EU MISSIONS
CANCER
Concrete solutions for our greatest challenges

Jan-Willem van de Loo, PhD
NCP IT infoday missions, 23.06.22
DG Research and Innovation, European Commission

#EUmissions #HorizonEU #MissionCancer
The European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) is not part of the Specific Programme.

**HORIZON EUROPE**

**SPECIFIC PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTING HORIZON EUROPE & EIT**

*Exclusive focus on civil applications*

**Pillar I - EXCELLENT SCIENCE**

- European Research Council
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie
- Research Infrastructures

**Pillar II - €53.5 billion**

- Global Challenges & European Industrial Competitiveness
  - Health – €8.25 billion
  - Culture, Creativity & Inclusive Society
  - Civil Security for Society
  - Digital, Industry & Space
  - Climate, Energy & Mobility
  - Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environment

- Joint Research Centre

**Pillar III - INNOVATIVE EUROPE**

- European Innovation Council
- European Innovation Ecosystems
- European Institute of Innovation & Technology*

**WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA**

- Widening participation & spreading excellence
- Reforming & Enhancing the European R&I system

* The European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) is not part of the Specific Programme

* synergies in progress
Mission on Cancer

Challenges

• 2.7 million people in the EU are diagnosed each year
• 1.3 million people die from cancer each year (this no. will increase)
• Total cost of cancer in Europe in 2018: €199 billion

GOAL

Improve the lives of more than 3 million people by 2030, through prevention, cure and for those affected by cancer including their families, to live longer and better, jointly with the Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan

Four Mission objectives

1. Understanding cancer
2. Prevention & early detection
3. Diagnosis and treatment
4. Quality of life

Concrete actions

• Horizon Europe to provide €378.2 million (2021-23)
• A strategic R&I agenda & governance
• UNCAN.eu platform (2023)
• Cancer Patient Digital Centre (2023)
• Network of Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructures (2025)

A mission is a portfolio of actions across disciplines intended to achieve a bold, inspirational and measurable goal within a set timeframe, with impact for society and policy making as well as relevance for a significant part of the European population and wide range of European citizens.
EU Missions – synergies with EU policies and initiatives

Initiatives that can help achieve the goal of the EU Mission on Cancer:
- Horizon Europe partnerships
- European Cancer Information System
- Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability
- Zero Pollution Action Plan
- HealthyLifestyles4all initiative
- Strategic Agenda for Medical Ionising Radiation Applications
- Research and Training Programme (Euratom)
- Pharmaceutical Strategy

Initiatives that can act as ‘enabler’ for the EU Mission on Cancer:
- European Health Data Space
- Knowledge Centre on Cancer (KCC)
- EIT & KICs
- European Universities Initiative

Initiatives the EU Mission on Cancer will contribute to:
- Artificial Intelligence Agenda
- European Data Strategy
- Digital transformation and skills
- New European Bauhaus initiative

National activities
Joint governance established

- **Dialogue with Member States:** a sub-group on cancer under the Steering Group on Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (SGPP) follows jointly the implementation of the Cancer Plan and the Cancer Mission.

- **Dialogue with stakeholders:** a Stakeholder Contact Group under the EU Health Policy Platform as a basis for discussion and exchange.

- **EU Implementation Group:** a dedicated group gathering different Commission services to ensure that actions, policies and findings are aligned across the relevant Commission departments.
Horizon Europe mission WP2021-2022 topics

Overall approach

- Apply mission guiding principles
- Close cooperation with Cancer Plan actions
- Total budget 2021-2022: € 255 M

Develop and validate a set of quality of life measures for cancer patients and survivors
HORIZON-MISS-2021-CANCER-02-02

Preparing UNCAN.eu, a European initiative to understand cancer
HORIZON-MISS-2021-UNCAN-01-01

Better understand healthy versus cancer cells at individual and population level*
HORIZON-MISS-2021-CANCER-02-03

HORIZON-MISS-2022-CANCER-01-01: Improving and upscaling primary prevention of cancer through implementation research*

HORIZON-MISS-2022-CANCER-01-02: Strengthen research capacities of comprehensive cancer infrastructures*

HORIZON-MISS-2022-CANCER-01-03: Pragmatic clinical trials to optimise treatment for cancer patients*

HORIZON-MISS-2022-CANCER-01-04: Towards the creation of a European Cancer Patient Digital Centre*

HORIZON-MISS-2022-CANCER-01-05: Creation of national cancer mission hubs to support the implementation of the Mission on Cancer*

*adoption 11/05/22
HORIZON-MISS-2022-CANCER-01-01: Improving and upscaling primary prevention of cancer through implementation research

Scope:

• Implementation and upscaling of evidence-based primary cancer prevention interventions. Barriers should be identified and addressed.

• Clinical trials and translational research are not within scope.

• Portfolio approach during evaluation applies to ensure appropriate coverage of childhood cancer.

Expected outcomes:

• Evidence-based, tailored and affordable primary prevention programmes targeting known cancer risk factors and health determinants, including behavioural factors.

• Healthcare professionals and patient organisations provide evidence-based information targeted at individuals and families on cancer prevention.

• Regional and national policymakers and authorities engage in implementing and scaling-up the most suitable prevention programmes.

• Further upscaling and opportunities to innovate primary prevention programmes at local, urban, rural, regional, national or international level.
**HORIZON-MISS-2022-CANCER-01-02: Strengthening research capacities of comprehensive cancer infrastructures**

Closure: 07.09.2022; Indicative call budget: EUR 10 M; Project size: EUR 10 M; Coordination & Support Action

**Scope:**

- Offer an R&I-centred **capacity-building programme** to support existing and future comprehensive cancer infrastructures.

- Cooperation with the EU network of comprehensive cancer centres CRANE, established through Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan. Participating countries will be provided with recommendations. Support and roadmap for implementation and transferable best practices will be identified.

**Expected outcomes:**

- Research and health policy makers will benefit from support to further develop or set up comprehensive cancer infrastructures, leading to improvement in *research and access to care*.

- Research and healthcare professionals will benefit from a **better integration between research and care**;

- Researchers will benefit from innovative infrastructures to perform research and participate in studies.

- Citizens, including patients and their caregivers will have access to screening, diagnostics and treatments, care pathways and integrated care. **Participation in clinical trials will be facilitated.**
HORIZON-MISS-2022-CANCER-01-03: Pragmatic clinical trials to optimise treatments for cancer patients

Closure: 07.09.2022; Indicative call budget: EUR 60 M; Project size: EUR 4 – 6 M; R&I actions

Scope:

• Support academic investigator-driven clinical trials which have the potential to start changing clinical practice as of 2025. Focus on refractory cancers in children/adolescents/young adults and adults.

• Pragmatic clinical trials focus on choosing between care options. Pragmatic trials evaluate effectiveness, the effect of treatment in routine (real-world) clinical practice.

• Portfolio approach applies during evaluation to ensure appropriate coverage of childhood cancer.

Expected outcomes:

• Cancer patients and their caregivers will have access to optimised and affordable treatment interventions for refractory cancers that increase their quality of life.

• National healthcare providers, policymakers and authorities will have the evidence to implement optimised and affordable treatments in their healthcare systems, including in everyday medical practice.
HORIZON-MISS-2022-CANCER-01-04: Towards the creation of a European Cancer Patient Digital Centre (ECPDC)

Closure: 07.09.2022; Indicative call budget: EUR 3 M; Project size: EUR 3 M; Coordination & Support Action

Scope: Facilitate the integration of existing patient-controlled health data networks, which would pave the way for the creation of a ECPDC. Solutions for cross-border transfer of data & integration within the European Health Data Space should be analysed/provided, a governance structure developed, a first testing phase of a future ECPDC designed and performed.

Expected outcomes:

- Citizens, including cancer patients and survivors, are able to donate, access and manage their own clinical data, including patient-reported outcomes (PRO), and have control over data access in a secure, standardised, ethical and interoperable manner. They will receive information on personalized care through the ECPDC;
- The ECPDC will be used as a federated, virtual ‘global’ centre of knowledge on cancer (such as treatment side-effects, psychological and legal support);
- Researchers, citizens, including cancer patients and survivors, and policy-makers have access to a valuable resource of aggregated patient data that are evolving over time, and are empowered to co-decide on their care as well as on participation in research.
HORIZON-MISS-2022-CANCER-01-05: Establishing national cancer mission hubs to support the implementation of the Mission on Cancer

Closure: 07.09.2022; Indicative call budget: EUR 3 M; Project size: EUR 3 M; Coordination & Support Action. Duration 3 years (followed by a 2nd phase of support)

Scope:

- Facilitate integration of activities (‘synergies’) Cancer Mission and Europe Beating Cancer plan at national level. How? National cancer mission hubs in MS and AC – building on existing structures/’mirror groups’ or creating new ones.
- Facilitate engagement of stakeholders and other actors in national research and innovation communities and health systems, organise citizen engagement activities at national, regional and/or local level. Close cooperation with pan-mission consortium TRAMI.

Expected outcomes:

- The activities of the Mission on Cancer are integrated with activities at national, regional, and local levels;
- Actors at national, regional or local health and research and innovation systems engage in the policy dialogue on cancer;
- Citizens, including patients, and national, regional and local stakeholders engage in the policy dialogue on cancer.
Cancer Mission WP2022 – portfolio approach, citizen engagement, and end-user involvement

- Proposals will be evaluated on scientific merits - see Horizon Europe evaluation (sub)criteria.
- Mission topics consistently aim at involving other disciplines and sectors, beyond business-as-usual.
- Applicants should budget for networking activities whenever relevant; details to be added during grant preparation.
- Citizen, including patient, engagement: civil society, patient and caregiver organisations and communities will be consistently addressed. EC perceives overly strong focus on a limited number of patient advocacy organisations.
- Mission topics will include end-user engagement. Example of end-user research models and services in various MS:
  - Living lab services Kuopio University Hospital (FI): https://www.psshp.fi/web/en/organisation/living-lab
  - Living Labs at INCa (FR): https://living-lab.e-cancer.fr/
  - European Network of Living Labs (ENoLL): https://enoll.org/
- End-users include also cancer centres, national and regional health authorities and services, local communities (e.g. cities).
What is HaDEA?

- The European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA) is a new executive agency established by the EC, operational since 1 April 2021.
- Executive agencies are set up and supported by the EC to manage funding programmes on its behalf.
- HaDEA implements specific funding programmes related to health, digital, food safety, industry and space.
- The total budget managed by HaDEA >€20 billion over 2021-2027.
Update

• Outreach and citizen engagement activities – e.g. Conference on young cancer survivors Q1 2023;

• Dialogue with Member States, regions, stakeholders and citizens;

• Horizon Europe mission work programme 2023 in preparation (€ 123 M);

• Phase-2 Mission Board to start September;

• Working on synergies: e.g. Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan, Horizon Europe partnerships, missions, Euratom, EIC, EIT, EIB, charities.
References

• EU Mission on Cancer
  • Horizon Europe rules apply (see information on participation of UK, CH, Associated and Third countries)
  • Read the implementation plan before you apply:
    • Commission Communication with Implementation plan (29 September 2021)
    • Horizon Europe mission work programme 2021-2022 (June 2021, updated 11 May 2022)
  • Mission calls for proposals and partner search tool are accessible via the Funding & Tenders Portal
  • First, contact your national contact point, then contact RTD-SANTE-CANCER-MISSION@ec.europa.eu

• Proposed Horizon Europe Health Partnerships and Innovative Health Initiative

• Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan and EU4Health programme

• Digital Europe programme

• EIT Health KIC

• Knowledge Centre on Cancer (KCC)

• HaDEA

• TRAMI project
Thank you!

#EUmissions
#HorizonEU
#MissionCancer

RTD-SANTE-CANCER-MISSION@ec.europa.eu

© European Union, 2021

Reuse is authorised provided the source is acknowledged and the original meaning or message of the document are not distorted. The European Commission shall not be liable for any consequence stemming from the reuse. The reuse policy of the European Commission documents is implemented by Commission Decision 2011/833/EU of 12 December 2011 on the reuse of Commission documents (OJ L 330, 14.12.2011, p. 39).

All images © European Union, unless otherwise stated. Icons © Flaticon – all rights reserved.