

Europe's Beating Cancer Plan

Making a difference

February 2025

#EUCancerPlan #HealthUnion



Four years after its adoption, [Europe's Beating Cancer Plan](#) is making a positive impact on people's lives by boosting collaboration and forging a path towards **better prevention, early detection, treatment and care** as well as **improving the quality of life of cancer patients and survivors**.

Better understanding cancer through research and innovation

Cancer is complex. The EU Cancer Plan and the EU Horizon Mission on Cancer support efforts to **increase understanding of the biological processes, risk factors and health determinants that drive cancer**. The sharing of this knowledge helps target measures and increases the impact of Cancer Plan actions.



✓ European Commission Knowledge Centre on Cancer

Sharing best practice implementation and issuing guidelines to feed the design and roll-out of new actions.



✓ European Cancer Imaging Initiative

An EU 'atlas' of cancer-related images, making anonymised images accessible, improving personalised medicine.



✓ European Initiative to Understand CANCER

Support to innovation and advancing the understanding of cancer mechanisms.

Stopping cancer before it starts

Prevention is more effective than any cure. Many cancers can be prevented by addressing risk factors. The EU Cancer Plan is **reducing unnecessary suffering** and making progress towards the elimination of cervical cancer and other vaccine-preventable cancers caused by viruses. Stronger measures to protect people, especially children, from the adverse effect of second-hand smoke and aerosols have also been taken.



✓ **New recommendations on vaccine-preventable cancers.**

Supporting efforts to increase **routine gender-neutral vaccination** against human papillomaviruses (HVP) and vaccination against Hepatitis B.



✓ **New recommendations on smoke-free environments**

Extending smoke-free environment policies to key outdoor areas, such as playgrounds, outside areas of healthcare and education premises, public buildings and transport stops.

Better prognosis and more treatment options thanks to earlier detection

Early detection through screening offers the **best chance of treating cancer** and increases treatment options. To support decision making, an upgraded European Cancer Information System has begun monitoring and assessing national cancer screening programmes.



✓ **New EU-supported Cancer Screening Scheme**

Improve cancer screening access, quality and diagnostics, following the Council Recommendation on cancer screening adopted in 2022 and covering cancer types that together account for almost 55% of all new cases diagnosed in the EU every year.

Improving cancer care and reducing inequalities

Everyone has the right to **affordable, preventive and curative healthcare of good quality**, no matter where they live. The EU Cancer Plan is helping to train the workforce, personalise cancer care and enhance cross-border cooperation.



✓ **European Cancer Inequalities Registry**

Identifying trends, disparities and inequalities between and within Member States and regions to inform targeted investment and interventions at EU, national and regional level.



✓ **EU Network linking recognised National Comprehensive Cancer Centres**

Sharing capabilities and expertise across the EU, reducing inequalities and duplication, including specialised care for children with cancer.



✓ **New Networks of Expertise**

For specific, challenging cancer conditions, to find solutions already rooted in the European oncology community.