



EUROPEAN UNION

EU MISSIONS

CANCER

Concrete solutions for our greatest challenges

EU Cancer Mission NCP Training

28 May 2025

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D1 – sector Cancer Mission - *Combatting Diseases*

DG Research and Innovation, European Commission

#EUmissions #HorizonEU #MissionCancer





EU Cancer Mission

Challenges

- **2.7 million people** in the EU are **diagnosed** each year (↑)
- **1.3 million people die** from cancer each year (↑)
- **Total cost of cancer** in Europe in 2018: €199 billion (↑)
- **Impact of COVID-19 pandemic** and war in Ukraine

Four Mission objectives

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

19 R&I priority areas, 5 transversal priorities:

equity, innovation, childhood cancer, personalised medicine, citizen engagement

Timeline: 2021-2031

EU-funding to date: EUR 488M

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)*

Concrete actions

- governance
- **UNCAN.eu data platform*** – blueprint published
- **European Cancer Prevention Centre** – **concept rejected**
- **Network of Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructures*** - started
- **Cancer Patient Digital Centre*** – blueprint published
- R&I and coordination support – 61 projects launched
- Synergies – at EU, national, regional, and local level



EU Cancer Mission & Europe's Beating Cancer Plan: close linkage research - cancer public health

- The Cancer Mission is **part of the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan**, key pillar of a strong **European Health Union**.
- The Mission **supports its implementation** and **links R&I and policy** by:
 - ✓ Generating **scientific evidence** in the areas of understanding, prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and quality of life;
 - ❖ Scientific Advise Mechanism RTD – cancer screening
 - ❖ Large R&I cancer portfolio since 1998 (FP5-now).
 - ✓ Engaging with **European citizens, including patients**;
 - ✓ Establishing National **Cancer Mission Hubs** in MS and AC;
 - ✓ Supporting three flagship initiatives (e.g. UNCAN.eu platform)





Boosting R&I actions at EU level & enhancing research capacities at national level

- ✓ **Investment of EUR 488 million into 61 innovative R&I projects** across the four Mission objectives (~95% of its total budget), with strong focus on rare/refractory cancers, incl. paediatric cancer;
 - Examples:
 - 12 R&I project to enhance understanding of cancer development
 - 18 R&I projects to test innovative approaches to prevention and screening tools
 - 17 international pragmatic clinical trials to optimise diagnostic and therapeutic interventions
 - Focus on quality of life (R&I projects, dialogue with young cancer survivors, policy reach out on palliative care)
- ✓ **Overall cancer research portfolio across Horizon Europe** investment of ~2 billion EUR (synergies with partnership Innovative Health Initiative, EIC, EIT-Health, other Horizon Europe missions)
- ✓ Building **synergies with EU4Health programme** (e.g. flagship initiatives, cancer screening)
- ✓ Creating digital **UNCAN.eu platform** to boost availability, use and re-use of research data
- ✓ Increasing **research activities of Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructures** through capacity building programme, supported by CCI4EU project (10M, started in 2023), and engagement with **European Investment Bank** to support “widening countries”.



Cancer Mission - WP2021-2024

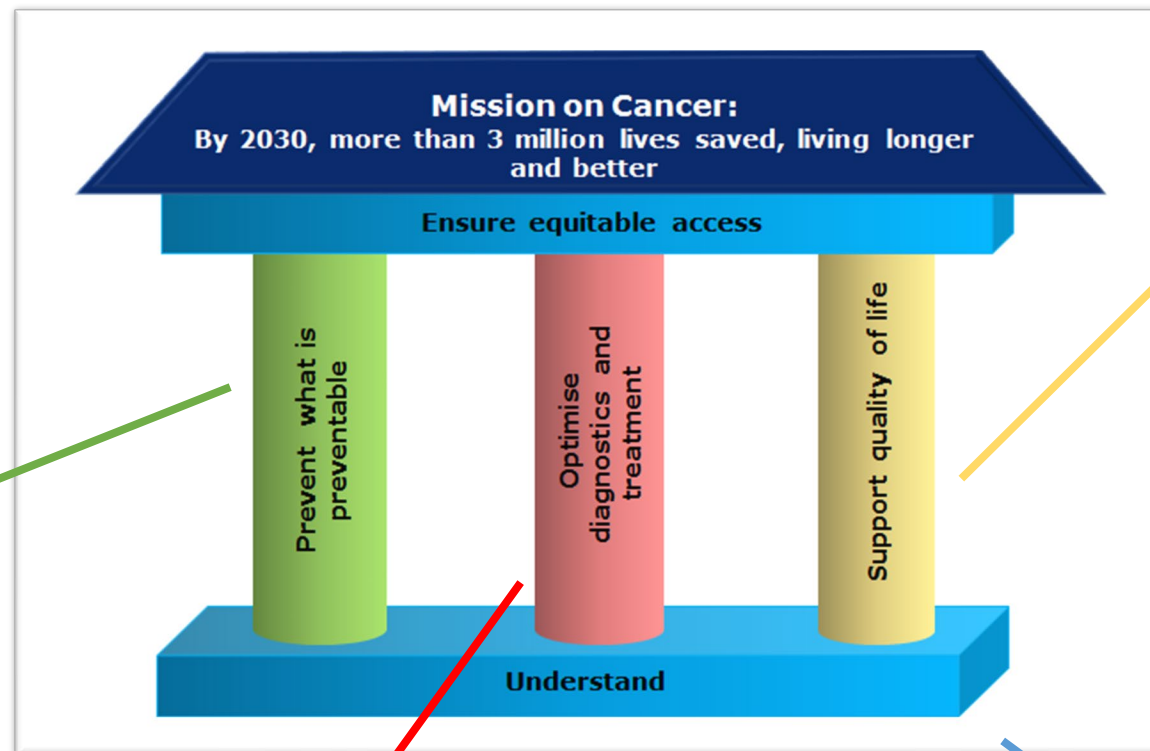
- Mission-guiding principles
- Mission clusters
- Synergy Europe's Beating Cancer Plan

Develop new methods and technologies for screening and early detection
HORIZON-MISS-2021-CANCER-02-01

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

Enhance cancer prevention through behaviour change
HORIZON-MISS-2023-CANCER-01-02

Early detection heritable cancers in European regions
HORIZON-MISS-2024-CANCER-01-03



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

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

Pragmatic clinical trials minimally invasive diagnostics
HORIZON-MISS-2023-CANCER-01-03

Support a pragmatic clinical trial programme by cancer charities
HORIZON-MISS-2024-CANCER-01-04

Creation of national cancer mission hubs - HORIZON-MISS-2022-CANCER-01-05

National cancer data nodes - HORIZON-MISS-2024-CANCER-01-02

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

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

Improve quality of life for survivors of childhood cancer (Best practices and tools)
HORIZON-MISS-2023-CANCER-01-04

Improving the understanding and management of late-effects in adolescents and young adults
HORIZON-MISS-2024-CANCER-01-05

An information portal for the European Cancer Patient Digital Centre
HORIZON-MISS-2024-CANCER-01-06

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

Better understand tumour-host interactions in cancer patients
HORIZON-MISS-2023-CANCER-01-01

Use cases for the UNCAN.eu research data platform
HORIZON-MISS-2024-CANCER-01-01



Linking European, national and individual levels

Engaging citizens and stakeholders on cancer R&I

- ✓ **Dialogue with Young Cancer Survivors** launched in 2023 informs research and policy needs, e.g. shaping of dedicated Mission topic on addressing side-effects
- ✓ **Bus Roadshow** pilot phase in 2024 in 3 countries demonstrated huge potential of community-based initiatives to promote behavioural changes; meaningful way to promote prevention by engaging citizens directly
- ✓ **Broad mobilisation** of cancer research and health communities, with many 'partnerships' created to amplify impact of Mission actions
- ✓ **Communication campaign in 2025** to increase outreach and engagement of stakeholders





Events:

☐ Launch of Polish National Cancer Mission Hub – Cancer Mission Fair

✓ 20-22 May 2025 – Warsaw

☐ Mission Conference: Together Against Cancer through Research and Innovation

✓ 17 June 2025, 09:00 - 17:15 (CEST), Warsaw, live streaming available

✓ Registration: [Events | The research and innovation community platform](#)

☐ Cancer Mission session at Osaka World Expo 2025

✓ 26 June 2025, 08:00 – 11:00 (CEST), Osaka, live streaming available (TBC)

☐ CCI4EU 3rd Conference - Effective Patient Pathways

✓ 15-16 Oct 2025 – Madrid (closing date for applications **30 June 2025**)

✓ Application: [Effective Patient Pathways - ESO - European School of Oncology](#)
Priority will be given to delegates from CCIs with a low maturity

☐ Publication of 3rd Mission newsletter

✓ [European Cancer Mission implementation newsletter](#)





Collaboration in mission clusters

- Projects are brought together in clusters
- Clusters are developed to build a portfolio of projects that address the goal of the mission on cancer.
- The clusters are linked to the Mission's objectives: (1) Understanding, (2) Prevention, incl. screening, (3) Diagnosis and treatment, and (4) Quality of life
- **Clusters – rationale and aims**
 - Support Mission objectives
 - Create added value
 - Increase impact of EU funding
 - Establish policy feedback loop
 - Increase the visibility of projects
 - **Identify what to work on together**
- **Clusters – EU-funded consortia and EC agree on areas of added value, such as:**
 - Data Management
 - Research & Innovation
 - Communication & Dissemination
 - Citizen Engagement
 - Addressing inequalities
 - Research Capacity Building
 - Cancer Mission Hubs

Footnote in mission WP2025: *In order to address the objectives of the Mission on Cancer, participants will collaborate in project clusters to leverage EU-funding, increase networking across sectors and disciplines, and establish a portfolio of Cancer Mission R&I and policy actions.*



Mission project clusters - update

1 - Cluster Understanding (risk factors & determinants)

– *launched Sept. 2022*

1 - Cluster Understanding (tumour-host interactions)

– *launched Sept. 2023*

2 - Cluster Prevention & early detection (screening)

- *launched Sept. 2022*

2 - Cluster Prevention & early detection (implementation research)

- *launched Jan. 2023*

2 - Cluster Prevention & early detection (behavioural change)

- *launched Sept. 2023*

2 Cluster Prevention & early detection (heritable cancers)*

- *launched Jan. 2025**

3 - Cluster Diagnosis and Treatment (refractory cancers)

- *launched Jan. 2023*

3 - Cluster Diagnosis & treatment (diagnostics)

- *launched Sept. 2023*

4 - Quality of Life

- *launched Sept. 2023*

4 - Quality of Life*

- *launched Jan. 2025**



Cancer Mission Project Clusters

Policy Webinars: 3 held

- Aim: bring together stakeholder and citizen perspectives on R&I and collaboration within the cluster to make better use of project results

4 July 2024: Understanding Cluster (Risk Factors & Determinants)

10 Dec 2024: Prevention & early detection cluster (Screening)

29 Apr 2025: Prevention & early detection cluster (implementation research & behavioural change)

Next webinars planned for cluster diagnosis and treatment and cluster quality of life (Q3-4 2025)





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Mission Work Programme 2025

**Closing date for applications:
16 September 2025**



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EU Cancer Mission Work Programme 2025

| Topic | Budget | Type of Action | Lump sum |
|--|--------|----------------|----------|
| HORIZON-MISS-2025-02-CANCER-01: Sustained collaboration of national and regional cancer funders to support the Cancer Mission through translational research | €5m | CSA | Yes |
| HORIZON-MISS-2025-02-CANCER-02: Understanding the effects of environmental exposure on the risk of paediatric, adolescent and young adult cancers | €30.45 | RIA | |
| HORIZON-MISS-2025-02-CANCER-03: Innovative surgery as the cornerstone of affordable multi-modal therapeutic interventions benefitting cancer patients with locally advanced or metastatic disease | €31 | RIA | |
| HORIZON-MISS-2025-02-CANCER-04: Investigator-initiated multinational early-stage innovative clinical trials for paediatric cancer | €25 | RIA | Yes |
| HORIZON-MISS-2025-02-CANCER-05: Pragmatic clinical trials to enhance the quality of life of older cancer patients (65 years and older) through nutrition | €15 | RIA | |
| HORIZON-MISS-2025-02-CANCER-06: Support to the network of National Cancer Mission Hubs (NCMHs) | €11 | CSA | Yes |
| HORIZON-MISS-2025-06-CIT-CANCER-01: Increasing walking and cycling: to reap health benefits, emission reductions and integrate active mobility and micro-mobility devices, with smart technologies and infrastructure | €12 | IA | Yes |



Cancer Mission – portfolio, project clusters, citizen engagement, and end-user involvement

- Proposals will be evaluated on scientific merits - see Horizon Europe evaluation criteria, **portfolio approach**, **overall threshold 12**:
- 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 => work in **project clusters**.
- **Citizen (including patients and caregivers) engagement**: civil society, patient and caregiver organisations and communities should be consistently addressed. Avoid focus on a limited number of patient advocacy organisations.
- Mission topics will include **end-user** engagement. Examples of end-user engagement using participative 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://gni.us.esante.gouv.fr/en/players/player-profiles/living-lab-institut-national-du-cancer>
 - Living Lab at IrsiCaixa AIDS Research Institute (ES): <https://www.scishops.eu/case-study-living-lab-for-health-spain/>
 - European Network of Living Labs (ENoLL): <https://enoll.org/>
- **End-users**: citizens, cancer centres, national and regional health authorities and services, local communities (e.g. **schools**, cities).
- **Closing date: 16 September 2025**



HORIZON-MISS-2025-02-CANCER-01: Sustained collaboration of national and regional cancer funders to support the Cancer Mission through translational research

- Type of Action: **CSA**
- Budget (EUR million): **5**
- Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million): **5**
- Indicative number of projects expected to be funded: **1**
- Legal/financial set up of grant agreements: **lump sum**

This topic will contribute to the achievement of Mission objective *Understanding*.



Expected outcomes

- National and regional cancer funders across Europe (i.e. representing Northern, Southern, Central, Eastern and Western Europe), based on a common strategic research and innovation agenda, deliver:
 - 1. At least four transnational calls for proposals addressing translational cancer research, resulting in collaborative grants to academic investigator-led third parties;
 - 2. Streamlined national, regional and foundation-based or charity-based practices in organising peer-reviewed translational cancer research and innovation funding between the partners, with attention to exploring novel funding schemes and initiatives as well as sustainability of a network of funders where appropriate;



Scope

The EU contribution will **not** be used to co-fund the grants to third parties described hereunder.

- Align, coordinate and support efforts from and between **national and regional public and private research funding** programmes on translational cancer research to issue at least **four** joint transnational calls which are integrated with the Cancer Mission and the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan;
- **Pool the necessary financial resources** from the participating national and regional research programmes as well as, where appropriate, leverage resources from pertinent foundations, charities and transnational initiatives, to support at least four joint transnational calls for proposals which are integrated with the Cancer Mission and the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, while avoiding overlaps with EU-funded research under Horizon Europe;
- Demonstrate the potential impact of collaboration between national and regional transnational research and innovation programmes, as well as **demonstrate a leverage** effect on European and national research and competitiveness using key indicators;
- Consider **novel funding schemes** and **joint activities** such as analyses of research and innovation funding programmes, impact, dissemination, citizen (including cancer patients), engagement, and training;
- Datasets produced by collaborative grants to academic investigator-led third parties should be made FAIR whenever possible, while tools and models should follow the principles of open science, taking advantage of current European research infrastructures and supporting the future UNCAN.eu research data platform.



HORIZON-MISS-2025-02-CANCER-02:

Understanding the effects of environmental exposure on the risk of paediatric, adolescent and young adult cancers

- Type of Action: **RIA**
- Budget (EUR million): **30,2**
- Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million): **6 to 7**
- Indicative number of projects expected to be funded: **5**

This topic contributes to the Cancer Mission objectives by improving the understanding of the impact of environmental exposures, including their interaction with other relevant factors, on cancer onset and progression and/or other relevant health outcomes along the cancer patient journey.



Scope

The applicants should address several of the following activities:

- Identify, validate and document different types (and/or combinations) of biomarkers for the development of robust quantitative measures of the effects of cumulative environmental exposures associated with cancer onset;
- Elaborate and test cost effective approaches for measuring biomarkers of cumulative environmental exposure in large paediatric, adolescent and young adult populations, also by applying new analytical tools and novel methods of analysis;
- Identify individual signatures (e.g. based on genetic, epigenetic, multi-omic characteristics), and time windows conferring susceptibility to environmental hazards associated with cancer onset and progression in children, adolescent and young adults at different stages of the life course;
- Identify clinical states, lifestyle and socio-economic factors and circumstances that increase the risk of adverse health outcomes associated with exposure to environmental hazards in different time windows in young cancer patients;
- Develop new tools and methods to combine and analyse multimodal data, including the application of novel data-intensive methods of analysis, while ensuring interoperability with the future UNCAN.eu research platform and taking advantage of current European Research Infrastructures.



Expected outcomes

Project results are expected to contribute to some of the following expected outcomes:

- Researchers and health professionals will advance our understanding on how environmental, genetic and epigenetic, omics and other factors interact in determining the onset and development of cancers in children, adolescents and young adults and how they impact health outcomes in young cancer patients.
- Policymakers and public health authorities have scientific evidence to improve prevention strategies to minimise the impacts of environmental factors on the development and progression of paediatric, adolescent and young adult cancers.
- Researchers, innovators, and professionals from across different disciplines and sectors will support and contribute to the future UNCAN.eu research data platform by ensuring interoperability of data, new digital tools and models



HORIZON-MISS-2025-02-CANCER-03: Innovative surgery as the cornerstone of affordable multi-modal therapeutic interventions benefitting cancer patients with locally advanced or metastatic disease

- Type of Action: **RIA**
- Budget (EUR million): **31**
- Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million): **7-10**
- Indicative number of projects expected to be funded: **4**

This topic will contribute to the achievement of Mission objective *Diagnosis and Treatment*.



- Validate innovative **surgery-centred**, multi-modal treatment interventions to treat cancer patients with **locally advanced or metastatic disease**. When appropriate, investigators should consider minimally-invasive surgical treatment interventions combined with either relevant medical devices or other multimodal treatment interventions;
- The chosen surgery-centred intervention(s) should be validated through **academic investigator-initiated clinical trials**. Translational research is **limited** to supporting the conduct and analyses of the proposed clinical trial(s);
- Data should be disaggregated by sex, gender, age and other relevant variables, such as by measures of socio-economic status or ethnicity;
- The primary and secondary endpoints of the clinical trial(s) should support **overall survival, patient-reported outcomes and quality of life issues**. Such endpoints should be defined together with patients and their caregivers through research that stimulates social innovation and supports **end-user engagement using participative research models**;
- The chosen surgery-centred treatment intervention(s) should be **adapted to the needs of the target population and the specificities of healthcare provision** at local, regional, or national level, duly reflecting the **(cultural) diversity and available resources** across Member States and Associated Countries.
- Affordability of the chosen surgery-centred treatment intervention(s) should be demonstrated via a cost-effectiveness analysis.
- Include an appropriate mix of stakeholders from various disciplines and sectors, **such as** physicians, academia, patients and their caregivers, patient representatives, SMEs, insurance companies, engineers, physicists, charities, foundations, research and innovation organisations, civil society, regional as well as national health authorities;
- All datasets produced should be described with metadata records in the EU dataset catalogue of the European Health Data Space while all tools and models should take advantage of current European research infrastructures, should follow the principles of open science and be made available through the future UNCAN.eu platform



Expected outcomes

- Patients have access to tailored, affordable, effective and—when appropriate—minimally-invasive **surgery-centred**, multi-modal treatment interventions targeting **locally advanced or metastatic disease**;
- Researchers, innovators, SMEs and other professionals from different disciplines and sectors have access to innovative **surgery-centred treatment, technology and medical devices** for further improvements and validation;
- National healthcare providers, policymakers and authorities in **European regions, Member States and Associated Countries** have the evidence to implement affordable surgery-centred treatment solutions that benefit cancer patients with locally advanced or metastatic disease in **their healthcare systems**;



HORIZON-MISS-2025-02-CANCER-04: Investigator-initiated multinational early-stage innovative clinical trials for paediatric cancer

- Type of Action: **RIA**
- Budget (EUR million): **25**
- Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million): **6 to 8**
- Indicative number of projects expected to be funded: **3-4**
- Evaluation portfolio approach, networking & project cluster
- Legal/financial set up of grant agreements: **lump sum**

This topic will contribute to the achievement of the Mission's objective to provide better treatments for cancer.

The focus is on **children** (0-14 years of age, e.g. age of first cancer diagnosis) and/or **adolescents** (15-19 years of age, e.g. age of first cancer diagnosis) cancer patients.



HORIZON-MISS-2025-02-CANCER-04: Investigator-initiated multinational early-stage innovative clinical trials for paediatric cancer

Scope

- Design and conduct **innovative investigator-initiated multinational early-stage clinical trials**, (phase 1 and 1/2) to accelerate the development of safe, effective, targeted cancer treatments for children and/or adolescents with cancer. Focus should be on **cancers with poor prognosis** (e.g. with a 5-year overall survival less than 50% from time of diagnosis) at any stage of the disease and for any type.
- Trials should take into account socio-economic and biological stratification. All data should be disaggregated by sex, gender, age and other relevant variables.
- Develop innovative clinical tools (**companion diagnostics**) to assess tumour response, tailored to childhood and adolescent cancers, enabling an accurate evaluation of treatment outcomes, monitoring of long-term effects of treatment, and identification of potential risks such as second cancers, thereby improving overall patient care.
- Ultimately, provide scientific evidence to deliver **affordable and accessible treatments for children and adolescents with cancer** to be implemented by healthcare systems at the level of local communities, European regions, Member States and Associated Countries.
- All datasets produced should be described with metadata records in the EU dataset catalogue of the European Health Data Space, while all tools and models should take advantage of current European research infrastructures, should follow the principles of open science and made available through the future UNCAN.eu platform



HORIZON-MISS-2025-02-CANCER-04: Investigator-initiated multinational early-stage innovative clinical trials for paediatric cancer

Expected outcomes

- Children and adolescents with cancer have **access to innovative, more effective, less toxic treatments** - both in terms of acute toxicity and long-term late effects- and care solutions.
- National healthcare providers, policymakers and authorities in European regions, Member States and Associated Countries have the **scientific evidence to accelerate the implementation of affordable and accessible treatment** and care solutions in their healthcare systems.
- Researchers, innovators, and professionals from different disciplines and sectors ensure **accessibility and re-usability of relevant trial data**, to support the future UNCAN.eu research data platform, which is currently in preparation.



HORIZON-MISS-2025-02-CANCER-05: Pragmatic clinical trials to enhance the quality of life of older cancer patients (65 years and older) through nutrition

- Type of Action: **RIA**
- Budget (EUR million): **15**
- Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million): **3-5**
- Indicative number of projects expected to be funded: **4**

This topic will contribute to the achievement of Mission objective *Quality of Life*.



Expected outcomes

- Older cancer patients have access to and benefit from tailored nutritional care-oriented interventions as part of routine treatment or care interventions, which improves treatment outcomes, alleviates disease symptoms and side effects and enhances their survival and quality of life;
- National healthcare providers, policymakers and authorities in European regions, Member States and Associated Countries have the evidence to implement tailored nutritional care as part of routine cancer treatment or care interventions in their healthcare systems, including in everyday medical practice.



Scope

Pragmatic clinical trials address treatment optimisation by evaluating treatment effectiveness, i.e. the effect of treatment in routine (real-world) clinical practice

- Conduct randomised or cluster-randomised academic investigator-initiated pragmatic clinical trials to validate tailored nutritional care-oriented interventions as part of routine cancer treatment or care, which could include physical activity or psychosocial support, for older cancer patients (65 years and older);
- Translational research is limited to supporting the conduct and analyses of the proposed clinical trial(s). Trials should consider biological stratification of the patient population to be enrolled. All data should be disaggregated by sex, gender, age, and other relevant variables, such as by measures of socio-economic status or ethnicity;
- The chosen nutritional care-centred intervention(s) should be adapted to the needs of older cancer patients and to the specificities of the provision of care at local, regional, or national level, duly reflecting the (cultural) diversity across Member States and Associated Countries. Furthermore, affordability and accessibility should be considered;
- The primary and secondary endpoints of the pragmatic clinical trial(s) should support overall survival, patient-reported outcomes and quality of life issues. Such endpoints should be defined together with older patients and their caregivers through research that stimulates social innovation and supports end-user engagement using participative research models;
- Include an appropriate mix of stakeholders from various disciplines and sectors, such as physicians, academia, patients and their caregivers, patient representatives, dietitians, nutritionists, behavioural scientists, SMEs, insurance companies, charities and foundations, research organisations, civil society, regional and national health authorities;
- All datasets produced should be described with metadata records in the EU dataset catalogue of the European Health Data Space while all tools and models should take advantage of current European research infrastructures, should follow the principles of open science and be made available through the future UNCAN.eu platform.



HORIZON-MISS-2025-02-CANCER-06: Support to the network of National Cancer Mission Hubs (NCMHs)

- Type of Action: **CSA**
- Budget (EUR million): **11**
- Expected EU contribution per project: (EUR million): **11**
- Indicative number of projects: **1**
- Legal/financial set up of grant agreements: **lump sum**

This topic will contribute to the continuation of the work to support the creation of a network of National Cancer Mission Hubs



HORIZON-MISS-2025-02-CANCER-06: Support to the network of National Cancer Mission Hubs (NCMHs)

Scope

Building on the first phase of NCMHs:

The proposal should address all of the following:

- Enhance the capacity of NCMHs in the Member States and Associated Countries, through knowledge exchange and training, and **expanding the geographical outreach of the NCMHs activities in each country**;
- Support the Networks' work such as coordination of joint activities of NCMHs and awareness raising of the Cancer Mission activities including coordination of EU cancer research activities and policy actions;
- Develop a methodology on mission-driven implementation of Mission actions with a view to building synergies at national and regional levels;
- Support the engagement of relevant national, regional or local actors, including civil society as well as business and legal advisors, including those who haven't been involved previously, in regular thematic policy dialogues and country-specific dialogues on cancer to increase the impact of EU cancer-related R&I and policies at national, regional and local level;
- **Organise regular citizen engagement activities**, at least one per year related to the objectives of the Mission, such as on prevention or screening and/or organise activities for a country or a number of countries using **tools and materials developed by the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies** in each Member State and Associated Country, with a view to increase awareness and participation in policy discussions;



HORIZON-MISS-2025-02-CANCER-06: Support to the network of National Cancer Mission Hubs (NCMHs)

- Develop strategies for NCMHs to reach **long-term sustainability** and to create a level of interest from stakeholders including from **philanthropy, to attract private funding beyond EU programmes in support of NCMHs**;
- Disseminate the results of NCMHs Networks' activities, through organisation of a **yearly conference** and development of policy reports;
- Provide a yearly summary **report of national Mission-related activities** to contribute to the monitoring of progress of the Mission implementation at national and regional levels;
- Organise regular exchanges of best practices between the NCMHs and hubs of the other four missions, e.g. in the area of stakeholder and citizen engagement, long-term sustainability of mission hubs, and building of synergies;
- Work closely with Horizon Europe National Contact Points to enhance their activities, such as raising awareness about Cancer Mission funding activities through information events (e.g. info-days, conferences, mutual-learning events, brokerage events, and fairs) and communication tools. Collaborate closely with Cancer Mission Board members to engage new stakeholders, and to mobilise and align additional funding in support of NCMHs;
- Work closely with relevant international institutions and initiatives addressing science policy interaction relevant to the Cancer Mission, including relevant OECD initiatives aiming at strengthening evidence-informed policy making for mission-oriented innovation (e.g. contributing to the Community of Practice through mutual learning, workshops and networking initiatives);
- Establish appropriate collaboration with the consortium implementing HORIZON MISS-2024-CANCER-01-06 (EU-CIP) for joint activities such as dissemination and outreach related to the national nodes of the European Cancer Patient Digital Centre (ECPDC)



HORIZON-MISS-2025-02-CANCER-06: Support to the network of National Cancer Mission Hubs (NCMHs)

Expected Outcome

- The Network and NCMHs are supported to ensure the integration of Cancer Mission activities at national, regional, and local levels;
- Stakeholders, including patients and citizens, in national, regional or local health and research and innovation systems engage in policy dialogues on cancer;
- Citizens, including patients, are involved in citizen engagement activities, including their design and development, which will lead to recommendations being made to governments, helping to implement and adapt strategies to national and regional needs;
- Regional and national policy makers and authorities benefit from activities carried out in the implementation of Cancer Mission actions.



HORIZON-MISS-2025-06-CIT-CANCER-01: Increasing walking and cycling: to reap health benefits, emission reductions and integrate active mobility and micro-mobility devices, with smart technologies and infrastructure

- Type of Action: **IA**
- Budget (EUR million): **12**
- Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million): **6**
- Indicative number of projects expected to be funded: **2**
- **Eligibility conditions:** At least five legal entities which are 'lead cities' and five legal entities which are 'follower cities' must participate, as beneficiaries, each established in a different Member State or Associated Country. In addition, at least half of the 'lead and follower' city beneficiaries must be among the 112 cities selected for the EU Mission on Climate-neutral and Smart Cities.
- If projects use satellite-based earth observation, positioning, navigation and/or related timing data and services, beneficiaries must make use of Copernicus and/or Galileo/EGNOS (other data and services may additionally be used).
- **TRL: 7-8**
- Legal/financial set-up grant agreements: **lump sum**

This topic will contribute to the achievement of Mission objective *Prevention and early detection*.



Proposals are expected to address all of the following:

- improve the quality, safety, quantity, accessibility, continuity and attractiveness of walking and cycling infrastructure by:
 - Providing an updated state of the art of the uptake of walking and cycling policies, programmes and projects in urban, transport, research, and health strategies and plans as well as of their socio-economic, environmental and **health benefits** resulting from their demonstrated potential in emission reduction.
 - Preparing cycling and walking infrastructure network plans which foster multimodality by linking cycling and walking with other modes of transport, in particular public transport, and by improving network and traffic flow management.
 - Develop case studies and identify best practices particularly focused on quality, safety, quantity, accessibility, continuity and attractiveness of walking/pedestrian and cycling infrastructure.
- improve integration and modal share of active mobility:
 - **Developing a case study to identify how walking and cycling can help to improve symptoms and quality of life of cancer patients.**
 - Looking at the integration of walking and cycling policies and projects in urban development, transport-research and health strategies and plans through a comparative analysis across at least 10 EU cities, selected by taking into account geographical balance, size and population as well as different levels in the uptake of active mobility.
 - Demonstrating in new and/or existing living labs innovative solutions to increase the modal share of active mobility, including through testing tactical urbanism measures in real-life urban spaces.
 - **Test behavioural change regarding the uptake of walking and cycling among different populations through implementation research. Identify and address specific bottlenecks and barriers that prevent the uptake of behavioural change.**
 - Fostering the exchange of knowledge, experience and best practices about the implementation and upscale of innovative solutions for walking and cycling that could be replicated and upscaled among cities.
 - Supporting the development of local, regional and national active mobility policies, and their implementation across cities participating in the action, leading at least to a 30% increase in the modal share of walking and cycling within follower cities and thus contributing to the implementation of related EU policies and in particular of the European Declaration on Cycling.



Scope

- use smart technologies and integration in traffic management systems/traffic light management at local/regional/national level, including in the new “smart” infrastructure:
 - Exploring conditions and infrastructure requirements for the integration of e-bikes and micro-mobility devices in traffic management systems/traffic light management.
 - Identifying and testing use cases to extend connected vehicles technology (C-ITS) to cycling, micro-mobility, bike sharing etc. to enhance the contribution of these transport modes to a sustainable urban mobility system.
 - Exploring conditions for a wider uptake of smart technologies in the cycling/micromobility sector taking into account the latest legislative developments and building on results from previous European R&I projects
- coordination/exchange/capacity building for increasing the uptake of active mobility by:
 - Supporting further coordination, exchange of experience and best practices, including training and capacity building activities, as well as co-creation and citizens engagement activities, taking into account the different levels of experience and development of walking and cycling strategies across Europe.
 - Involve a variety of actors, including e.g. local/regional/national transport, **research and health authorities**, **cancer charities**, academia, public transport authorities and operators, urban mobility practitioners, shared mobility service providers, **citizen associations**, stakeholder organisations, and industry associations and representatives.



Expected outcomes

- Cities advance in achieving their climate neutrality targets and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport by at least 15%, by promoting and implementing walking and cycling and by incorporating walking, cycling and micro-mobility infrastructure and services (e.g. bicycles, e-bikes and e-scooters) in multimodal transport networks;
- Increased modal share of walking and cycling in follower cities, in particular increased number of daily trips on foot and by bike, by at least 30%;
- Increased integration of (e)bikes and -e-scooters (and other “intelligent” micromobility vehicles) through the digital and green road infrastructure by extending the work on Cooperative Intelligent Transport Systems (C-ITS) to them in order to increase their modal share as well as their safety;
- As a feedback to EU research, health and transport policy, a comprehensive EU guidance on increasing (1) walking, (2) cycling, and (3) micro-mobility in cities is developed, including:

concrete measures for improving the quality, safety, quantity, continuity and attractiveness of pedestrian/walking and cycling infrastructure;

improved integration of walking, cycling and micro-mobility in transport models and traffic management urban systems/traffic light management at local/regional/national level;

concrete measures for industry and city planners to use smart technologies to bring about healthy behavioural change for getting more people into active modes of transport;

support and guidance for urban transport authorities to establish partnerships with the relevant local/regional/national **health authorities to promote active mobility projects and solutions that demonstrate quantified health benefits** for the city population. In particular **through implementation research on cancer prevention by increasing physical activity and reducing obesity and how walking and cycling can improve symptoms and side effects of cancer patients.**



References

- **EU Mission on Cancer**
 - [Cancer Mission implementation \(europea.eu\)](https://europea.eu)
 - Horizon Europe rules apply (see information on participation of Associated and Third countries)
 - Please read the [Implementation Plan](#) before you apply:
 - [Commission Communication](#) with [Implementation plan](#) (29 September 2021)
 - [Horizon Europe mission work programme 2025](#) (published on 21 May)
 - 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
- [Horizon Europe Health Partnerships and Innovative Health Initiative](#)
- [Europe's Beating Cancer Plan](#) and [EU4Health programme](#)
- [Digital Europe programme](#)
- [Euratom Research and Training Programme](#)
- [EIT-Health KIC](#)
- [Knowledge Centre on Cancer \(KCC\)](#)
- [HaDEA](#)



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Thank you!

For any further question visit the EU Funding & Tenders Portal to:

- Check the [FAQ](#)
- Contact the [Research Enquiry Service \(RES\)](#)
- Contact your [National Contact Points \(NCPs\)](#)
- For further information on the Mission RTD-SANTE-CANCER-MISSION@ec.europa.eu **visit:** [Cancer Mission implementation](#)

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