

Next Level EU Cancer Survivorship and Quality-of-Life Policy

A Reflection on Progress and Gaps: Are We Doing Enough?

To address the survivorship and quality-of-life needs of people living with and beyond cancer and their carers and families, it is recommended that EU institutions:

1. Ensure continuity and legacy of the EU's cancer policy framework post-2027
2. Embed cancer survivorship and quality-of-life investment in the next EU Multi-annual Financial Framework for 2028-2034
3. Establish a coordinating mechanism for EU cancer research action, such as in the form of a **European Cancer Institute**, with a broad mandate including addressing gaps in survivorship research and related implementation research, while also pursuing other missions, to ensure cancer survivorship and quality-of-life remain a sustained European priority
4. Develop and adopt **EU Council recommendations on quality-of-life in cancer systems**, with a focus on practical, measurable goals:
 - *Encouraging Member States to include screening for distress and quality-of-life assessments for people affected by cancer – patients, survivors, caregivers, and bereaved individuals – in national health surveys*
 - *Promoting survivorship assessment and care planning in line with clinical guidelines and quality cancer care recommendations*
 - *Setting up regular EU reporting, tracking progress and supporting implementation*
 - *Commissioning JRC guidelines on quality-of-life services for those living with and beyond cancer, aligned with Council recommendations*
 - *Embedding quality-of-life in national cancer care quality assurance frameworks*
 - *Promoting further development of quality-of-life measurement and collection of patient reported outcomes measurements*
5. Maintain and strengthen **binding legislative momentum at national and EU level** to protect cancer survivors from unfair financial discrimination and implement a Right to be Forgotten, ensuring that existing and future laws are fully implemented and enforced across Member States
6. **Conduct studies on the economic impact of sub-optimal support for quality-of-life** in cancer systems, mobilising existing quality-of-life measurement tools to inform policy and investment decisions
7. Increase activities to **heighten employer awareness across Europe of good practices and legal obligations to support the Return-to-Work needs of cancer survivors**, and utilise any future updates to EU employment directives to support progress in this policy area
8. Maintain and further develop established cancer survivorship tools

and initiatives – such as the **Cancer Survivor Smartcard App ('SmartCARE')**, the **EUonQoL measurement tool**, and the **INTERACT-EUROPE 100 inter-specialty training programme**. Such initiatives could also provide an important template of response to other disease areas such as cardiovascular disease

To address the needs of people with and beyond cancer, is recommended that EU Member States:

1. Guarantee that all people living with and beyond cancer receive **personalised long-term survivorship follow-up care plans and quality-of-life assessments**, supported by trained professionals and monitored for access and impact
2. Promote **collection of Patient-Reported Outcome Measures as well as measurement of quality-of-life** across cancer care services, using standardised tools such as the EUonQoL questionnaires

3. **Ensure all National Cancer Control Plans include a survivorship and quality-of-life pillar**, mirroring Europe's Beating Cancer Plan
4. **Mandate inter-specialty cancer training** that fosters collaboration across healthcare teams, highlighting the essential roles of supportive forms of care such as palliative care, psycho-oncology, pain medicine, sexual medicine, and nutritional care in safeguarding patients' quality-of-life



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