

Flash report

Meeting

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

8 July 2021

On 8 July 2021, 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 25 Member States, plus Iceland and Norway, attended the meeting together with a number of Commission services, and agencies¹.

General Update on Horizon Europe's Mission on Cancer

DG RTD updated participants on the preparation of the Mission on Cancer. The Horizon Europe Work Programme 2021-2022 was adopted and calls were published on 15 June. To prepare the update of the Missions Work Programme 2021-2022, the Strategic Programme Committee met on 5 July and will meet again on 31 August and 15 September. The Cluster 1 – Health Programme Committee has a scheduled meeting on 20 July; a joint meeting between these two committees is foreseen for the beginning of September. By the end of September, a Commission Communication on the Missions is planned for adoption, which will mark the final decision on full implementation of the Missions.

General Update on Europe's Beating Cancer Plan

DG SANTE informed participants on the state of play of the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan. The SGPP has been updated about the activities of the Cancer Sub-group. Moreover, a meeting² of the Special Committee on Beating Cancer took place on 16 June in the European Parliament to exchange views on National Cancer Control Plans and on 1 July where the Pharma strategy has been discussed, including the potential avenues for joint procurement of drugs to treat cancers and their stockpiling. Furthermore, on 27 September, a meeting is scheduled to exchange views with Commissioner Kyriakides. Regarding implementation, the Work Programme for 2021 was published on 24 June and the first calls on 25 June. An Information Day³ will be organised in mid-July by HaDEA for all stakeholders, health authorities and the general public.

The OECD then presented the state of play and initial questions for the thematic working group on inequalities registry. It was reminded that the objective was to develop an EU-wide framework to monitor trends and report on key cancer prevention indicators at national and EU level, following the pillars of the Europe's Beating Cancer Action Plan.

Update from Member States

¹ Directorates-General represented included Communication Networks Content and Technology (CNECT), Education and Culture (EAC), Energy (ENER), Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (EMPL), Environment (ENV), Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MARE), Mobility and Transport (MOVE), Research and Innovation (RTD), as well as the Joint Research Centre (JRC).

² [PVx \(europa.eu\)](https://www.europa.eu)

³ [EU4Health 2021 work programme - Info sessions | Public Health \(europa.eu\)](https://www.europa.eu)

Member States were invited to share developments at the national level, such as the preparation of new cancer-related initiatives, national cancer events, and other relevant activities. At the next meeting, Belgium will explain about their national plan to mirror the priorities under the Mission on Cancer and the Europe's Beating Cancer Action Plan.. Germany will also present a short update on the two key national initiatives driving cancer control policies: the National Cancer Plan with a focus on oncological care and the National Decade against Cancer with a focus on cancer research. Italy and Poland will additionally present national initiatives.

Horizon Europe (Missions) and EU4Health Work Programmes

The Horizon Europe Work Programme⁴ for the Missions with relevance for the Mission on Cancer was presented, including the Coordination and Support Action for UNCAN.eu⁵, and forthcoming calls for Research and Support actions for both 2021 and 2022. Relevant and related actions for 2021 under Research Infrastructures⁶ and the Health Cluster⁷ were also presented. Under Research Infrastructures, two relevant calls were identified, both with deadlines of 23 September 2021: HORIZON-INFRA-2021-EOSC-01-06: FAIR and open data sharing in support of cancer research; and HORIZON-INFRA-2021-SERV-01-01: Research infrastructures services to support research addressing cancer.

Under the Health Cluster, another two relevant calls were highlighted, both with deadlines of 21 September 2021: HORIZON-HLTH-2021-DISEASE-04-01: Improved supportive, palliative, survivorship and end-of-life care of cancer patients; and HORIZON-HLTH-2021-CARE-05-02: Data-driven decision-support tools for better health care delivery and policymaking with a focus on cancer.

Governance and procedural aspects for the EU4Health Work Programme 2021⁸ were identified, including the actions implementing health policies. Priorities and Specific Actions along the four strands were identified, the strands being Crisis preparedness, Disease prevention, Health systems, and Digital. The five open calls for Action Grants⁹ were detailed, all with closing dates of 15 September 2021: EU4H-2021-PJ-05: Substances of human origin (SoHo) – Increase resilience, ensure continuity of supply and access to safe and high-quality therapies, in particular in times of crisis; EU4H-2021-PJ-03: Quality and safety of radiation technology in diagnosis and treatment of cancer; EU4H-2021-PJ-01: Data collection tasks in relation to updating the European Cancer Information System to monitor and assess cancer screening programmes; EU4H-2021-PJ-02: Inter-speciality cancer training programme; and EU4H-2021-PJ-04: EU Network of Youth Cancer Survivors.

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Member States were asked for nominations for the two thematic groups on the Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructures and the Inequalities Register. Mandates for these two thematic groups will be developed over the summer for discussion at the next meeting. The next meeting will take place on 23 September 2021. The meeting was concluded by thanking Member States for their active participation.

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2021-2022/wp-12-missions_horizon-2021-2022_en.pdf

⁵ [Funding & tenders \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2021-2022/wp-3-research-infrastructures_horizon-2021-2022_en.pdf)

⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2021-2022/wp-3-research-infrastructures_horizon-2021-2022_en.pdf

⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2021-2022/wp-4-health_horizon-2021-2022_en.pdf

⁸ [wp2021_en.pdf \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2021-2022/wp-4-health_horizon-2021-2022_en.pdf)

⁹ [Search Funding & Tenders \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2021-2022/wp-4-health_horizon-2021-2022_en.pdf)