

European School of Oncology Strategic plan 2026-2028

Goal 1 - Distance Learning in Partnership

As part of its new strategic plan, ESO has decided to reorganize and relaunch its online educational offering under the name **ESO Distance Learning (ESO DL)**, fully integrated into the School's website. This marks a transition from the previous e-ESO platform to a more structured and recognizable model, designed to deliver high-quality content with improved accessibility to its global audience.

Additionally, materials from the e-ESO platform will be reviewed and curated to develop a pilot course which ESO aims to produce in collaboration with the renowned distance learning provider, Open University. The decision to seek an external partner stem from the recognition that distance learning requires specific methodological expertise and technologies that ESO currently does not possess and does not intend to develop internally at this time. Therefore, ESO has chosen to initiate a collaboration with the **Open University (OU)**, with whom it has successfully worked in the past and who is also interested in expanding into the field of medical education.

Founded in 1969, the Open University has pioneered distance learning for over 50 years to students across the UK and the world. It is one of the largest universities in Europe with almost 200,000 students and has its headquarters at Walton Hall in Milton Keynes, UK.

The collaboration will begin with the creation of a **pilot course** using selected materials from the e-ESO platform and developed with methodological support from the OU. This course will be the first step toward a new, more structured and accredited online educational offering.

Goal 2 - Accreditation and Certification of our educational activities

ESO aims to strengthen its position as a leading oncology education provider by obtaining formal accreditation, enabling it to award academic or continuing medical education (CME) credits for its courses. By clearly defining course content, learning outcomes, and assessment criteria, ESO will enhance the transparency, credibility, and value of its offerings further solidifying its role in providing high-quality, recognized oncology education and providing oncology professionals with tangible career benefits.

ESO will expand its collaboration with universities across Europe to develop a range of Postgraduate programmes. Additionally, ESO will explore the requirements for upgrading its Certificates of Advanced Studies into fully recognized Master's programmes, ensuring greater academic recognition and career advancement opportunities for participants.

Goal 3 – Modernize and Humanize oncology education

ESO will strengthen its educational pathway by embedding ad hoc sessions on essential and effective skills for the clinic throughout all Pathway events, reflecting ESO's belief that such skills constitute an integral part of medical education.

Additionally, ESO will incorporate digitalization, AI, and interactive learning activities into its educational programmes while maintaining a holistic patient-centred approach. This includes exploring AI applications in imaging and diagnostics, utilizing digital and simulation-based teaching methods, expanding European collaboration in clinical education, and developing specialized educational tools for non-clinical oncology researchers to foster cross-disciplinary collaboration.

Goal 4 – ESO College and multidisciplinarity

ESO College will continue to establish itself as a leading **multidisciplinary and multiprofessional network** dedicated to education, career development, and collaboration among oncology professionals. Through its elected Council and dedicated working groups in **education, membership, career development, and strategy**, the College will strengthen its internal community, deepen its connection with ESO, and expand its strategic influence in the oncology field.

The College will also serve as a **talent pool**, identifying and nurturing the next generation of oncology leaders and educators.

In line with its mission to promote a **multidisciplinary approach to oncology**, ESO plans to further develop this vision in collaboration with **OncoDaily**, a media partner that shares ESO's values and commitment to innovation.