

# Flash Report

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

### 05 March 2024

The Sub-group on Cancer under the Commission Expert Group on Public Health (PHEG) held a virtual meeting, co-chaired by DG RTD and DG SANTE. The representatives of 21 Member States, plus Norway, attended the meeting together with several Commission services, agencies,<sup>1</sup> as well as one representative of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

#### Updates on the EU Mission on Cancer (RTD) and the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan (SANTE)

First, DG SANTE presented an overview of the latest policy developments concerning the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan (EBCP). This included the state of play of the Code of Conduct on financial services to cancer survivors and the Commission Recommendation on reducing human health risks associated with the use of sunbeds. This was followed by information on recently kicked-off projects, an update on the Joint Actions of the EU4Health Annual Work Programme of 2022 & 2023, and upcoming events.

Then, DG RTD provided a summary of the past activities and upcoming meetings of the Cancer Mission, with a particular focus on the EC conference "Innovative palliative care for people with cancer" on 8 October 2024.

#### Communication activities planned by the EU Mission on Cancer (RTD)

DG RTD presented the plans for a pilot bus roadshow to raise awareness on cancer prevention and screening, which will take place in Lithuania, Romania and Poland.

#### Feedback on the Digital for Cancers Meeting (CNECT)

DG CNECT summarized the data driven projects and initiatives in the field of cancer, with a focus on the workshops organized by the Commission, which saw the participation of several EU Projects, EU4Health programmes and European Research Infrastructures. Finally, participants were informed about a technical webinar that will be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March on the European Cancer Imaging Initiative.

#### Reporting back on the activities of the Cancer Inequalities Registry (SANTE)

DG SANTE gave an overview of milestones, ongoing projects, meetings, and next steps of the European Cancer Inequalities Registry (ECIR) and its Thematic Group set up under the Cancer sub-group. This flagship identifies trends, disparities, and

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<sup>1</sup> Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE); Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD); Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CNECT); Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL); Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENV); Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support (DG REFORM); European Statistical Office (ESTAT); Joint Research Centre (JRC); European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA).

inequalities between MS, together with areas of action to guide investments under Europe's BCP.

OECD overarching report "*Beating Cancer Inequalities in the EU: Spotlight on cancer prevention and early detection*" (OECD)

A representative from the OECD presented the "*Beating Cancer Inequalities in the EU: Spotlight on cancer prevention and early detection*" report to participants, highlighting key findings and statistics.

Council Recommendation on Vaccine Preventable cancers (SANTE)

Finally, DG SANTE gave an update of the progress of the Commission proposal for a Council Recommendation on vaccine-preventable cancers, being currently negotiated in the Council.

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Regarding the TOGAS Project, MS were invited to participate to an outreach meeting in Porto (PT), on the 12 September, and to fill in a survey to collect information on the readiness and the situation for gastric cancer implementation across the EU.

The Commission proposed to continue to provide overviews on EU4Health Programme funded cancer projects as was previously done in November for cancer prevention projects to address the request of the sub-group of a high-level overview of the projects that are ongoing under the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan.

Belgium suggested foreseeing the preparation of a follow up action to start after 2025 to guarantee a smooth transition from the joint action OriON towards the next phases of the EBCP.

The Commission reminded participants to make use of and register to the restricted space of the [Sub-group on Cancer](#) on the Health Policy Platform.

In relation to the study on mapping and evaluating the implementation of the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, the Commission will send to each Member State plus Norway and Iceland their country fact sheets, to be reviewed within two weeks.