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European Cancer Patient Coalition

The European Cancer Patient Coalition welcomes Europe's Beating Cancer Plan with its aim to improve the prevention, detection, treatment and management of cancer in the EU and reduce health inequalities between and within Member States. The plan sets forth actions that can support, coordinate or supplement the efforts of Member States within the remit of the EU in healthcare.

Our recommendations centre on multidisciplinary care, reimagining and restructuring the way that care is given in a manner that is inclusive of the entire cancer care pathway from prevention to survivorship care and presents what ECPC would like to be prioritised.

What type of feedback does the Commission seek?

The Commission has asked stakeholders to supplement the roadmap with ambitious yet realistic objectives in order to identify the most appropriate means and level of action in the priority areas identified.

[More on the roadmap here](#)

The European Cancer Patient Coalition's recommendations for Europe's Beating Cancer Plan:

ECPC welcomes an approach that is inclusive of the entire cancer care pathway and recommends the EU prioritize the following actions in each respective domain:

Primary prevention as the most cost-effective measure:

- Set standards and explore incentives to achieve equal levels of vaccination coverage for HPV and hepatitis B for both genders.
- Introduce more extensive legislation to counter carcinogenic exposure in the workplace, that includes non-melanoma skin cancer caused by solar UVR.

Secondary prevention or early detection with its significant effect on improving outcomes:

- Provide structural support to ensure the most effective screening rates for existing screening programmes.

Equal access to innovative treatments to reduce the cancer burden:

- Encourage and support the collaboration of Member States in the provision of comprehensive and multidisciplinary care by Comprehensive Cancer Care Networks (CCCNs). CCCNs ensure cost-effective structuring of cancer control with interconnected cancer centres, more equitable improvements in outcomes and translational research, linking research with clinical practice.
- Provide seed funding from the ESF (European Social Funds) and ERDF (European Development Funds) for the establishment and operation of CCCNs in underserved and cross-border regions, both to improve health outcomes and provide a proof of concept for wider implementation.
- Investigate the potential for the existing cross-border healthcare directive and related legislation to provide a legal framework for more effective rare cancer patient coverage through CCCNs modelled on the (ERNs) European Reference Networks, especially in cross-border and interregional care.
- Provide recommendations for Member States in order to implement ERNs into national healthcare systems and ensure their long-term sustainability, based on the JARC recommendations.
- Promote the use of teleconsultation and eHealth to ensure equal rare cancer patient coverage in rural and underserved areas.
- Support the approval of the HTA regulation, in order to speed-up reimbursement decisions on innovative treatments.

Survivorship, ensuring general well-being following a cancer diagnosis:

- Implement the policy recommendations on survivorship care from the Joint Action on Cancer Control (CanCon).
- Support equal access to quality survivorship care through the development of a new multidisciplinary integrative model that includes cancer rehabilitation (sexual, psychological, cognitive, nutritional as well as physical).
- Ensure cancer survivors and carers are able to return to work, access flexible work arrangements and enjoy the right to be forgotten, in line with the rights set forth in the European Pillar of Social Rights.
- Address survivorship with multidisciplinary integrated care offered through CCCNs and the implementation of cross-sectorial alliances and multi-sector solutions.
- To reduce social disparities, promote best-practices of co-financing and highlight existing social programmes that best address the needs of cancer patients, survivors, and their carers.
- Promote research on cancer related complications and comorbidities, and commission a survey by Eurostat on Survivorship in order to better understand the follow-up needs of those affected by cancer (e.g. personalised follow-up, late effect management and tertiary prevention).



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