

# A New EU Multiannual Financial Framework that Preserves and Enhances EU Cancer Policy Action

A European Cancer Organisation Briefing



## EUROPE'S BEATING CANCER PLAN IS WORKING NOW SECURE ITS FUTURE !

The EU is planning its next seven-year budget for 2028–2034. With the removal of the EU4Health funding programme, concern is raised that EU initiatives like Europe's Beating Cancer Plan will lose their place and a near-decade of progress on EU cancer action could be lost. However, with timely intervention the proposed new structures could be amended. The following briefing from the European Cancer Organisation (ECO) provides recommendations on the way forward.

## SECURING HEALTH & CANCER IN THE MAJOR FUNDS

### Competitiveness Fund (€450 bn)

The proposed new EU Competitiveness Fund features health as part of a pillar on 'Health, Biotech, Agriculture and Bioeconomy' (€22.6 bn).

Placing such distinct policy agendas into a single bracket risks successful policy agendas of the EU, such as Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, being lost within a sea of competing demand.

To mitigate this, ECO recommends a dedicated **2 bn European Cancer Fund** be established to guarantee full implementation of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan.



### Horizon Europe (€175 bn)

It is welcome that Horizon Europe's budget will double. The future new 'moonshots' are also a positive inspiration from the EU Research Mission on Cancer.

ECO recommends:

- Sustaining the **EU Research Mission on Cancer into the future**. This can be achieved by confirming cancer as one of the future 2030 'Moonshots'
- Enhancing the coordination of EU cancer research funding by considering the construction of a **European Cancer Institute**, or similar body, to oversee this work.



### National & Regional Partnership Plans (NRPPs)

Approximately **€865 billion of EU funding** will be allocated in the next MFF via NRPPs. At least 14% of the NRPP budget must go to social objectives.

ECO recommends:

- **Explicitly recognising health and oncology care as social objectives achievable through NRPP investment**, including support for long-term cancer infrastructure such as vaccination and screening programmes, capital equipment, workforce development, and robust oncology data systems.
- **Raising the target for social objective funding in any future arrangement be from 14% to 20%** in order to guarantee a robust and adequate social budget.

This builds on successful similar examples of use from the Covid Recovery and Resilience Fund.



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## ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR HEALTH & CANCER IN THE MFF

### Support for Global Health

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has recently committed to the construction of a new EU Global Health Initiative.

This demonstrates Europe stepping into the leadership gap created from the USA's withdrawal from the WHO.

ECO recommends that the Global Health Initiative **be used to help accelerate internationally HPV and hepatitis related cancer elimination**, building on successful cross-border tools and initiatives already developed by Europe's Beating Cancer Plan.



### New Own Resources

The MFF proposal includes a suggestion that a **Tobacco Excise Duty Own Resource (TEDOR)** be developed as a new source of EU revenue, generating €11.2 billion annually on average.

This is supported by the European Cancer Organisation, including for the much needed action it heralds on novel tobacco products.

A new debate on Own Resources has started. ECO recommends investigation of similar fiscal measures across the European Union, such as **sugar-sweetened beverage (SSB) taxes**.



## EUROPE BY NUMBERS

- In 2022, approximately **€2.7 million people in the EU** were diagnosed with cancer, and cancer-related deaths rose to an estimated **€1.3 million** (ECIS, 2020).
- In 2018, the total cost of cancer in Europe reached **€199 billion**, including lost productivity, informal care costs, premature mortality and morbidity (Hofmarcher et al. 2020).

## WHAT WE CALL FOR

1. **Guarantee a dedicated €2 billion cancer fund** to fully implement Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, renew the Cancer Mission, and enshrine cancer as a top policy and budget priority in all future EU frameworks.
2. **Commit to a European policy establishing a European Cancer Institute** to coordinate and amplify research, innovation, and policy across Member States.
3. **Recognise health and oncology care** as social objectives eligible for investment under the EU's National Recovery and Resilience Plans (NRRPs).

## SUPPORT OUR CAMPAIGN!

The next months of negotiations will be decisive. As the cancer community, we need to remind policymakers of the real potential of an EU with a strong shared vision on health, with Europe's Beating Cancer Plan as the demonstration model.

**Start here: sign the Larnaka Call – here and now!**

