

2021 in Review

The Annual Report of the
European Cancer Organisation



The European Cancer Organisation convenes oncology professionals and patient groups to develop policies, advocate for change and speak up for the European cancer community

Our Focus

Enhancing and expanding cancer care across Europe through a multidisciplinary, collaborative approach



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2021: Levelling Up Cancer Care Together

The world is transforming at a rapid pace, affecting everyone and demanding the flexibility of all of us. There are many worthy causes to champion, and ours is around Cancer. With Covid-19 dominating the headlines in 2020 and disrupting vital cancer care, the European Cancer Organisation's ongoing mission reached a new level of importance in 2021.

In February of that year, the European Commission published [Europe's Beating Cancer Plan](#) representing its strengthened commitment to eliminating cancer through prevention, treatment, and quality care and support. Since its launch, in addition to recommendations made by the EU Cancer Mission, brilliantly led by **Walter Ricciardi** and **Christine Chomienne**, 'implementation' has been a key word for us in the cancer community as time is never on our side when dealing with one of society's greatest threats. The Plan is composed of almost 40 initiatives, but translating these into concrete action has been no easy feat. With that said, in less than ten months, the Food Safety and Health Commissioner **Stella Kyriakides**, a long standing personal and ECO friend, announced the release of the Plan's [implementation roadmap](#) at the [European Cancer Summit](#) in November 2021, giving insight into what the cancer community would be discussing the following year. From proposals on the European Health Data Space, tobacco and alcohol measures within the EU, to officially launching the inter-speciality cancer training programme, there is certainly much to explore.

While the waves of the pandemic have fluctuated, one topic has remained constant: the pressing need for cancer patients to be diagnosed early and to receive proper care. The backlog caused by Covid-19's major disruption of our healthcare system has had a devastating impact on patients and their friends and families. After creating the [Special Network on the Impact of Covid-19 on Cancer](#) in 2020, developing a pan-European campaign was the natural next step in raising awareness. Thus, in May 2021, the [Time To Act](#) campaign was officially launched with a simple yet powerful message: ***Don't let Covid-19 stop you from tackling cancer.*** We wanted this strapline to ring above the noise and frenzy of the pandemic, guiding citizens, patients, healthcare professionals and policy-makers alike. This meant addressing these groups in their native language by translating key content into [30 languages](#). We also invited many National Health Ministers to participate in our [10 country-specific campaign launches](#) during 2021 through virtual events: **Roberto Speranza** (Italy), **Carolina Darias** (Spain), **Ioana Mihaila** (Romania), **Christopher Fearne** (Malta), **Vili Beroš** (Croatia), **Michalis Hadjipandelas** (Cyprus) and **Janez Poklukar** (Slovenia). MEPs, some of whom were part of the European Parliament's Special Committee on Beating Cancer (BECA) in 2021, also joined us for our campaign's



| MESSAGE FROM THE ECO PRESIDENT 2020-2021

main launch event and its national events such as **Manfred Weber, Tiemo Wölken, Frances Fitzgerald, Bartosz Arłukowicz, Véronique Trillet-Lenoir, Sara Cerdas, Alessandra Moretti** and many more.

In an effort to compare cancer backlogs across Europe, we designed the Time To Act '[Data Navigator](#)', an interactive tool presenting national statistics on many aspects of the cancer care continuum. After its launch in November 2021, it continues to be further developed and populated with the purpose of being an up-to-date reference point, helping European countries make more informed decisions where Covid-19 and cancer are concerned.

Beating cancer requires strength, and there is strength in strategy. During my presidency, as one big family, with the invaluable expertise of our [member societies](#), [patient advocacy groups](#), [board of directors](#), and our Brussels-based [team](#) we have worked towards crystallising ECO's [Strategy 2020-2023](#) by transforming words and ideas into tangible action and progress. There is still a long way to go in halting the rise of cancer cases, and in seeing them decrease, but I remain deeply proud of the strides taken by our community.

This has been reflected in the work conducted by [Focused Topic Networks](#), each representing a pillar within the spectrum of cancer care:

- [Earlier is Better: Advancing Cancer Screening and Early Detection](#)
- [Unlocking the Potential of Digitalisation in Cancer Care – No Stopping Us Now!](#)
- [Self-Sampling and HPV Screening in Europe](#)
- [HPV Testimonies: Real-Life Stories of HPV-Related Cancers](#)
- [Comprehensive Cancer Care Across the EU: Advancing the Vision](#)

- [Working Against Cancer: Giving Professionals the Right Tools for the Job](#)
- [The Time to Act is Now – Action Report from Covid-19 & Cancer Workforce Special Network Meeting](#)

Furthermore, in consultation with many professionals, we successfully published our '[Essential Requirements for Quality Cancer Care: Pancreatic Cancer](#)', continuing ECO's advocacy for high-quality multidisciplinary care throughout the patient journey.

Having the [Patient Advisory Committee](#) at the heart of our governance structure ensures that we never lose sight of the patient's needs and inspires our policy recommendations, all of which are constructed with input from the growing number of ECO [Member Societies](#) and from the many findings presented during the events we hold.

Thanks to the contributions received during these meetings, including roundtables endorsed by our [Community 365](#), 2021 was an opportunity to release:

- [Leave No One Behind – Delivering Innovation in Lung Cancer Care. Action Report](#)
- [Primary Prevention: United for Action](#)
- [Making Hope Reality: Action on Treatment and Care for Metastatic Cancer Patients](#)

As my presidency at ECO concludes, I hand the reins over to **Andreas Charalambous**. I wish to thank all who engaged so effectively with ECO throughout my presidency with outstanding dedication in working alongside us to fight a devastating disease that touches us all in one way or another.

Matti Aapro

President 2020-2021
European Cancer Organisation

Strategy 2020-2023

In December 2019, the General Assembly of our (then) 27 Member Societies approved a new [Strategy for the period of 2020-2023](#), launching both our Focused Topic Networks and Community 365 ahead of a new brand and website. Since then, we believe our organisation has grown in relevance and engagement, with more organisations participating in our work and with increases in our number of member societies and patient advocacy groups.



Pillar 1: Policy and Advocacy

On behalf of our member societies, we strive to be

- **a key organisation in the development of onco-policy and advocacy across Europe;**
- a valuable resource for European institutions, bringing together different disciplines, professions and patient groups; and
- a respected voice to support and build on the expertise and experience of those member societies.

Pillar 2: Convenor and Facilitator around Focused Topics

- We act as **the “federation” of the European cancer community** – amplifying the important work of our member societies and Patient Advisory Committee
- We convene our member societies, patient groups and other stakeholders for **discussion and exchange, building consensus and coordinating activities, including through ECO Focused Topic Networks.**
- We believe in collaboration, bringing together those who share our mission and vision to **work for the benefit of patients, and advocating for our agreed policies across Europe**

| FROM ADVOCACY TO ACTION: A BEATING CANCER PLAN REFLECTING COMMUNITY REQUESTS

Following a year of consultation in 2020, Europe's Beating Cancer Plan was published in February 2021, and featured on numerous [recommendations from the European Cancer Organisation](#).

- **We called for ambitious goals to inspire and galvanise**

The Beating Cancer Plan included specific targets such as a Tobacco Free Europe, and the elimination of HPV cancers – a particular aim of ECO's [HPV Action Network](#).

- **We recommended bold initiatives on cancer prevention**

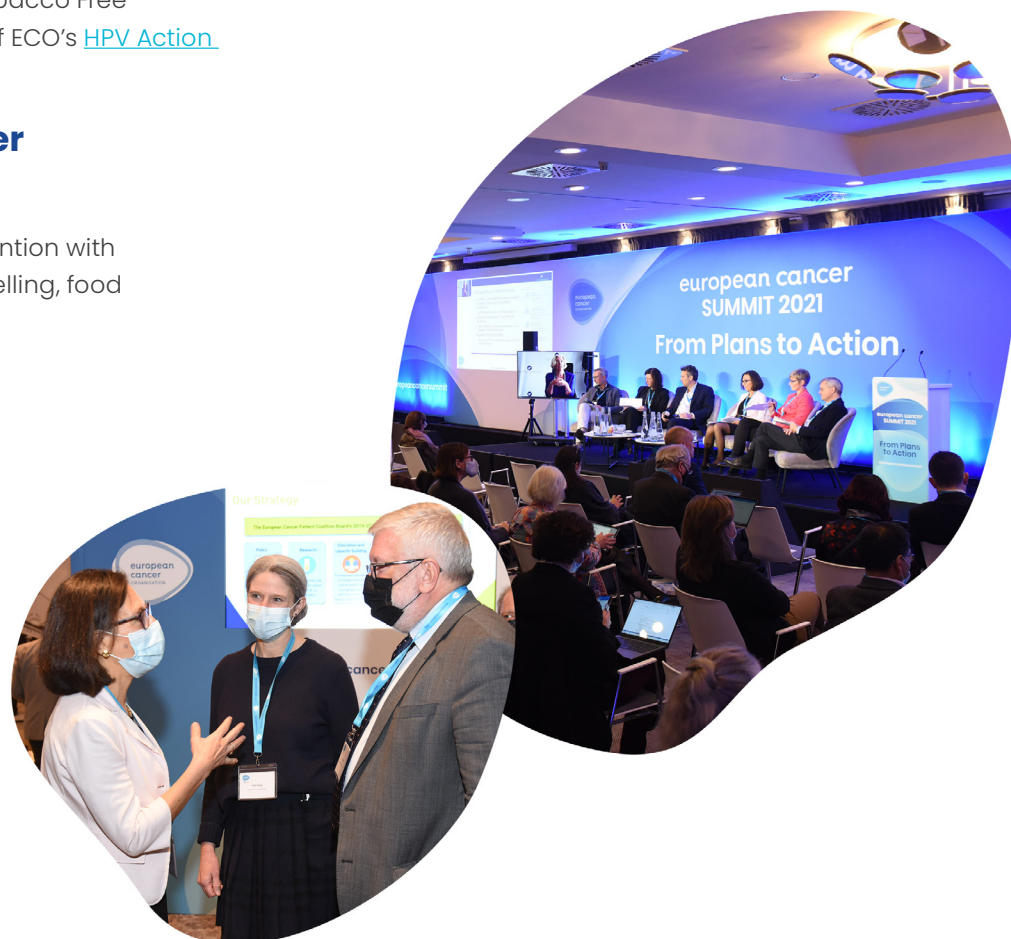
The Beating Cancer Plan's strongest chapter is on cancer prevention with ambitious legislation proposed on matters such as alcohol labelling, food labelling, tobacco taxation and air quality.

- **We called for special attention to cancer inequalities and a mechanism to chart the plan's progress in addressing it**

The Beating Cancer Plan included a specific chapter on inequalities and a commitment to creating an EU Cancer Inequalities Registry for measuring and monitoring its implementation.

- **We highlighted the need for greater health literacy**

The Beating Cancer Plan called for the creation of a project on Health Literacy for Cancer Prevention and Care.



| FROM ADVOCACY TO ACTION: A BEATING CANCER PLAN REFLECTING COMMUNITY REQUESTS

- **We called for a comprehensive update of EU recommendations on cancer screening**

The Beating Cancer Plan will bring forward fresh recommendations from the EU on cancer screening in 2022.

- **We called for a plan that supports the ‘Right to be Forgotten’ and builds on the concept of ‘Survivorship Passports’**

The Beating Cancer Plan’s Survivorship chapter included commitments to support studies on financial discrimination experienced by cancer survivors and the creation of a Code of Practice for financial service providers on this topic. An EU Cancer Survivor Smartcard App will be funded by the plan.

- **We called for the needs of the oncology workforce to receive greater attention**

The Beating Cancer Plan commits to establishing a new EU inter-specialty cancer training programme to support multidisciplinary work and to help ensure that patient needs are better addressed in areas such as nutrition and psycho-social care.

- **We recommended highlighting cross-border data cooperation as part of Europe’s fight against cancer**

The Beating Cancer Plan explicitly recognises that the new European Health Data Space should support the achievement of the plan. The EU Research Mission on Cancer establishes a new European Cancer Patient Digital Centre.



Representing and Advocating

In 2021, working through its policy approval process, and in close collaboration with ECO Member Societies and the ECO Patient Advisory Committee, the European Cancer Organisation responded to more than 20 relevant public consultations by the European Commission and others.

Thank you to everyone who participated in these consultations and please click the links below for more details:

- [Food labelling](#)
- [AI regulation](#)
- [Alcohol labelling](#)
- [EU Data Act](#)
- [Covid-19 lesson learning](#)
- [Cross border health threats](#)
- [Revision of EU Pharmaceutical legislation](#)
- [European Health Data Space](#)
- [Workplace safety](#)



Working with Parliamentarians. Supporting EU Cancer Policy Implementation

With the publication of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan in 2021, activity and focus immediately turned to implementation of both the plan and the EU Research Mission on Cancer. As part of this, a Special Committee of the European Parliament (BECA) convened to provide consensus advice to the Commission and Member States on the implementation journey ahead. The European Cancer Organisation worked closely with MEPs to explore the Beating Cancer Plan proposals and consider helpful recommendations. Many co-chairs of the ECO Focused Topic Network gave testimony and consequently the Committee's final report embraced the network's recommendations. The [final report](#) was passed overwhelmingly by a meeting of the full European Parliament.

- Promoted gender-neutral and publicly financed HPV vaccination programmes
- Supported the extension of EU cancer screening recommendations to new areas
- Advocated the launch of an EU platform for national screening centres
- Urged support for cross-border qualification recognition for oncology specialties
- Called for funding to support digital literacy for patients and healthcare professionals
- Championed the [European Code of Cancer Care Practice](#) as a health literacy and patient empowerment tool
- Backed the treatment optimisation agenda
- Stated that the goals of the Network of Comprehensive Cancer Care Centres should be: inequalities reduction and strengthening of research
- Recommended action to address oncology workforce shortages



The Wider World

The European Cancer Organisation believes in the fundamental principle that we achieve more in all walks of life when we work together.

At the international level, we believe Europe has a leadership role to fulfil in all areas of cancer policy, from prevention to diagnosis, treatment to survivorship, and in research.

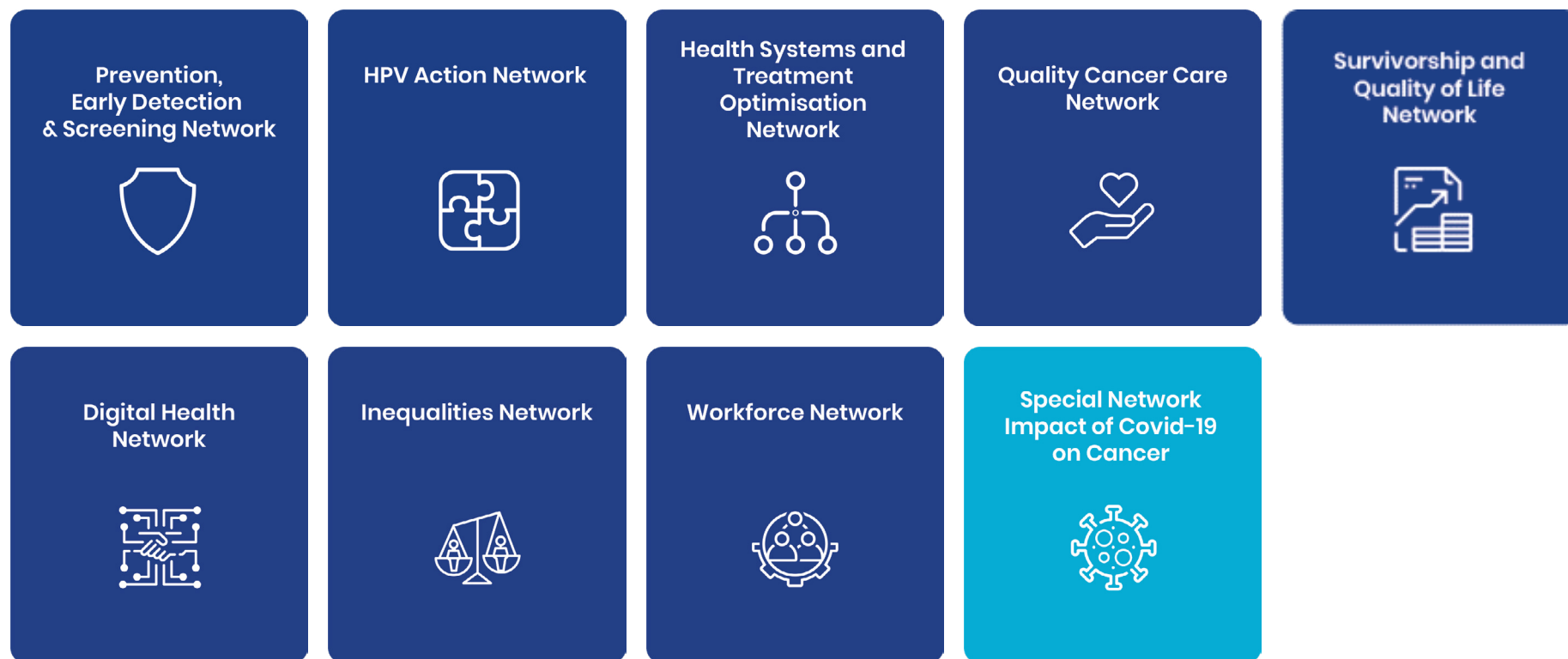
With cancer as a common societal challenge in every nation, there are enormous learnings to be untapped from formal and informal exchange, enabling organic partnerships to emerge and collaborations to grow.

For that reason, we welcome and invite international organisations from across the globe to participate in our policy activities via our Focused Topic Networks, and actively involve our leaders in global level projects that aim to help all countries go further, faster in the fight against cancer.

We thank organisations such as the WHO, UICC, WHO Europe, IARC, ASCO, OECD and many others for such fruitful open partnership working with us and our Networks.



Focused Topic Networks



| CONVENING THE CANCER COMMUNITY

On behalf of [member societies](#) and [patient advocacy groups](#), the European Cancer Organisation convenes interested stakeholders around [nine important topics](#), each with its own network.

These dedicated networks have been established to facilitate consensus and joint projects in our [Strategy 2020–2023](#). They also form the basis of the annual [European Cancer Summit](#).

The ECO Focused Topic Networks do not have a decision-making role on policy. Where policy needs are identified, our member societies can make proposals through our [policy approval pathway](#). When policies have been agreed, our networks support the campaign for the implementation of these policies.





| CONVENING THE CANCER COMMUNITY

Special Network: Impact of Covid-19 on Cancer

Co-Chairs



Mirjam Cruil

BOARD MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN CANCER ORGANISATION



Mark Lawler

BOARD MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN CANCER ORGANISATION

The [Special Network on the Impact of Covid-19 on Cancer](#) brings together healthcare professionals, patients, researchers, academics and others to:

- delineate the challenges that Covid-19 has posed to cancer care;
- amplify activities of the ECO community to address those challenges;
- produce recommendations on the most critical and urgent policy needs

The major activities for the Special Network in 2021 have been:

- Launch of the "[Time To Act: Don't let Covid-19 stop you from tackling Cancer](#)" pan-European campaign in May 2021, with the participation of the EU Health Commissioner Stella Kyriakides, and hosting [10 national events in 2021](#).
- The European Cancer Summit 2021 session "[Time To Act: Covid-19 & Cancer](#)". This included the unveiling of the [Time To Act Data Navigator](#), an interactive visualisation tool presenting data on the impact of Covid-19 on cancer across Europe.



[View the Time To Act Roadshow Video](#)



[View the Data Navigator Video](#)



[The Time to Act is Now. Action Report from the Covid-19 & Cancer Workforce Special Network Meeting](#)

Looking forward to 2022:

- Supporting the Time To Act campaign
- Publishing a statement on the prioritisation of cancer patients during the roll-out of vaccinations against Covid-19 in healthcare systems across Europe
- Engaging with the European Commission, the European Parliament, EU agencies, national governments and other relevant EU decision-makers to promote uptake of the recommendations outlined in our "[7-Point Plan](#)"
- Monitoring other EU legislative discussions pertaining to the Special Network's priorities and making representations as relevant



Prevention, Early Detection and Screening Network

Co-Chairs



Jan van Meerbeeck
EUROPEAN RESPIRATORY SOCIETY



Isabel Teresa Rubio
EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF BREAST
CANCER SPECIALISTS

Prevention is key to cancer control but policy recommendations in this area are not always without controversy. The **Prevention, Early Detection and Screening Network** fosters fresh consensus and stronger collaboration in all areas of cancer prevention among expert groups and policy-makers at the European and international level, in order to both decrease cancer incidence and advance cancer detection.

The Prevention, Early Detection and Screening Network participated in a [High-Level Meeting on Primary Prevention](#) held in May 2021.

The European Cancer Summit 2021 featured a dedicated session, titled "[Beating Cancer Before It Starts: Lessons Learnt from Screening](#)". The session featured a lively high-level discussion between all key stakeholders involved in cancer screening.

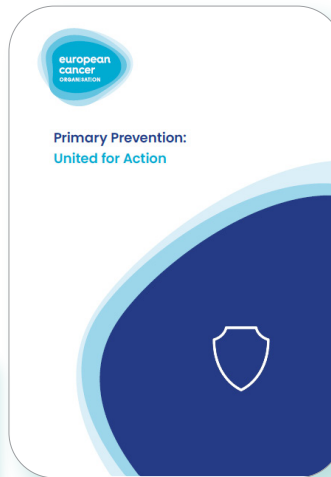


Primary Prevention Hub

europeancancer.org



"Primary Prevention Hub" launched in May 2021 during the [High-Level Meeting on Primary Prevention](#)



*"Primary Prevention: United for Action"
Report published in July 2021*



*"Earlier is Better: Advancing Cancer Screening and Early Detection"
Action Report published in November 2021*

Looking forward to 2022:

- Continue developing a holistic approach to cancer prevention, bringing together all key actors of this crucial policy field at both European and international level
- Play a major role in the strengthening and implementation of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and other relevant policy initiatives



HPV Action Network

Co-Chairs



Daniel Kelly
EUROPEAN ONCOLOGY NURSING SOCIETY



Rui Medeiros

The [HPV Action Network](#) urges Europe to make the elimination of HPV cancers a formal, shared goal and a flagship policy of Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan, as well as aligned to WHO’s Global Strategy for cervical cancer elimination.

“We aim to eliminate cancers caused by the human papillomaviruses and we are proposing support for Member States on vaccinations, with an aim to vaccinate at least 90% of the target population of boys and girls by 2030. This is real prevention.”

Stella Kyriakides, European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, 3 February 2021

The HPV Action Network:

- Hosted a [webinar](#) with keynote speaker Prof Walter Ricciardi, Chair of the EU Cancer Mission, to discuss the next steps in eliminating HPV cancers in Europe.
- Embarked on a three-year project “Action Now on HPV”. The core part of the project is a specially-commissioned mapping exercise of HPV vaccination and cervical cancer screening programmes across the WHO European Region, followed by support for advocacy work.
- Held a session “[Eliminating HPV Cancers: From Flagship Policy to Flagship Practice](#)” at the [European Cancer Summit 2021](#) dedicated to the topic of HPV elimination, taking stock of the latest policy developments and putting forward concrete plans and actions for the future.



HPV Testimonies

Real-life stories of HPV-related cancers published in November 2020

“Self-Sampling and HPV Screening in Europe” Position Paper published in October 2021



Looking forward to 2022:

- Support the implementation of Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan
- Advancing the project “Action Now on HPV”
- Publication of two new reports on HPV vaccination uptake in children, adolescents and young adults, and on the state of HPV prevention programmes in the WHO region





Health Systems and Treatment Optimisation Network

Co-Chairs



Denis Lacombe

EUROPEAN ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH AND TREATMENT OF CANCER



Yolande Lievens

EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR RADIOTHERAPY AND ONCOLOGY

With innovation proceeding at an unprecedented pace in the cancer field, health systems are being faced with increasing challenges to develop optimised treatments, accessible to all who need them. The **Health Systems and Treatment Optimisation Network** provides solutions to improve European cancer control strategies that identify, foster and measure innovative approaches, translate them into treatments, and deliver them to patients.

The European Cancer Summit 2021 featured a dedicated session titled "[Affordable and Equitable Access to Multidisciplinary Treatments: Vision or Illusion?](#)". The session featured an open exchange between leading experts and wide-ranging stakeholders on key challenges to be addressed in order to achieve the Network's aims, in relation to the cancer research continuum in Europe.

Europe's Beating Cancer Plan's 'Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment for All' initiative recognises the goals of optimising treatment and increased access to therapeutic innovation.

The proposed EU Cancer Mission also includes several references to the need for treatment optimisation, while the new EU Pharmaceutical Strategy mentions providing support to academic pragmatic trials, improving treatments by identifying optimal doses and combination with other treatment modalities.

These developments represent initial recognitions of the issues raised by the Network and echo the intense advocacy efforts it conducted in 2020 to build strong support around its mission and vision.



Looking forward to 2022:

- Further develop its strategy to bring the optimisation of health systems and treatments in cancer to the top of the European health agenda
- Publish an advocacy document outlining key immediate asks of the Network to achieve its aims





| CONVENING THE CANCER COMMUNITY

Quality Cancer Care Network

Co-Chairs



Philip Poortmans
EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR
RADIOTHERAPY AND ONCOLOGY



Simon Oberst
ORGANISATION OF EUROPEAN
CANCER INSTITUTES

The **Quality Cancer Care Network**:

- Improves outcomes for cancer patients in Europe through the adoption and implementation of essential requirements for quality cancer care
- Complements existing clinical guidelines and improve their efficacy
- Shapes the policy environment at European and national levels to improve cancer care and decrease inequalities in outcomes

The Quality Cancer Care Network held a session at the [European Cancer Summit 2021](#), titled "[Advancing the Vision of Comprehensive Cancer Care in Europe](#)".

The session provided an opportunity for speakers and panellists closely involved in the development and implementation of the EU Network of Comprehensive Cancer Centres, to reflect further on the new era for cancer treatment, research and care in Europe that such emphasis on comprehensive cancer may bring.



[Essential Requirements for Quality Cancer Care \(ERQCC\): Pancreatic Cancer](#)
Published in September 2021



The [European Code of Cancer Practice](#), available in over 25 languages, continued to be promoted, including through the [Time To Act](#) campaign



[Comprehensive Cancer Care Across the EU: Advancing the Vision](#)
Position Paper published in October 2021

Looking forward to 2022:


- Publication of Essential Requirements: Adult Glioma and Ovarian Cancer
- Revision of 2017 Essential Requirements: Colorectal Cancer
- Assessing and acting on Europe's Beating Cancer Plan
- Further initiatives in support of the implementation of vision of practice contained in the Essential Requirements for Quality Cancer Care

European Code of Cancer Practice


YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO:



1. EQUAL ACCESS



2. INFORMATION



3. QUALITY,
EXPERTISE &
OUTCOMES



4. SPECIALISED
MULTIDISCIPLINARY
CARE



5. SHARED
DECISION-MAKING



6. RESEARCH &
INNOVATION



7. QUALITY OF LIFE



8. INTEGRATED
SUPPORTIVE &
PALLIATIVE CARE



9. SURVIVORSHIP &
REHABILITATION



10. REINTEGRATION



#cancerpatientrights #codeofcancerpractice

european-cancer-organisation.org/code



Survivorship and Quality of Life Network

Co-Chairs



Andrew Davies

MULTINATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
SUPPORTIVE CARE IN CANCER

The **Survivorship and Quality of Life Network** brings together patients, healthcare professionals, academics, charities and foundations and our Community 365 to promote opportunities for pan-European improvements in the way health systems address survivorship and quality-of-life challenges faced by cancer patients, their caregivers, partners and families.

We classify these challenges in two main ways:

- Physical needs
- Psycho-social needs



Csaba Dégi

INTERNATIONAL PSYCHO-
ONCOLOGY SOCIETY

The European Cancer Summit 2021 featured a dedicated session titled, "[I Am Not a Statistic. The Human Element of the Beating Cancer Plan](#)". The session allowed for a high-level exchange on recommendations to foster further attention to elements such as psycho-social support and the use of Patient-Reported Outcomes as part of integrated patient-centred care.

A dedicated pillar on quality of life of cancer patients, survivors and carers was included in **Europe's Beating Cancer Plan**, with specific provisions on Return to Work, Right to Be Forgotten and access to follow-up care. It echoes the Network's calls for a holistic approach of cancer survivorship and quality of life, addressing all the needs of cancer patients and survivors.



Looking forward to 2022:

- Further engaging with EU institutions and national governments to promote uptake of the recommendations outlined in "[Free From Cancer](#)"
- Providing advice to the European Commission on the creation of a 'Cancer Survivor Smart-Card', as outlined in Europe's Beating Cancer Plan
- Initiating work within its workstreams to respond to relevant opportunities



Digital Health Network



Co-Chairs



Wim Oyen

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF
NUCLEAR MEDICINE



Regina Beets-Tan

EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF
RADIOLOGY

Among key issues raised by our **Digital Health Network** participants are:

- defining and promoting research needs in the use of digital technology in cancer care;
- promoting approved education opportunities for professionals in cancer care to better deploy digital technology in their daily practice;
- identifying and responding to relevant policy initiatives at the EU level on the use of data to improve cancer care e.g. European Health Data Space, European Cancer Patient Digital Centre.

The European Cancer Summit 2021 session "[Harnessing the Power of Data in Cancer Care: Data Sharing and Artificial Intelligence](#)" provided an opportunity for speakers and panellists to share their perspectives and suggestions, with a collective aim of wanting Europe to go further, faster, in delivering the promise of digital for cancer care.



*"Unlocking the potential of digitalisation in cancer care – No Stopping Us Now!"
Position Paper published in November 2021*

Looking forward to 2022:

- Promoting advancement in the space of data and oncology at the European level, especially with respect to the European Health Data Space, the European Cancer Patient Digital Centre and other upcoming connected initiatives
- Unblocking potential barriers to the promise of digital healthcare, including regulatory barriers (e.g. GDPR) and knowledge and education gaps
- Following and responding to Artificial Intelligence and the progress of telemedicine



Inequalities Network



Co-Chairs



Nicolò Matteo Luca Battisti
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF GERIATRIC ONCOLOGY



Hendrik Van Poppel
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF UROLOGY

The goals of the [Inequalities Network](#) include:

- Helping to shine a spotlight on the readily available policy mechanism to bridge gaps and raise standards and outcomes in cancer care for all patients in Europe;
- Building on the existing work of network members; and
- Liaising closely with the EU institutions and others in providing advice and recommendations

Immediate priorities for the Network have been identified as workstreams on the following Inequalities:

- East-West Divide; Gender; Age; Ethnicity; Health Literacy and Patient Education ; Other Marginalised Groups.

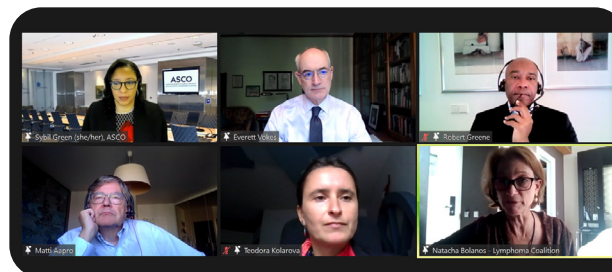
The Inequalities Network Co-Chairs led an interactive discussion at the European Cancer Summit 2021 session "[Leave No One Behind: Advancing Health Equity in Cancer Care](#)" on measurement of all the various inequalities that currently exist, indicating potential missing aspects of cancer inequalities

In October 2021, the Network organised a meeting with the OECD to further discuss the Cancer Inequalities Registry.

The Network also participated in the [ASCO-ECO Joint Virtual Meeting](#) to discuss and exchange on range of inequality issues and challenges in cancer care across Europe and the United States, e.g., socio-economics and race inequalities

Looking forward to 2022:

- Promoting key recommendations of the EU initiatives, such as the Cancer Inequalities Registry
- Further communications with the OECD on the Cancer Inequalities Registry
- Publication of the Health Literacy and Patient Education paper
- Conveying information on other good initiatives





Workforce Network

Co-Chairs



Andreas Charalambous
EUROPEAN ONCOLOGY NURSING SOCIETY



Geerard Beets
EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF SURGICAL ONCOLOGY



Mirjam Crul
EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF ONCOLOGY PHARMACY

Working together, our **Workforce Network** helps to:

- elevate training and development;
- address workforce shortages in cancer care;
- improve opportunities for oncology professionals;
- tackle inequalities in educational opportunities;
- ensure the safety of healthcare workers in cancer care; and
- provide attention to work-life balance concerns.

The European Cancer Summit 2021 included a session "[Supporting the Drivers for Implementation: The Cases of the Oncology Workforce](#)". Speakers and panellists explored the best means forward for implementing Europe's Beating Cancer Plan's inter-specialty cancer training programme, and other workforce relevant initiatives of the EU currently in development.



"Working Against Cancer: Giving Professionals the Right Tools for the Job"
Consensus Paper published in April 2021

Looking forward to 2022:

- Promoting the position paper
- Amplifying relevant projects conducted by Network participants and providing contributions on invitation
- Focusing attention on the current workforce issues in the field of oncology
- Promoting the [Accreditation Council of Oncology in Europe \(ACOE\)](#) that provides accreditation to Continuing Medical Education (CME) providers

100 Speakers, over 500 Delegates and
12 Sessions with Relevance and Impact

From Plans To Action



Summit 2021

The hybrid [European Cancer Summit 2021](#) on 17 & 18 November brought together leading oncology experts, patient advocates, politicians and policy-makers to discuss the main issues impacting cancer policy, for the benefit of cancer patients, healthcare professionals and all people across Europe.



View the Session Recordings

- [Beating Cancer Before It Starts: Lessons Learnt from Screening](#)
- [Eliminating HPV Cancers: From Flagship Policy to Flagship Practice](#)
- [Affordable and Equitable Access to Multidisciplinary Treatments: Vision or Illusion?](#)
- [Harnessing the Power of Data in Cancer Care: Data Sharing and Artificial Intelligence](#)
- [Supporting the Drivers for Implementation: The Cases of the Oncology Workforce](#)
- [Europe's Beating Cancer Plan: From Plans to Action](#)
- [Time To Act: Covid-19 & Cancer](#)
- [The EU Cancer Mission & Research](#)
- [Advancing the Vision of Comprehensive Cancer Care in Europe](#)
- [I Am Not a Statistic. The Human Element of the Beating Cancer Plan](#)
- [Leave No One Behind: Advancing Health Equity in Cancer Care](#)
- [Cancer Issues Worldwide](#)



- [Read the Report](#)
- [Read the Declaration](#)
- [View the Highlights Video](#)



ACOE Accreditation

The Accreditation Council of Oncology in Europe (ACOE) provides accreditation to Continuing Medical Education (CME) providers for the benefit of participants receiving education in oncology.

ACOE Distance Learning Project provides accreditation for hybrid physical/virtual educational events, online educational events, webinars, presentations, e-learning material, webcasts and blended learning.

- **The Project offers our member societies and other oncology education providers a more simple and flexible approach to Distance Learning accreditation**
- **50% discount to all member societies of the European Cancer Organisation as a benefit of membership and support**



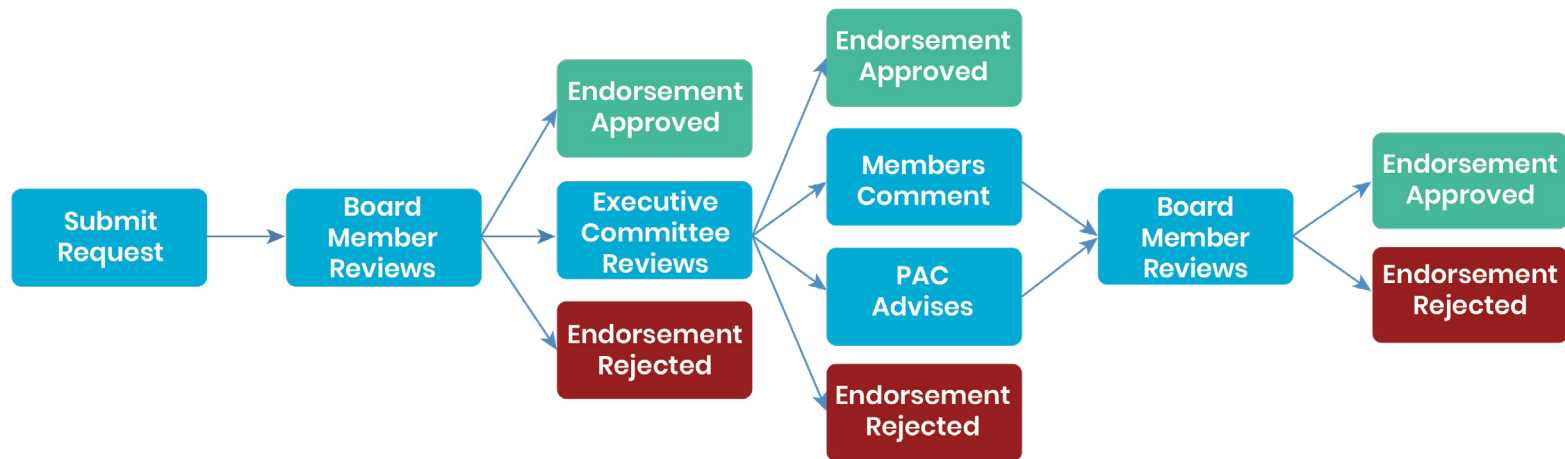
acoe.europeancancer.org



Endorsement Decision-Making Process



Our approach enables the European Cancer Organisation to be fast and effective in reviewing endorsement requests



ECO Board Member Lore Decoster is responsible for [Endorsement](#)

Board of Directors

[Our Board](#) is elected by our member societies and provides expertise and oversight from a diverse range of disciplines and professions within the European cancer community.

In particular, they play a leading role in the implementation of our [Strategy 2020-2023](#) and are the decision-makers in the approval process for new policies adopted by the European Cancer Organisation. Our board meets every quarter and governs the ECO in accordance with the mandate given to it by the ECO General Assembly and as articulated in the [ECO Statutes](#).

The general assembly, with representatives of all our member societies, is our highest governing body and meets formally twice every year.

We thank Dr Matti Aapro and the Board of Directors 2020-2021 for their leadership, guidance and commitment over the past two years, and welcome the new Board of Directors 2022-2023.



Matti Aapro
PRESIDENT



Andreas Charalambous
PRESIDENT ELECT



Wim Oyen
TREASURER



Regina Beets-Tan



Isabel Teresa Rubio



Sema Erdem
CO-CHAIR, PATIENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Kathy Oliver
CO-CHAIR, PATIENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Alberto Costa



Mirjam Crul



Dominique de Valeriola



Lore Decoster



Csaba Dégi



Jan van Meerbeeck



Arnulf Stenzl



Bertrand Tombal



Theresa Wiseman



Yolande Lievens
(EX-OFFICIO)



Mark Lawler
EUROPEAN CODE OF PRACTICE PROJECT CO-CHAIR (EX-OFFICIO)



Mike Morrissey
CHIEF EXECUTIVE (EX-OFFICIO)



Member Societies

During 2021, our 36 member societies provided expertise in their cancer discipline or profession





Patient Advisory Committee

Patient advocates are at the heart of the European Cancer Organisation, with 20 active groups during 2021.



The Patient Advisory Committee is involved in all policy-making and activities, including the Focused Topic Networks



Our Broad Coalition of Support

[Community 365](#) is a group of charity, philanthropy, and industry contributors to the ECO Focused Topic Networks.

Community 365 provides ideas, guidance, practical support, and resources for our work in convening stakeholders and building consensus in the European cancer community. Community 365 contributors do not have a decision-making role in our policy work.

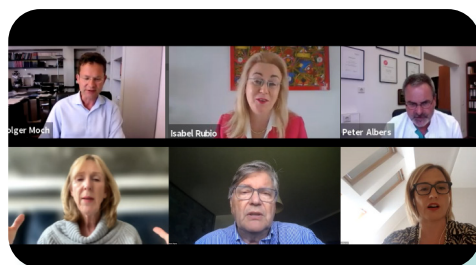
ECO policies are approved by [our Board](#) after consultation with our member societies and patient advisory committee.

Community 365 includes additional not-for-profit organisations as supporters of our Mission & Vision, Strategy, and the ECO Focused Topic Networks.

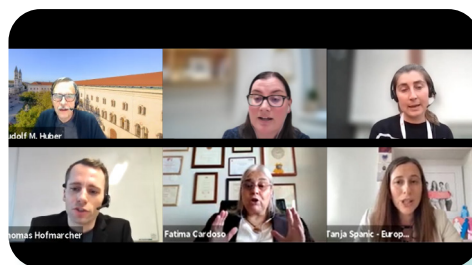
For more information about the organisations contributing to, and supporting, Community 365 please [visit our website here](#).

To view our Transparency website page, [click here](#).

If you or your organisation would like to become a Community 365 Contributor, Startup or Supporter, please email our Chief Executive, [Mike Morrissey](#). We look forward to hearing from you!



[Community 365 Roundtable on Early Detection and Screening June 2021](#)



[Community 365 Roundtable Meeting on Metastatic Cancer October 2021](#)

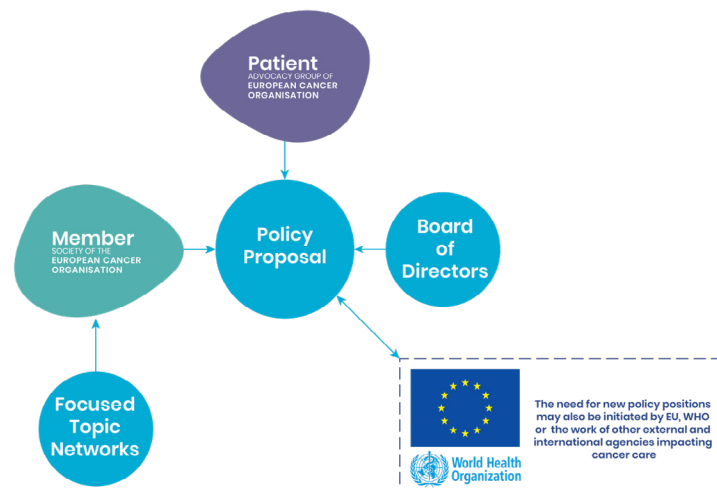


[Community 365 Roundtable Meeting on Genomic Tumour Testing December 2021](#)

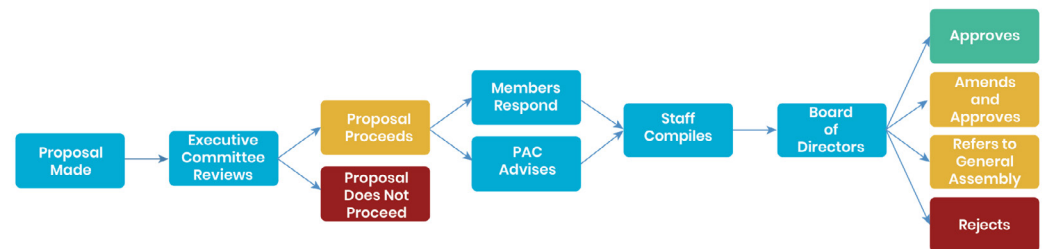
Policy Decision-Making Process

- All ECO [Member Societies](#) should be consulted during the process, with decisions made by [our Board](#) elected by member societies. This ensures we receive input from all the disciplines and professionals represented in our membership.
- The [Patient Advisory Committee](#) (PAC) also provides expertise, experience and advice throughout the process.

Origin of Policy of the European Cancer Organisation



Process of Policy Decision-Making



This approach enables the European Cancer Organisation to be fast, effective and nimble in reviewing policy requests while also providing opportunity for input by all member societies on an equal basis.

2021: Making Moves to Make it Happen

Over the next two years, as the new president of the European Cancer Organisation (ECO), I intend to continue the superb work done by my predecessor and good friend **Matti Aapro** but also expand it even further introducing new areas of interest. I have always believed in the power of people when we come together for a common cause, igniting universal passion. While Matti was president, he united oncologists, nurses, pharmacists, patient advocates and other stakeholders alike, shining a light on much-needed collaborative exchange and making ECO more relevant and dynamic than ever. During my presidency, I will strive to both solidify and enhance the organisation's progress, seeing our [Strategy 2020-2023](#) through to completion with the encouragement of the ECO [Board](#), [Executive Committee](#) and [Member Societies](#).

As our organisation steadily evolves, we must take full advantage of the prospects that lie ahead. The EU, the World Health Organization (WHO), and other health and cancer related organisations are looking to ECO much more now for advice, support, and assistance with implementation. This is especially true when it comes to Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and playing a role by either coordinating or taking part in various EU4Health and Horizon Europe projects. As a community, we have been calling for cross-border support across the cancer continuum including cancer prevention, cancer treatment, cancer care and survivorship for years, and we now have the opportunity through the plan and Cancer Mission to deliver that together to the highest level.

In the spirit of collaboration, I firmly believe that we can make significant gains. This applies in particular to working with oncology professionals novice and experienced, something that I am passionate about. Involving diverse professionals

of different ages and backgrounds in our mission will be increasingly integrated into the culture of this organisation as it will be servicing the present and the future of ECO

Having spent years as an oncology nurse, I have witnessed both painful and joyful scenarios, and to this day remember the many faces of cancer patients whom I personally got to know and accompanied throughout one of the most feared and stigmatised battles that exist. It is for each and every one of my patients, past and present, survivors and the departed, that I am more driven than ever as the first ECO president with a background in nursing oncology to fight cancer through multi-professionalism and advocacy at the European level. As leaders in this field, I envision that the expertise and experience that ECO incorporates will be transferred through our international partners well beyond the European Region. After all, cancer knows no borders.

Creating a sense of togetherness and upholding our core values is an ongoing activity for the ECO and I look forward to working closely with all of you throughout my presidency to ensure this remains the case. Nothing we do would be possible without your active involvement. So, while cancer makes its threats, we make a promise to join forces with you and other EU stakeholders to make a difference in the tightly knit cancer community.

Andreas Charalambous

President 2022-2023

[European Cancer Organisation](#)





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