



This newsletter will provide you with monthly updates on the [Belgian 'EBCP' mirror group initiative](#), as well as on the latest EU cancer calls and projects (Europe's Beating Cancer Plan & Mission on Cancer). Subscribe [here](#) to receive the next issues!

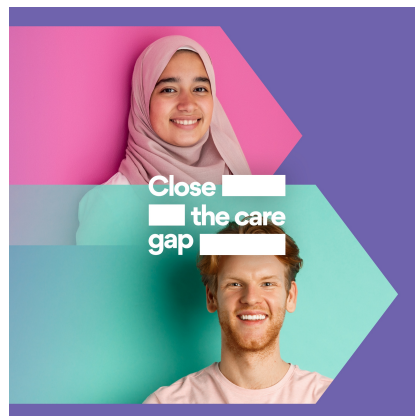
We wish you a prosperous and healthy 2023!

Looking forward to meeting you and collaborating!

News

World Cancer Day

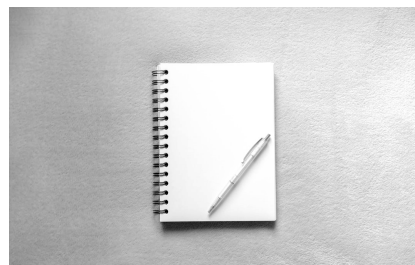
This year's [World Cancer Day](#)'s theme, "Close the Care Gap", is all about celebrating progress in its many forms that enable more people to seek and receive the care they need and deserve. It is about providing the momentum to fuel our fight for fairness.



[More info](#)

Sciensano Handbook for Supportive Oncological Care

In January 2023, the Belgian Cancer Centre launched an initiative on the development of a Handbook for Supportive Oncological Care. This initiative comes from the mission received by the Minister and its administrations to foresee guidelines for supportive care for cancer patients.



Field experts and patients will be involved in the initiative. Several European projects will also be followed up and used by the Belgian Cancer Centre in order to develop the Handbook, such as the three following EBCP flagship initiatives on quality of life for cancer patients and carers :

- Launch the 'Better Life for Cancer Patients Initiative', including a 'CancerSurvivor Smart- Card' and the creation of a virtual 'European

Cancer Patient Digital Centre' to support the exchange of patients' data and monitoring of survivors' health conditions – 2021-2023.

- Ensure full implementation of the Directive on work-life balance for parents and carers – 2021-2022.
- Address fair access for cancer survivors to financial services (including insurance), via a code of conduct and a reflection on long-term solutions – 2021-2023.

In addition, the **Work Package (WP) 8 of the Joint Action CraNE**, the **WP7 of the Joint Action Networks of Expertise - JANE** both address specific survivorship issues which will contribute to the reflexion.

Importantly, the chapter 7 of [the CanCon guide](#) draws a detailed and up to date vision of how cancer survivorship and rehabilitation care should be organized in EU MS and will therefore also be used as an important source of information.

Young Cancer Survivors Conference

07 February 2023 - 08:30

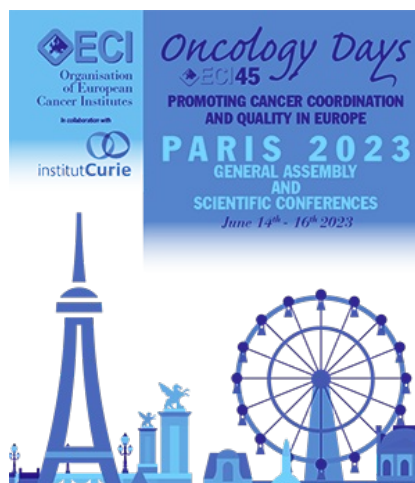
As part of the EU Mission on Cancer, the conference “Addressing the Needs of Young Cancer Survivors” aims to put a face on the quality of life for survivors of childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood cancer, creating a safe space where they will be offered the possibility to share their experiences.



[More info](#)

The OEI (Organisation of European Cancer institutes) Oncology Days 45 will take place in Paris on June 14th - 16th, 2023.

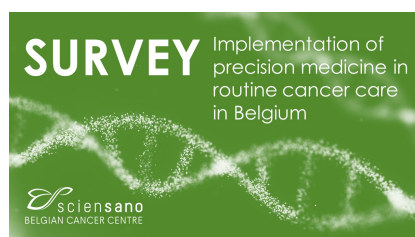
This edition will present the main running actions of the Cancer Mission and Europe's Beating Cancer Plan. The main scientific conference will focus on “Cell as a therapy”, and a session will be devoted to quality in Cancer care, research and education.



[More info](#)

Sciensano is conducting a foresight exercise on the implementation of precision medicine in Belgium.

Let us know your thoughts on what are the most crucial trends that will impact the Belgian health system and cancer patients in the next 10 years. You can participate in the short survey as part of the foresight exercise.



Go to the survey

Time estimation : 15 mins

New name for the Thematic Working Group “Inequalities”.

Within our Belgian EBCP mirror group initiative, the thematic working group “inequalities”, coordinated by Wannes van Hoof, will now be renamed to: **“Patient and citizen engagement.”** The idea is to broaden the scope a little so that our work would be applicable to more EU Calls. Given this slight change of topic, this group might be interesting to more people, so if you know anyone who might be interested: feel free to forward the information, [Wannes' contact details](#), and the [online form](#) to express the interest and get access the the SharePoint.

A Belgian Cancer Research Alliance is in preparation.

The Belgian Cancer Centre of Sciensano is currently acting secretariat for the development of the **Belgian Cancer Research Alliance (BeCRA)**. This proposal aims to establish a public consortium that positions Belgium and in particular its research institutes optimally at the EU level, especially with respect but not restricted to the many research initiatives launched within the EU4Health program, the Mission on Cancer and the Digital Europe program. Supported by researchers, research organisations and public stakeholders in the Belgian Cancer Research domain at large, BeCRA would ensure optimal use of upcoming investment and sustain excellence in the Belgian cancer research, as well as sharing of expertise and infrastructures. The initiative is at a very early stage of its development. More information to come in the upcoming months.

EU Projects updates

We are trying to have a **better view on the involvement of Belgium in Europe's Beating Cancer Plan** and the **Mission on Cancer**.

If you are involved in EU project(s) or if you would like us to include information on your EU projects via this newsletter, contact us!

Let us know!

Reminder

- The **EU4Health** 2023 Annual Work Programme has been published [here](#).
- The **Horizon Europe** Work Programme for 2023-2024 has also just been published [here](#).
- The **Innovative Health Initiative (IHI)** (a public-private partnership (PPP) between the European Union and the European life science industries) has published the draft texts of topics under consideration for inclusion in the next calls for proposals [here](#).

CraNE

Full title: Joint Action on network of Comprehensive Cancer Centres

Main areas: **CARE & CARE ORGANIZATION** / **QUALITY OF LIFE** / **INEQUALITIES**

Timeline: 01/11/2022 - 31/10/2024 (2 years)

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- **The kickoff meeting of the Work Package (WP) 7 of the Joint Action CRaNE took place on 9th and 10th of January**, organised by the French colleagues of INCa (Institut National du Cancer). The principle objective of the WP is to develop the framework and criteria to enable the

implementation of Comprehensive Cancer Centres (CCCs) within an EU Network. Discussions were focusing on what is to be considered as a Comprehensive Cancer Centre. In addition, the WP aims at obtaining a view on the status of CCCs at EU level – a survey is being prepared and will be sent to those interested in Belgium. Finally, initial discussions were held on the topics that should merit developing some criteria for CCCs to comply with (a.o prevention, research, training, governance and innovation).

[More info](#)

JANE



Full title: Joint Action on European Networks of Expertise

Main areas: PREVENTION / EARLY DETECTION & SCREENING / DIAGNOSIS & TREATMENT / CARE & CARE ORGANIZATION / REHABILITATION / QUALITY OF LIFE / INEQUALITIES / PAEDIATRIC CANCERS / AI / RESEARCH

Timeline: 01/11/2022 – 31/11/2024 (2 years)

● **On January 11, the kickoff meeting of the Work Package (WP) 9 on 'Omics Network of Expertise (NoE)'** was also held in Paris, lead by the Cancer Centre of Sciensano. This WP will focus on the development of a NoE fostering the integration of omic technologies into the EU healthcare systems, to support the Comprehensive Cancer Centres and their networks in their activities, both research and care. It will set the scope, organisation and governance of this new NoE.

To crystallize the thinking, several use cases were presented by the partners:

- the Master trial, presented by S. Frohling (German Cancer Research Center - DKFZ, Ge)
- the AURORA trial, presented by P. Aftimos (Institut Jules Bordet, Be)
- the ERN Genturis, presented by K. Claes (UZ Gent, Be)
- the ERN EURACAN, presented by JY Blay (Centre Léon Bérard, Fr)
- the innovative Spiderweb trial, presented by N. Kotecki (Institut Jules Bordet, Be)

[More info](#)

EUCAIM



Full title: EUropean federation for CAnCer IMages

Main areas: EARLY DETECTION & SCREENING / DIAGNOSIS & TREATMENT / AI / RESEARCH

Timeline: 01/2023 – 01/2027 (4 years)

● **Kick-off meeting was held in Brussels on 23rd and 24th January.** The EUropean federation for CAnCer IMages (EUCAIM) joins 79 partners to deploy a pan-European digital federated infrastructure of FAIR cancer-related de-identified images from Real-World. The aim of the project is to build a central hub hosting an Atlas of Cancer Images in order to enable development and benchmarking of AI tools towards Precision Medicine. The project will align with the European Health Data Spaces initiative toward a sustainable flagship repository of high-quality data and tools. It brings together clinical data providers, researchers, Research Infrastructures, and industry with mature solutions addressing the challenges of implementing such a cancer imaging infrastructure.

[More info](#)

ONCOSCREEN



Full title: Colorectal Cancer Screening, prevention, stratification and policy advice across EU

Main areas: **EARLY DETECTION & SCREENING**

Timeline: 01/2023 - 12/2026 (4 years)

● **Kick-off meeting was held on 12-13 January in Greece.**

ONCOSCREEN responds to the challenge of implementation of personalized colorectal cancer (CRC) screening across EU by developing a risk-based, population-level stratification methodology for CRC, to account for genetic prevalence, socio-economic status, and other factors. It complements this methodology by:

- a. developing a set of novel, practical, and low-cost screening technologies with high sensitivity and specificity,
- b. leveraging AI to improve existing methodologies for CRC screening, allowing for the early detection of polyps and provision of a personalized risk status stratification, and
- c. providing a mobile app for self-monitoring and CRC awareness raising.

Furthermore, ONCOSCREEN is developing an Intelligent Analytics dashboard (led by VITO) for policy makers, facilitating effective policy making at regional and national levels. Through a multi-level campaign, the above-mentioned solutions are tested and validated. For the clinical solutions specifically, a clinical validation study has been planned with the participation of 4100 enrolled patients/citizens. The project will be implemented by a multidisciplinary consortium comprising of 38 partners, including technical solutions providers, hospitals, Ministries of Health as policy makers, legal and ethics experts, Insurance companies, involving actively end-users/citizens in all phases of implementation through targeted workshops.

Belgian members of the consortium: VITO, INNOVATION SPRINT, AINIGMA TECHNOLOGIES, TIME.LEX. University of Antwerp is an associated Partner.

[More info](#)

SOLACE and PRAISE U

Main areas: **EARLY DETECTION & SCREENING**

Timeline: 04/2023 - 02/2024 (10 months)

● **They will launch in April 2023 and run for 10 months.**

SOLACE (Strengthening the screening Of Lung cAnCer in Europe) and PRAISE-U are large scale European pilot studies for lung and prostate cancer screening, respectively. Philips is a member of the advisory boards of both projects, focusing on low-dose CT imaging, MRI imaging, risk stratification algorithms, AI-based incidental findings, and automated workflows. Solace is coordinated by prof. Kauczor (Heidelberg University Hospital), PRAISE-U by the European Association of Urology (EUA), prof. Hendrik Van Poppel (KU Leuven).

Belgian members of the consortium: Philips and Prof. Hendrik Van Poppel (KU Leuven + EUA).

Full title: EU Joint Action on strengthening eHealth including telemedicine and remote monitoring for health care systems for cancer prevention and care

Main areas: **CARE & CARE ORGANIZATION** / **QUALITY OF LIFE**

Timeline: 15/09/202 - 15/09/2024 (2 years)

● **The website of the project is now available if you want to know more and follow updates:** <https://ecanja.eu/>

The eCAN Joint Action aims to provide a framework of recommendations for the integration of telemedicine and remote monitoring in health care systems. The objective is to reduce cancer care inequalities across the European Union, particularly for cross-border emergencies and health crises, such as COVID-19. 16 countries participate in this project coordinated by Sciensano.

More info

Join us.

With the support of the Minister of Social Affairs and Public Health, the Belgian Cancer Centre at Sciensano invites you to join in the BE-EBCP Mirror Group.



Join the table

You want to join the discussion? Take part in one (or more) thematic working group? Let us know by filling the form below!



Workspace

Our shared workspace (SharePoint) will give you access to more detailed information on each of the projects and calls that are under discussion in Belgium. Fill the form below to get access.

Fill the form

Contact us.

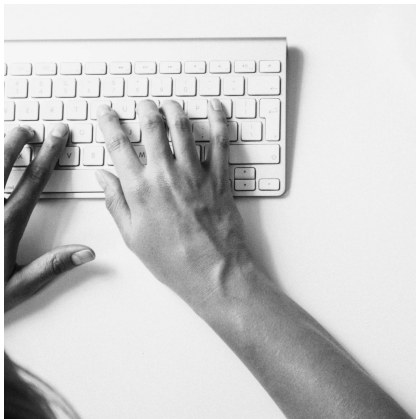
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