

Flash Report

Sub-group on Cancer under the Expert Group on Public Health

28 June 2023

The Sub-group on Cancer under the Commission Expert Group on Public Health held a virtual meeting, jointly chaired by DG RTD (B. Kerstiëns) and DG SANTE (P. Roux). The representatives of 24 Member States, plus Iceland and Norway, attended the meeting together with several Commission services, and agencies¹.

Updates: EU Mission on Cancer and Europe's Beating Cancer Plan

DG RTD (A. Nowak) informed about the **Mission on Cancer**; the **calls** under the Mission Work Programme 2023 (WP2023) closed in April and are currently being evaluated; discussions with Member States are starting on the WP2024. A follow-up event with **young cancer survivors** took place on 26 May in Brussels; the main recommendations were presented. The **Cancer Mission Board** last met on 8-9 June and will meet again on 28 September. Kick-offs for both ECHoS, the National Mission Hubs, and CCI4EU have taken place, and blueprints are expected for both the ECPDC study and for 4.UNCAN.eu in the coming months. **Synergies** are also being explored with EIT Health, cancer charities and the EIB. The next **events scheduled** were also highlighted.

Participants were informed by DG SANTE (M. Schuppe) of updates in the implementation of the **Europe's Beating Cancer Plan**. Work on a **code of conduct on fair access of cancer survivors to financial services** for the 'Right to be forgotten'² has started. The **EU's Comprehensive Approach to Mental Health**³ was launched on 7 June; it includes twenty flagships. DG SANTE then outlined ongoing calls for proposals of relevance to mental health and to cancer; the calls are open until 17 October. An information webinar⁴ is planned for Friday 30 June. To conclude, DG SANTE reminded of the timeline for the third wave of joint actions under the 2023 Work Programme of EU4Health.

ECHoS: Coordination and Support Action on Establishing of Cancer Mission Hubs

Supported by the Mission on Cancer, the coordination and support action "Establishing of Cancer Mission Hubs: Networks and Synergies" (ECHoS)⁵ will help Member States and Associated Countries to gradually create National Cancer Mission Hubs (NCMHs). Coordinated by the Portuguese Agency for Clinical Research and Biomedical Innovation (AICIB), the consortium brings together the leading expertise of 58 governmental, healthcare, academic, and non-profit organisations from 28 countries. The project runs until May 2026, with a total budget of EUR 6 million.

¹ Directorates-General represented included Communications Networks, Content and Technology (CNECT), Education and Culture (EAC), Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion (EMPL), Energy (ENER), Environment (ENV), International Partnerships (INTPA), Research and Innovation (RTD), Health and Food Safety (SANTE), Secretariat General (SG), Cabinet Kyriakides, as well as the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Joint Research Centre (JRC), and representatives from a number of EU decentralised and executive agencies such as the Consumer, and the Health and Food Executive Agency (HaDEA).

² Scoping study, carried out in 2022: [Access to financial products for persons with a history of cancer in EU Member States \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/health/eu4health/2022-scoping-study-access-to-financial-products-for-persons-with-a-history-of-cancer-in-eu-member-states_en)

³ https://health.ec.europa.eu/non-communicable-diseases/mental-health_en

⁴ https://hadea.ec.europa.eu/events/info-session-eu4health-2023-open-calls-action-grants-2023-06-30_en

⁵ [ECHoS - Cancer Mission Hubs](#) (still under development)

Outlook to the Spanish Presidency – the plans on cancer issues

Spain provided information on the planned activities related to health under the six-month Spanish Presidency⁶ of the Council of the European Union, which will start on 1 July 2023. Cancer is a stated priority of the Spanish government. There are three objectives, being progress in health policies for cancer control at the European and national levels; integrated, multidisciplinary and comprehensive approaches; and reducing inequities in cancer. A high-level conference is planned for 31 August in Barcelona, the Challenges in cancer care⁷ and a Presidency Conference on Personalised Medicine⁸ will also take place in Valencia on 4-5 October 2023.

Ongoing EU4Health and Horizon Europe projects

JANE - Networks of Expertise (Joint Action)⁹ is shaping seven EU Networks of Expertise for cancer care-related issues that require cross-border cooperation and European-level know-how. JANE partners with other Joint Actions, networks and forums to enhance European efforts to tackle cancer. JANE runs from 01/10/2022 to 30/09/2024, has a budget of EUR 4.5 million and involves sixteen Member States.

CraNE – Network of Comprehensive Cancer Centres (Joint Action)¹⁰ lays the framework for Flagship 5 under the Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan, building on the outcomes of previous CanCon and iPAAC Joint Actions. CraNE will prepare the necessary preconditions, administrative, professional and those related to high-quality performance towards an EU Network of Comprehensive Cancer Centres; to link the development of Comprehensive Cancer Care Networks (CCCNs) with CCCs established in individual Member States; and to provide an assessment on sustainability and feasibility of networking of CCCs. CRANE runs from 01/10/2022 to 30/09/2024, has a budget of 3.75 million and involves 46 organisations from 24 EU Member States and Norway.

CCI4EU – Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructure (CCI) for the EU (Coordination and Support Action)¹¹ will support Member States and Associated Countries in developing or improving existing or future CCIs through fostering research innovation and digital capacity development in cancer care. Having started in May 2023, CCI4EU runs for 36 months, involves 32 European countries, and has a budget of just under EUR 10 million.

The coordinators of JANE, CraNE, and CCI4EU have recently set up a ‘Cancer Action Group’, to avoid duplications and to foster synergies among them as well as with the ECHoS project.

Close of Meeting

The Chairs then thanked everyone for their attention and valuable contributions and reminded participants of the next virtual meeting scheduled for 18 September, followed by meetings on 25 October and 7 December 2023.

⁶ [Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu)

⁷ [High-level cancer meeting \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu)

⁸ [Presidency Conference on Personalized medicine, the evolution of health care to improve people's lives \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu)

⁹ [FS CANCER JANE 0.pdf \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu), Project website: [Shaping the EU Networks of Expertise on cancer! \(jane-project.eu\)](https://jane-project.eu)

¹⁰ [JA CraNE \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu); Project website: [CraNE4Health European Network of Comprehensive Cancer Centres](https://craNE4Health.eu)

¹¹ [CCI4EU - Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructures for Europe](https://cci4eu.eu)