

Flash Report

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

24 March 2022

On 24 March 2022, 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 23 Member States, plus Iceland and Norway, attended the meeting together with a number of Commission departments, and agencies¹.

Update on the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan

DG SANTE updated the Sub-group on the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan. Cancer-related projects under the first wave of calls 2022² of the EU4Health Work Programme 2022 were identified, and the timeline and content of four upcoming relevant Joint Actions. The Sub-group was then updated about the European Cancer Imaging Initiative, which is a new EU state-of-the-art platform for innovators to pilot technologies that target cancer and demonstrate the power of artificial intelligence and digital technologies to beat cancer; the dedicated call, DIGITAL-2022-CLOUD-AI-02-CANCER-IMAGE³ closes on 17 May 2022.

Update on the EU Mission on Cancer

DG RTD updated on recent events, including the inter-ministerial Roundtable with French ministries held on 22 March 2022. Future events were also highlighted, including the inter-ministerial Roundtable with Spanish ministries foreseen on 5 April 2022, the Strategic Programme Committee meeting of 7 April 2022 on the Mission Work Programme 2023, and the adoption of the Mission Work Programme 2022 foreseen on 10 May 2022 (tbc). Finally, the Sub-group was informed of the EU Missions Info Days for the Mission Work Programme 2022 scheduled for 17-18 May 2022.

Citizen Engagement activities

The Sub-group members were informed about citizen engagement activities to support the EU Mission on Cancer and the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, and about the outcomes of the recent French Presidency high-level Conference on Citizen Engagement held on 21 March 2022.

Member States interventions

Member States shared developments at the national level. **Portugal** presented their National Cancer Control Strategy 2021-2030; the vision mirrors that of the EU's Mission on Cancer, with pillars of prevention, early detection, diagnosis and treatment, and survivors, with cross-cutting input from six ministries, and the citizen at the centre. A brief description of the recently created *National Cancer HUB* was also provided. Member States

¹ Directorates-General represented included Communications Networks, Content and Technology (CNECT), Energy (ENER), Environment (ENV), Research and Innovation (RTD), Health and Food Safety (SANTE), Legal Service (LEGAL), Taxation and Customs Union (TAXUD), as well as the Joint Research Centre (JRC).

² https://hadea.ec.europa.eu/calls-proposals/first-wave-eu4health-calls-2022_en

³ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/digital-2022-cloud-ai-02-cancer-image>

expressed their strong interest in being informed about these national programmes and initiatives.

Presentation on Joint Action proposals on Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructures and new Networks of Expertise

The Sub-group was informed of the Joint Actions on the EU Networking of Comprehensive Cancer Centres (Crane⁴) and on Networks of Expertise (JANE), including (i) preparatory activities to establish national comprehensive cancer centres and an EU network linking these centres, and (ii) preparatory activities to establish an EU network of expertise on cancers and cancer conditions, which will also link with the existing four European Reference Networks for Rare Cancers.

Proposal to update Council Recommendation on Cancer Screening

The Sub-group was updated on the Opinion⁵ of the Commission's Group of Chief Scientific Advisors (GCSA) on cancer screening in the EU which was published on 2 March 2022, the initial results of the Call for Evidence on cancer screening, and the timeline for the preparation of the Commission proposal to update the 2003 Council Recommendation on cancer screening. The GSCA opinion contains recommendations on actions to take to improve cancer screening across the EU. Additionally, the Commission launched an online call for evidence⁶ in February, to which 87 stakeholders responded.

AOB and Conclusions

The outline for a study on minimum rates of excise duty on alcohol which is being carried out under contract of DG TAXUD was presented; the Cancer Sub-group will be invited to contribute to this study.

The Chairs thanked everyone for their attention and valuable contributions and reminded participants of the next meeting on 8 April 2022, which will focus exclusively on cancer screening.

⁴ [Prezentace aplikace PowerPoint \(europa.eu\)](#)

⁵ [Cancer screening | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

⁶ [Cancer Screening Recommendation – update \(europa.eu\)](#)