

Towards Equitable Patient Access to Nuclear Medicine in Europe

A Joint Call to Action

The first European Nuclear Medicine Day, held in Brussels on 29 September 2026, brought together policymakers, regulators, clinicians, patient representatives and industry to address a shared challenge: **ensuring that patients across Europe can access nuclear medicine equitably and without unnecessary delay**. The discussions, structured around **three interconnected conditions** for access - **regulation, supply and infrastructure**, and **workforce** - produced concrete recommendations reflecting the shared priorities of the European Association of Nuclear Medicine and Nuclear Medicine Europe.

The calls to action below represent the joint advocacy agenda both organisations will pursue in the months ahead, directed at EU institutions, Member States, regulatory bodies and the broader healthcare community.

Regulation

Making Innovation Reach Patients Faster

1. Ensure the Biotech Act fully reflects the specificities of radiopharmaceuticals

- The Biotech Act should recognise the unique characteristics of radiopharmaceuticals, including theranostics, decentralised production, and hybrid technologies.
- Nuclear medicine should be considered a strategic European innovation area at the intersection of biotechnology, advanced manufacturing and precision medicine.

2. Promote better regulatory integration across Europe

- Better align with the Clinical Trials Regulation, pharmaceutical legislation and Euratom radiation protection requirements, to reduce unnecessary duplication and enable more coherent development pathways.
- Build on initiatives such as AURORAD to promote regulatory convergence and practical cooperation across Member States, by including all stakeholders in the implementation of the project.

3. Deliver proportionate and science-based regulatory requirements

- The ongoing revision of EMA radiopharmaceutical guidelines should ensure predictable, proportionate, and evidence-based requirements for development, manufacturing, and clinical evaluation.
- Regulatory expectations should be tailored to the characteristics and risk profile of individual products.

4. Enable innovation while preserving patient access

- Clinical evidence requirements should remain proportionate and avoid creating unnecessary barriers to innovation, implementation, or patient access.
- Approaches to dosimetry and treatment individualisation should remain flexible and guided by demonstrated clinical benefit.

5. Align regulatory, HTA and access pathways

- Greater coordination between regulators, HTA bodies, and payers is needed to ensure that evidence generated for regulatory approval also supports timely reimbursement and equitable patient access.
- Europe should promote integrated and predictable pathways from development to clinical implementation.

Supply & Infrastructure

Building Europe's Nuclear Medicine Capacity

1. Recognise medical radioisotopes as strategic assets for Europe's health security

- The implementation of the Critical Medicines Act should explicitly recognise the unique role of medical radioisotopes and radiopharmaceuticals, ensuring that supply security measures reflect their strategic importance for patient care.
- Additionally, member states should ensure that radioisotopes for medical use are fully reflected in the proposed IPCEI on Innovative Nuclear Technologies, recognising their contribution to Europe's health resilience, technological sovereignty and industrial competitiveness.

2. Accelerate the implementation of the European Radioisotope Valley Initiative (ERVI)

- EANM and Nuclear Medicine Europe ask the EU to rapidly translate ERVI from strategy into action by supporting investments in production capacity, processing facilities, transport networks and emerging radioisotope technologies needed to meet future demand.
- The nuclear medicine community is ready to closely work with the European Commission to ensure that the forthcoming ERVI Strategic Research Agenda addresses both current supply challenges and future capacity needs. Such exercise should be preceded by a careful mapping of current capacity. EANM and Nuclear Medicine Europe are prepared to contribute their expertise to this process.

3. Prioritise nuclear medicine within Europe's life sciences and biotech agenda

- As the EU develops the Biotech Act and broader Life Sciences initiatives, nuclear medicine should be recognised as a flagship European technology combining advanced manufacturing, biotechnology, precision medicine, and strategic health innovation.
- Future EU competitiveness actions and industrial policies should support the full nuclear medicine value chain, from research and isotope production to clinical implementation and patient access.

4. Support strategic infrastructure through targeted European funding

- EU funding instruments should support the modernisation and expansion of production facilities, radiopharmacies, imaging capacity, and theranostics infrastructure to ensure that innovation translates into timely patient access.
- The European Commission and member states should facilitate investments in strategic radioisotope production projects in line with the objectives of the Critical Medicines Act.
- Public-private partnerships should be encouraged across the value chain to strengthen Europe's production capacity, resilience and long-term preparedness.

5. Remove barriers to the cross-border movement of radioisotopes

- Given the time-sensitive nature of radiopharmaceuticals, the EU should work towards more efficient and coordinated transport, customs and regulatory procedures to strengthen resilience and reliability across the supply chain.

6. Develop a European foresight and monitoring mechanism for future capacity needs

- Building on initiatives such as DosReg, Europe should strengthen its ability to anticipate future demand for medical radioisotopes, workforce, infrastructure and manufacturing capacity, enabling proactive rather than reactive policymaking.
- The European Commission should explore options for establishing a sustainable monitoring and forecasting mechanism to support evidence-based planning and investment decisions. EANM and Nuclear Medicine Europe are prepared to support the development of such a mechanism and contribute relevant expertise and data.

Workforce

Europe's Nuclear Medicine Workforce: Crisis or Opportunity?

1. Make workforce readiness a strategic pillar of Europe's nuclear medicine agenda

- As Europe invests in theranostics, radioligand therapy and advanced imaging, workforce planning should be recognised as a prerequisite for successful implementation. An equipped workforce should be considered alongside regulation, infrastructure, and supply security.
- As Europe reflects on the future of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and related initiatives, workforce preparedness should be recognised as a key determinant of equitable access to advanced diagnostics and radioligand therapies.

2. Translate SAMIRA recommendations into concrete European action

- The evidence and recommendations generated through SAMIRA-funded projects should now be translated into concrete European and national action plans to address workforce shortages, skills gaps, and education needs across the nuclear medicine ecosystem.

3. Establish a European Nuclear Medicine Skills Agenda

- Building on the Union of Skills initiative, a coordinated European approach to workforce forecasting, competency mapping and long-term skills planning for nuclear medicine and theranostics should be developed.
- This should include the anticipation of future workforce needs through coordinated capacity planning. Europe should strengthen workforce forecasting and data collection to better anticipate future demand for nuclear medicine services and ensure that education, training and recruitment policies are aligned with expected growth in theranostics and precision medicine.

4. Invest in multidisciplinary education and lifelong learning

- Support dedicated programmes for physicians, radiopharmacists, medical physicists, technicians, nurses and other professionals involved in nuclear medicine to ensure the safe and effective deployment of emerging technologies.

5. Promote European mobility and mutual recognition of expertise

- Facilitate the exchange of knowledge and professionals across member states through greater alignment of competency frameworks, curricula, and training standards.



<https://nuclearmedicineday.eu>

The European Nuclear Medicine Day is an initiative from the European Association of Nuclear Medicine (EANM), the industry association Nuclear Medicine Europe and their dedicated Communications Working Groups.