



EUROPEAN UNION



# Mission Work Programme 2023

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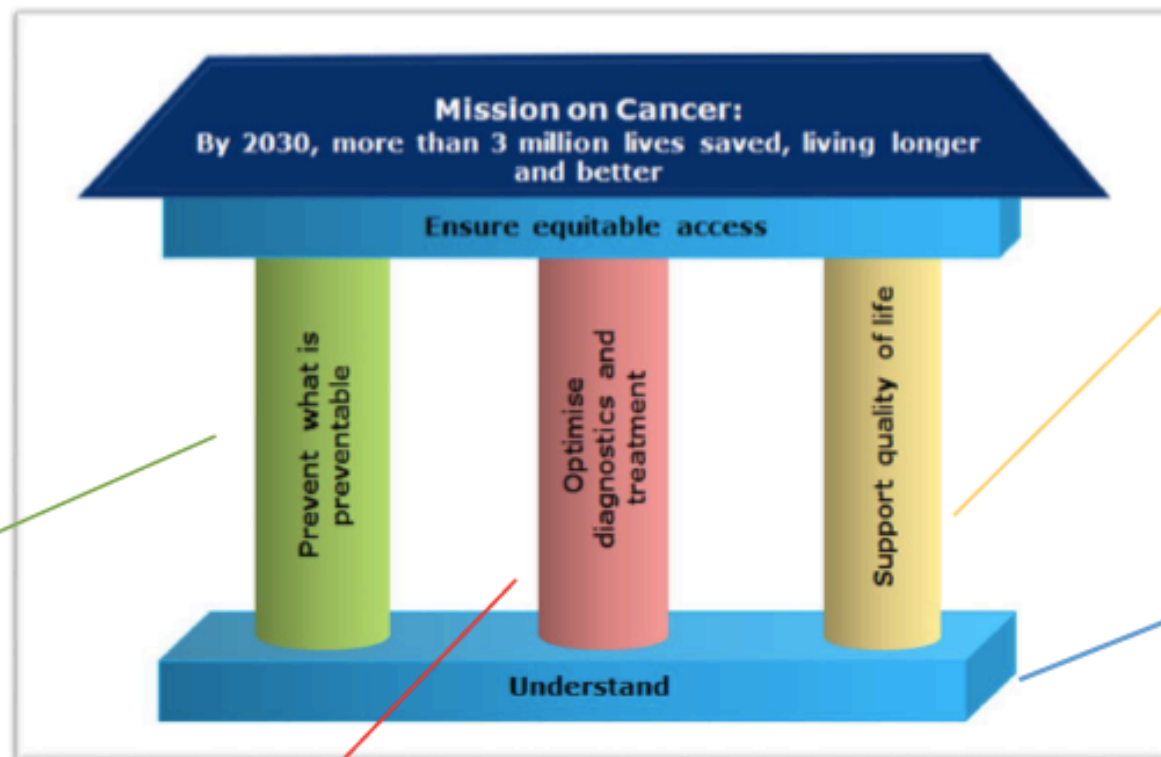
EU Mission on Cancer



# Cancer Mission - WP2021-2022-2023

## Overall approach

- Apply mission-guiding principles
- Apply mission clusters
- Synergies with Europe's Beating Cancer Plan
- Total budget 2021-2023: € 365 M\*  
\* reduction Commissioners PG 10%



- 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

- 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

- 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:

- 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

Creation of national cancer mission hubs to support the implementation of the Mission on Cancer - HORIZON-MISS-2022-CANCER-01-05



## Cancer Mission WP2023 – portfolio, citizen engagement, and end-user involvement

- Proposals will be evaluated on scientific merits - see Horizon Europe evaluation criteria, **portfolio approach, overall threshold 12 (was 10)**.
- 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 => **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 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://gnius.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** include also cancer centres, national and regional health authorities and services, local communities (e.g. cities).





## HORIZON-MISS-2023-CANCER-01-01: Addressing **poorly-understood** tumour-host interactions to enhance immune system-centred treatment and care interventions in childhood, adolescent, adult **and** elderly cancer patients.

Submission: **12.04.2023**; EUR 7-12 M/proposal; **70 pages**; R&I actions; portfolio approach; synergies; networking & project cluster

We will issue a FAQ

Applies to topic

### Scope

- Obtain a systematic understanding of processes underpinning tumour-host interactions in poorly-understood cancers and their subtypes in childhood, adolescent, adult **and** elderly cancer patients
- Combine knowledge and high-quality data from biomedical and clinical studies, and real-world data, using advanced digital tools and technologies such as computer modelling and artificial intelligence
- Demonstrate access to and use of multiple comprehensive databases in and beyond health research or health domains. Proposals should build on longitudinal clinically annotated, stratified patient cohorts, case-control studies, biobanks, registries and many other initiatives
- Based on results obtained, propose socially acceptable, affordable novel treatment or care interventions or health technologies for uptake into health systems in the areas of treatment or care, using approaches **that involve the end-user using participative research models**.

### Expected outcome

- Researchers and health professionals understand tumour-host processes that spur cancer development and progression in patients and how this forms the basis for the future design and optimisation of treatment or care interventions for poorly-understood cancers and their subtypes, including in children, adolescents, adults **and** the elderly.
- Researchers, innovators, and professionals from different disciplines and sectors ensure accessibility and re-usability of their data, models, tools and technology to support the UNCAN.eu platform, which is currently in preparation.
- Health policy makers are aware of an improved understanding of tumour-host interactions in cancer patients that would allow the co-design of cancer-related innovation and health policies in the Member States, Associated Countries and beyond, including those aimed at delivering treatment and care developing care solutions for and with cancer patients.



## HORIZON-MISS-2023-CANCER-01-02: Enhance **primary cancer prevention through sustainable behavioural change**

Submission: **12.04.2023**; EUR 4-6 M/proposal; R&I actions; portfolio approach; synergies; networking & project cluster

### Scope

- Develop, test and evaluate the effective impacts of innovative primary cancer prevention programmes.....;
- Provide evidence-based cost-benefit analyses of the proposed programmes;
- Identify and address specific **bottlenecks and barriers that prevent the uptake** of sustainable behavioural change.....;
- Identify the most appropriate actors and develop incentives promoting sustainable behavioural change.....;
- Assess and validate parameters and factors facilitating or impeding behavioural change, and measure their impact;
- Attention to health determinants, including occupational and environmental factors (e.g. pollution)....;
- Approaches on how to **best reach and involve** disadvantaged socio-economic population groups, vulnerable groups, and people living in rural areas, should be developed.

### Expected outcome

- Citizens, including people at high risk of developing cancer, cancer patients **and** survivors benefit from health promotion and primary prevention programmes that **reflect behavioural change and psycho-social approaches** tailored to the specific needs of different population groups both in urban and rural areas;
- Citizens, including people at high risk of developing cancer, cancer patients and cancer survivors benefit from easy-to-understand and accessible, tailored recommendations and support programmes on **sustainable behavioural changes, including psycho-social care**, that are easy to implement in their daily lives, including through the use of digital tools to facilitate healthier choices;
- Regional, local and national policymakers and authorities, promote healthy environments as well as design and implement the most suitable, sustainable health promotion and prevention programmes, which take account of behavioural change and psycho-social requirements.

Applies  
to topic





## HORIZON-MISS-2023-CANCER-01-03: **Pragmatic** clinical trials on minimally invasive diagnostics

Submission: **12.04.2023**; EUR 6-8 M/proposal; R&I actions; portfolio approach; synergies; networking & project cluster; **CT annex**

### Scope

- Design and conduct **randomised or cluster-randomised academic investigator-initiated** pragmatic clinical trials to deliver effective and evidence-based diagnostic interventions for implementation by healthcare systems;
- The chosen diagnostic intervention(s) should be adapted to the particular needs of the target population and to the specificities of the provision of care at local, regional, or national level, duly **reflecting the diversity** across Member States and Associated Countries;
- The successful proposals should clearly justify and describe the evidence supporting the chosen diagnostic intervention;
- The **primary and secondary endpoints** of the pragmatic clinical trial should support overall survival, patient-reported outcomes and quality of life issues considered important by and for cancer patients and their caregivers;
- Such **endpoints should be defined together with patients and their caregivers** through research that uses open knowledge,...;
- These pragmatic clinical trials should include stakeholders such as ...;
- Successful pragmatic clinical trials, including their analyses, should be completed **within 5 years from the start** of the project. **Translational research is not within the scope of this topic**;
- In all instances, sex- and gender-related issues must be taken into account.

### Expected outcome

- Cancer patients and their caregivers have access to optimised and affordable, minimally-invasive diagnostic interventions that increase their quality of life, across European regions, Member States and Associated Countries;
- Healthcare professionals and academia deliver better outcomes through routine healthcare, including quality of life, for men and women with cancer who often suffer from sex-related co-morbidities and side-effects;
- National healthcare providers, policymakers and authorities in European regions, Member States and Associated Countries will have the evidence to implement optimised and affordable minimally-invasive diagnostics in their healthcare systems, including in everyday medical practice.



## HORIZON-MISS-2023-CANCER-01-04: Establish best practices and tools to improve the quality of life for childhood cancer patients, survivors and their families in **European regions**

Submission: **12.04.2023**; EUR 6 M/proposal; **Innovation action**; **written commitment from regions**; liaise with EUonQoL project; networking & project cluster

### Scope

- Best practices and validated tools (such as digital tools) related to for example education, sports, employment, medical follow-up including mental and physical health and well-being, or reproductive matters, should be tested and scaled up **in regions in at least three different Member States or Associated Countries**;
- Address hurdles, factors and situations that impede implementation of good practices and tools in real-life settings with the intention to make the life of childhood cancer survivors easier and better. Effectiveness and general applicability should be assessed and evaluated to provide enhanced real solutions in practice;
- Attention should be paid to **social and health determinants**, including sex, gender, age and other relevant variables, such as socio-economic status, living in rural or remote areas and education;
- Several best practices and tools should be chosen and scaled up together with childhood cancer survivors and their families. The use of participative research models, such as oncology-centred living labs or other approaches to deliver (social) innovation should be considered.

### Expected outcome:

- Childhood cancer patients, survivors and their families benefit from enhanced quality of life through better supportive care, personalised counselling approaches, and digital tools that are accessible and affordable. Consequently, they can better achieve their values and personal life goals;
- Health care professionals, supportive workers and councillors enhance the quality of life for childhood cancer patients, survivors and their families.



# References

- **EU Mission on Cancer**
  - [Cancer Mission](#)
  - Horizon Europe rules apply (see information on participation of [UK](#), [CH](#), 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 2023](#) (published on 6 December)
  - 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](mailto: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!

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**#HorizonEU**

**#MissionCancer**

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