

Public consultation on the Commission's Europe's Beating Cancer Plan (Online Questionnaire)

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

Cancer concerns all European citizens. 40% of us are likely to be affected at some stage in our life and we all know someone who developed the disease. This is why the President of the European Commission announced [Europe's Beating Cancer Plan](#) to be carried forward by the Commission, under the stewardship of the [Commissioner for Health and Food Safety](#).

Europe's fight against cancer is ongoing ([link](#)). But beating cancer requires everyone's involvement. The Commission wants to place European citizens at the centre of this plan. This is why we want to hear your views as we embark on this journey. Whether you are a concerned citizen, a patient or one of his/her relatives, a healthcare worker, a researcher, an employee in the pharmaceutical sector, or a policy maker, we want to hear from you. Share your experience. Tell us where you think Europe should focus its efforts.

We see the cancer problem as three-fold. First, cancer can cause huge suffering to individuals and their families. The citizen, and patient and his/her immediate family is the starting point and epicentre of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan. The second element is the burden that cancer imposes on society as a whole, stretching health systems. The third dimension is the significant inequalities that exist across Europe in terms of access to high-quality cancer-related services. Access to screening programmes varies significantly throughout Europe. And once diagnosed, patients don't always get access to the treatment that might make a vital difference for them.

With an estimated 40% of cancers being attributed to avoidable causes, we need to do better when it comes to cancer prevention. And as we get better at ensuring people survive cancer, our societies also need to do better at helping survivors with the problems they face subsequently. Therefore, the Commission intends to design the plan to cover the entire cycle of the disease. Actions should span all steps of the disease, including prevention, early diagnosis, treatment, and the social dimension of cancer (encompassing life after cancer, carers and palliative care). We published a roadmap describing this approach under this [LINK](#). Please let us know if you think we have missed something important, be it in terms of problems, objectives, or areas of EU action to explore.

Drawing on your input, the Commission will go on to complement this initial public consultation with further targeted interactions with specific stakeholder groups.

The contributions to this public consultation are not considered to relate to your own personal health situation but may relate to the health experience or situation of family and/or friends.

Thank you for helping us shape the European Cancer Plan!

About you

* Language of my contribution

- Bulgarian
- Croatian
- Czech
- Danish
- Dutch
- English
- Estonian
- Finnish
- French
- Gaelic
- German
- Greek
- Hungarian
- Italian
- Latvian
- Lithuanian
- Maltese
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Romanian
- Slovak
- Slovenian
- Spanish
- Swedish

* I am giving my contribution as

- Academic/research institution
- Business association
- Company/business organisation
- Consumer organisation
- EU citizen
- Environmental organisation
- Non-EU citizen
- Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
- Public authority
- Trade union
- Other

* First name

Nicole

* Surname

DENJOY

* Email (this won't be published)

denjoy@cocir.org

Gender

- Male
- Female

Age

- 14 or less
- between 15 and 24
- between 25 and 39
- between 40 and 54
- between 55 and 64
- 65 or more

Highest degree obtained

- Basic education
- Secondary education
- Vocational training
- University degree

* Organisation name

255 character(s) maximum

COCIR - European Trade Association representing the medical imaging, radiotherapy, health ICT and electromedical industries.

Postal address of your organisation

80 Bd Reyers, 1030 Brussels

* Country of origin

Please add your country of origin, or that of your organisation.

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| ● Bulgaria | ● Heard Island and McDonald Islands | ● Niue | ● Togo |
| ● Burkina Faso | ● Honduras | ● Norfolk Island | ● Tokelau |

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* Organisation size

- Micro (1 to 9 employees)
- Small (10 to 49 employees)

- Medium (50 to 249 employees)
- Large (250 or more)

Transparency register number

255 character(s) maximum

Check if your organisation is on the [transparency register](#). It's a voluntary database for organisations seeking to influence EU decision-making.

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* Publication privacy settings

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

Anonymous

Only your type of respondent, country of origin and contribution will be published. All other personal details (name, organisation name and size, transparency register number) will not be published.

Public

Your personal details (name, organisation name and size, transparency register number, country of origin) will be published with your contribution.

In the interest of transparency, organisations and associations have been invited to provide the public with relevant information about themselves by registering in Transparency Register and subscribing to its Code of Conduct.

I agree with the [personal data protection provisions](#)

Please indicate if you have work experience in any of these areas

- Cancer care
- Pharmaceutical industry
- Social care sector
- Healthcare sector
- Education sector
- Health/social insurance sector
- Public administration

Are you a healthcare professional?

- Yes
- No

General Questions

1. On a scale from 0 to 10, how present is cancer in your life? (0 is not at all present and 10 very present)

Only values between 1 and 10 are allowed

5

2. What do you think is needed to beat cancer?

- **What do you think citizens can do to help beat cancer?**

600 character(s) maximum

Citizens should be better informed on various possibilities offered to them. Citizens should participate in initiatives to prevent and early diagnose cancer and play an active role in treatment, management and follow up of the disease – which may require a long-term effort. This would require effective engagement with healthcare professionals, supported by government-led outreach and education activities. An important element is providing access to data, which requires (informed) consent and engagement by the citizens.

- **What do you think health professionals can do to help beat cancer?**

600 character(s) maximum

Healthcare professionals should be kept informed on latest innovations to prevent, early diagnose, treat and should work in multidisciplinary teams
Share the latest insights to enable optimal treatment of cancer, fully leveraging multidimensional diagnostic and therapeutic approaches. Support patients and their relatives to actively engage them in their treatment and follow up. Contribute to sharing knowledge to aid in prevention and early diagnostics.

- **What do you think public authorities/national governments can do to help beat cancer?**

600 character(s) maximum

Public authorities should work together, focus on value across the whole continuum of care, for equal access to all.
COCIR calls for:
- EC to speed-up the review of EU guidelines to ensure state of art knowledge is taken into account and then ensure deployment in EU countries
- Public authorities to support evidence generation and research efforts in early detection.

3. Do you support the idea that the EU should do more to address cancer?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

In which areas do you think the EU should prioritise its efforts (choose top 3):

at most 3 choice(s)

- Prevention
- Screening and early diagnosis
- Treatment and quality of life of patients and carers
- Life after cancer
- Research and collection of information
- Other

I don't know

Which actions would you consider most useful in the areas indicated below

• **Screening and early diagnosis**

- Improving the participation to breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screening
- Extension of screening to other cancer type
- Other

Please describe

600 character(s) maximum

COCIR considers all options equally important.

In addition, we ask for improved access to and quality of screening across Europe.

Last but not least, we also urge the European Commission to update the broad 2003 Cancer Screening Recommendations, based on up-to-date evidence. Moreover, we encourage to develop new EU Recommendations for screening in other types of cancer, such as in lung and prostate.

• **Treatment and quality of life of patients and carers**

- Improve access to existing treatments
- Improve access to new innovative treatments
- Better Psychological support inside and outside of health care services
- Improve palliative care
- Improve pain treatment
- Other

Please describe

600 character(s) maximum

We highlight the value of digital innovation in healthcare delivery and stress its added value along the entire pathway of integrated cancer care: from early detection and precision diagnosis, through personalized treatment to fast rehabilitation.

Lastly, we urge for improved access of cancer patients to a personalized and cost-effective provision of value-based care.

STEP I: PREVENTION- Preventing cancer by addressing risk factors

Many things related to our lifestyle, and the environment around us may increase or decrease our risk of getting cancer. About 40% of cancer cases could be avoided through prevention measures that have proved to be successful.

Some of the most effective measures are:

- lifestyle changes (healthy diet, physical activity, reduction of obesity, avoidance of tobacco and alcohol consumption),

- vaccination against viruses that cause diseases such as cervical or liver cancer (Human papillomavirus, Hepatitis B),
- avoidance of excessive exposure to sunlight (including sunbeds)
- protection from exposure to certain chemicals that can cause cancer.

More recommendations are available in the [European Code Against Cancer](#), a joint initiative between the European Commission and the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer.

4. Do you have enough information about how to prevent cancer?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

5. Which of the actions below do you think would have the biggest impact on your lifestyle habits (e.g. diet, physical activity, tobacco or alcohol consumption)? (choose top 3)

- Measures on prices (including both taxation and/or incentives)
- Advertising
- Information campaigns
- Legislation
- Other

STEP II: EARLY DIAGNOSIS - Preventing avoidable cancer cases through cancer screening

An early cancer diagnosis can often significantly increase the chances of successful treatment. The European Union has issued [recommendations](#) for the screening of [breast](#), [cervical](#) and [colorectal](#) cancer.

6. Do you think the EU should extend recommendations for screening of other types of cancer, beyond breast, cervical and colorectal cancer?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

To which types of cancer in priority?

- Lung cancer
- Gastric cancer
- Prostate cancer
- Ovarian cancer
- Other types of cancer

7. What could influence your decision to take part in a cancer screening programme?

- Information about the usefulness of screening and early diagnosis

- Convenience (proximity, ...)
- Cost
- Expertise and skills of healthcare workers
- The safety and quality of the equipment
- Other

STEP III: TREATMENT - Best available care, treatment and quality of life for all cancer patients

Finding out you have cancer can be quite a shock. It can be difficult in these circumstances to decide how to approach your treatment. And then there is the question of whether you can get the treatment you need, and how much of it will be covered or provided by your health system. As with diagnosis, the best and most effective treatment should be available to all EU citizens. And, whilst our current treatments are indeed effective, new innovative treatments offer us even greater possibilities – yet this innovation can come at a very high cost.

8. What could Europe do to ensure that cancer patients across Europe receive the best available treatment at an affordable price, independently of where they live?

600 character(s) maximum

European decision-makers should achieve an alignment of reimbursement schemes for innovations in medical technology. Treatment modes that prolong, save, or enhance the quality of lives, such as radiotherapy, should be reimbursed accordingly. These guidelines, along with support from Cohesion & Structural Funds, should enable healthcare providers to sustainably invest in modern technologies to fight cancer. Said guidelines should also encourage healthcare providers to apply these technologies so that each patient receives their best, personalized treatment no matter where they live.

9. Do you believe that you know where to find sufficient information about available cancer treatment services where you live?

- Yes
- No

10. Do you consider sufficient written information regarding cancer diagnosis and possible treatments is available to patients ?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

11. Do you consider adequate support, both inside and outside of the healthcare setting, is available to cancer patients?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

12. In your experience, do cancer patients receive treatment from a multidisciplinary team of health professionals (oncologists, researchers, psychologists)?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

13. Do you consider that adequate means are available to help families and friends caring for cancer patients?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

STEP IV: SOCIAL INTEGRATION - Quality of life with and after cancer

The good news is that the number of cancer survivors has increased substantially in the EU over the past decades. However, many of these survivors experience disabilities or long-term side effects of cancer treatment, including emotional distress.

In addition, cancer patients and cancer survivors often face hurdles in the workplace and in matters such as access to employment, insurance, or credit.

14. In your country/region, do cancer survivors receive follow-up and support after treatment?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

15. Do you consider that cancer survivors experience significant challenges in their daily life?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Please indicate in which areas challenges are particularly significant:

- Lack of social rehabilitation, including employment
- Lack of education and training on self-management of your daily life (empowerment of cancer survivors)
- Lack of psychological support to address distress and depression
- Lack of training and support of your informal carers
- Lack of capacity of physicians and nurses to recognise your distress and depression
- Problems linked with medical follow-up, including management of the late effects of treatment
- Problems linked with other diseases (co-morbidity)
- Others

16. Do cancer patients and survivors receive psychosocial support during or after their treatment?

- Yes

- No
- I don't know

17. Do you know or have experience of any particularly good practice in supporting cancer survivors, or do you have any suggestions as to how this could be done?

600 character(s) maximum

GENERAL QUESTIONS:

18. Tell us what a successful cancer plan means to you. 10 years after we implement the plan, what should have improved in the lives of European citizens?

600 character(s) maximum

For COCIR, success would mean: (1) Evidence based improvements in both access to diagnosis & individualized treatment, and “quality of cancer care” indicators, like mortality and prevalence (2) Breast, colorectal, cervical, lung & prostate cancer screening programs in all MSs (3) Smart financing & reimbursement models that welcome innovation based on evidence & reflect value-based care in all MSs (4) Reduced & less invasive procedures in cancer care but more accurate ones, with minimal side effects (5) More educated & engaged patients & families on cancer prevention & care options

19. Provided it is securely managed and in full respect of data protection would you share your personal health data in order to help others and contribute to health improvements (tick all that apply)

- With doctors?
- With researchers?
- With pharmaceutical industry?

20. Have you received information on or been informed about the possibility to take part in clinical trials, including their benefits and risks?

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

21. How can you (or your organisation) contribute to the EU plan on cancer?

600 character(s) maximum

COCIR represents the leading industries in medical imaging, radiotherapy, health ICT and electromedical sectors. Our Members constantly develop innovative solutions to improve cancer early diagnosis, treatment and care, so that EU citizens benefit from better outcomes.

Our innovations enable optimal clinical results, enhance patient experience, lower the cost of care & improve the work life of care providers. With expertise/experiences from cancer diagnosis & care projects from all over the world, we offer our insights to policy makers and ready to work with all relevant stakeholders.

22. Is there anything else that you would like to add that has not been covered in this consultation?

600 character(s) maximum

In the age of COVID-19, the EU should ensure in its Recovery Plan, that cancer patients continue to be screened and receive their treatment without delays or distress. The EU should also provide a world-class innovation ecosystem in R&I on cancer. The EU Regulations should not only focus on reducing risks but weigh this aspect against lost value & missed opportunities in innovation. The EU should therefore mobilize the Innovation Funds (next MFF) to make Europe a global pioneer & forerunner in impactful research on cancer -supported by a fast track deployment of the resulting innovations.

Contact

sante-cancer@ec.europa.eu