

## Flash report

### Meeting

## Sub-group on Cancer under the Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases

23 September 2022

The Sub-group on Cancer under the Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases held a virtual meeting, jointly chaired by DG RTD and DG SANTE. The representatives of 24 Member States, plus Iceland and Norway, attended the meeting together with several Commission services, and agencies<sup>1</sup>.

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

DG SANTE informed participants of the adoption on 20 September by the Commission of the proposal for an updated Council Recommendation on cancer screening. The Council Working Party on Public Health will hold discussions to lead to the potential adoption of the Recommendation by the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO) in early December. Participants were then told that the first projects under the 2021 Work Programme of the EU4Health Programme are now at kick-off phase, similarly for the four newly launched joint actions. Further, a meeting took place of this Sub-group with the Sub-group on non-communicable diseases to discuss and plan for the potential Joint Action on health determinants, with a budget of 75 million budget Euro. DG SANTE also informed participants of the Joint Action to evaluate the implementation of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan at national level and the implementation of activities carried out under the Mission on Cancer, as well as to monitor national cancer control policies. In conclusion, participants were informed that the Dutch government had taken a provisional decision to continue support for the security of supply of medical radioisotopes, by moving forward with the PALLAS project.

Participants were informed by DG RTD of the recent (Bulgaria, Finland, Czechia) and upcoming (Malta, France and Lithuania) focus groups to explore and understand the views and experiences of citizens on aspects related to cancer awareness and prevention as well as cancer-related behaviours. Country visits are also taking place to exchange views with Member States on approaches taken to better tackle cancer, on the integration of the Mission on Cancer at national level and on where the Mission can bring added value. DG RTD explained that the 2023 Mission Work Programme is currently under preparation. Next events include a conference addressing the needs of young cancer survivors tentatively scheduled for 7 February 2023. DG RTD then spoke of the Research and Innovation Days<sup>2</sup> on 28 and 29 September where three sessions on cancer are scheduled as well as a session to meet the new EU Missions Boards members.

#### European Health Data Space

Participants of the Sub-group were informed by DG SANTE about the proposed regulation to establish a European Health Data Space<sup>3</sup>, and specifically its relevance to, and linkages

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<sup>1</sup> Directorates-General represented included Communications Networks, Content and Technology (CNECT), Energy (ENER), Statistical Authority of the European Union (ESTAT), Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union (FISMA), International Partnerships (INTPA), Research and Innovation (RTD) and Health and Food Safety (SANTE), as well as the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and representatives from a number of EU decentralised and executive agencies such as the Consumer, Health and Food Executive Agency (HaDEA).

<sup>2</sup> [European Research and Innovation Days | Research and Innovation \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> [European Health Data Space \(europa.eu\)](#)

with, the field of cancer. The proposed Regulation provides rules, common standards and practices, infrastructures and a governance framework for the use and reuse of electronic health data for healthcare, research, innovation and policy making. It aims at: (1) empowering individuals to access and control their personal health data; (2) ensuring a consistent framework for the use of individuals' health data for research, innovation, policy-making and regulatory activities; and (3) unleashing the data economy by fostering a genuine single market for digital health services and products (EHR systems).

#### European Photonics21 Partnership

The European Photonics21 Partnership<sup>4</sup> aims to speed up photonic innovations, securing Europe's technological sovereignty, raising the competitiveness of Europe's economy, ensuring long-term job and prosperity creation, and supporting the Green Deal. The main objectives of the European Photonics21 Partnership are threefold: (1) Foster a focused, continuous and synergetic development of key photonics technologies, components and systems in Europe; (2) Push for the rapid diffusion into the various sectors that critically depend on innovative photonics solutions; and (3) Provide a framework for the shaping of ecosystems to address changes of value creation. Three examples of cancer-related photonics project were highlighted.

#### UNCAN.eu project

The Mission on Cancer called for the development of a Europe-wide platform, UNCAN.eu, where researchers can share and have access to high-quality research data to improve the understanding of cancer. To help in the development of such a platform, a Coordination and Support action will now flesh out the priorities and the concept. The rationale was explained, followed by expected outcomes, partners within the consortium, and a timeline. A particular focus was put on the duality of a federated cancer research data hub and research use cases. Finally, the expected impacts were highlighted in the short- medium- and long-term.

#### European Partnership on Metrology

Participants were informed about the European Partnership on Metrology<sup>5</sup>, which aims to create European metrology research networks by providing infrastructures for emerging traceable measurement technologies. It brings together the measurement science community and stakeholders to deliver on global challenges including health and climate, to support the European Green Deal, and to underpin innovation in industry through collaborative research. Selected examples of projects and case studies were highlighted.

#### Conclusions and AOB

The Chairs thanked everyone for their attention and valuable contributions and reminded participants of the next meeting on 27 October 2022. Participants were encouraged to raise topics that they would like to discuss at the next meeting.

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<sup>4</sup> [Photonics21 – A Key Enabling Technology for Europe](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Metrology Partnership - EURAMET](#)