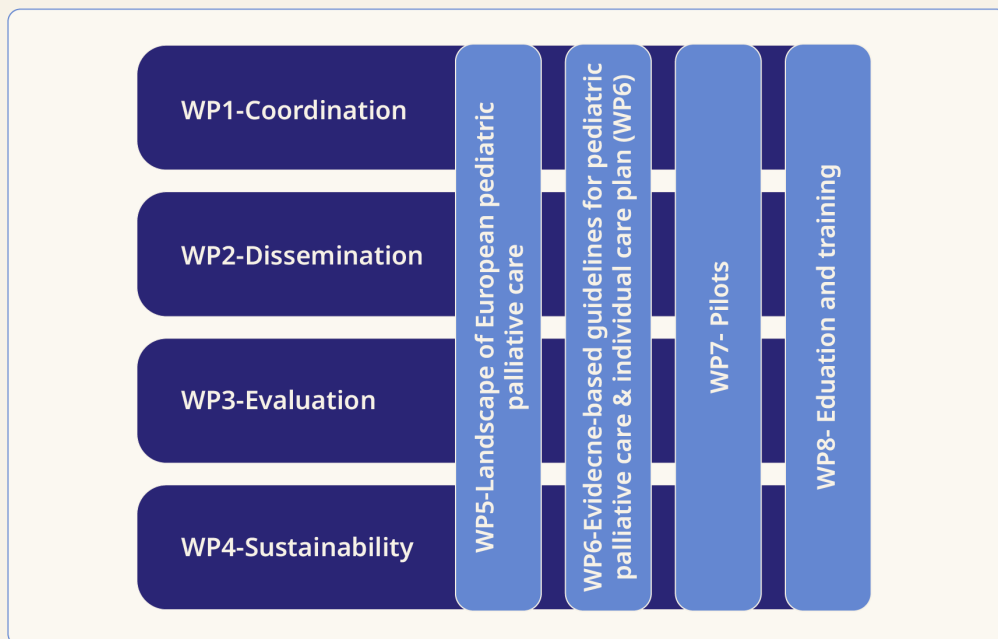
Co-lead partner:

Region Uppsala (RU)

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Meet the Consortium

Across 23 EU countries, 51 partners & 70+ organisations are working together to strengthen paediatric palliative care in Europe.



Progress & Key Milestones

Produced key documents so far:

- Governance report
- Initial Project leaflet
- Communication and Dissemination plan
- Evaluation Plan
- Harmonised Individual Care Plan (ICP) template

Expected Results

Looking ahead, Hope4Kids will deliver

- Harmonised, evidence-based PPC Guidelines: Symptom management, shared decision-making in advance care planning, psychosocial care, pre-loss and bereavement care, models of care
- Implement and evaluate 4 pilot interventions in 8 countries in total
- Educational and training tools for healthcare professionals and informal caregivers
- Development of a European PPC network
- European core curriculum for PPC
- Policy dialogues and stakeholder forum
- Strengthened collaboration across PPC stakeholders

Upcoming Activities & Events

- International Society of Paediatric Oncology: 15-18 September 2026, San Antonio Texas, USA
- The WP2 Idea Factory on the morning of 28 September 2026.
- **Hope4Kids M12 General Assembly in Trieste:** 28-29 September 2026
- Montreal International Palliative Care Congress: 6-9 October 2026, Montreal, Canada
- 7th Maruzza International Congress on Paediatric Palliative Care: 21-23 October 2026, Rome, Italy
- St. Jude Pediatric Palliative Oncology Academic Leadership Collaborative & Symposium: 5-6 November 2026, Memphis Tennessee, USA/Virtual Option Available
- **In-person WP7 meeting in Denmark:** 12–13 January 2027
- Annual Assembly of Hospice and Palliative Care: 17-20 March 2027, Pittsburgh, USA

PPC Resources

Trends in Pediatric Palliative Care Research: Every month the Siden Research Team at the University of British Columbia collects new pediatric palliative care (PPC) research into a curated list and a commentary on an article of interest.

To receive monthly updates on PPC research from their team, subscribe by filling out this form: <http://eepurl.com/cRCKnn>

Stay Connected!

If you have ideas, topics, good practices, research updates, or other content suggestions for future editions of the newsletter, please send them to wp2@kinderpalliatief.nl



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