

european
cancer
ORGANISATION

2022 in Review

The Annual Report of the
European Cancer Organisation



The European Cancer Organisation convenes oncology professionals and patient groups to develop policies, advocate for change and speak up for the European cancer community

Our Focus

Enhancing and expanding cancer care across Europe through a multidisciplinary, collaborative approach



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2022: A Wealth of New Opportunities



When I look back on my first year as president, I feel a profound sense of privilege to be part of the European Cancer Organisation (ECO). I've been overwhelmed by the level of commitment from all our member societies, patient groups, and focused topic networks.

So many of you invest so much time and effort – selflessly – in our relentless fight against this devastating disease.

I must confess that when I began my tenure, I found it particularly challenging – especially following on the heels of our former president and dear friend, Matti Aapro. However, I strongly believe that with a clear vision and your ongoing support and collaboration, we made significant strides in 2022.

For example, together we made a strategic decision to not only promote the EU Beating Cancer Plan but to become actively involved in its implementation. It began in June with the launch of our first EU-funded project. [INTERACT-EUROPE](#) has been a huge success building the curriculum and teaching modules for a novel programme for professionals in oncology. This much-needed effort breaks down barriers among different cancer disciplines and professions by bringing together medical oncologists, radiologists, surgeons, nurses, and pharmacists to learn how to better work together. As an oncology nurse, I know that the more interaction and understanding we have of each other – and each other's specific roles – the better care we can provide our patients.

Since the launch of INTERACT-EUROPE, we are now leading or actively contributing to 17 EU funded projects. This is a major achievement, and it comes at the request of our member societies. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for the cancer community in terms of political leadership,

cross-border funding, and ECO's ability to convene and coordinate a wide range of stakeholders.

Among the many other milestones recorded last year, I am particularly pleased by the ECO General Assembly's decision to establish the [European Cancer Community Foundation](#), for launch in 2023. This will provide greater funding opportunities for some of the worthiest programmes and innovative projects which will in turn help better manage and control cancer.

Another ECO first in 2022 was hearing the impressive abstract presentations by [young cancer professionals](#) at the European Cancer Summit and ECO's subsequent decision to help them establish their own group within our organisation. These young men and women represent ECO's future, and we are committed to helping them every step of the way.

In 2022, we also saw the strengthening of our collaborations with organisations on both sides of the Atlantic. For example, we began working more closely with WHO Europe, resulting in a Memorandum of Understanding highlighting ECO's role as a non-state actor. We also worked in tandem with the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) on a wide range of topics, also within an MoU framework.

There is so much we achieved in 2022 and I encourage you to read this report to discover some of the many other noteworthy initiatives. I am fully aware, however, that none of these would have been possible without your dedicated support throughout the year.

With profound gratitude and very best wishes,

Andreas

Andreas Charalambous

President 2022-2023

[European Cancer Organisation](#)

Strategy 2020–2023

In December 2019, the General Assembly of our (then) 27 Member Societies approved a new [Strategy for the period of 2020–2023](#), launching both our Focused Topic Networks and Community 365 ahead of a new brand and website. Since then, we believe our organisation has grown in relevance and engagement, with more organisations participating in our work and with increases in our number of Member Societies and patient advocacy groups.



Pillar 1: Policy and Advocacy

On behalf of our Member Societies, we strive to be

- **a key organisation in the development of onco-policy and advocacy across Europe;**
- a valuable resource for European institutions, bringing together different disciplines, professions and patient groups; and
- a respected voice to support and build on the expertise and experience of those Member Societies.

Pillar 2: Convenor and Facilitator around Focused Topics

- We act as **the “federation” of the European cancer community** – amplifying the important work of our Member Societies and Patient Advisory Committee.
- We convene our Member Societies, patient groups and other stakeholders for **discussion and exchange, building consensus and coordinating activities, including through ECO Focused Topic Networks.**
- We believe in collaboration, bringing together those who share our mission and vision to **work for the benefit of patients, and advocating for our agreed policies across Europe.**

New EU Cancer Screening Recommendations: We made it together!

A lot happens in twenty years in almost any field of endeavour. But in the fast-paced world of cancer science and technology, twenty years can sometimes feel more like a century.

That's the way it may have felt waiting for EU's cancer screening recommendations to member states to finally receive a full update. In 2022, it finally occurred – but not without controversy or argument.

Sensibly, in formulating a proposal for update of the cancer screening recommendations, the European Commission made full use of its Scientific Advice Mechanism to construct the best evidence-based recommendations. With its reports published in March 2022 the signals were clear: lung, prostate and gastric cancer merited inclusion alongside breast, colorectal and cervical cancer within the EU's principal advisory document on cancer screening.

Yet not all were in agreement with the scientific advice. Late in the process, as member state representatives met behind closed doors to pour over the wording, ECO became aware of efforts to diminish or even delete key parts of the recommendations.

A spirited coordination of efforts led by ECO's Prevention, Early Detection and Screening Network, quickly followed. Governments, politicians, and other stakeholders were contacted and energised to preserve the strength of the Commission's recommendations.

The end result: in December 2022, EU member states delivered a potential early Christmas present to the early detection of cancer. Brand new EU recommendations on cancer screening, covering all six tumour types favoured by Scientific Advice Mechanism.

Now the task is to achieve national implementation of the recommendations. ECO is watching closely.



New policy mandates and recommendations from our community

During 2022, ECO worked with its Member Societies and Patient Advisory Committee to consult, finalise and publish three (3) new Policy Action Reports, and to reply to twelve (12) public consultations. Among the new mandate for ECO advocacy action provided by this activity includes:

- Recommending that assistance to low- and middle- income countries working to eliminate cervical cancer be a key component of EU global health policy, and EU neighbourhood and foreign policy more generally
- Supporting WHO level attention to the cancer co-morbidities and complications agenda
- Urging that public areas where families and children are present, such as healthcare facilities, public parks, beaches, sports stadia and vehicles, be brought into the legal provisions of smokefree environment regulation
- Advocating the extension of current EU tobacco control frameworks to novel and emerging tobacco products
- Setting out implementation needs for the European Health Data Space, including areas of required EU guidelines
- Analysing how Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and the EU Research Mission on Cancer can be deployed to combat inequalities related to men and cancer
- Proposing improvements to the monitoring and measurement of air pollution

Thank you to everyone who participated in these consultations and please click the links on the public consultations for more details:

- [EU Global Strategy](#)
- [WHO 'Best Buys'](#)
- [Tobacco control policies](#)
- [Smoke-free Environments](#)
- [Food information to consumers](#)
- [Cancer screening](#)
- ECO recommendation on Irish Government Public Health (Alcohol) Act 2018
- Noncommunicable Diseases Roadmap initiative
- European Cancer Inequalities Registry public questionnaire
- European Health Data Space public

From Brussels to Budapest to Bucharest: inter-connecting Europe's cancer policy

Europe's Beating Cancer Plan raises new challenges, such as better uniting elected representatives from national capitals focused on who dedicate themselves to improving cancer control in their countries. EU cancer policy must connect to national cancer policy if it is to maximise success. This is a key focus of ECO's [National and European Parliamentarians for Cancer Action](#).

To date, 32 politicians from 16 countries are part of this new political network, rapidly sharing information, providing mutual inspiration and encouragement, and providing more national input to EU cancer policy delivery.

The launch of [National and European Parliamentarians for Cancer Action](#) in November 2022 is also closely connected to the creation of the [European Cancer Pulse](#), which helps turn data and insights on cancer inequalities into practical political and policy action.



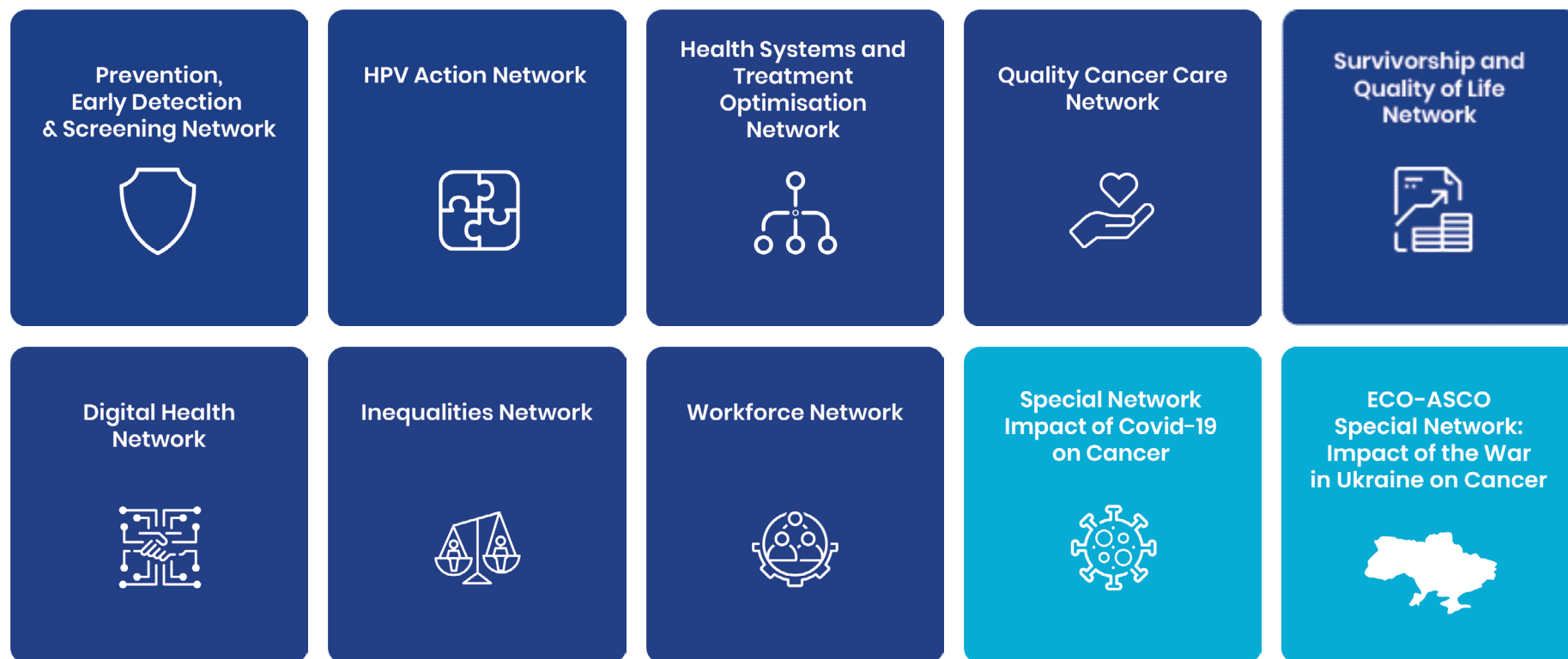
Europe's Beating Cancer Plan: the progress continues

In 2022, with Europe's Beating Cancer Plan already one year old, its implementation accelerated. Milestones included:

- A new EU legal proposal setting out prospective improvements to the regulation and removal of asbestos
- Proposed revisions to bring EU air quality regulations closer into line with WHO standards
- The agreement by 27 member states to a new set of EU Council Recommendations on Cancer Screening
- The publication of the European Cancer Inequalities Registry
- The initiation of the INTERACT-EUROPE project to develop an inter-specialty cancer training programme
- The commencement of the EUCAIM project to deliver a European Cancer Imaging Initiative
- The start of UNCAN.eu to better understand cancer
- The release of a legal proposal to create a European Health Data Space
- The initiation of EU-CAYAS-NET: an EU Network of Youth Cancer Survivors



Focused Topic Networks



I CONVENING THE CANCER COMMUNITY

On behalf of [Member Societies](#) and [patient advocacy groups](#), the European Cancer Organisation convenes interested stakeholders around [ten important topics](#), each with its own network.

These dedicated networks have been established to facilitate consensus and joint projects in our [Strategy 2020–2023](#). They also form the basis of the annual [European Cancer Summit](#).

ECO's Focused Topic Networks do not have a decision-making role on policy. Where policy needs are identified, our Member Societies can make proposals through our [policy approval pathway](#). When policies have been agreed, our networks support their implementation.



ECO-ASCO Special Network: Impact of the War in Ukraine on Cancer

The [Special Network](#) was launched in March 2022 – at the direction of the European Cancer Organisation and the American Society of Clinical Oncology ([ASCO](#)) – as an urgent response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The network brings together more than 300 organisations of experts and stakeholders from the global health community to support Ukrainian cancer patients and the health services across Europe that are now caring for them.

2022 Special Network activities included:

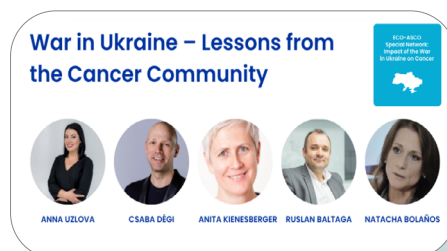
- Creating an [information hub](#) ([onco-help.org](#)) of available resources and links, in multiple languages, for Ukrainian cancer patients. Within one month of the start of the war, we had 30 countries included and saw a significant increase in web traffic, particularly from Ukraine and neighbouring countries.
- Illustrating the tireless efforts of volunteers to support patients through [first-person narratives](#).
- Gathering intelligence to inform our advocacy and policy work with the WHO and EU Commission, as well as cancer centres, healthcare professionals and patient organisations.
- Hosting a session “[Supporting Ukrainian Cancer Patients and Cancer Services – Immediate Needs and Longer-term Rebuilding](#)” at the European Cancer Summit 2022.
- Co-ordinating, communicating and connecting organisations and people within the Network.



Cancer Medicines Shortages in Surrounding Countries During the War in Ukraine – Results from a Pilot Survey



Cancer Service Disruptions During War in Ukraine – Results from a joint multidisciplinary survey





| CONVENING THE CANCER COMMUNITY

Special Network: Impact of Covid-19 on Cancer

Co-Chairs



Mirjam Crul

BOARD MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN CANCER ORGANISATION



Mark Lawler

BOARD MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN CANCER ORGANISATION

Launched in July 2020, [this special network](#) brings together experts and stakeholders from ECO Member Societies, the ECO Patient Advisory Committee, and Community 365 to document specific challenges that Covid-19 has posed to cancer care across Europe, amplify what the ECO community has done to address these challenges, and recommend further action on the most pressing issues.

2022 Special Network activities included:

- Highlighting the serious cancer backlog on the continent.
- Helping restore public confidence in cancer health services across Europe.
- Tackling shortages of medicines, products, and equipment.
- Addressing cancer workforce gaps in Europe.
- Employing innovative technologies to strengthen cancer systems and provide optimal care to patients.
- Supporting the [Time To Act campaign](#) and enhancing our [‘Data Navigator’](#).
- Engaging with the European Commission, the European Parliament, EU agencies, national governments and other relevant decision-makers to promote recommendations outlined in our soon-to-be-updated [“7-Point Plan”](#).
- Hosting a session [“Better Than Before Is Possible: The Essential Rebuilding Blocks for Cancer Services Since Covid-19”](#) at the European Cancer Summit 2022.



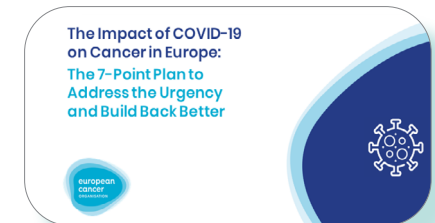
[View the Time To Act Roadshow Video](#)



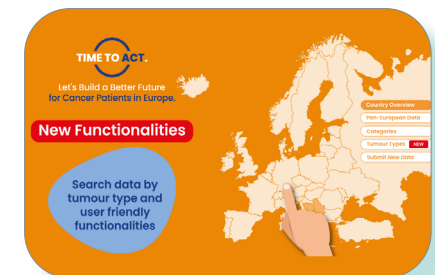
[View the Data Navigator Video](#)



[Time to Act Campaign - Get involved](#)



[“The Impact of COVID-19 on Cancer in Europe: The 7-Point Plan to Address the Urgency and Build Back Better”](#)



[Explore our Data Navigator](#)



| CONVENING THE CANCER COMMUNITY

Prevention, Early Detection and Screening Network

Co-Chairs



Torsten Blum

EUROPEAN RESPIRATORY SOCIETY



Isabel Teresa Rubio

EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF BREAST
CANCER SPECIALISTS



Jan Van Meerbeeck

EUROPEAN RESPIRATORY SOCIETY

Prevention is key to cancer control. [Our network](#) fosters fresh consensus and stronger collaboration among expert groups and policymakers to decrease cancer incidence and advance cancer detection.

2022 Network Activities Included:

- Promoting the execution of recommendations outlined in our [“Earlier is Better”](#) and [“United for Action”](#) reports.
- Providing advice to the European Commission on the implementation of a ‘Health Literacy for Cancer Prevention and Care’ initiative, as outlined in Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan.
- Exploring further EU Cancer Mission and EU4Health opportunities.
- Amplifying relevant projects conducted by our network participants and providing contributions as requested.
- Monitoring other EU legislative discussions on cancer prevention, early detection and screening, and making representations as relevant.
- Hosting a session [“Saving Lives by Anticipating Actions - Getting it right on Screening and Early Detection”](#) at the European Cancer Summit 2022.
- Contributing to the European Commission Call for Evidence and Consultations on [Tobacco control policies](#), [smoke-free environments](#), and [cancer screening](#).

Open Letter on Screening to EU and National Level Decision-Makers

26 October 2022

- PROTECT THE EU COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS ON CANCER SCREENING
- PRESERVE THE INTEGRITY OF THE EU’S SCIENTIFIC ADVICE MECHANISM
- RESTORE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

[Read our open letter published in October 2022](#)



Primary Prevention Hub

[european-cancer.org/resources](#)



[“Primary Prevention Hub” launched in May 2021](#)



Earlier is Better: Advancing Cancer Screening and Early Detection Action Across Tumour Types and Challenges



[european-cancer.org/resources](#)



[“Earlier is Better: Advancing Cancer Screening and Early Detection” Action Report published in November 2021](#)

Primary Prevention: United for Action



[“Primary Prevention: United for Action” Report published in July 2021](#)



HPV Action Network

[We work to eliminate HPV cancers](#), a key objective in Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and aligned with WHO's Global Strategy for cervical cancer eradication.

Co-Chairs



Daniel Kelly
EUROPEAN ONCOLOGY NURSING SOCIETY



Margaret Stanley
INTERNATIONAL PAPILLOMAVIRUS SOCIETY



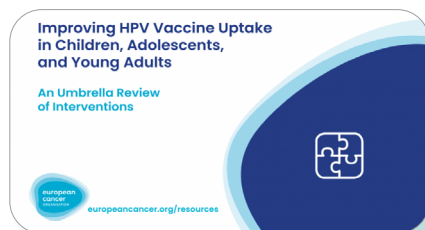
Rui Medeiros

2022 Network Activities Included:

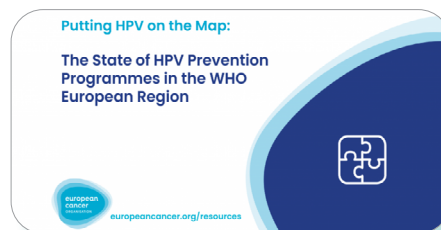
- Providing input to the ECO-coordinated EU-funded [PROTECT-EUROPE project](#), which will identify effective ways of communicating with the public on the need for HPV vaccination. The project started in January 2023.
- Launching and promoting papers: ["Improving HPV Vaccine Uptake in Children, Adolescents, and Young Adults: An Umbrella Review of Interventions"](#) and ["Putting HPV on the Map: The State of HPV Prevention Programmes in the WHO European Region"](#).
- Showcasing our new [HPV Testimonies](#): the personal stories of men and women, and their valiant battle against different HPV cancers.
- Working with WHO Europe and the European Commission on our 4-step plan for the elimination of all cancers caused by HPV.
- Identifying specific EU member states for national action and developing a network of national HPV champions, including young ambassadors.
- Exploring EU4Health opportunities to support HPV elimination.
- Hosting a session ["PROTECTing EUROPE - Eliminating the Cancers Caused by HPV"](#) at the European Cancer Summit 2022.



PROTECT-EUROPE launch at the European Parliament on January 2022



"Improving HPV Vaccine Uptake in Children, Adolescents, and Young Adults: An Umbrella Review of Interventions" report published in April 2022



"Putting HPV on the Map: The State of HPV Prevention Programmes in the WHO European Region" report published in April 2022



HPV Change Makers - Inspiring stories of advocates against HPV cancers



| CONVENING THE CANCER COMMUNITY

Health Systems and Treatment Optimisation Network

Co-Chairs



Denis Lacombe

EUROPEAN ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH AND TREATMENT OF CANCER



Yolande Lievens

EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR RADIOTHERAPY AND ONCOLOGY

[This network](#), launched in April 2020, brings together more than 45 organisations of experts and stakeholders from the European cancer community. Our mission is to help reorient health systems and research to improve patient care and provide services more efficiently.

2022 Network activities Included:

- Enhancing the network’s advocacy document to build stronger support for its mission and its influence on relevant EU legislative and regulatory opportunities.
- Working on a scientific publication in support of the network’s pragmatic, practical and timely policy recommendations to be introduced at national, international, and European levels.
- Exploring new opportunities within the EU Cancer Mission and EU4Health.
- Engaging with the European Parliament, the European Commission, EU agencies and national governments.
- Monitoring EU legislative discussions pertaining to the announced EU Pharmaceutical Strategy and making representations as relevant.
- Hosting a session “[Health Systems and Treatment Optimisation – Scanning the Political Horizons](#)” at the European Cancer Summit 2022.





| CONVENING THE CANCER COMMUNITY

Quality Cancer Care Network

[The Quality Cancer Care Network](#) promotes and supports meaningful initiatives introduced at the European and international levels that improve cancer care. Working closely with directors from Comprehensive Cancer Centres across Europe, we seek to identify interventions and investments that yield meaningful improvements in outcomes.

Co-Chairs



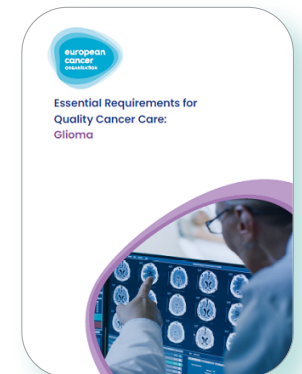
Fedro Peccatori
EUROPEAN SCHOOL OF
ONCOLOGY



Simon Oberst
ORGANISATION OF EUROPEAN
CANCER INSTITUTES

2022 Network activities Included:

- Showcasing the position paper on the EU propositions for Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructures: [Comprehensive Cancer Care Across the EU: Advancing the Vision](#).
- Launching and promoting the [Essential Requirements for Quality Cancer: Glioma](#).
- Raising awareness with the [European Code of Cancer Practice](#).
- Updating the [Quality Cancer Care Catalogue](#).
- Using material from the ten [Essential Requirements for Quality Cancer Care](#) (ERQCC) published so far to support policy and advocacy work.
- Advancing ERQCC papers into production: Ovarian Cancer (to be published in 2023), and a 2017 Colorectal Cancer Update (to be published in 2023).
- Organising further translations of the [European Code of Cancer Practice](#): Ukrainian and Armenian.
- Hosting a session "[Embedding Outcome Measurement in Quality Cancer Care: Where Are We Now?](#)" at the European Cancer Summit 2022.



"Essential Requirements for Quality Cancer: Glioma"
published in October 2022



ERQCC papers providing roadmaps to high-quality multidisciplinary cancer care for specific tumour types




"Comprehensive Cancer Care Across the EU: Advancing the Vision" position paper published in October 2021

European Code of Cancer Practice


YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO:



1. EQUAL ACCESS



2. INFORMATION



3. QUALITY,
EXPERTISE &
OUTCOMES



4. SPECIALISED
MULTIDISCIPLINARY
CARE



5. SHARED
DECISION-MAKING



6. RESEARCH &
INNOVATION



7. QUALITY OF LIFE



8. INTEGRATED
SUPPORTIVE &
PALLIATIVE CARE



9. SURVIVORSHIP &
REHABILITATION



10. REINTEGRATION



#cancerpatientrights #codeofcancerpractice

european-cancer-organisation.org/code



| CONVENING THE CANCER COMMUNITY

Survivorship and Quality of Life Network



Co-Chairs



Csaba Dégi

INTERNATIONAL PSYCHO-
ONCOLOGY SOCIETY



Nevenka Krčevski Škvarč
EUROPEAN PAIN FEDERATION

The network was launched in May 2020, bringing together more than 45 organisations of experts and stakeholders from the European cancer community to promote improvement in the way health systems and societies address the survivorship and quality-of-life challenges faced by cancer patients, their caregivers, partners, and families.

2022 Network activities Included:

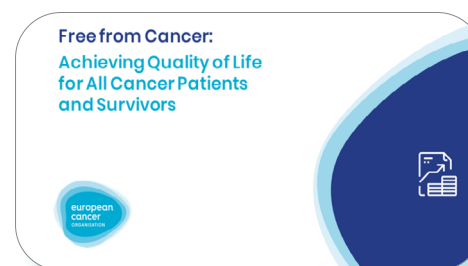
- Providing input to the ECO-coordinated EU project [smartCARE](#) which started in January 2023.
- Promoting our report "[Free From Cancer: Achieving Quality of Life for All Cancer Patients and Survivors](#)", to help more patients and survivors achieve a life truly free from cancer and its often under-appreciated impacts.
- Highlighting our report [Making Hope Reality: Action on Treatment and Care for Metastatic Cancer Patients](#).
- Amplifying relevant projects conducted by our network participants and providing contributions as requested.
- Monitoring other EU legislative discussions pertaining to cancer survivorship and quality of life and making representations as relevant.
- Hosting a session "[smartCARE: A Fit-for-Future Cancer Survivorship Agenda](#)" at the European Cancer Summit 2022.

smartCARE

*smartCARE - The App Empowering
Cancer Survivors in Europe*



"Making Hope Reality: Action on Treatment and Care for Metastatic Cancer Patients" report published December 2021



"Free From Cancer: Achieving Quality of Life for All Cancer Patients and Survivors" report published November 2020



Digital Health Network

The ECO [Digital Health Network](#), bringing together patients, healthcare professionals academics, charities and foundations, as well as our Community 365, helps the European cancer community and policymakers navigate the challenges of digital cancer care and maximising its possibilities.

Digital transformation will play a key role in meeting the world's post-pandemic challenges in healthcare, requiring policies to address critical issues on accessibility, data interoperability and digital literacy to ensure that no one is left behind.

Co-Chairs



Wim Oyen

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF
NUCLEAR MEDICINE



Carlo Catalano

EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF
RADIOLOGY

2022 Network activities included:

- Defining new research needs and opportunities in digital health.
- Promoting approved, digital health educational opportunities for HCPs.
- Launching our new report "[The European Health Data Space and Cancer: Applying Lessons Learnt for Successful Implementation](#)" after our [Community 365 Roundtable on the European Health Data Space and Cancer](#), and promoting our previous report "[Unlocking the Potential of Digitalisation in Cancer Care – No Stopping Us Now!](#)".
- Supporting advancement of data and oncology at the European level, including the European Health Data Space, the European Cancer Patient Digital Centre, and other upcoming connected initiatives.
- Removing potential barriers to the promise of digital healthcare, including knowledge and education gaps, and regulatory impediments (e.g., GDPR).
- Following and responding to developments in Artificial Intelligence and the progress of telemedicine.
- Publishing a position paper containing suggested amendments on the proposed legal text of the European Health Data Space Regulation.
- Hosting a session "[Bringing Digital Transformation of Cancer Care to Fruition](#)" at the European Cancer Summit 2022



"European Health Data Space and Cancer: Applying Lessons Learnt for Successful Implementation" report published in September 2022



"Unlocking the potential of digitalisation in cancer care – No Stopping Us Now!" report published in November 2021



Inequalities Network

ECO's [Inequalities Network](#) shines a bright light on readily available policy mechanisms to bridge gaps and raise standards and outcomes in cancer care across Europe – for all groups in society.

Co-Chairs



Nicolò Matteo Luca Battisti
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF GERIATRIC ONCOLOGY



Sarah Collen
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF UROLOGY

EU Health Commissioner Stella Kyriakides has emphasised that ‘inequalities’ will be a core theme throughout Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan. As inequalities are transversal, careful attention is required to avoid duplication of effort with other networks.

2022 Network Activities Included:

- Highlighting specific inequalities related to: the East-West divide; gender; ethnicity; age; sexuality and identity; health literacy and patient education; and other marginalised groups.
- Providing input on ECO's recently launched [European Cancer Pulse](#), a tool to help visualise cancer inequalities across and within countries, on: cancer burden; research spending; prevention efforts; early detection; diagnosis and treatment access; survivorship; and the impact of social determinants.
- Supporting the [National and European Parliamentarians for Cancer Action](#), a group committed to tackling inequalities in cancer care on a national and European basis.
- Publishing our report "[Men and Cancer: Raising the Issues](#)" after the [Community 365 Roundtable Meeting on Men and Cancer](#).
- Showcasing our report "[It Can Be Done – Beating Inequalities in Cancer Care](#)".
- Highlighting key recommendations of EU initiatives, including the Cancer Inequalities Registry.
- Collaborating with the OECD on the Cancer Inequalities Registry to ensure measurement of all inequalities that currently exist between (and within) European countries.
- Promoting health literacy to combat inequalities.
- Hosting a session "[Action on Cancer Inequalities: Our Shared Roadmap](#)" at the European Cancer Summit 2022.
- Holding the first informal meeting of the LGBTQI+ Workstream at the European Cancer Summit 2022.



"Men and Cancer: Raising the issues"
report published in July 2022.



The European Cancer Pulse tool was launched at the European Cancer Summit 2022



Featuring more than 120 data measurements, the **European Cancer Pulse** allows you to quickly and easily discover cancer care disparities in 34 countries – across the EU and beyond. The tool will continue to evolve, with even more data, so visit the site often.



europeancancerpulse.org



Workforce Network

We created a [network on workforce](#) matters to address European policies that can ensure the right of every cancer patient to specialised multidisciplinary care.

Effective and equitable cancer care does not only concern the provision of advanced medications and machinery. It requires teams of trained professionals who bring multidisciplinary and multi-professional care to life. This is why [INTERACT-EUROPE](#), our 18-month EU4Health project, is so important. Together, we aim to set the standard for inter-specialty cancer training across the continent.

Co-Chairs



Wendy Oldenmenger
EUROPEAN NURSING ONCOLOGY SOCIETY



Mirjam Cruil
EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF ONCOLOGY PHARMACY



Beate Rau
EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF SURGICAL ONCOLOGY

2022 Network activities Included:

- Providing regular input and guidance to [INTERACT-EUROPE](#) project.
- Promoting the key policy asks of the "[Working Against Cancer: Giving Professionals the Right Tools for the Job](#)" report, which sets out clear, pragmatic and achievable recommendations that are immediately available and can bring about needed improvements.
- Amplifying relevant projects conducted by our network participants and providing contributions as requested.
- Improving recognition for oncology professional qualifications and enhancing potential for mobility.
- Tackling inequalities in existing educational opportunities.
- Ensuring the safety of all cancer care professionals.
- Providing attention to work-life balance concerns among cancer care professionals.
- Hosting a session "[The Oncology Workforce: We Must Act – and INTERACT – to Provide Effective and Equitable Cancer Care](#)" at the European Cancer Summit 2022.
- Promoting the Accreditation Council of Oncology in Europe (ACOE) and Continuing Medical Education (CME) providers (including [Member Societies of the European Cancer Organisation](#)). Read about ACOE [here](#).



INTERACT-EUROPE: The development of an inter-specialty cancer training



"Working Against Cancer: Giving Professionals the Right Tools for the Job" report published 2021

Delivering Effective and Equitable Care Together

100+
Speakers

600+
Delegates

14
Sessions



Summit 2022

The European Cancer Summit 2022 on 16 & 17 November brought together – onsite and online – leading oncology experts, patient advocates, politicians, and policymakers to discuss the main issues impacting cancer care in Europe.

View the Session Recordings

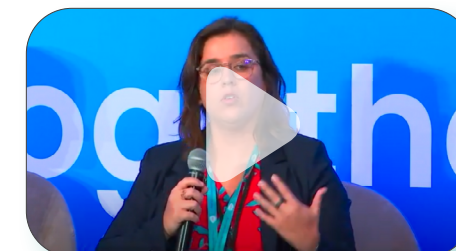
- [Action on Cancer Inequalities: Our Shared Roadmap](#)
- [SmartCARE. A Fit-for-Future Cancer Survivorship Agenda](#)
- [Embedding Outcome Measurement in Quality Cancer Care: Where Are We Now?](#)
- [The Oncology Workforce: We Must Act – and INTERACT – to Provide Effective and Equitable Cancer Care](#)
- [Supporting Ukrainian Cancer Patients and Cancer Services: Immediate Needs and Longer-term Rebuilding](#)
- [The EU's Cancer Policy Agenda: A Progress Report and Sense Check](#)
- [Saving Lives by Anticipating Actions: Getting it right on Screening and Early Detection](#)
- [Better Than Before Is Possible: The Essential Rebuilding Blocks for Cancer Services Since Covid-19](#)
- [Reflections on the Present and Future of Cancer Care: Perspective of Young Cancer Professionals](#)
- [Health Systems and Treatment Optimisation: Scanning the Political Horizons](#)
- [PROTECTing EUROPE: Eliminating the Cancers Caused by HPV](#)
- [Bringing Digital Transformation of Cancer Care to Fruition](#)
- [Our Next Steps: National and European Parliamentarians for Cancer Action](#)



[Read the European Cancer Summit 2022 Report here](#)



[View all sessions from the European Cancer Summit 2022 here](#)



[View all highlights from the European Cancer Summit 2022 here](#)

ACOE Accreditation

The Accreditation Council of Oncology in Europe (ACOE) provides formal recognition of Continuing Medical Education (CME) programmes in oncology.

ACOE's Distance Learning Project provides accreditation for a variety of educational formats: physical, virtual, hybrid, webinars, webcasts, presentations, e-learning, and blended learning.

- **The project offers our Member Societies and other providers of oncology education a simpler, more flexible approach to distance learning accreditation.**



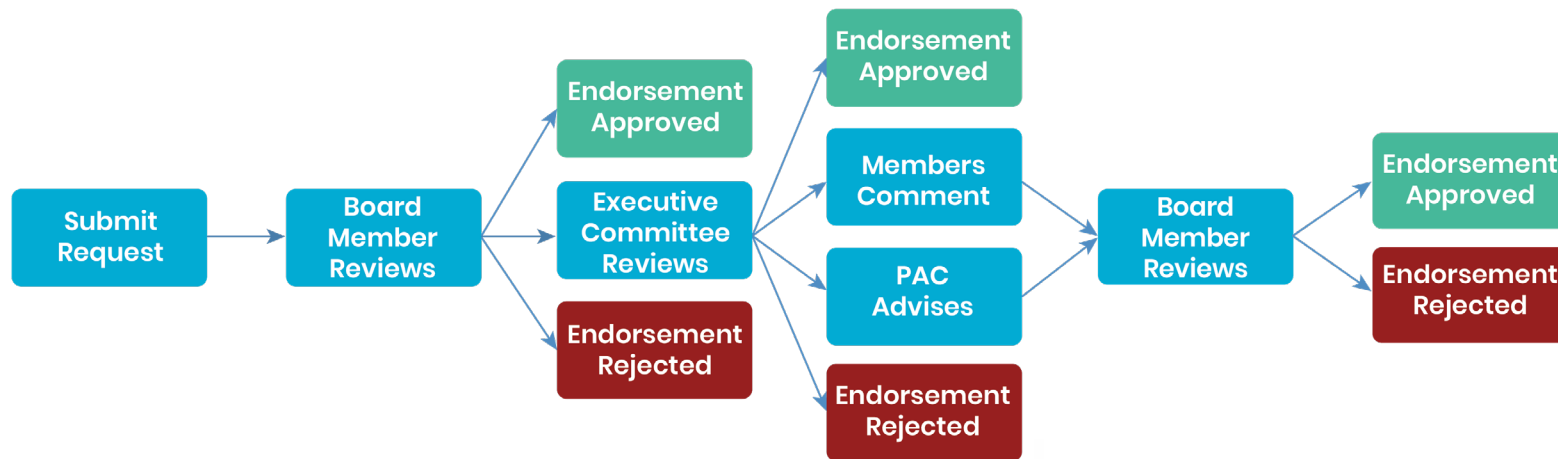
[acoeeuropeancancer.org](https://www.acoe.europecancer.org)





Endorsement Decision-Making Process

Our approach enables the European Cancer Organisation to review endorsement requests quickly and effectively.



ECO Board Member Lore Decoster is responsible for [Endorsement](#)

ECO Board of Directors

[Our Board](#) is elected by our Member Societies and provides expertise and oversight from a diverse range of disciplines and professions within the European cancer community.

In particular, they play a leading role in the implementation of our [Strategy 2020-2023](#) and are the decision-makers in the approval process for new policies adopted by the European Cancer Organisation. Our board meets every quarter and governs the ECO in accordance with the mandate given to it by the ECO General Assembly, as specified in the ECO [Statutes](#).

The ECO General Assembly, with representatives of all our Member Societies, is our highest governing body and meets formally twice every year.

We thank Matti Aapro, ECO past-president, for his leadership, guidance and commitment over the past four years and welcome Csaba Dégi as the ECO president-elect.



Andreas Charalambous
PRESIDENT



Matti Aapro
PAST PRESIDENT



Csaba Dégi
PRESIDENT ELECT



Wim Oyen
TREASURER



Ajay Aggarwal



Mirjam Crul



Isabel Teresa Rubio



Kathy Oliver
CO-CHAIR, PATIENT ADVISORY
COMMITTEE



Gilly Spurrier-Bernard



Patrizia Burra



Lore Decoster



Wendy Oldenmenger



Fedro Peccatori



Beate Rau



Arnulf Stenzi



Winette van der Graaf



Mark Lawler
CO-CHAIR: EUROPEAN CODE
OF CANCER PRACTICE &
SPECIAL NETWORK ON THE
IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON
CANCER (EX-OFFICIO)



Simon Oberst
CO-CHAIR: QUALITY CANCER
CARE NETWORK (EX-OFFICIO)



Mike Morrissey
CHIEF EXECUTIVE (EX-OFFICIO)



Member Societies

During 2022, our 41 Member Societies provided expertise in their specific cancer disciplines or professions.



Collaborations

In addition to our Member Societies, we have ongoing collaboration agreements to ensure we work together with other international organisations who share our mission. In 2022, we welcomed new collaborations with the World Health Organization, American Society of Clinical Oncology, Sharing Progress in Cancer Care and Global Action on Men's Health.





Patient Advisory Committee

Patient advocates are at the heart of the European Cancer Organisation, with 22 active groups represented in 2022.



The Patient Advisory Committee is involved in all policy-making and activities, including the Focused Topic Networks.



A Broad Coalition of Support

[Community 365](#) is a group of charity, philanthropy, and industry contributors to the ECO Focused Topic Networks.

Community 365 provides ideas, guidance, practical support, and resources for our work in convening stakeholders and building consensus in the European cancer community. Community 365 contributors do not have a decision-making role in our policy work.

ECO policies are approved by [our Board](#) after consultation with our Member Societies and patient advisory committee. Community 365 includes additional not-for-profit organisations as supporters of our Mission & Vision, Strategy, and the ECO Focused Topic Networks.

For more information about the organisations contributing to, and supporting, Community 365 please [visit our website here](#).

To view our Transparency website page, [click here](#).

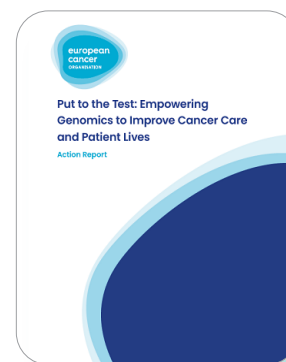
If you or your organisation would like to become a Community 365 Contributor, Startup or Supporter, please email our Chief Executive, **Mike Morrissey**. We look forward to hearing from you!



Cancer Care Needs in the Community Setting - Report published in January 2023



Men and Cancer: Raising the issues- Report published in July 2022



Put to the Test: Empowering Genomics to Improve Cancer Care and Patient Lives - Report published in February 2022

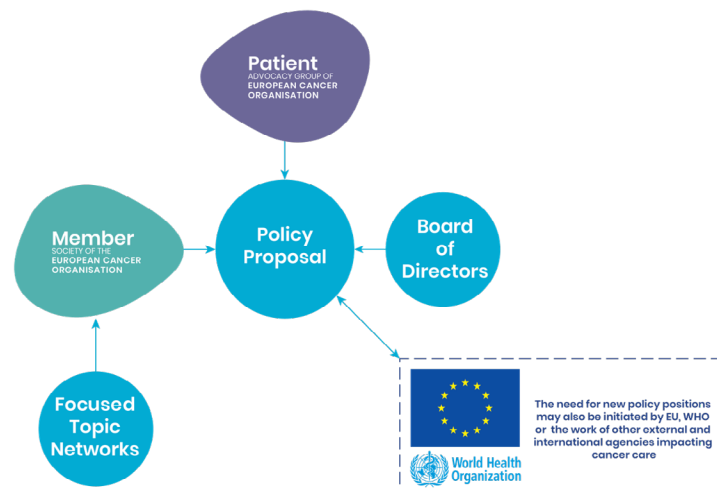


The European Health Data Space and Cancer: Applying Lessons Learnt for Successful Implementation - Report published in September 2022

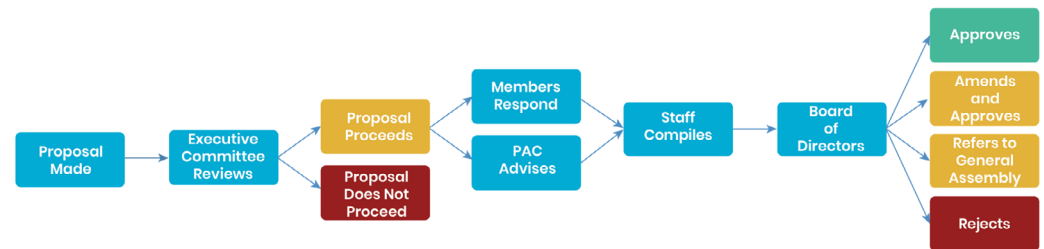
Policy Decision-Making Process

- ECO [Member Societies](#) should be consulted during the process, with decisions made by [our Board](#) elected by Member Societies. This ensures we receive input from all the disciplines and professionals represented in our membership.
- The [Patient Advisory Committee](#) (PAC) also provides expertise, experience and advice throughout the process.

Origin of Policy of the European Cancer Organisation



Process of Policy Decision-Making



This approach enables the European Cancer Organisation to be fast, effective and nimble in reviewing policy requests while also providing opportunity for input by all Member Societies on an equal basis.

2022: Managing Change and Growth



The European Cancer Organisation (ECO) continued its growth in 2022 and it's been humbling to see the increased involvement our community is having in implementing cancer policy in Europe. As Andreas mentioned in his editorial above, our Member Societies encouraged us to get involved in co-ordinating new EU projects – a first for us. That meant hiring more staff in 2022, with more varied expertise, which in turn required moving to a larger office in Brussels.

It was a whirlwind year, to be sure. We found ourselves rapidly managing growth, not because we were looking to be a dominant organisation in cancer but because we feel a sense of responsibility. When opportunities arise, we respond. We must. The European cancer community cannot call for action, and when funding for that action materialises, then walk away. So, we are growing as requested by our Member Societies and working on projects on their behalf. But managing growth can be hard. When you build a new team, there are upsides and there are challenges getting up to speed in a complex area like cancer.

The operational side is the easy part. It's the people side which presents the hurdles. Cancer is a particularly complex stakeholder map. Just think of all the organisations represented under the ECO umbrella – the different Member Societies, patient advocacy groups, and focused topic networks – you're talking about hundreds of organisations. And each has its own passion, niche and expertise that need to be respected and reflected in what we do.

Now add to that new staff who may lack experience in the cancer landscape – or even for those who do have some experience – it can take at least a year for everyone to get a full

understanding of the wider picture. And building a team while delivering on tight timelines, as they are in EU funded projects, means that you are constantly adapting on the fly. It also means that you don't get every decision right.

What is paramount, however, is that throughout this growth period we maintain a dialogue with our Member Societies and patient groups. We are here to listen. We're not here to preach. So that any time our Member Societies or patient community needs us, we're available to them. And if there are questions, concerns, suggestions, our doors are always open. We're here. We're here to facilitate and coordinate, not to dictate and control. And sometimes for the community, on the back of Covid and recovering from the severe disruptions it created, just having the time to communicate can be a massive challenge.

There's no question: 2022 was a pivotal year for us. The community came together well. We began to see the light at the end of the tunnel after so many dark days of the pandemic. There's lots of hard work ahead, to be sure. But the key takeaway from our experience together in 2022, is that you can always count on us to support your organisation and your mission – because your mission is our mission.

With very best wishes,

Mike

Mike Morrissey

Chief Executive
European Cancer Organisation



*INTERACT-EUROPE launch at the
European Parliament on June 2022*



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