



European  
Commission

# Europe's Beating Cancer Plan



## Prevention

### Start date – end date

01/01/2023 – 31/12/2024

### Countries

Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia,  
Cyprus, Czechia, Greece, Hungary,  
Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg,  
Netherlands, Portugal, Romania,  
Slovenia, Spain, Sweden

### Overall budget

EUR 1 499 509

### EU contribution under EU4Health programme

EUR 1 199 607



## PROTECT-EUROPE – Vaccinating Europe to protect against HPV cancers



**Protect Europe connects the experience of key organisations in EU countries with diverse perspectives. The aim is to support healthcare professionals with guidance and training to communicate better with young people and their parents/carers and improve vaccination uptake, which is one of the most important targets of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan.**

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a sexually transmitted virus affecting males and females. It causes around 67,500 cervical, anal, vaginal, penile, head and neck cancers in the EU every year. Up to 30% of the cancers caused by HPV are in men.

### **Eliminating HPV-related cancers requires high HPV vaccination uptake.**

Due to factors like vaccine hesitancy, a lack of good information and sometimes inaccurate advice from healthcare professionals are among the factors causing low rates of HPV vaccination in many countries. This means that herd protection against cancer-causing HPV infection is not being achieved.

PROTECT-EUROPE aims to tackle this problem on two levels.



- It will provide information and online training for healthcare professionals involved in HPV vaccination on one-to-one communication with young people and their parents/carers. Knowledge will then be disseminated via a train-the-trainer approach.

- It will provide EU Member States and civil society organisations active in public health with guidance and tools for promoting vaccination among young people and their parents/carers.

#### Short-term impacts:



- Increased expertise in delivering HPV vaccination among Member State officials, public health organisations, clinicians and vaccinators.
- Improved professional practice by clinicians, public health organisations and others.
- More informed and effective formulation and implementation of HPV vaccination policy.

#### Medium-term effects:



- Rolling back of vaccine hesitancy through effective education and challenges to misinformation.
- More engagement by young people and their parents/carers in HPV vaccination decision-making.
- Involvement of non-traditional actors such as football clubs in HPV vaccination promotion.

#### Long-term effects:



- Achievement of the >90% HPV vaccination target for girls and boys and significant reductions in HPV-related cancers.
- Curriculum development to adequately cover HPV vaccination in training for clinicians.

The results of the project will be disseminated to health authorities, civil society organisations and clinicians via a variety of tools, including the project's website, social media channels, newsletters, videos and dedicated project events.

#### For more info





##### Contact details

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##### Project website

<https://www.protect-europe.org>

##### Social media handles

 <https://twitter.com/EuropeanCancer>  
 <https://www.instagram.com/europeancancerorg>  
 <https://www.facebook.com/EuropeanCancer/>  
 <https://www.linkedin.com/company/europeancancer>



Europe's Beating Cancer Plan makes use of the whole range of Commission funding instruments with a total of €4 billion being earmarked for actions addressing cancer. €1.25 billion from the EU4Health programme is being used to support actions and initiatives outlined in the Cancer Plan.

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