



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 issue of this newsletter in your mailbox!

Table of contents

UPDATES FROM THE MIRROR GROUP

[Past meetings](#)

[News](#)

[Ongoing projects](#)

UPDATES FROM EUROPE

[Calls and deadlines](#)

[Events](#)

[News](#)

UPDATES FROM THE MIRROR GROUP

Past meetings

6 NOV

Thematic working group meeting: The thematic working group “Children and AYAs with Cancers” held its 6th meeting on Monday, 6th November 2023. The main topics discussed were oncofertility and oncogenetics. It was stressed that Belgium is a pioneer in clinical and research innovation with many diverse expertise, internationally recognized in the field of oncofertility. However, there is still need to systematically and prospectively address this issue in each new clinical study involving CAYAs. Collaboration with medical oncologists and haematologists should be fostered and data on fertility preservation in Belgium needs to be collected.

News

European Public Health Conference:
The Belgian Cancer Centre (Sciensano)

colleagues attended the 16th European Public Health Conference in Dublin between the 8 and 11 November. During three sessions, they gave an overview of the work that has been ongoing in the BE EBCP Mirror Group:



● **Skills building seminar - Sharp Pencils, Clear Minds: Translating research to policy through effective policy briefs.**

As a case study, they employed the experiences of the Belgian Cancer Centre of Sciensano, such as the policy briefs describing the main projects and activities pertaining to cancer care that were created within the framework of the Belgian Europe's Beating Cancer Plan Mirror Group.



● **Round table - Implementing Europe's Beating Cancer Plan: Challenges and opportunities from European countries.**

This workshop's objectives were to contextualize the European Commission's EBCP and investigate various Member States' implementation strategies, with an emphasis on public health initiatives and policy design and implementation that emphasize participation.



● **Skills building seminar - A seat at the table: Engaging patients and citizens in public health policy-making.**

Wannes Van Hoof (leader of the Thematic Working group "patients and citizen engagement") and Louise Mathieu presented the theoretical background, useful tools, and recommendations based on their experience that they used for the TEHDAS ("Towards the European Health Data Space") project. This was an e-consultation of European citizens regarding the secondary use (beyond individual care) of their health data.

Thematic working group (TWG) Research: We would like to notify you that TWG Research is no longer operating as a separate group and is instead covered horizontally in all of the Mirror Group's Thematic Working Groups. The Belgian Cancer Research Alliance (BeCRA) was established as a result of this TWG. BeCRA is a public consortium supported by researchers, research organizations and public stakeholders in the field of cancer research in Belgium according to the scope specified in the "European Cancer Plan" (EBCP). Its mission will be to provide the Belgian population with the best cancer care through collaborative research efforts that support the fluid, sustainable integration of bench-to-bed innovations into the Belgian healthcare system.

The BeCRA partners agree that to accomplish this mission it is important

to

1) concertedly and in mutual agreement respond to the opportunities the European Commission opens within the EBCP, the Mission on Cancer (MoC) and Digital Europe, and

2) jointly integrate “Bench to Bed” research and innovation into Belgian Cancer care.

Initially, BeCRA will mainly involve research groups working in the fields of basic, translational and clinical research. However, BeCRA will certainly collaborate with other TWGs on different research projects whenever possible and desirable. At a later stage, BeCRA may also involve research groups working in other areas of cancer research, from epidemiology to survivorship and quality of life.

Ongoing projects

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)

● **The CraNE project is a flagship initiative aimed at establishing a European network of Comprehensive Cancer Centers (CCC).** This initiative is part of the “Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan (EBCP),” launched in 2021, which seeks to integrate health concerns into all policies and engage a diverse range of actors in the fight against cancer in Europe. The goal is ambitious yet critical: to provide access to these centers for 90% of eligible patients by 2030.

● **The project CraNE will organise a stakeholder forum on the 7th of December 2023.** The event aims to address the following key objectives:

- Provide insights into the model of CCCs and the EU network of CCCs being developed by CraNE.
- Facilitate dialogs on the proposals developed by CraNE thus far and discuss the steps towards implementing the CraNE project.

The CraNE Project Stakeholder Forum marks a pivotal moment to bring together all relevant stakeholders, address the challenges we face, and define a clear roadmap for the successful establishment of the European CCC network. The event will especially:

- Introduce the organizational structure of the CraNE project
- Discuss the challenges and conditions for setting up the CCCs
- Foster collaboration and idea exchange among stakeholders



[More info](#)

Full title: The European Genomic Data Infrastructure

Main areas: RESEARCH

Timeline: 01/11/2022 - 31/10/2026 (4 years)

- **The first GDI Stakeholder Forum took place on the 23rd of November.** The aim of this event was to disseminate project information, updates, and outcomes to invited stakeholders. Meeting outcomes:
 - Participants are aware of GDI as a project and its advancement in achieving the goal of the 1+MG initiative.
 - Stakeholders from industry sectors reflect on current gaps and challenges, and their corresponding solutions.
 - Provide input on a position paper about the state of the genomics and healthcare research industries.
 - A brief report summarizing the talks and meeting that will be included in the GDI newsletter.

[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)

- **The partners of the Joint Action on Networks of Expertise in Cancer (JANE) met in Barcelona on 16-17 November for the annual stakeholder forum, plenary meeting and steering committee meeting.** The goal of this event was to:
 1. Present the current status and achievements of JANE and share the main concerns of the Networks of Expertise (NoEs) leaders to establish solid alliances with different key agents.
 2. Explore Stakeholders' needs and expectations about NoEs and how they can contribute to addressing current challenges in the cancer ecosystem.
 3. Discuss what NoEs can expect from civil society, academia, the private sector, and other key agents in terms of support and collaboration.To this end, various stakeholders from the EU Commission, Academia, Industry, Policy, Public Health and patient organizations contributed to a lively discussion on what the NoEs should look like in the future. The overall conclusion was that the NoEs will focus on providing services (e.g. guidelines, tools, strategies, ...) to improve cancer prevention, treatment, care and survivorship.



[More info](#)

CAN.HEAL



can.heal

Full title: Building the EU cancer and public health genomics platform

Main areas: PREVENTION / EARLY DETECTION & SCREENING / DIAGNOSIS & TREATMENT

Timeline: 01/11/2022 - 31/10/2024 (24 months)

● **CAN.HEAL Mid-term meeting took place in Berlin on the 9 and 10 of October 2023 with the consortium partners.**



The CAN.HEAL project has been running for a year. Some recent outcomes include:

1. The CAN.HEAL evaluation framework, which has three dimensions: equity, multistakeholder impact assessment and readiness for adoption, and scale-up (WP3 Deliverables)
2. A comprehensive review that provides a detailed overview of the diverse legislative landscape relating to genetic counselling in EU Member States (deliverable WP6)
3. A description of the various Molecular Tumor Boards (MTB) across countries and institutions in the consortium, as well as a list of national initiatives related to MTB.(WP8 Deliverable)
4. Regarding decision support tools (DST) for clinical and genomic data integration and decision support for the Molecular Tumour Board and treatment decision: a state-of-the art of available decision support tools (DST) and a definition of the EU-OncDST concept (Deliverable WP10).

[More info](#)

EUCAIM



Full title: European federation for CAncer IMages

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

Timeline: 01/2023 - 01/2027 (4 years)

● **You are cordially invited to take part in the Stakeholder Survey regarding the Cancer Image Europe platform by the [EUCAIM consortium](#).** The goal of this survey is to collect data that will be useful in determining key elements for future platform engagement and collaboration, as well as in understanding the expectations of potential end users and stakeholders.

[Complete the survey](#)

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

UPDATES FROM EUROPE

Calls and deadlines

There are many EU calls that are relevant for cancer. Several of them will close on **January 16** and **April 11 2024**. You can have a look on Funding & tenders (europa.eu).

Search EU calls

Note that the Belgian EBCP mirror group is an opportunity to discuss relevant calls and identify potential partners for consortium.

Upcoming events



Bridging the inequality gaps for childhood cancer - Panel discussion organised by the European Cancer Inequalities Registry (ECIR).

6 December 2023

Childhood cancers are rare and have high survival rates, but remain the first cause of death from disease in children and young people. The most common childhood cancers are leukemia, lymphomas and brain tumors. There are more than 60 different pediatric malignancies. Childhood cancers are different from adult cancers in their biology, treatment and prognosis. Evident inequalities in pediatric cancer burden exist in the EU. Incidence, mortality, and survival vary among EU countries and regions.

On 6th December 2023 the European Cancer Inequalities Registry (ECIR) will launch this new topic on Childhood Cancer, and start the discussion on what can be done.

More info



Research Perspectives on the Health Impacts of Climate Change

19-20 February 2024, Brussels

The European Commission will bring together climate change and health researchers funders and policymakers to reflect on the current challenges and needs for research in this area. The conference will also unveil a strategic research and innovation agenda with future priorities.

The conference will include four themes:

- Short and long-term impacts from climate change
- Climate change in the context of other environmental stressors
- Climate change and the health sector
- A global research agenda on climate change and health

More info

European Commission World Cancer Day event on 'Europe's Beating Cancer Plan'

31 January 2024

Three years after the adoption of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, Stella Kyriakides, European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, will host the fourth high-level event to mark World Cancer Day, on 31 January 2024, in Brussels. The event will be an opportunity to hear from patients, healthcare professionals and relevant experts on the impact that the unprecedented EU mobilisation to improve cancer care in the EU is having on improving the lives of all those touched by this disease. The event will also showcase cancer-related EU projects, funded from the € 4 billion Cancer Plan budget, which support cancer prevention, early detection, treatment and care, and quality of life.



More info

News

1+Million Genomes Initiative: new Roadmap is adopted for the scale-up and sustainability phase

On November, 15, the 1+Million Genomes (1+MG) Initiative marked a new milestone towards the objective of enabling secure access to genomic data across borders to advance research and personalised care in Europe.



The 1+MG Special Group of Member States representatives in Barcelona (Spain) have adopted a new Roadmap detailing the activities in the scale-up and sustainability phase of the Initiative in the years 2023-2027. The Initiative will now focus on establishing a European federated, sustainable and secure data infrastructure to access genomic and related health data across Europe. By 2024, at least six EU countries will have implemented common specifications and will be able to manage genomic data access (Belgium has the ambition to be one of them). By 2026, 15 countries will have an operational infrastructure in place. This is supported by the Genomic Data Infrastructure (GDI) project, co-funded by the European Commission under the Digital Europe programme.

[More info](#)

The Sub-group on Cancer of the Commission Expert Group on Public Health (PHEG), chaired by DG SANTE, had a virtual meeting.

The meeting was attended by representatives from 19 Member States plus Norway, as well as various Commission services and agencies and one person from the WHO Collaborative Centre for UV Radiation. The meeting included presentations on WHO guidance for artificial tanning devices, survey results on national measures related to sunbed use, analysis of feedback on the proposed Commission Recommendation for sunbed risks, preliminary findings from a literature review post-2016 SCHEER Opinion, and an open discussion on the content of the Commission's Recommendation for reducing human risks associated with sunbed use.

[Flash report](#)

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!

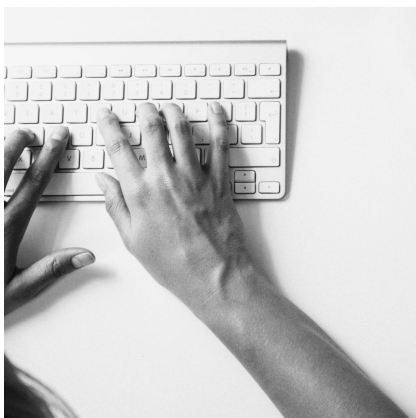


Workspace

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.



Marc Van den Bulcke
Head of the Cancer Centre
Marc.VanDenBulcke@sciensano.be

Marie Delnord
Project manager
Marie.Delnord@sciensano.be

Jinane Ghattas
Project manager
Jinane.Ghattas@sciensano.be

Email us

Follow our activities



[Unsubscribe](#)

