



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION
Directorate E – People

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY
Directorate C – Public Health

Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases

Mandate for a temporary sub-group on cancer

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this mandate is to set out the rationale, objectives, tasks and planned output for a temporary sub-group on the implementation of the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan¹ and the Horizon Europe Mission on Cancer under the rules described in the Commission Decision setting up a Commission expert group "Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases (SGPP)"².

2. BACKGROUND

Cancer affects everyone regardless of age, gender or socio-economic status, representing a tremendous burden for patients, families, and societies at large. If no further action is taken, the number of people newly diagnosed with cancer every year in Europe will increase from the current 3.5 million to more than 4.3 million by 2035. Cancer is one of the main priorities of the European Commission (the Commission) in the health domain. President von der Leyen's political guidelines refer to "a European plan to fight cancer, to support Member States in improving cancer control and care" to reduce the suffering caused by this disease and for Europe to take the lead in the fight against cancer. The Commission adopted the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan on February 3, 2021. The Plan covers all aspects of cancer from prevention, early detection and diagnosis, treatment to the psychosocial aspects of survivorship. The Board of the Mission on Cancer handed over its outline with recommendations in September 2021¹.

Being part of the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, the Horizon Europe Mission on Cancer will help set common goals aiming to reverse these frightening trends in cancer by providing directions for R&I, supporting evidence-based policies, and fostering the uptake of the results of research and innovation in all aforementioned areas.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/health/non_communicable_diseases/cancer_en

² https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/major_chronic_diseases/docs/c2018_4492_en.pdf

The SGPP sub-group on cancer (the sub-group) is set up to identify the synergies between these two flagship initiatives and to advise the Commission on their implementation. One of the key benefits of the sub-group is to ensure that both health and research authorities will work together on issues related to the implementation of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and the Horizon Europe Mission on Cancer.

3. TASKS

Firstly, the sub-group will advise the Commission on potential actions related to the implementation of the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and the Horizon Europe Mission on Cancer with the aim to providing a sense of directionality and priority for implementation.

Secondly, the sub-group will inform on the national and EU level implementation of cancer-related actions, report on problems related to the implementation and deliver recommendations to the Commission on ways to support Member States in the implementation of cancer actions, including cross-sectoral aspects. The sub-group will also advise the Commission on the monitoring process of the implementation of the Cancer Plan and Mission on Cancer.³

Thirdly, the sub-group will deliver recommendations to the Commission on concrete actions to improve the uptake of best practices, recommendations and guidelines, as well as research and innovation results on cancer, as needed.

The sub-group will regularly inform the SGPP and the Health Configuration of the Horizon Europe Programme Committee on progress made with the implementation of the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and the Horizon Europe Mission on Cancer. It may also contribute to the information of the Council and the European Parliament in this regard.

It will not replace the formal governance mechanisms of respective funding programmes for the examination and adoption of work plans, in particular through the Programme Committee for EU4Health and the Health Configuration of the Horizon Europe Programme Committee (or the Horizon Europe Strategic Programme Committee as appropriate).

4. ORGANIZATION

The Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety of the Commission will set up the sub-group based on tasks described in this mandate. The sub-group shall operate in compliance with the horizontal rules applicable to expert groups.

The members of the sub-group shall include the nominated expert representatives from Member States. Observers⁴ may be invited to attend as well as the chair and/or co-chair of the Mission Board of the Horizon Europe Mission on Cancer.

³ The implementation group on the Cancer Plan and Mission on Cancer is an internal Commission group. The Commission will ensure that relevant discussions will be provided to the sub-group.

⁴ EEA countries

Member States may nominate as their representatives civil servants or public employees other than their permanent representatives in the SGPP and the Horizon Europe's committee. The Directorate-Generals for Health and Food Safety and for Research and Innovation of the Commission may invite representatives of other Commission services and EU agencies, as well as experts with specific expertise to the subject matter to take part in the work of the sub-group.

The sub-group will be chaired jointly by the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety of the Commission and the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, and a secretariat support will be provided to the sub-group.

Indicatively, the sub-group shall meet physically or virtually at least twice per year.

5. DURATION

The sub-group shall reach its objectives by the end of the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and the Horizon Europe Mission on Cancer, after which it will be dissolved or prolonged at the request of the Commission.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/conquering-cancer-mission-possible_en