Equitable Access to Cancer Prevention Education for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: Insights from a Co-produced Training School

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Abstract

In 2019, the European Commission initiated its Cancer Plan for Europe, emphasising the critical importance of prevention, including ed

ucation on cancer prevention. In 2022, researchers established the COST Action CA21123, Cancer—Understanding Prevention in Intellectual Disabilities (CUPID), to promote equitable access to cancer prevention information and services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

This panel presentation offers an overview of the establishment and outcomes of a pan-European CUPID Training School held in 2024. The discussion will address the Training School's multifaceted educational approach, encompassing integrated education, co-production, advocacy, and collaborative problem-solving methodologies. Participants examined educational evidence-based strategies for cancer prevention and developing accessible educational health resources.

The event was co-produced by people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their support personnel, researchers, academics, and clinicians. The Training School fostered inclusivity and interdisciplinary learning through interactive workshops. Notable outcomes of the Training School included increased knowledge among participants, empowerment of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, the development of easy-to-read multilingual educational resources, and forming a professional network dedicated to policy advocacy.

Moreover, the initiative supported early-career researchers and promoted sustainable collaboration in research efforts. The insights obtained from this Training School are anticipated to guide future initiatives related to education about cancer prevention for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This event represents a significant advancement toward achieving health equity, underscoring the necessity for universally accessible and effective cancer prevention educational strategies.