

Flash report

Meeting

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

4 June 2021

On 4 June 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 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 Mission on Cancer, whose implementation plan has been submitted for political validation by Commissioners in the course of June. A decision on the full implementation of Missions will be taken by the end of the month, with a Commission Communication on Missions foreseen for the autumn. The Horizon Europe Mission Work Programme is scheduled for adoption during June, with the resultant opening of calls for 2021; an update of the Work Programme will be prepared during the third quarter of 2021.

A session on Missions will be held within the European Research and Innovation Days² on 23-24 June.

Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and Implementation Roadmap

DG SANTE informed participants on the state of play of the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan. In the middle of the month, a meeting of the Special Committee on Beating Cancer will take place in the European Parliament to exchange views on National Cancer Control Plans. The Commission Implementation Group has regular meetings scheduled to follow the implementation of the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and the Mission on Cancer. The Stakeholder Contact Group, who discusses, advises and collaborates on implementation, had its first meeting 28 May.

DG ENER then informed participants about the SAMIRA Action Plan³, which is a part of the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan. This included an overview of the main actions as well as the potential collaboration with the sub-group.

Network of Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructures

An initial orientation on one of the flagships of the Cancer Plan, namely EU support to establish Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructures in each Member State and to their networking at EU level was given. It was explained that this flagship builds on

¹ Directorates-General represented included Energy (ENER), Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (EMPL), Environment (ENV), Research and Innovation (RTD), Reform (REFORM), as well as the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and representatives from a number of EU decentralised and executive agencies such as European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and Consumer, Health and Food Executive Agency.

² <https://ec.europa.eu/research-and-innovation/en/events/upcoming-events/research-innovation-days>

³ [SAMIRA: Strategic Agenda for Medical Ionising Radiation Applications \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/samira/)

recommendations of the Joint Actions on Cancer Control – CanCon and iPAAC, as well as on recommendations of the Cancer Mission Board. This was complemented by a presentation by the Chair of the Cancer Mission Board, another from the Coordinator of iPAAC, and a concluding presentation from EUHealthSupport who outlined the results of a recent mapping of existing cancer care infrastructures in EU Member States. Participants discussed animatedly different possible approaches and priorities for implementation and unanimously agreed on the usefulness of creating a first thematic group on this complex initiative within the cancer sub-group.

Cancer Inequalities Register

Then another important initiative of the Cancer Plan was presented, the establishment of a Cancer Inequalities Registry, whose aim is to identify trends, disparities and inequalities between Member States and regions. It was noted that inequitable access is also one of the objectives of the Mission on Cancer. The DG SANTE presentation was complemented by that from the OECD. There followed animated discussion on the scope of the Registry, including the content and data collection issues, as well the development of an indicator framework underpinning the Registry. It was unanimously agreed to create a second thematic group to take this further.

AOB

Participants were informed of the upcoming UNCAN.eu webinar on 17 June and the launch⁴ of the EC Knowledge Centre on Cancer on 30 June. The meeting was concluded by identifying the dates of future meetings until the end of the year and then thanking participants for their valuable and enriching input.

⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/event/conference/launch-ec-knowledge-centre-cancer>