



PUBLIC FORUM

THE NATIONAL BEATING CANCER PLAN - BUILDING A BARRIER AGAINST THE DISEASE

www.ecpc.oncobg.info

24-th of November 2023, Sofia



UNDER THE AUSPICES OF:



WITH THE SUPPORT OF:



MEDIA PARTNERS:



THE NATIONAL BEATING CANCER PLAN -
BUILDING A BARRIER AGAINST THE DISEASE

Mission on Cancer and Europe's Beating Cancer Plan: impact on the EU MSs



Francesco De Lorenzo



European Cancer
Patient Coalition



apoz
Association of patients with
cancer and Friends (Bulgaria)
Time is valuable for us



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We make things happen!

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF:



Ministry
of Health

WITH THE SUPPORT OF:



ASSOCIATION OF THE RESEARCH-BASED
PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY IN BULGARIA

Innovative Solutions for the Bulgarian Patient

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Conquering Cancer: Mission Possible



Figure 1. Intervention areas for action

Conquering Cancer: Mission Possible

By 2030, more than 3 million lives saved, living longer and better

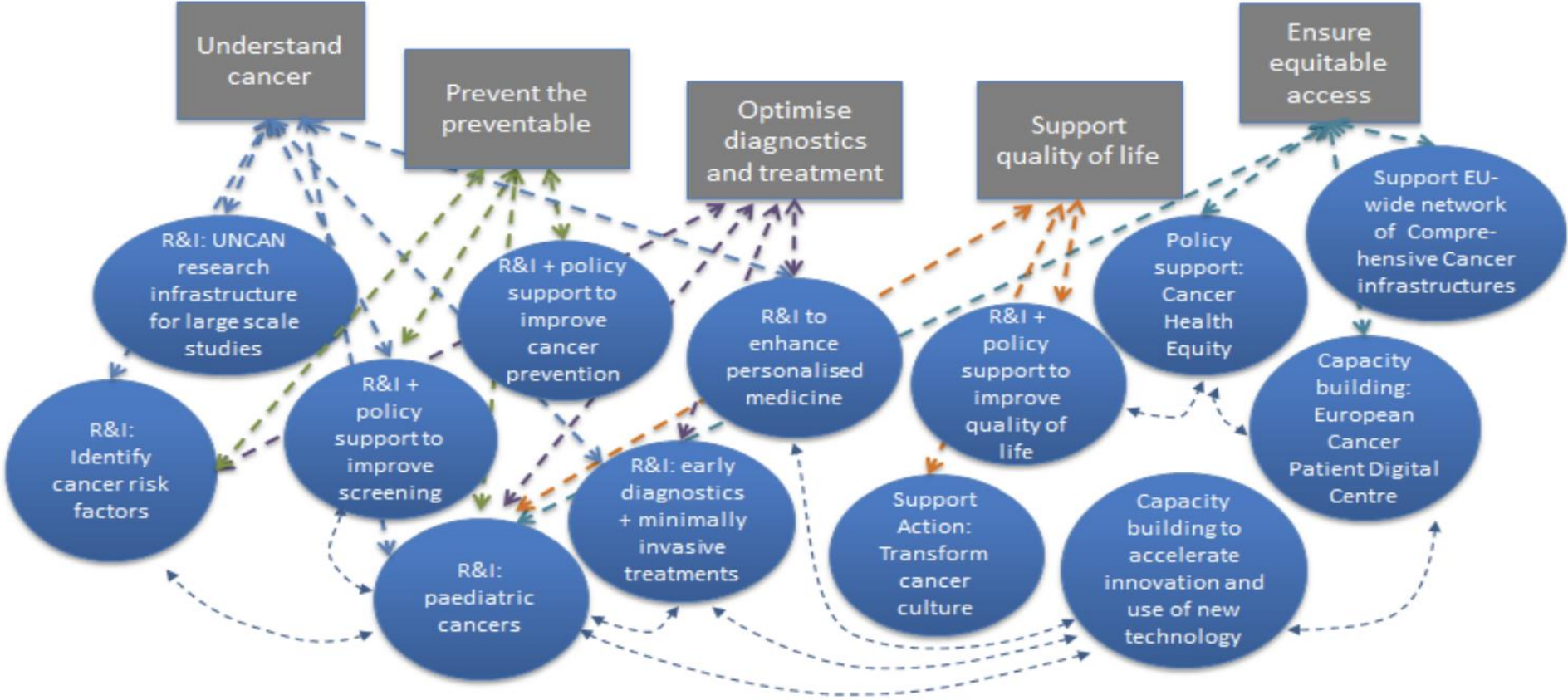
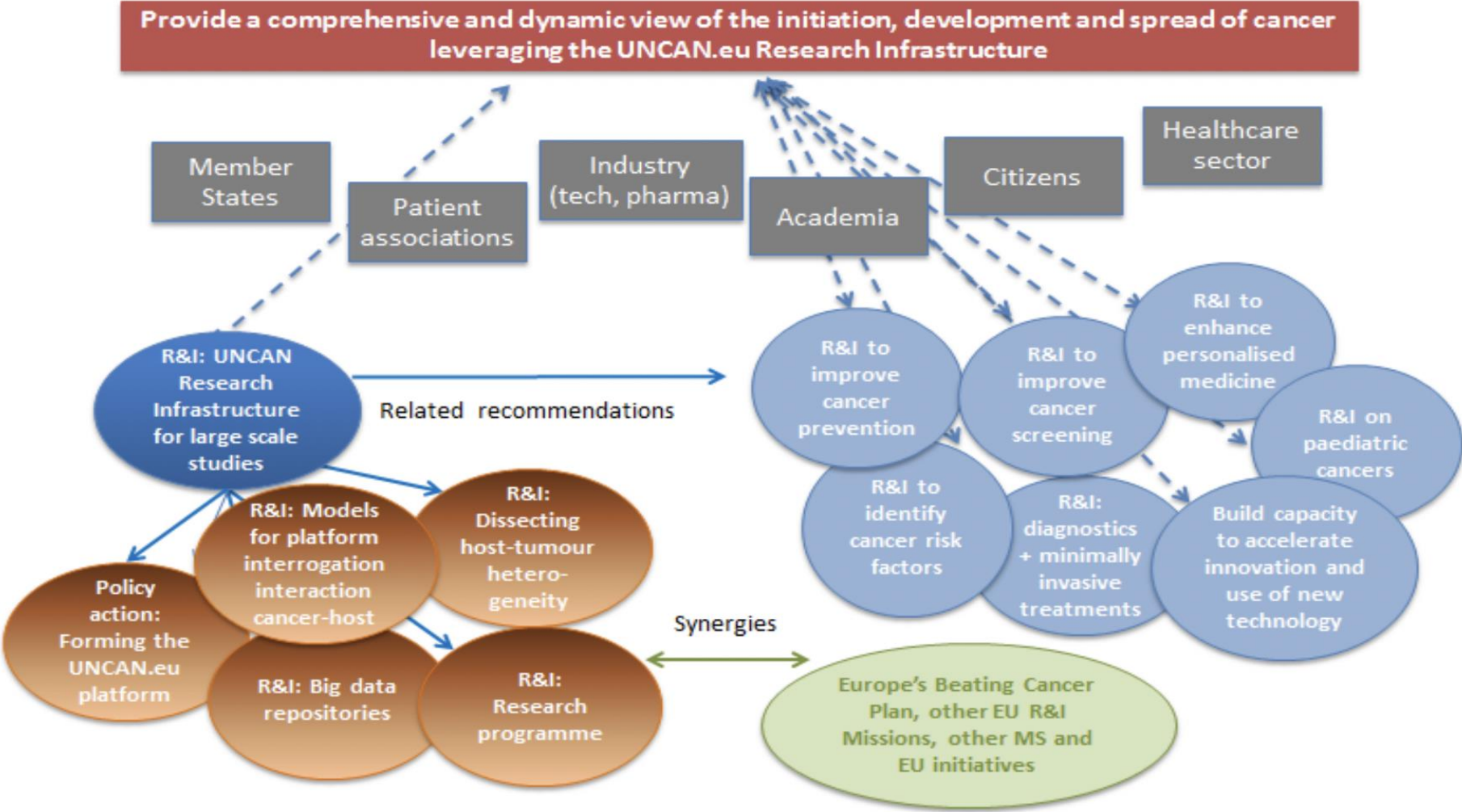


Figure 2. Relationships between Mission's goal, areas of action and recommended actions

Conquering Cancer: Mission Possible



Conquering Cancer: Mission Possible

Recommendation		Potential synergy with other EU Research and Innovation Missions		
1	Launch UNCAN.eu – a European Initiative to Understand Cancer	Missions on Soil health and food; Climate-neutral and smart cities; Adaptation to climate change including societal transformation		cancer patients and survivors can deposit and share their data for personalised care
2	Develop an EU-wide research programme to identify (poly-) genic risk scores	Missions on Soil health and food; Climate-neutral and smart cities; Adaptation to climate change including societal transformation		9 Achieve Cancer Health Equity in the EU across the continuum of the disease
3	Support the development and implementation of effective cancer prevention strategies and policies within Member States and the EU	Missions on Soil health and food; Climate-neutral and smart cities; Adaptation to climate change including societal transformation		10 Set up a network of Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructures within and across all EU Member States to increase quality of research and care
4	Optimise existing screening programmes and develop novel approaches for screening and early detection			
5	Advance and implement personalised medicine approaches for all cancer patients in Europe		←	11 Childhood cancers and cancers in adolescents and young adults: cure more and cure better
6	Develop an EU-wide research programme on early diagnostic and minimally invasive treatment technologies			12 Accelerate innovation and implementation of new technologies and create Oncology-focused Living Labs to conquer cancer
7	Develop an EU-wide research programme and policy support to improve the quality of life of cancer patients and survivors, family members and carers, and all persons with an increased risk of cancer	Communication to citizens together with other Missions	←	13 Transform cancer culture, communication and capacity building
8	Create a European Cancer Patient Digital Centre where		→	Communication to citizens together with other Missions

A Cancer Plan for Europe

Europe's Beating Cancer Plan is the EU's reflects a political commitment to leave no stone unturned to take action against cancer.

The aim of **Europe's Beating Cancer Plan** is to tackle the entire disease pathway. It is structured around four key action areas where the EU can add the most value: **(1) prevention; (2) early detection; (3) diagnosis and treatment; and (4) quality of life of cancer patients and survivors.**

With its policy objectives, supported by ten flagship initiatives and multiple supporting actions, the Cancer Plan will help Member States turn the tide against cancer.

Europe's Beating Cancer Plan is a key pillar of a stronger European Health Union and a more secure, better-prepared and more resilient EU.




Driving change through knowledge and research

EU4Health programme and other EU instruments will provide substantial financial support with **€4 billion to Member States in their efforts to make their health systems more robust and more able to address cancer.**

The Cancer Plan is based on a *'Health in All Policies'* multi-stakeholder approach and is the result of an extensive consultation process.

This will enable the Cancer Plan to tackle cancer drivers in our schools and in the workplaces, in research labs, in our towns and cities, and in our rural communities;

 Horizon Europe will fund research infrastructures, cloud computing and European Innovation Council actions. It will promote cooperation between the health industry, academia and other stakeholders to translate scientific knowledge into innovations that address prevention, diagnosis, treatment and management of diseases, including cancer.

The role of Member States

- MS are deemed key to the delivery of the Mission's activities and to the achievement of the planned results by 2030.
- Strong synergies with the national cancer plans which many (but not all) MS have adapted or will adapt in alignment with the EBCP and/or the Cancer Mission.
- Significant variation between MS regarding the organisation of national and regional research programmes, health systems, setting of national cancer priorities and availability of necessary resources.
- Aligning national and EU strategies essential to build synergies, enhance collaboration and increase impact yet ensuring implementation at the national level.
- Mission implementation mirror groups in Belgium, Austria, Spain, Portugal



The 10 Flagships

EU Health Union: Europe's Beating Cancer Plan

#EUCancerPlan

3 FEBRUARY 2021



"In 2020, while we were all fighting against the COVID-19 pandemic, many of us were fighting a silent battle. The battle against cancer. In 2020, we lost 1.3 million Europeans to this disease. And sadly, the number of cases is on the rise. This is why we present Europe's Beating Cancer Plan today. The fight of those battling cancer is our fight as well, in Europe."

Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission



"Honouring one of this Commission's central pledges, we present today an anthropocentric Plan for cancer that addresses all angles: prevention, diagnosis, treatment and survivorship. It is about health but beyond health policy. A whole-of-society effort. In a strong European Health Union, cancer becomes a shared political, operational and scientific priority."

Margaritis Schinas, Vice-President of the European Commission



"This is first and foremost about people. About celebrating and reinforcing resilience and treating cancer as a disease that can and must be overcome. A strong European Health Union is a Union where citizens are protected from avoidable cancers, where they have access to early screening and diagnosis, and where everyone is empowered with access to high quality care, at every step of the way. This is what we want to achieve with our Cancer Plan."

Stella Kyriakides, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety



ACTIONS	TIMETABLE
A MODERN APPROACH TO CANCER: NEW TECHNOLOGIES, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION AT THE SERVICE OF PATIENT-CENTRED CANCER PREVENTION AND CARE	
Knowledge Centre on Cancer: better coordination of scientific and technical related initiatives at EU level.	2021-2022
European Cancer Imaging Initiative: innovative solutions for greater accuracy and reliability in diagnostic imaging.	2022



SAVING LIVES THROUGH SUSTAINABLE CANCER PREVENTION



With its **ten flagship initiatives** and **multiple supporting actions**, the Cancer Plan will help Member States turn the tide against cancer.



ACTIONS	TIMETABLE
IMPROVING EARLY DETECTION OF CANCER	
EU Cancer Screening Scheme: including updating Recommendations on screening and new Guidelines and Quality Assurance schemes .	2022-2025



ENSURING ACCESS TO HIGH STANDARDS IN CANCER DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT	
EU Network linking recognised National Comprehensive Cancer Centres in all Member States by 2025.	2021-2025
Cancer Diagnostic and Treatment for All initiative: access to innovative cancer diagnosis and treatments.	2021-2025



European Initiative to Understand Cancer (UNCAN.eu): planned under the foreseen Mission on Cancer, to help identify individuals at high risk from common cancers.	2021-2025
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IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR CANCER PATIENTS AND SURVIVORS	
Better life for cancer patients initiative: Cancer Survivor Smart-Card and European Cancer Patient Digital Centre .	2021-2023



REDUCING CANCER INEQUALITIES ACROSS THE EU	
Cancer Inequalities Registry: reducing inequalities between Member States and regions.	2021-2022



PUTTING CHILDHOOD CANCER UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT	
Helping Children with Cancer Initiative, including EU Network of Youth Cancer Survivors .	2021-2023

€ 4 billion for actions addressing cancer, including €1.25 billion from the future EU4Health programme, plus financial support through the Horizon Europe Framework Programme for

Delivering higher-quality care

Flagship 5: The Commission will establish, by 2025, an **EU Network** linking recognised National **Comprehensive Cancer Centres** in every Member State⁵⁶. It will facilitate the uptake of quality-assured diagnosis and treatment, including training, research and clinical trials across the EU. This cross-border collaboration will improve

patients' access to high-quality diagnostics and care and the latest innovative treatments. It can also help with patient mobility to ensure adequate treatment for patients with complex conditions. A new 'EU Cancer Treatment Capacity and Capability Mapping' project will help to map and share the different capabilities and expertise available across the EU.

This action will help deliver higher-quality care and reduce inequalities across the EU, while enabling patients to benefit from diagnosis and treatment close to home. The Cancer Plan aims to ensure that **90% of eligible patients** have access to such **centres by 2030**.

Ensuring access to essential medicines and innovation

Flagship 6: The new **'Cancer Diagnostic and Treatment for All'** initiative, to be launched by end of 2021, will help improve access to innovative cancer diagnosis and treatments. It will use the 'next generation sequencing' technology for quick and efficient genetic profiles of tumour cells, allowing Cancer Centres to share cancer profiles and applying the same or similar diagnostic and therapeutic approaches to patients with comparable cancer profiles. The initiative will ultimately help optimise cancer diagnosis and treatment and reduce unequal access to personalised medicine in cancer care, greatly benefitting patients.

Recent developments in cancer diagnosis and treatment have dramatically improved survival rates and quality of life for cancer patients. However, the financial costs are high, and they vary significantly across the EU. Moreover, shortages of cancer medicines have increased considerably, with serious consequences for patients. Overcoming these challenges is an important goal for Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, and for the Commission as a whole.

The Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe, and the announced reform of the basic pharmaceutical legislation.



Building on the promise of personalised medicine for cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment

Personalised cancer medicines can significantly improve prevention, detection and prognosis for cancer patients and can reduce the risk of adverse effects. They should be part of the future of cancer medicines.

Flagship 7: Alongside the ‘Genomic for Public Health’ project, the **European Initiative to Understand Cancer (UNCAN.eu)**, planned to be launched under the foreseen Mission on Cancer to increase the understanding of how cancers develop, will also help identify individuals at high risk from common cancers using the polygenic risk scores technique⁶². This should facilitate personalised approaches to cancer prevention and care, allowing for actions to be taken to decrease risk or to detect cancer as early as possible.

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR CANCER PATIENTS, SURVIVORS, AND CARERS

Thanks to advances in early detection, effective therapies and supportive care, survival rates have increased dramatically. The number of cancer survivors is growing every year, and is now estimated at over 12 million in Europe.

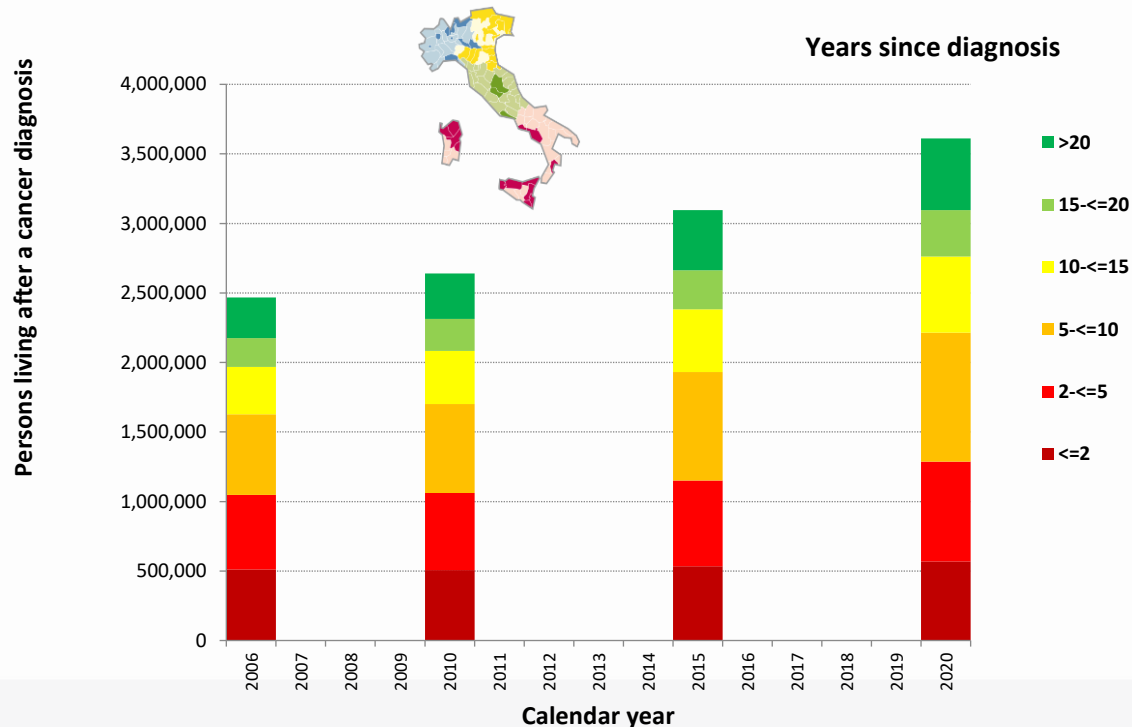
In this context, we should no longer focus on 'how long' people live after diagnosis, but rather on 'how well and how long' they live. Europe's Beating Cancer Plan aims not only to ensure that cancer patients survive their illness, but that they live long, fulfilling lives, free from discrimination and unfair obstacles.

Flagship 8: Funded by the EU4Health programme, the Commission will launch the **'Better Life for Cancer Patients Initiative'**. It aims to provide, by 2022, a 'Cancer Survivor Smart-Card' to summarise their clinical history and facilitate and monitor follow-up care including the patients' own experience. This personalised and voluntary 'Card', in the form of an interoperable portable eCard or app will connect the patient with health professionals to improve communication and coordination around medical follow-up. It will be complemented by the creation of a virtual **'European Cancer Patient Digital Centre'** under the foreseen Horizon Europe Mission on Cancer, to support a standardised approach to the voluntary exchange of patients' data and monitoring of survivors' health conditions by 2023.

Why Survivorship Care is important?

We can estimate that 5% of individuals in several European countries are living after a cancer diagnosis (e.g., 3.6 million in Italy, 20-25 millions in Europe).

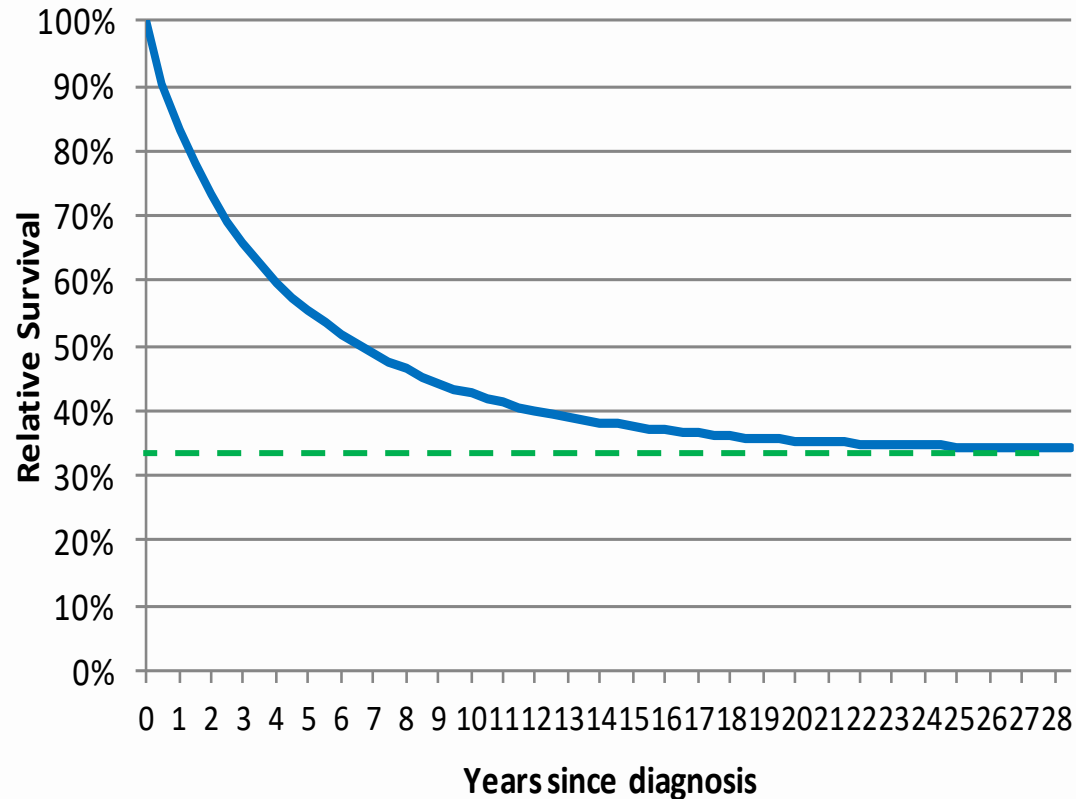
Italy: Guzzinati et al. BMC Cancer 2018



A large proportion of these people (e.g., 24% of cancer patients in Italy) are alive 15 or more years after diagnosis.

In green in the Figure

How many patients will be cured? - Cure Fraction



Dal Maso et al. Int J Epid, 2020

Proportion of cancer cases who are expected to reach the same death rates of the general population.

It occurs when the relative survival curve becomes flat.

The dashed green line represents patients who will not die as a result of their cancer

There is an absolute need to ensure that cancer research includes Health's related Quality of Life aspects.

Cancer survivorship research is a critical component of the overall cancer research activity in Europe.

- Long-term follow-up and survivorship including social consequences (Societal Acceptance, insurance, employment) and health economics aspects.
- Limited interdisciplinary research activity in the survivorship domain and a paucity of survivorship research tools.
- Paucity of specific research programmes for children, adolescents and young adult survivors.
- Lack of research on the legal aspects of reintegration of cancer survivors back into society. (Right to be forgotten)
- Lack of knowledge of the stigma associated with cancer.
- Lack of specific research on survivorship support for patients and for patient empowerment.

Molecular
Oncology



Challenges and solutions to embed cancer survivorship research and innovation within the EU Cancer Mission

Molecular
Oncology



POLICY ARTICLE

Towards a Cancer Mission in Horizon Europe

Re-skilling and up-skilling

The Commission will foster its support to Member States in promoting re-skilling and up- skilling programmes to help cancer survivors re-join the labour market, with possible funding support from the European Social Fund Plus.



Reducing Cancer Inequalities Across the EU

Flagship 9: In 2021, the Commission will establish a **Cancer Inequalities Registry**. It will identify trends, disparities and inequalities between Member States and regions. Alongside regular qualitative assessments of the country-specific situation, the Registry will identify challenges and specific areas of action to guide investment and interventions at EU, national and regional level under Europe's Beating Cancer Plan.



Thank you!



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Thank you for your attention!

Francesco De Lorenzo

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