



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

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

## Flash report

# Joint Meeting Shadow Health Configuration of the Horizon Europe Programme Committee and Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases

04 March 2021

On 04 March 2021, the Shadow Health Configuration of the Horizon Europe Programme Committee and the Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases held a virtual meeting, jointly chaired by the Director "People", DG RTD, and Director for Public Health, DG SANTE. The chairs stressed the need for seamless integration of health policy action and R&I particular in the area of cancer, which is a key concern for Europe's citizens. The representatives of 25 Member States plus Norway attended the meeting together with a number of Commission services and agencies.

### Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and Mission on Cancer

Participants discussed the implementation of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and the Horizon Europe Mission on Cancer. Both initiatives have common objectives and have been developed in close alignment as the Mission on Cancer will underpin the Cancer Plan's proposed legislative and non-legislative initiatives by identifying directions for R&I, supporting evidence-based policies, and promoting the uptake of the results of research and innovation.

The new subgroup on cancer under the Steering Group on Promotion and Prevention will be a joint group of experts from health and research ministries to support synergetic and effective implementation of actions and policies across the European Union.

The subgroup reflects an innovative approach within the Commission as it will be the only group where health and research authorities will discuss side by side on relevant points in the area of cancer, including the full range of coordination needs. The subgroup is planned to discuss different types of joint work, from choosing priority areas for identifying best practices, to reaching agreement on guidelines, to debating new policy measures.

The governance model of the Cancer Plan and Mission on Cancer was discussed, including the mandate for the temporary sub-group on cancer, which details the terms of reference for its activities. The SGPP will advise the Commission services on Health Promotion and Disease Prevention and through its SGPP-Cancer subgroup on the

implementation of the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and the Mission on Cancer. The sub-group will also advise the Commission on the monitoring process of the implementation of the Cancer Plan and Mission on Cancer.<sup>1</sup>

In parallel, the EU4Health Steering Group, as established by the EU4Health Regulation, is consulted by the Commission on the priorities and strategic orientations of the annual work programme. The Commission will draw on the SGPP's advice– as well as other inputs - in preparing its strategic orientations and priorities for the EU4Health annual work programmes.

Based on the fruitful discussions that took place and on the very broad agreement that was received, the mandate of the subgroup was approved with the revisions mentioned during the meeting.

The Member States will be asked to nominate official representatives from both the health and research authorities to the sub-group (one expert and one alternate per authority).

The subgroup will be of key importance for the mutual support of the Cancer Mission and the Cancer Plan by bringing early in the input of both health and research authorities.

The sub-group will have its first meeting on 16 April, and likely two other meetings before the summer break. It was agreed that the administrative arrangements, including a possibility to access the documents of the sub-group by different committees will be discussed, as well as the implementation plan of the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan.

#### Conclusions and Next Steps

At the closing of the meeting, the participants were reminded that the Best Practice call on the prevention of Non-Communicable Disease risk factors is prolonged by two weeks, until 14th March.<sup>2</sup>

The meeting was concluded by thanking participants from the health and research ministries for their valuable and enriching input.

---

<sup>1</sup> The implementation group on the Cancer Plan and Mission on Cancer is an internal Commission group. The Commission will ensure that discussions will be provided to the sub-group.

<sup>2</sup> <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/dyna/bp-portal/>