

# Flash Report

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

9 October 2024

The Sub-group on Cancer under the Commission Expert Group on Public Health (PHEG) held a hybrid meeting, co-chaired by DG RTD and DG SANTE. The representatives of 22 Member States, plus Norway attended the meeting together with several Commission services and agencies.<sup>1</sup>

### Updates on the EU Cancer Mission (DG RTD)

Firstly, DG RTD updated the participants on the EU Cancer Mission, including recent conference on innovative palliative care for people with cancer, and the EU Cancer Mission Bus Roadshow. MS were encouraged to nominate missing delegates to take part in the eCancer thematic Working Group.

### Updates on the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan (DG SANTE)

DG SANTE briefed on the current transition of the European Commission, the EU4H 2024 Work Programme calls and JAs, and on policy developments including the Council Recommendations on smoke- and aerosol- free environments.

### Update from other DGs: European Cancer Imaging Initiative (DG CNECT)

DG CNECT gave an update on the European Cancer Imaging initiative. The floor was also familiarised with the work of the European Digital Infrastructure Consortium (EDIC).

### Member States presentation – Hungary's Presidency experiences

The Public Health Attaché of the Hungarian Presidency informed participants on Hungary's Presidency, sharing achievements in discussions on vaccine-preventable cancers; readings of the Beating Cancer Plan; attention to Council conclusions on cardiovascular health; transplantation and organ donation; pharma package legislative modification; and mental health. A conference on rare diseases will be organised on 29 November 2024 in Budapest.

### Synergies with Horizon Europe partnerships: Innovative Health Initiative (IHI)

The Innovative Health Initiative (IHI) and its contribution to implement EU initiatives, including the EU Cancer Mission and the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, were presented, as well as its funding mechanism, and examples of its cancer portfolio. The participants were invited to take note of the new calls that will be launched in 2025.

### Horizon 2020 project 'oncNGS' - next-generation sequencing in cancer diagnostics (Sciensano)

The coordinator introduced the project on next-generation sequencing in cancer diagnostics and the goal of oncNGS of developing an integrated solution of resorting

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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 Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC); Joint Research Centre (JRC); European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA); European Investment Bank (EIB).

and reporting Next Generation Sequencing medical data within healthcare diagnostics.

#### European Cancer Prevention Centre (DG RTD)

DG RTD introduced the approach to the creation of a European Cancer Prevention Centre and invited the participants to provide feedback regarding whether the initiative was a high priority; whether the proposed mission statement was relevant; and whether the focus should be on cancer prevention or should include NCDs more broadly. A survey will be sent in Q4 of 2024.

#### New Networks of Expertise, incl. discussion of criteria (National Tumor Institute, Italy)

The National Tumor Institute briefed the floor on JA JANE on the NoE on Cancer and the criteria to become part of the network. The presentation concluded with a question on to which extent MS are willing to give rise to national networks parallel to European NoEs.

#### 2025 European Cancer Inequalities report: Cancer Country Profiles and companion report (DG SANTE)

DG SANTE gave an update on the European Cancer Inequalities Registry and its main features as regards to the data tool, country cancer profiles, the analytical report, and inequalities factsheets. The country cancer profile will be published in February 2025, with a companion report that features a summary of the cancer profiles and performance indicators.

#### Update from other DGs: SAMIRA update (DG Energy)

DG Energy provided an overview of the SAMIRA Action Plan. Main actions include the launch of the European Radioisotope Valley Initiative to accelerate the development of radioisotopes. In 2024, a feasibility study and a basic design of the roadmap was designed; a total of six projects were selected. Next steps will be assessing the EU intervention pylon.

#### Comprehensive Cancer Centres, incl. discussion of definition/criteria (University of Oslo/ National Cancer Institute, France - INCA)

The University of Oslo and INCA briefed the floor on the network of EUCCCs, their principles and values, the six thematic areas, the overview process, and an outline of the EUnetCCC JA across 31 countries and 161 partners. The launch will be in October 2024.

#### National Cancer Mission Hubs (Agency for Clinical Research and Biomedical Innovation - AICIB)

AICIB updated on the activities to create National Cancer Mission Hubs in the context of the ECHoS project, including on possible models of the future Hubs. A Cancer Mission fair will be held in Poland in May 2025, fostering citizen engagement.

#### AOB and conclusion

The next meeting will be held on 12 November 2024.