



EUROPEAN UNION



EU MISSIONS

CANCER

Concrete solutions for our greatest challenges



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Research and Innovation Transforming European Healthcare, 16 Nov. 2023
Annika Nowak, Head of Sector, Cancer Mission Secretariat
DG Research and Innovation, European Commission

#EUmissions #HorizonEU #MissionCancer



Mission on Cancer

Challenges

- **2.7 million people** in the EU are **diagnosed** each year
- **1.3 million people die** from cancer each year
- **Total cost of cancer** in Europe in 2018: €199 billion
- **Impact of COVID-19 pandemic** and war in Ukraine

Four Mission objectives

1. Understanding cancer
2. Prevention & early detection
3. Diagnosis and treatment
4. Quality of life

18 R&I priority areas, 4 transversal R&I priorities:
equity, innovation, childhood cancer and personalised medicine

EUR 378.2 million 2021-2023
Joint governance

GOAL

*Improve the lives of more than 3 million people by 2030, through prevention, cure and for those affected by cancer including their families, to live longer and better, jointly with the **Europe's Beating Cancer Plan***

Concrete actions

- Blueprint for UNCAN.eu data platform
- European Cancer Prevention Centre
- Network of Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructures
- Blueprint for Cancer Patient Digital Centre
- R&I actions under each mission objective
- Synergies between Cancer Mission and other initiatives at EU, national, regional, and local level



Cancer Mission: flagship initiatives



Understand

ACCESS

Uncan.eu: aiming at improving understanding of cancer mechanisms



Prevention

EQUITABLE

European Cancer Prevention Centre: aiming at providing evidence on cancer prevention



Diagnostic & treatment

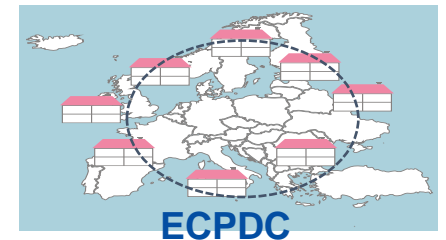
ENSURE

Network of Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructures: aiming at strengthening research capacities of CCIs



Support QoL

European Cancer Patient Digital Centre: aiming at supporting QoL of patients





UNCAN.eu platform



Understand

ACCESS



Prevention

EQUITABLE



Diagnostic and treatment

ENSURE



Support QoL

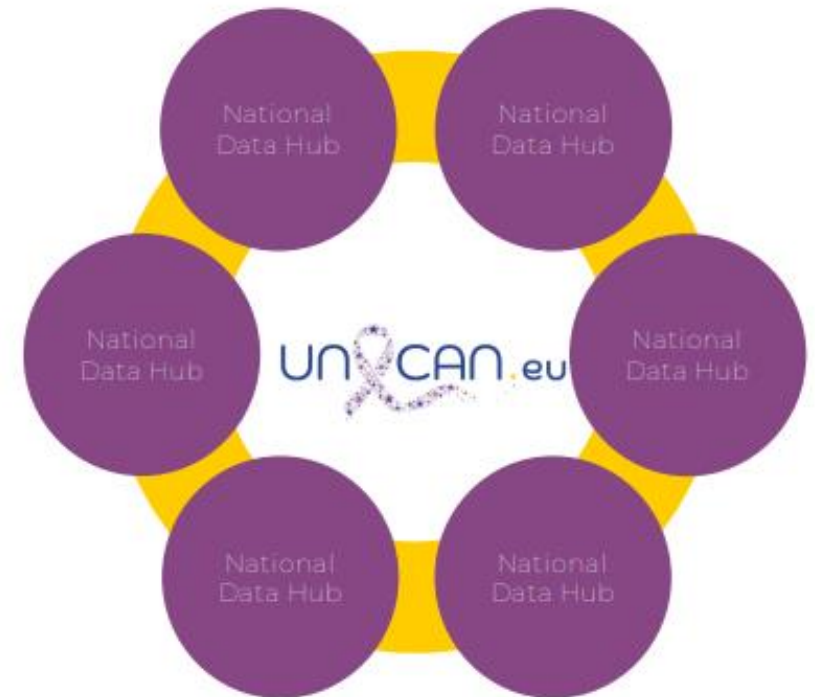
Objective:

To collect, share and analyse research and patient cancer data + other relevant data to gain new and deeper understanding of cancer mechanisms, focusing on poorly-understood cancers

Main expected features:

- Federated platform of national cancer data hubs utilising existing, relevant research infrastructures
- (also) fed by R&I actions
- Integration with other data platforms, such as the European Cancer Patient Digital Centre

A federated data hub
Patient data





European Cancer Patient Digital Centre



Understand

ACCESS



Prevention

EQUITABLE



Diagnostic and treatment

ENSURE



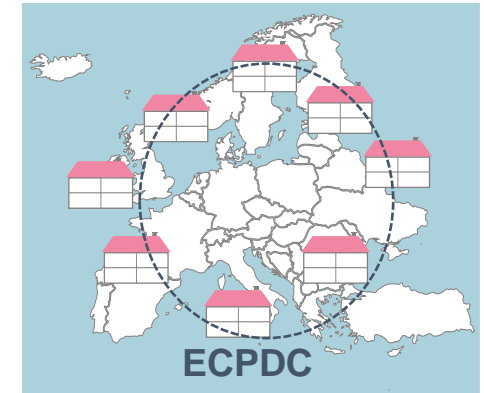
Support QoL

Objective

Information and support for cancer patients, survivors and their families

Main expected features:

- EU virtual network of national infrastructures of patient-controlled health data
- All national nodes have common features + country-specific functions + connection to cancer registries
- Provide to patients a secure environment to access and share electronic health data for *prevention* and treatments across borders





Cancer Mission: new initiatives to boost engagement

Fostering new dialogues with and within Member States:

- *EU level*: health and research ministries work together in **joint cancer subgroup** under the Public Health Expert Group (PHEG) to ensure scientific evidence systematically informs policy development;
- *National & regional levels*: future **National Cancer Mission Hubs** will engage national stakeholders in policy dialogues on cancer.



Promoting citizen engagement around cancer:

- **Focus groups** on cancer prevention early detection and screening (2022)
- **Dialogue with young cancer survivors**, incl. future creation of platform (2023)
- **Bus roadshow** to raise awareness on cancer prevention and screening (2024)



Cancer Mission: synergies with EU policies and initiatives

Initiatives that can help achieve the goal of the EU Mission on Cancer

- Knowledge Centre on Cancer (KCC)
- European Cancer Information System (ECIS)
- **Council Recommendations on Cancer Screening**
- Strategic Agenda for Medical Ionising Radiation Applications
- Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability
- HealthyLifestyles4all initiative
- **Comprehensive Approach to Mental Health**
- Non-communicable Diseases Initiative
- Digital transformation and skills
- Artificial Intelligence Agenda
- EIT & KICs

Legislative initiatives:

- **European Health Data Space**
- Pharmaceutical Package
- Zero Pollution Action Plan
- Revised Directive on Asbestos in Workplace

Initiatives under Horizon Europe:

- HE Health Cluster => support R&I priorities
- Horizon Europe partnerships e.g., IHI
- Research & Training Programme (Euratom)
- European Innovation Council

Other EU programmes:

- EU4Health
- Digital Europe
- Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)

National activities



Mission on Cancer & Europe's Beating Cancer Plan : close linkage

- The **Mission on Cancer** is part of the **Europe's Beating Cancer Plan**, key pillar of a strong **European Health Union**.
- The Mission **supports its implementation** and creates a dynamic **link between R&I and policies** by:
 - Generating knowledge and evidence in the areas of **understanding, prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and quality of life.**
 - Be a point of contact with **European citizens.**
 - Deliver **scientific advice** for the overall implementation of the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan.





Cancer Mission - synergies with other EU programmes: Horizon Europe (EIC, partnerships, cluster), EU4Health & Digital Europe

HE- European Innovation Council (EIC)

EIC Accelerator Challenge: Novel biomarker-based assays to guide personalised cancer treatment

HORIZON-EIC-2023-ACCELERATORCHALLENGES-01

Call for proposal Grant

Programme	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)	Status	Open for submission
Type of action	HORIZON EIC Accelerator Blended Finance	Deadline model	multiple cut-off
Opening date	08 December 2022	Next deadline	22 March 2023 17:00:00 Brussels time

EU4Health Framework Programme

Call for proposals to monitor and strengthen the implementation of innovative approaches to prostate, lung and gastric cancer screening at Union level

EU4H-2022-PJ-01

Call for proposal Grant

Programme	EU4Health Programme (EU4H)	Status	Closed
Type of action	EU4H Project Grants	Deadline model	single-stage
Opening date	22 February 2022	Deadline date	24 May 2022 17:00:00 Brussels time

Digital Europe Framework Programme

Federated European infrastructure for cancer images data

DIGITAL-2022-CLOUD-AI-02-CANCER-IMAGE

Call for proposal Grant

Programme	Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL)	Status	Closed
Type of action	DIGITAL Simple Grants	Deadline model	single-stage
Opening date	22 February 2022	Deadline date	17 May 2022 17:00:00 Brussels time

HE - Innovative Health Initiative (IHI) public-private partnership

Next generation imaging and image-guided diagnosis and therapy for cancer

HORIZON-JU-IHI-2022-01-02

Call for proposal Grant

Programme	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)	Status	Closed
Type of action	HORIZON JU Research and Innovation Actions	Deadline model	single-stage
Opening date	28 June 2022	Deadline date	20 September 2022 17:00:00 Brussels time

Personalised oncology: innovative people centred, multi-modal therapies against cancer

HORIZON-JU-IHI-2022-01-03

Call for proposal Grant

Programme	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)	Status	Closed
Type of action	HORIZON JU Research and Innovation Actions	Deadline model	single-stage
Opening date	28 June 2022	Deadline date	20 September 2022 17:00:00 Brussels time

HE - Health Cluster

Improved supportive, palliative, survivorship and end-of-life care of cancer patients

HORIZON-HLTH-2021-DISEASE-04-01

Call for proposal Grant

Programme	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)	Status	Closed
Type of action	HORIZON Research and Innovation Actions	Deadline model	single-stage
Opening date	22 June 2021	Deadline date	21 September 2021 17:00:00 Brussels time

Research infrastructures services to support research addressing cancer

HORIZON-INFRA-2021-SERV-01-01

Call for proposal Grant

Programme	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)	Status	Closed
Type of action	HORIZON Research and Innovation Actions	Deadline model	single-stage
Opening date	22 June 2021	Deadline date	23 September 2021 17:00:00 Brussels time



Citizen engagement: childhood cancer and young cancer survivors

Mission activities:

- Mission WP2023 – topic best practices and tools to improve the quality of life for childhood cancer patients, survivors and their families in European regions
- Workshops with young cancer survivors/parents (11-12 Jan, 6 Feb. 2023)
- Conference “*Addressing the Needs of Young Cancer Survivors*” (7 Feb. 2023)
- Follow-up workshop to co-create future actions on late effects (23 May 2023)
- Workshop with patient organisations to explore areas of cooperation (15 Dec. 2023)





Commission Communication: “EU Missions two years on: assessment of progress and way forward” (19 July 2023)

Main challenges:

- Improve governance and political steer of missions
- Secure more and better investment, including the private sector
- Enhance citizen and stakeholder engagement





Links

- [EC Communication Missions 2023 \(europa.eu\)](#)
- Implementation Plan: [cancer_implementation_plan_for_publication_final_v2 \(4\).pdf](#)
- Leaflet: [ec_rtd_eu-missions-cancer-leaflet-en \(6\).pdf](#)
- [EU Missions info days - Cancer mission – YouTube](#)
- [Video: EU Mission on Cancer - Addressing the needs of Young Cancer Survivors - YouTube](#)



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Thank you!

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