

#HealthUnion
#EUCancerPlan

European actions and their potential to lift the burden



Domenico Fiorenza, Policy Officer
DG Health and Food Safety

Background – Europe's Beating Cancer Plan 1

- The Cancer Plan addresses cancer in an **integrated, health-in-all-policies and multi-stakeholder** approach
- Four pillars: (1) prevention; (2) early detection; (3) diagnosis and treatment; and (4) quality of life of cancer patients and survivors
- Cross-cutting themes: research and innovation, digital and personalised medicine, reducing inequalities, paediatric cancer
- 10 flagship initiatives and 32 actions - at every key stage of the disease
- 4 billion EUR budget

Background – Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan 2

- Lesson learnt from Covid-19 impact on cancer patient’s and care
- The Cancer Plan works in tandem with the Horizon Europe **Mission on Cancer**, ensuring coherence between ambitious research goals and realistic policy aims
- Regular exchanges with the European Parliament’s **Beating Cancer Committee** (Resolution adopted in Plenary in February 2022)
- Regular exchanges with the Member States in the Health Council (Council Conclusions on the European Health Union in December 2021)
- **Implementation Roadmap** with milestones and timeline (published Nov. 2021)

Europe's Beating Cancer Plan

A new EU approach to cancer screening



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A new EU cancer screening flagship scheme

Early detection through cancer screening **reduces the impact of cancer** and **saves lives**.

- ✓ Up-to-date EU recommendations based on the latest technology, scientific developments and evidence
- ✓ Updated and new EU screening guidelines and quality assurance schemes
- ✓ Improved monitoring and exchange of data through the European cancer information system and European Health Data Space

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Council Recommendation on cancer screening – update to the 2003 Council Recommendation

- ✓ Call for evidence launched January 2022
- ✓ Scientific opinion of Group of Chief Scientific Advisors (GCSA) published March 2022
- ✓ Commission proposal adopted September 2022

State of play: Negotiations in the Council ongoing, to go to COREPER on 23 November and EPSCO Council on 9 December 2022.

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The SAPEA (Science Advice for Policy by European Academies) **Report** is the evidence base for the GSCA opinion.

- On **gastric cancer**: “While there is insufficient evidence to recommend endoscopic screening of gastric cancer in Europe, the screen and treat strategy for reducing *H. pylori* infection provides an opportunity to prevent gastric cancer in EU member countries with intermediate to high gastric cancer incidence.”

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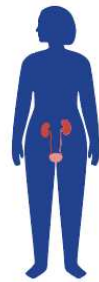
- On **pancreatic cancer**: “Further research is needed into more effective approaches for early detection of other types of cancer [...]. Novel technologies may also prove fruitful in screening for other types of cancer not considered in this report, such as liver and pancreatic cancers.”

What are the new EU recommendations?

Extending access to targeted cancer screening for breast, colorectal and cervical cancers along with a step-by-step approach to introducing prostate, lung and gastric cancer testing.



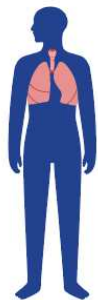
BREAST CANCER
lowering the age for screening to women aged 45-74, plus MRI scans for those with very dense breasts



HPV testing for women aged 30 to 65, every 5 years or more, to detect cervical cancer, taking account of HPV vaccination status



Triage testing for **COLORECTAL CANCER** in people aged 50 – 74 through faecal immunochemical testing (FIT) to determine follow-up via endoscopy/colonoscopy



LUNG CANCER
testing for current heavy and ex-smokers aged 50 – 75



Prostate specific antigen testing for **PROSTATE CANCER** in men up to 70, plus MRI scans for follow-up



In places with high **GASTRIC CANCER** incidence and death rates, screening for *Helicobacter pylori* and surveillance of precancerous stomach lesions

Accessibility and equality



Target: 90% of the EU population qualifying for breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screenings to be offered screening by 2025



Proposal covers three key areas:
access, quality, diagnostics.

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- Call for proposals to monitor and strengthen the implementation of innovative approaches to prostate, lung and gastric cancer screening at Union level, Programme: EU4H 2022
- New projects on cancer screening will be starting next year

EU Financial support



- € 38.5 million already committed under the EU4Health programme
- € 60 million via Horizon Europe
- Cohesion Policy Instruments
- Recovery and Resilience Facility



An investment in good health: overall economic impact of cancer in the EU is **more than € 100 billion**

Saving lives through sustainable cancer prevention

- Action 20.1: Reduce liver cancer caused by Hepatitis B virus (by vaccination and investment in related infrastructures) and prevention of liver cancer caused by Hepatitis C virus and **gastric cancer caused by Helicobacter pylori** (by treatment with antivirals and antimicrobials respectively);
- Action grants to reduce liver and gastric cancers caused by infections, Programme: EU4H 2021

Saving lives through sustainable cancer prevention

- **EUROHELICAN** – kick-off meeting 18 November 2022
 - It aims to implement a population-based H. pylori test- and treat program in young adults in Slovenia to assess its program processes, feasibility and acceptability.
 - Secondly; to evaluate long-term effects of the strategy in middle-aged Latvians from GISTAR study, which is a mature cohort with the follow-up nearing 10 years.
 - Lastly, Expert Working Group Meeting will be held by IARC/WHO to develop guidelines for implementation of the strategy and recommendations for impact evaluation

Actions from other pillars of the Cancer Plan

- **ECAC5**: Revision and update of the European Code against Cancer and **BUMPER**: Boosting the Usability of the European Union Mobile App for Cancer Prevention
- **CanScreen-ECIS**: Strengthening cancer screening data collection to update European Cancer Information System and improve quality and coverage of cancer screening programmes in Europe
- **JA CraNE**: Network of Comprehensive Cancer Centres: Preparatory activities on creation of National Comprehensive Cancer Centres and EU Networking and **JANE**: Joint Actions on new Networks of Expertise (NoE on complex & poor-prognosis cancers)

Currently open cancer-related calls for proposals

- Call for proposals on cancer and other NCDs prevention – action on health determinants, budget: € 11 million
- Call for proposals to support the roll-out of the second cohort of the inter-speciality cancer training programme, budget: € 7 million

Thank you

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