

## Flash report

### Meeting

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

23 September 2021

On 23 September 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 24 Member States, plus Norway, attended the meeting together with a number of Commission services, and agencies<sup>1</sup>.

#### Update on the Mission on Cancer

DG RTD updated Sub-group members on the Mission on Cancer. In its role as responsible committee for the Work Programme on Missions under Horizon Europe, the Strategic Programme Committee, met on 31 August and on 07 September (informal meeting) to discuss the first amendment to the Work Programme 2021. It will meet again on 27 September for a final discussion. By the end of September, the Commission Communication on Missions will be adopted, representing the launch of the full implementation of the five Missions; a further update of the Work Programme 2022 on Missions will be prepared during the fourth quarter of 2021.

#### Member States interventions

Member States shared developments at the national level. **Belgium** explained about their national plan to align with the Mission on Cancer and the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan to bring about concrete improvements in cancer control and care. **Poland** presented the priorities and functions of the Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology and the manners in which it provides support to the national comprehensive cancer control plan, for example international collaboration, integration of clinical practice with basic science, clinical trials for oncology, computational oncology and the Centre for Excellence in precision oncology. **Germany** presented 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. There was enriching and vibrant discussion between Member States on both these and other national initiatives.

#### Europe's Beating Cancer Plan update and Roadmap

Sub-group Members were updated about the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan Implementation Roadmap, with a particular focus on the actions scheduled for the annual workplan for 2021. It includes also several Joint Actions linked to the Cancer Plan to support Member States on HPV vaccination, set up a Network of Comprehensive Cancer

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<sup>1</sup> Directorates-General represented included Communication Networks Content and Technology (CNECT), Education and Culture (EAC), Energy (ENER), Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (EMPL), Financial Stability, Financial Services And Capital Market Union (FISMA), Mobility and Transport (MOVE), as well as the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and a representative from the European Health and Digital Executive Agency.

Centres, and strengthening e-health. The second wave of the EU4Health calls<sup>2</sup> will be published on 14 October with a deadline of 25 January 2022. The links to the relevant cancer related calls will be shared with the members of the subgroup. The draft Implementation Roadmap which will detail the key milestones and timeline, has been finalised and will be made public soon. It consists of a large number of actions and involving multiple DGs, clustered into seven main areas; Sub-group members were informed of actions under each of these areas.

Participants were informed about BECA draft report on strengthening Europe in the fight against cancer – towards a comprehensive and coordinated strategy<sup>3</sup> and about the upcoming Interparliamentary Committee Meeting with the participation of Members of EU national Parliaments: "Turning the tide on cancer: the view of the national parliaments on Europe's Beating Cancer Plan".<sup>4</sup>

#### Fair access to financial services for cancer survivors

Fair access to financial services for cancer survivors, sometimes referred to with the term 'Right to be forgotten', was raised, to ensure that cancer survivors are not discriminated against when accessing financial services such as mortgages and loans. The Commission will work with relevant stakeholders and will engage in dialog with relevant businesses to develop and Code of Conduct. In order to support this work, a study is being conducted to assess activities in EU Member States as well as assessing the views of Member State delegates and broader stakeholder audiences regarding the need for EU-level action to ensure equitable access of cancer survivors to financial products, with a stakeholder consultation to take place in November 2021 and final report delivered in February 2022.

#### Implementation of Member States' national cancer plans in relation to Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and Mission on Cancer

The Sub-group was informed of a newly started study, which addresses the linkages between the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, the Mission on Cancer and EU Member States' national cancer plans. The study will assess how Member States level actions in the area of combatting cancer align with and contribute to the goals and targets set in the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and the Mission on Cancer; and how the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and the Mission on Cancer can support the implementation of these actions. As a second phase, a stakeholder consultation will take place in early 2022, to map facilitators and barriers for implementation from citizen/patient, healthcare professional and other stakeholder perspectives. A final report will be available in February 2022.

#### Mandate of Thematic Groups

The Commission proposed two thematic groups of the Sub-group on a) Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructures (CCIs) (as named in the proposed Mission on Cancer)/National Comprehensive Cancer Centres (in Europe's Beating Cancer Plan) and b) the Cancer Inequalities Registry. The thematic groups will be led by Member States and consist of nominated representatives, with additional experts invited on an ad-hoc basis. The thematic groups will be convened for an initial period of twelve months and will start their work in October 2021. Proposed working methods for thematic groups were outlined, which were agreed by Member States pending small clarifications. For the first thematic group, clarity will be provided to the Sub-group on interactions with the future Joint Actions related to cancer and specifically on how overlaps will be avoided. For the second thematic group, there was agreement from Member States with the mandate.

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<sup>2</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/default/files/funding/docs/wp2021\\_annex\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/default/files/funding/docs/wp2021_annex_en.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/BECA-PR-693752\\_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/BECA-PR-693752_EN.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/beca/home/highlights>

## Conclusion

The Chairs thanked everyone for their attention and valuable contributions and reminded participants of the next meeting on 12 November 2021.