

## Flash Report

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

18 September 2023

The Sub-group on Cancer under the Commission Expert Group on Public Health held a virtual meeting, jointly chaired by DG RTD and DG SANTE. The representatives of 21 Member States, plus Iceland and Norway, attended the meeting together with several Commission services<sup>1</sup>.

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

DG RTD updated Members on the latest development regarding the digital initiatives, notably the European Cancer Patient Digital Centre and the UNCAN.eu data platform. There is ongoing discussion with Member States on the draft Mission Work Programme 2024. The latest country visit was to Malta in early July 2023. A meeting with cancer charities took place in early July. Next events were then presented, including a session during the European Health Forum Gastein.

Participants were informed by DG SANTE of updates in the implementation of the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan. This included policy activities, for example, concerning health risks associated with use of indoor tanning equipment and a recent meeting of Member States with smaller populations to discuss cancer care challenges. Regarding the "Right to be forgotten", the survey is ongoing, and a stakeholder webinar will be held on 6 October with the launch expected in March 2024. To conclude, DG SANTE informed about a ongoing mapping of cancer projects funded by EU4Health, Horizon Europe and Digital Health Programme with outcomes and timelines.

#### Sunbeds

DG SANTE explained that as part of the EBCP, the Commission will explore measures on exposure to ultraviolet radiation, including from sunbeds. Details were outlined.

#### EU4Health Work Programme 2023 – Upcoming Joint Action on new Networks of Expertise

Members were informed that HADEA has opened the third wave of calls for proposals, which include two Joint Actions, namely the follow-up Joint Actions for CraNE and JANE. A workshop with these nominated authorities is planned for 11 and 12 October. Discussion took place on various questions raised by the JANE Joint Action; this is particularly important as not all Member States are involved in JANE.

#### EC Communication on EU Missions

DG RTD gave an overview of the recent Communication<sup>2</sup> on assessment and progress of EU Missions, adopted on 19 July 2023, which highlights the main achievements of Missions after two years of implementation while identifying challenges that still need to be addressed.

#### Ongoing and planned surveys

An overview was given of studies awarded; Members were urged to support their activities. A contract was awarded for a study on mapping and evaluating the implementation of the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan. Another study being undertaken is to map outputs from circa 70 projects which support the EBCP to provide insight into their outputs; this ensures that Member States and other stakeholders can benefit from what has been achieved and

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<sup>1</sup> Directorates-General represented included Communications Networks, Content and Technology (CNECT), Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (EAC), Energy (ENER), Environment (ENV), Statistical Authority of the European Union (ESTAT), Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union (FISMA), Research and Innovation (RTD), Health and Food Safety (SANTE), as well as the Joint Research Centre (JRC).

<sup>2</sup> [Register of Commission Documents - COM\(2023\)457 \(europa.eu\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/457/oj)

developed. Members were then given an update on status of the development of a code of conduct on fair access of cancer survivors to financial services.

Position Paper on Clinical Audit adopted by the Steering Group on Quality and Safety (SGQS) in June 2023 (ENER)

DG ENER informed Sub-group Members of the Position paper on Clinical audit<sup>3</sup>, adopted in June 2023. The Strategic Agenda for Medical Ionising Radiation Applications (SAMIRA)<sup>4</sup> is the energy sector's contribution to Europe's Beating Cancer Plan. To achieve the coordination and complementarity required in this area, the Commission has created the Steering Group on Quality and Safety (SGQS)<sup>5</sup>, consisting of representatives of EU countries from both the health and the radiation protection authorities. The Position paper on Clinical audit is the first formal output of the SGQS.

AOB

On 6 September, a meeting with smaller Member States (representing 25% of EU MS) was organised to identify similar issues/concerns regarding the organisation of cancer care and cancer research, especially with regard to EU-funded programmes, such as those concerning the Comprehensive Cancer Centres and networks, to develop action points aimed at resolving these issues and establishing further means of collaborating on similar matters. The group's common position /consensus will be reported at the next regular Sub-Group for Cancer meeting.

Close of Meeting

The Chairs then thanked everyone for their attention and valuable contributions and informed that the Commission will soon inform them about forthcoming meetings until the end of the year.

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<sup>3</sup> [Circabc \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/energy/circabc/)

<sup>4</sup> [SAMIRA Action Plan \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/energy/samira/)

<sup>5</sup> [Register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/energy/register/)