International Agency for Research on Cancer

World Health Organization

CPO Centro di Riferimento per l'Epidemiologia e la Prevenzione Oncologica in Piemonte

ECL Association of European Cancer Leagues

Cancer Society of Finland

Towards the third implementation report on cancer screening in Europe and review of the Council Recommendation on cancer screening (2003)

FLASH REPORT

Experts in cancer screening met on 14-15 October 2019 to assess the state of play regarding a roadmap towards a sustainable platform for monitoring cancer screening in the European Union, and to consider a common proposal for the development of the 3rd implementation report of the Council recommendation on cancer screening (2003).

The first day of the programme was devoted to the lessons learnt from the 2nd implementation report, focusing on improving the comparability of data collected from the screening programmes. The example of cancer screening programmes in Belgium, which are organised at the regional level, was presented in depth as a case study of how the 2nd report may underestimate key performance indicators, such as invitation coverage. Presentations were made from representatives of the Belgian Federal Institute for Public Health, the national cancer registry and from screening programme coordinators representing the three regional screening programmes.

The second day focused on how existing initiatives at the European and international levels can align to produce a common proposal for not just the development of the next implementation report on cancer screening in the EU but propose a sustainable platform to allow for this action to be maintained in a long-term perspective. To inform this debate, presentations from the EU-Topia project, the Cancer Screening in 5 continents initiative, and the IPAAC joint action were made and discussed, alongside an overview of current actions from the European Commission Initiative on Breast Cancer, which aims to improve the approach to screening and breast cancer care to ensure that essential levels of quality of care are equally accessible across Europe.

Also discussed were issues to include to improve the value of the screening report for future editions. An overview of organisational requirements to address socio-economic inequalities was presented by CHAIN (Centre for Global Health Inequalities Research) who explained their specific approach to conceptualising and addressing this crucial issue. Participants agreed that this is an important topic to be factored into the next and subsequent reports. The issue of risk-stratification in screening was also discussed with the specific example of cervical cancer screening, acknowledging the growing complexities in this programme and how preparations should be made now, at this early stage, to be ready to accommodate this in the future.

A breakfast round table was organised on Tuesday 15 October to update health attachés on progress and innovations in cancer screening since the publication of the Council Recommendation 2003. The positive impact of the Council recommendation was highlighted, which suggests that an update of the technical annex, considering innovations of the past 15 years, would further consolidate the added value of the recommendation.

As an outcome of the programme, participants agreed to collaborate on a common proposal to develop a sustainable approach to the regular update of the cancer screening implementation reports and to promote the concept of updating the technical annexes of the Council Recommendation. Additionally, the participants agreed for the need to update the European Guidelines for quality assurance in cervical cancer screening and to contribute to Europe's answer to the WHO call for elimination.

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PARTICIPANT LIST

NAME	ORGANISATION
Anttila, Ahti	Finnish Cancer Registry
Arbyn, Marc	ScienSano
Balaj, Mirza	CHAIN (Centre for Global Health Inequalities Research - NTNU)
Basu, Partha	IARC
Burrion, Jean-Benoit	BruMammo
Candeur, Michel	CCR
Carlo Senore	CPO
Carvalho, André	IARC
De Brabander, Isabel	Belgian Cancer Registry
de Koning, Harry	Erasmus MC
Dimitrova, Nadya	JRC
Goossens, Mathijs	CVKo
Hoeck, Sarah	CVKo
Kellen, Ellen	CVKo
Martens, Patrick	CVKo
Neamtiu, Luciana	JRC
Nereo Segnan	CPO
Partha Basu	IARC
Piccinelli, Cristiano	CPO
Ponti, Antonio	CPO
Ritchie, David	ECL
Segnan, Nereo	CPO
Senore, Carlo	CPO
Simoens, Cindy	ScienSano

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BREAKFAST ROUNDTABLE - PARTICIPANT LIST

NAME	ORGANISATION
Ahti Anttila	Finnish Cancer Registry
André Carvalho	IARC -
Antonio Ponti	CPO Piemonte
Ariane Amberg	Swiss Mission to the EU
Bettina Galitz	Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany to the EU
Carlo Senore	CPO Piemonte
Cristiano Piccinelli	CPO Piemonte
Damiët Onderstal	Permanent representation of the Netherlands to the EU
Ewa Piasecka	Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU
Francisco Sevilla Perez	Permanent Representation of Spain to the EU
Gabrijela Korze	Permanent Representation of Slovenia to the EU
Georgeta Popa	European Parliament
Giedre Medziausaite	Permanent Representation of Lithuania to the EU
Harry de Koning	Erasmus MC
Iliana Argyriou	Perm Rep of CY
João Lança	Permanent Representation of Portugal to the EU
Karina Zalite	Permanent Representation of Latvia to the EU
Luciana [illegible]	Joint Research Centre (EC)

NAME	ORGANISATION
Luciana Neamtiu	Joint Research Centre (EC)
Marc Arbyn	ScienSano
Margarida Arenga	Permanent Representation of Portugal to the EU
Maria Brozmanova	SK Perm Rep
Nadya Dimitrova	Joint Research Centre (EC)
Nereo Segnan	CPO Piemonte
Partha Basu	IARC - International Agency for Research on Cancer
Pasi Mustonen	Permanent Representation of Finland to the EU
Patrick Martens	Centrum voor kankeropsporing vzw
Reinhilde Van Eeckhoudt	Flanders Agency for Care and Health
Sabrina Montante	National Institute of Health of Italy
Spela Cole	Parliamentary Work - Working Group Economy and Environment - ENVI
Stefan Staicu	Permanent Representation of Romania to the EU
Stéphanie Schmitz	Permanent Representation of Luxembourg to the European Union
Stephen Mifsud	Permanent Representation of Malta to the EU
Tairi Täht	The Permanent Representation of Estonia to the EU
Wendy Yared	ECL