

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

11 February 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 25 Member States, plus Iceland and Norway, attended the meeting together with a number of Commission services.

Report on “strengthening Europe in the fight against cancer – towards a comprehensive and coordinated strategy”

The Rapporteur of the European Parliament’s Special Committee on Beating Cancer presented the report¹ on how to strengthen the EU’s role in the fight against cancer adopted by the Committee on 9 December 2021 and to be voted on by the European Parliament at its Plenary session on 16 February 2022. In the report, MEPs commented that the implementation of Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan² is a first step towards a real European Health Union, and that the comprehensive strategy addressing cancer at EU level should serve as a model for other non-communicable diseases.

The report includes the following main points on cancer:

1. Taking stronger EU action to address key risk factors and social determinants of cancer
2. Extending screening schemes and launching an EU platform of national screening centres
3. Facilitating access to cross-border health care and clinical trials for cancer patients
4. Extending joint procurement procedures and managing shortages of cancer medicines
5. Guaranteeing the right to be forgotten to all European patients
6. Enhancing transparency of prices, use of public funding, clinical trials information
7. Ensuring access to innovative cancer drugs and treatments for all patients
8. Securing adequate and sustained long-term funding
9. Strengthening of the Knowledge Centre on Cancer and cancer registries
10. Reinforcing the role of health professionals in cancer care.

Updates on the Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan, the EU Non-Communicable Diseases Initiative 2021 and the EU Mission on Cancer

DG SANTE updated the Sub-group on the Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan Implementation Roadmap, including the Commission proposal to revise the 2003 Council Recommendations on cancer screening. Upcoming cancer actions under the EU4Health Work Programme 2022 were identified. DG SANTE then updated on the draft Non-Communicable Diseases Initiative, which focusses on implementation, helping EU countries to transfer best practices, develop guidelines, roll out innovative approaches to reduce the burden of non-communicable diseases. DG RTD updated the Sub-group on the latest developments concerning the EU Mission on Cancer, including on the three topics contained in the first amendment to Horizon Europe work programme 2021-2022 adopted on 15 December 2021.

¹ [REPORT on strengthening Europe in the fight against cancer – towards a comprehensive and coordinated strategy \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/default/files/non_communicable_diseases/docs/eu_cancer-plan_en.pdf)

² https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/default/files/non_communicable_diseases/docs/eu_cancer-plan_en.pdf

Member States interventions

Austria presented their cancer strategies, starting with the specific challenges faced nationally. The strategic goals of the Austrian Cancer Framework Programme were outlined and screening programmes explained; to complement this, the research landscape was sketched. **Czechia** presented the structure of cancer care then screening programmes and the National Cancer Programme 2022-2030. Finally, three high-level meetings which will take place during the Czech Presidency in the second half of 2022 were highlighted.

Results of study on access to financial services

EUHealthSupport informed the Sub-group of the results of a study regarding fair access to financial services for cancer survivors, following a commitment in the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan.

Presentation on Joint Action proposals on HPV and eHealth

Italy presented PERCH, whose aim is to contribute to the implementation of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan through supporting Member States' efforts to extend the roll-out of routine HPV vaccination to eliminate cervical cancer and other cancers caused by HPV in the coming decade. **Belgium** presented eCAN, which will explore the role of teleconsultation and remote monitoring in two large clinical trials focused on telerehabilitation and tele-psychological support in different populations of cancer patients.

Conclusions

The Chairs thanked everyone for their attention and valuable contributions and reminded participants of the next meeting on 24 March 2022.