

Final flash report

Meeting

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

16 December 2021

On 16 December 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 26 Member States, plus Norway, attended the meeting together with a number of Commission services, and agencies¹.

The meeting was opened by the Deputy Director-General DG RTD, also the Mission Manager of the EU Mission on Cancer, who welcomed participants.

Updates on the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and the Mission on Cancer

Sub-group Members were updated on the **Implementation Roadmap** of the **Europe's Beating Cancer Plan**, which was released on 17 November 2021, with an indicative timeline to 2025 and identification of progress indicators. The six thematic groups, which have been recently established under the Cancer Stakeholder Contact Group, were presented, being Prevention; Diagnosis and Treatment; Quality of Life; Innovation, Digitisation and Research; Inequalities; and Paediatric Cancer. Regarding the **Cancer Inequalities Register**, the Thematic Group of the SGPP Sub-group on Cancer met firstly on 19 October 2021 where the draft framework and web interface were presented, and secondly on 2 December 2021. A survey on the operational aspects conducted on 2 December showed overwhelming support for the work being undertaken. The governance structure was explained and an indicative roadmap for 2022 unveiled. Furthermore, the main activities under the **SAMIRA Action Plan** were outlined, being security of supply of medical radioisotopes, the quality and safety of medical ionising radiation applications, and innovation and technological development. The current state of play was identified with future steps to be undertaken, against a timeline.

DG RTD then updated Sub-group Members on the **Mission on Cancer**. The final meeting of the current Mission Board on Cancer took place on 9 December. A new Board will be established to advise on the implementation stage of the Mission. On 24 November, around 600 participants attended the **stakeholder webinar** on the Health Policy Platform; it was a vibrant and interactive event. The Thematic Group on **Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructures/ Centres** of the Sub-group on Cancer held its first two meetings on 29 October and 26 November 2021 respectively. In November, the taxonomy of terms was addressed and the quick scan of Cancer Infrastructures in European countries² discussed. Info-Days on the five EU **Missions** will take place on 18-19 January 2022³.

¹ Directorates-General represented included Communications Networks, Content and Technology (CNECT), Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (EAC), Energy (ENER), Research and Innovation (RTD), Health and Food Safety (SANTE), as well as the Joint Research Centre (JRC).

² <https://www.nivel.nl/nl/publicatie/quick-scan-cancer-infrastructures-european-countries-report>

³ [Save the date: Info-days for EU Missions to take place between 18 and 19 January 2022 | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

Member States interventions

Member States shared developments at the national level. **France** explained the alignment of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and France's ten-year cancer control strategy; the strategy was formed with a multi-level governance involving all key stakeholders. France concluded by expressing the desire to continue this collaborative approach at the EU level, including in the imminent French Presidency, with four key aims: to strengthen synergies and accelerate cooperation, to provide a space for knowledge sharing and exchange, to enable the co-construction of proposals for concrete actions and amplifying European cooperation in the fight against cancer. **Spain** outlined their deployment of the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan by identifying trends and highlighting vaccination and screening targets under the prevention pillar. As a complement, Spain described the cancer research landscape in Spain. The national alignment with the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan was explained and Spain identified four Joint Actions related to cancer in the EU4Health Programme in which Spain is participating. Member States expressed their strong interest in being informed about these national programmes and initiatives.

Investments in Health – opportunities from EU investments in 2021-2027

DG SANTE presented opportunities from EU instruments in 2021-2027 for investing in health, and specifically those under the EU4Health programme and the Horizon Europe programme. DG SANTE then outlined main activities and actions within programmes where funding could be sought for cancer-related activities, including Digital Europe, the Recovery and Resilience Facility, REACT-EU, Cohesion Policy (e.g. ERDF, ESF+), and InvestEU (Finance and Advisory Services).

European Cancer Patient Digital Centre

DG RTD informed members of a key initiative under the EU Mission on Cancer and the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan: the creation of a '**European Cancer Patient Digital Centre**', which will be a virtual network of federated national infrastructures of patient-controlled health data. The initiative is part of the 'Better Life for Cancer Patients Initiative'⁴, which also aims to provide a 'Cancer Survivor Smart-Card' with information related to the monitoring and follow-up of the survivor. It will be developed under the future European Health Data Space (EHDS)⁵, which will enable cancer patients to securely access and share electronic health records for prevention and treatment across borders.

Healthy Lifestyles for All Initiative

Members of the Sub-group were informed by DG EAC about the **HealthyLifestyle4All initiative**⁶, launched by Commissioner Gabriel on 23 September 2021. Organisations and individuals are invited to submit concrete pledges supporting one of the three pillars: increased awareness of healthy lifestyle across all generations; easier access to sport, physical activity and healthy diets, with special focus on inclusion and non-discrimination to reach disadvantaged groups; and teaming up for a holistic approach to food, health, well-being and sport.

Conclusions

The Chairs thanked everyone for their attention and valuable contributions and reminded participants of the next meeting on 11 February 2022.

⁴ [Funding & tenders \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/funding-opportunities/funding-schemes/european-union-funding-opportunities/)

⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/health/ehealth/dataspace_en

⁶ [HealthyLifestyle4All | Sport \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/funding-opportunities/funding-schemes/european-union-funding-opportunities/)