

## Flash Report

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

22-23 November 2023

The Sub-group on Cancer under the Commission Expert Group on Public Health held a hybrid meeting, jointly chaired by DG RTD and DG SANTE. The representatives of 21 Member States, plus Norway, attended the meeting together with several Commission services, and agencies<sup>1</sup>.

#### **Wednesday 22 November**

##### Welcome by Acting Director of DG SANTE

The Acting Director of DG SANTE welcomed Member States' representatives and thanked them for their participation to the meeting.

##### Updates from SANTE and RTD

DG SANTE and DG RTD gave updates on the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and the Mission on Cancer<sup>2</sup>. In particular, updates were given on with policy initiatives focusing on sunbeds and access of cancer survivors to financial services, as well as upcoming activities and meetings of the Cancer Mission, e.g. the workshop with young cancer survivors' networks; the 2024 pilot bus roadshow as well as the 2024 EU conference "Innovative palliative care for people with cancer".

##### Member States presentations on their Presidencies (Spain, Belgium)

Representatives of Spain explained that prevention and early diagnosis of cancer were some of the key issues included in the area of public health by the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU). Furthermore, the activities carried out and progresses made in the cancer area were mentioned. Following this, the representative of Belgium summarised the expected negotiations in public health and the health objectives of the incoming Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU.

##### Meeting of Small Member States on common challenges in Cancer care (information/feedback)

Feedback from the meeting of Small Member States on common challenges in cancer care was provided. In particular, attention was given to: aims of the workshop and

---

<sup>1</sup> Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE); Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD); European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA); Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CNECT); Directorate-General for Education and Culture (DG EAC); Directorate-General on Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (EMPL); Joint Research Centre (JRC).

<sup>2</sup> [https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/eu-mission-cancer\\_en](https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/eu-mission-cancer_en).

future collaboration; common problems and issues; identified areas and domains requiring specific attention; proposals for action.

### Prevention projects funded under EU4Health and Horizon Europe – helicopter view presentations

Upon request of Member States, a helicopter view of prevention projects developed under EU4Health<sup>3</sup> and Horizon Europe<sup>4</sup> was given. For the EU4Health projects, a summary of each project informed participants about the most important data and the objectives of the projects. As for the Horizon Europe Projects: the overall approach consists in clustering projects that address one of the mission objectives; The projects under cluster 2 'prevention' on improving and upscaling primary prevention of cancer through implementation research and on enhancing cancer prevention through behavioural change were highlighted.

### Study on the implementation of the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan

Initial results of the ongoing study on the implementation of the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan (EBCP) were presented. Particularly, the objectives of the study; methodological approach; key developments for the EBCP; adequacy of the EBCP; overview of national strategies; overview of measures across EBCP pillars; barriers on implementation of national cancer measures; next steps.

## **Thursday 23 November**

### Welcome by Deputy Director General of DG RTD

Deputy Director General of DG RTD welcomed Member States' representatives and briefly outlined the way forward on the digital flagships being developed under the Cancer Mission and the EBCP.

### Digital initiatives under the Cancer Mission and the EBCP

Detailed updates on current digital initiatives were given. The background, concept and proposed actions for the development of UNCAN.eu<sup>5</sup>, European Cancer Patient Digital Center<sup>6</sup> and the European Cancer Imaging Initiative<sup>7</sup> were outlined, which was followed by a lively debate.

---

<sup>3</sup>[https://health.ec.europa.eu/non-communicable-diseases/cancer/europes-beating-cancer-plan-eu4health-financed-projects\\_en](https://health.ec.europa.eu/non-communicable-diseases/cancer/europes-beating-cancer-plan-eu4health-financed-projects_en)

<sup>4</sup> [https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe\\_en](https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en)

<sup>5</sup> <https://uncan.eu/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.hidih.org/projects/epcdc>

<sup>7</sup> <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/cancer-imaging>