

Cancer Control Joint Action

Deliverables and implementation opportunities



CanCon
Cancer Control Joint Action

Tit Albreht | Brussels | 25 January 2017



General objective of Joint Action Cancon (Cancer control)

Aims to contribute to improvements in overall cancer control through:

- quality based cancer screening programmes,
- better integration of cancer care,
- community-based cancer care approaches,
- providing concerted efforts in all aspects of survivorship, including palliative care

Expected outcomes

- European Guide on Quality Improvement in Comprehensive Cancer Control
- Enhanced co-operation between the Member States on cancer policy and cancer care issues
- New approaches to integration of care at the regional level
- Added focus to primary and community care of cancer patients
- Survivorship placed firmly as one of the key aspects of overall cancer management
- Guidance through the challenges and novelties in cancer screening

Policy papers

Five topics had been selected:

1. Analysis of the situation and trends in National Cancer Control Programmes
2. Effectiveness of cancer prevention
3. Public health genomics and cancer
4. Reallocation of financial resources in cancer care
5. Socio-economic inequalities in cancer care

Mapping of cancer care and pathways

- For the reasons of complexity and comprehensiveness of cancer care, it is necessary to do proper **mapping of cancer care** and develop adequate **cancer patient pathways**
- This is necessary also in order to draw attention to **all the needs** of cancer patients, which cannot be limited only to immediate diagnosis and treatment
- **National Cancer Plans/Strategies** are also one of the important instruments in trying to organise and structure cancer care
- Such a structure can provide the **framework** allowing the proper planning of the necessary **resources (human, financial, infrastructural)**

Two key blocks in cancer control

Health promotion and prevention

Cancer care, rehabilitation,
survivorship and palliative care issues

Some of the key deliverables & outcomes

WP6: Comprehensive cancer control networks:

- a. Adopted consensual definition of the network
- b. Successfully completed pilot of setting up of a network in the Czech Republic within the region of Moravia (Brno)

WP7: Community cancer care:

- a. Comprehensive analysis of the after-care process in the EU countries
- b. A skin cancer prevention campaign: www.skinmama.eu

WP8: Survivorship:

- a. Adopted consensual definition of survivorship
- b. Proposal of a Survivorship Care Plan (SCP) as an inseparable element of the continued care process

Some of the key deliverables & outcomes

4. WP9: Screening – Several elements discussed and proposed:

- a. **Governance of cancer screening**
- b. Organisational requirements
- c. Integrated evaluation
- d. An in-depth assessment of the existing and potential new screening programmes (cervix, breast, colon&rectum, lung, stomach, prostate)

Potential benefits to the Member States

Joint Actions are project designed by Member States and the European Commission for ...

... The Member States and the Commission!

Topics were agreed upon jointly at the beginning of the project and the commitment of the participating Member States is a (nominal) guarantee for the deliverables to be (more or less) in line with the expectations we all had at the beginning of the project.

Potential benefits to the Member States 2.

I. Moving cancer into the focus of health policy

Even though cancer is usually an important priority in health policy and also among non-communicable diseases (NCDs), it is sometimes not perceived in all of its complexities.

II. Networking of cancer providers

Discussing networking of cancer providers brought some polarisation to the project. Eventually, with joint efforts this has been successfully overcome. Networks are a reality in many settings and we have been able to demonstrate how a network can be built up successfully and in a reasonable timeframe.

Potential benefits to the Member States 3.

III. Care for a cancer patient does not stop after the specific oncological treatment – the need to structure, support with guidelines and plan after-care

We explored after-care, the period when patients have completed their initial or definite treatment. We were able to demonstrate that this period is poorly regulated and structured and Member States actually need to work on it quite substantially.

It is also a period linked to the issues and challenges of survivorship, when patients recover from both the disease as well as from treatment and face the different challenges of rehabilitation, return to work and potentially impairments and handicaps or disabilities if the disease and the resulting treatment affected their functions or organs.

Potential benefits to the Member States 4.

IV. Survivorship – a new concept for a long-standing problem

Improvements in cancer care and its outcomes have brought about many benefits but also challenges for (former) cancer patients. The special characteristic of cancer that it can be cured makes it a specific NCD. However, there are still important problems attached to it:

1. Stigma of an 'incurable' disease
2. Severity of the treatment – which in combination with the disease often causes excessive pity and pushes patients into disability
3. Uncertainties of the disease course
4. Late effects of treatment and secondary cancers
5. Psychosocial issues as a cross-cutting problem in cancer

The key concept that should be embraced is the Survivorship Care Plan!

Potential benefits to the Member States 5.

V. Screening – growing solution with many new challenges and uncertainties

Screening programmes have become increasingly popular across Europe. They often seem to be an easy solution for health policy related to cancer. The advantages of screening fade out with:

1. Poor governance
2. Poor evaluation capacity
3. Poor quality control
4. Poorly defined targets

CanCon produced a lot of conceptual inputs for policymakers to adopt and to incorporate into their policies.

Potential benefits to the Member States 6.

VI. Policy papers - selected policy topics

- a. National Cancer Control Programmes – an evolving story that is increasingly important but requires a lot of fine tuning
- b. Reallocation of resources in cancer care – an important approach as a soft response to austerity and cuts in health care, rational and forward thinking and inclusive of new treatments and care options
- c. Effectiveness of cancer prevention – Prevention is the only true comprehensive activity that can reduce the burden of cancer on the long run and ensure sustainability of cancer care. But we need to choose the right options.
- d. Public health genomics – An extremely important and evolving field, which has the potential of bringing substantial benefits to cancer control for the future
- e. Social inequalities and cancer – Similar to other NCDs but yet quite different in the fact that inequalities affect each and every stage of cancer control and care



Thank You



Co-funded by
the Health Programme
of the European Union