

What will the EuroCanPlatform mean to both patients and institutions

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The **EurocanPlatform**, is a Network of Excellence funded by the European Commission in FP7, that has as an aim **to structure translational cancer research in Europe** with focus on personalised cancer medicine.

The long-term goal being the creation of **a virtual European Cancer Institute** having the critical mass of expertise, resources, infrastructures, and number of patients that is needed to innovate and perform in all areas of cancer research.

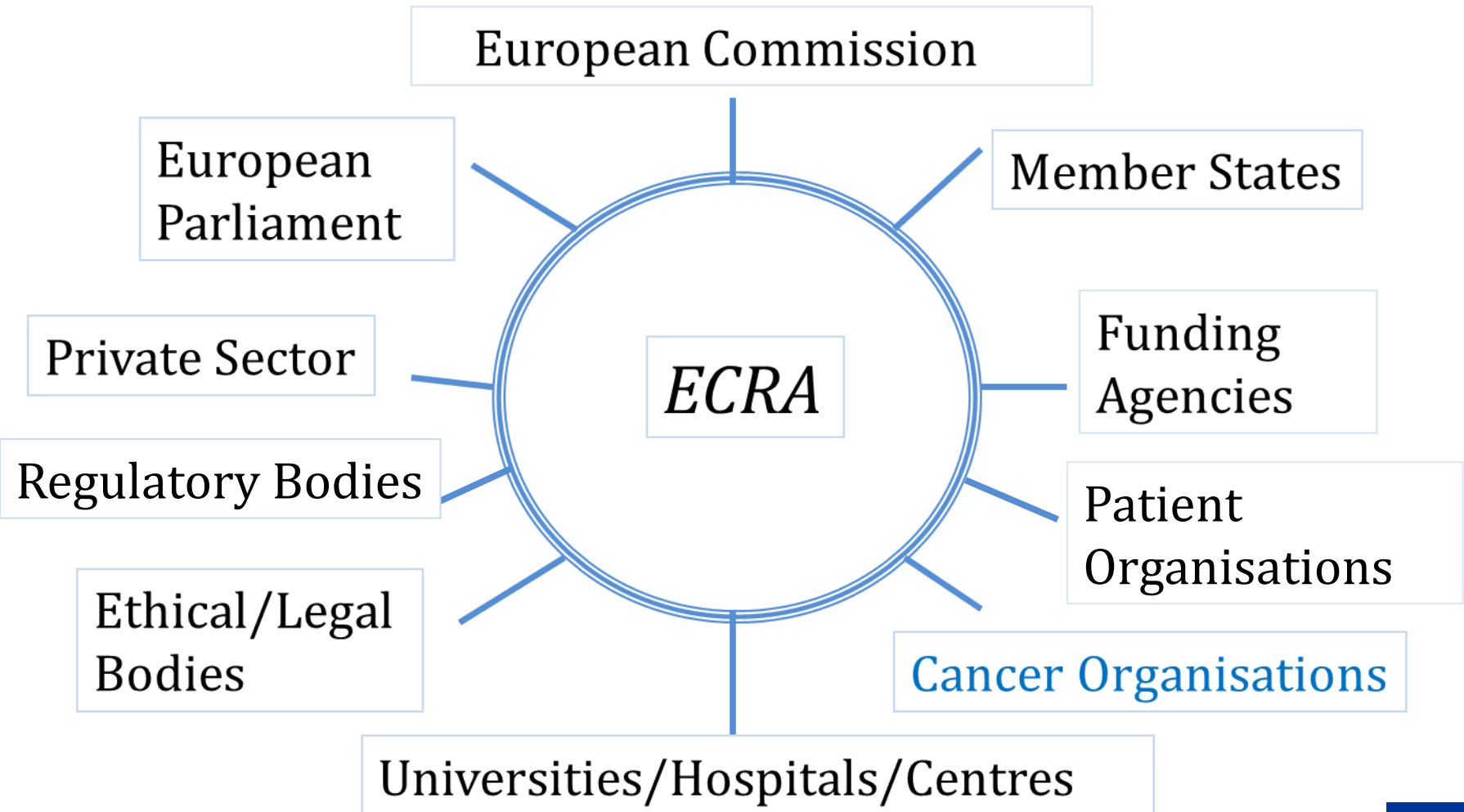
Topics to be addressed

- Key events leading to the funding of the EurocanPlatform Network of Excellence (2002-11)
- The EurocanPlatform Network of Excellence (2011-15): Participants and activities
- Cancer Core Europe (2014, therapeutics)
- Other geometries: Cancer Prevention Europe
- Conclusions and implications

The European Cancer Research Area

- In **2002**, Commissioner Philippe Busquin created the **European Cancer Research Area (ECRA)** as Europe did not have a strategy to meet the increasing burden posed by the disease. The European Parliament (EP) had supported increased funding for cancer research in FP6 (2002-2006), and the need to optimize the efforts to fight the disease in partnership was urgent.
- In the same year, the European Commission (EC) together with the EP organised a conference in Brussels titled “**Towards greater coherence in European Cancer Research**”, in an effort to identify why Europe was not delivering the outcomes awaited by healthcare professionals and patients.

European Cancer Research Area actors



P. Busquin: “ECRA will be what you make of it”



The Eurocan+Plus project

- Encouraged by the outcome of the conference, Commissioner Busquin set up in **2004** a **Working Group on the Coordination of Cancer Research in Europe**, to identify areas, topics, and research subjects with a significant level of activity in the Member States that could benefit from coordination at the European level.
- In the same year, the EC launched a call for proposals in FP6 that led to the funding of the **Eurocan+Plus project** in October **2005**. The project was expected to address issues of coordination of cancer research activities in Europe, and identify how improved coordination could be implemented through already existing support schemes (**ERA-net, Article 169 of the Treaty...**).

One of the main recommendations of the **Eurocan+Plus project (2008)** was the creation of a **“platform for translational cancer research”** composed of interlinked cancer centres with shared infrastructures and collaborative projects.

Pledge from cancer centres leaders : The Stockholm Declaration (2008)

- Stimulated by the outcome of the Eurocan+Plus project, the directors of 16 leading European cancer centres met in Stockholm in September **2008** to define the **“European platform for translational cancer research”** concept, and to discuss steps towards its implementation.
- To mark their commitment to work towards its realization, a manifesto called **“the Stockholm Declaration”** was published, clearly stating their intention **to join forces and share resources**. This key event as well meetings funded by cancer organisations led to the funding of the **EurocanPlatform Network of Excellence in 2011 (FP7)**.

The EurocanPlatform Network of Excellence (2011-15): Participants and activities

Participants (1)

- CNIO, Madrid
- NKI, Amsterdam
- Norwegian Radiumhospital..
- Cambridge Research Inst...
- Danish Cancer Society
- Inst Jules Bordet
- Erasmus... Rotterdam
- Manchester Cancer Res...
- EIO, Milan
- Istituto Nazionale... Milan
- Institute Curie, Paris
- IGR, Villejuif
- DKFZ, Heidelberg
- NIO, Budapest
- Oxford University
- IARC, Lyon
- EMBL, Heidelberg
- Karolinska Inst, Stockholm

Participants (2)

- ICR, Royal Marsden
- Leiden Univ Med center
- FIVO, Valencia
- Istituto tumori, Bari
- Vall d'Hebron, Barcelona
- eCancer.eu
- ECCO
- OECI
- ECPC
- EORTC

Work Packages cover the complete translational research continuum

- Scientific coordination – [DCS \(Julio Celis\)](#)
- Cancer risk assessment, prevention and long-term follow-up – [IARC \(Chris Wild\)](#)
- Early detection/biomarker discovery – [OUS, INT \(Anne-Lise Børresen-Dale, Marco Pierotti\)](#)
- Kinome analysis to guide therapy choice – [NKI \(René Bernards\)](#)
- Targeting the DNA damage response – [ICR \(Alan Ashworth\)](#)
- Therapeutic strategies – [VHIO \(Josep Taberner\)](#)
- Mouse tumour models – [CNIO \(Mariano Barbacid\)](#)

Work packages... cont.

- Bioinformatics/integration of information of pathway control – EMBL (Jan Korbel)
- Biobanking – EMC (Peter Riegman)
- Clinical epidemiology – DKFZ (Herrmann Brenner, Cornelia Ulrich)
- Quality assessment, accreditation and metrics – IGR, NKI (Mahasti Saghatchian, Wim van Harten)
- Education and training – NCC-Bari (Angelo Paradisi)
- Communication and dissemination – eCancer (Gordon McVie)
- Ethical issues – KI (Rolf Lewensohn)
- Management – KI (Ulrik Ringborg, Rolf Lewensohn)

Cancer Core Europe (2014, therapeutics)

Cancer Core Europe (CCE)

In July **2014**, six Cancer Centres belonging to the EurocanPlatform network signed a consortium agreement spearheaded by A. Eggermont and O. Wistler to establish

Cancer Core Europe

- Gustave Roussy Cancer Campus Grand Paris
- Cambridge Cancer Centre
- Karolinska Institutet
- Netherlands Cancer Institute
- Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology
- German Cancer Research Centre with its comprehensive cancer centre: the National Centre for Tumour Diseases

Objectives

A transformative initiative to:

- create a virtual European-wide cancer Institute
- carry out joint translational and clinical research
- conduct next-generation clinical trials
- to perform outcomes research

Critical mass of patients

Yearly:

- 60.000 newly diagnosed cancer patients are seen
- 300.000 cancer treatments are delivered
- About 1.000.000 outpatient visits are performed
- More than 1500 clinical trials are being conducted at the six centres

Create a virtual E-Hospital

CCE highlights

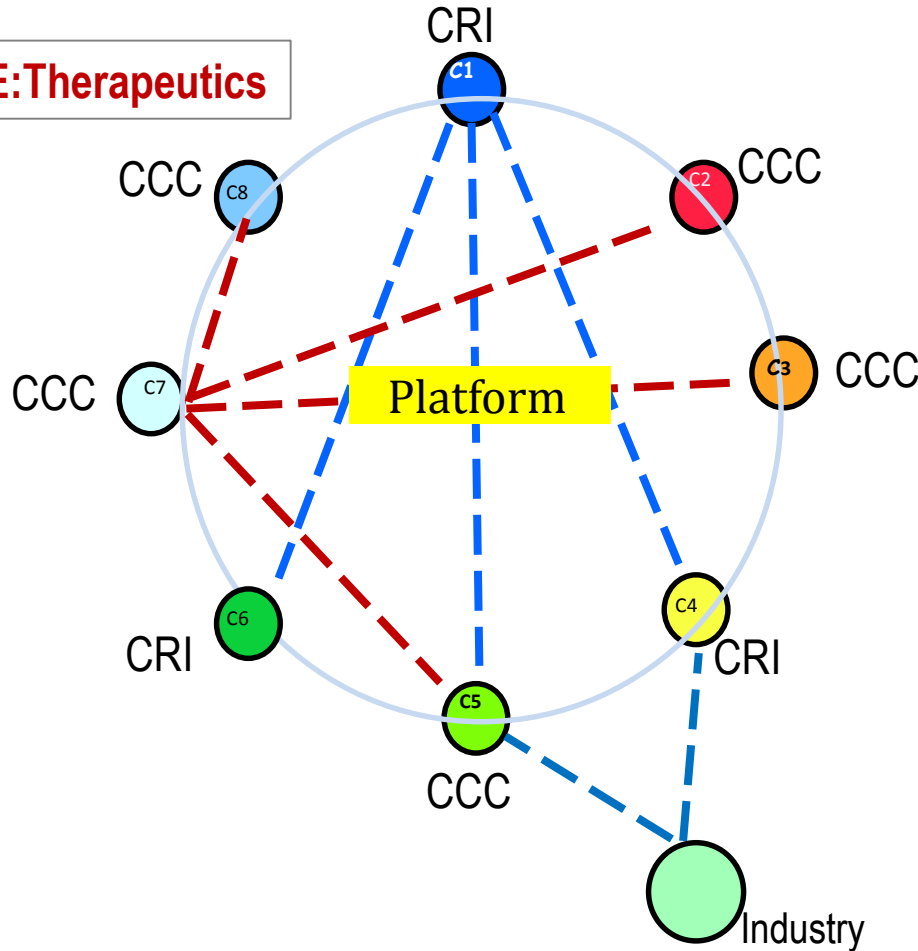
- Scientific, societal, and political relevance
- High volume of clinical research activity
- Critical mass of expertise and highly developed research infrastructures
- Complementarity in basic and translational cancer research
- Consortium agreement and CEO in place (Prof Fabien Calvo, former Deputy Director General of the National Cancer Institute, France)
- Attractive to the pharmaceutical industry
- Training
- Allocation of own resources to kick start the process
- Exclusive at the start in order to become inclusive in the long-term

Ongoing activities

- Establishing task forces (**Innovative Early Phase Clinical Trials** with new methodologies, **Functional Imaging**, **Data sharing**, **Harmonization of genomic analysis**)
- Program building
- Interaction with industry (different structures, bilateral interactions, multilateral cooperation)

Participation of additional centres

CCE:Therapeutics



The EurocanPlatform consortium in collaboration with the **European Academy of Cancer Sciences** has developed quality criteria and methodologies **for the designation of CCCs of excellence** in an effort to further quality assure cancer research centers. The methodology was tested in practice during the autumn 2014.

CCE sustainability

Sustainability of research actions and infrastructures is essential to ensure that discoveries are efficiently translated into meaningful clinical applications

- The first step has already been taken (**allocation of own resources to kick start the process**)
- The next step is to find **champions** among the corresponding **six Member States**, and to work with them and the **Commission** to define a methodology that would ensure sustainability in the long-term. Article 185 TFEU of the Treaty (ex art. 169 TFC) is a possibility as it enables the EU to participate in research programmes undertaken jointly by several Member States, including participation in the structures created for the execution of national programmes.

European Funding

- **KIC Innolife: Healthy Aging- improved health care**
 - Cancer Core Europe managed to get **Oncology** as one of 5 accepted themes
- **IMI** (projects are currently under discussion)
- **ERA-NET Transcan** (application in preparation)
- **H2020 calls**

Other geometries: Cancer Prevention Europe

Cancer Prevention Europe

Encouraged by the **CCE** developments, C. Wild at IARC is organising a meeting on **"Cancer Prevention Europe"** in Lyon, on 6-7 of July 2015. The purpose of the meeting is to produce a position paper that would describe a sustainable way forward to develop cancer prevention in Europe in the coming years.

Topics will include:

- What is included within the scope of "cancer prevention" in Europe?
- Why is cancer prevention in Europe important?
- What are the major gaps in cancer prevention in Europe?
- What are the major opportunities for cancer prevention in Europe?
- Who are the major stakeholders in cancer prevention in Europe (academic, clinical, national/international organizations etc)?
- What are the next steps to develop "Cancer Prevention Europe" as a twin-track together with "Cancer Core Europe"?



Conclusions and implications

- The establishment of the **Cancer Core Europe** - more than twelve years since the strategic developments triggered by the EC, the EP, and the cancer community – is a very important milestone in the quest towards accelerating the implementation of new discoveries and technologies into clinical practice.
- The eventual creation of a virtual ECI in the long-run may pave the way towards the establishment of a **European Institute(s) for Health Research**, similar to the NIH in the USA. This attractive possibility has already been considered by the **pharmaceutical industry**, the **EC**, as well as **biomedical organisations (BioMed Alliance, ECCO)** and will surely be a topic for discussions in the near future.

The final outcome of the EurocanPlatform will be presented at the last Annual Meeting that will take place on November 3, at the **Renaissance Brussels Hotel**

Thank you for your attention!



Together we can make a difference!!