

UNITED AGAINST CANCER

STRATEGY FOR 2024-2030

Collectively and independently
advocating for the Pan-European
cancer leagues

A NEW STRATEGY

The European Commission stated in the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan that 2,7 million Europeans were diagnosed with cancer in 2020. Estimates show that one out of two Europeans will contract some type of cancer and half of them will die of cancer. With more than 2,7 million new cancer cases and 1,9 million deaths each year, Europe accounts for 23% of cancer cases and 20% of cancer deaths globally, despite Europe making up only 9% of the global population. Unless decisive action is taken, lives lost to cancer in the EU are expected to increase by more than 24% by 2035, making cancer the leading cause of death in the EU. It will affect cancer control in the pan-European region and impact how the ECL moves forward.

The Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL) recognised the need for a robust and clear strategy that could serve as a guidance for the next European legislative cycle and prepare the organisation of the ECL to execute this strategy. The newly developed strategy aims to provide a clear direction and to foster collaboration and engagement among ECL members. It intends to create added value by addressing the needs and interests of its members based on the Association's scope, mission and core values.

Scope and Mission

The scope and mission of the ECL have not changed. It is the dream of ECL to live in a Europe free of cancer. ECL works to improve cancer control by strengthening the influence of the cancer leagues at both EU and national level, and by promoting collaboration between its members and encouraging them to share knowledge and experiences.

However, after 44 years of actively operating in Brussels, a new strategic direction is needed. Cancer control, knowledge and research have changed profoundly in the last decades and will continue to do so in the future. The ECL needs to change as well to stay ahead of the continuous developments and challenges.

VISION: A Europe free of cancers

MISSION: The Association of European Cancer Leagues advocates for improved cancer control and care in Europe through facilitating collaboration between cancer leagues, and influencing EU and European policies.

Core values

The core values of ECL are the foundation on which the association was built. The values are shared by all members and provide steadfast guidance for the ECL to achieve its mission.

ECL is the European **advocacy network** for its members and is **independent from the influence** of pharma. Situated in the heart of the European quarters, ECL provides EU stakeholders and members with **expertise**. ECL serves as a bridge between its members.

The diversity of the members is its strength.

PRIORITISING & FOCUSING

Doing fewer things better

ECL has been increasingly active in a diverse range of cancer areas. This broadening of ECL's work has created an urgent need for prioritising and for doing fewer things better. It is essential to prioritise if ECL is to succeed in maximising its influence in core strategic areas. This is why ECL has devised a new strategy with four pillars (themes) that align with Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and can provide longer-term guidance for years to come.

A goal related to each pillar has been defined to provide clear direction. The four pillars are:

1. Prevention
2. Early detection and diagnosis
3. Treatment and cure
4. Quality of life for patients, care, survivors and carers

A framework for prioritising

The pillars provide the framework and clearly define priorities, allowing ECL to focus on doing fewer things better, while ensuring that the organisation's core activities and agenda always up to date and fit for the future. These will serve as the basis for the common work of the ECL Secretariat and members (the Task Forces). There are also horizontal issues (overall themes) like inequality and research that are common to all or several of the focus areas and will need to be addressed. Moreover, ECL needs to take into consideration the development of the key cancer areas, and also the timing of these developments related to the key stakeholders' and institutions' agendas.



PILLAR 1 - PREVENTION

Not all cancers are preventable. However, it is possible to lower the risk factor for getting cancer. That is why it is ECL's task to proactively address tobacco, environmental hazards, alcohol control, food and obesity, sun safety and vaccination.

ECL will motivate the EU institutions to take all necessary steps to enable healthy choices for all during the next EU legislative cycle (2024-2030). ECL will do its utmost to ensure that the European Commission promotes inter-sectoral policies that protect planetary health.

Goal: to advance holistic cancer prevention



PILLAR 2 - EARLY DETECTION AND DIAGNOSIS

Between 2024 and 2030, ECL will focus on reducing inequalities in early detection of cancer. People who do not participate in cancer screenings and follow-ups of screenings are at greater risk of only receiving a cancer diagnosis at a later stage, when it is much more difficult to treat and survive.

In addition, other methods of early detection are being researched and developed, and these too need to be brought to fruition and made available.

ECL aims to make early detection more equitable, giving everyone the best possible chance at survival.

Goal: to ensure that all European citizens have access to relevant screening programmes and are diagnosed at an earlier stage

Goal: to promote research for new diagnostics methods



PILLAR 3 - TREATMENT AND CURE

When cancer is caught early, it can often be treated in less invasive ways that are easier to undergo, therefore improving the quality of life during cancer care as well as raising life expectancy. Personalised medicine and a greater focus on the individual needs and preferences will in the future ensure better treatment and fewer side effects for each patient. All Europeans should have equal access to treatment, just as they should have equal access to screenings.

During the next EU legislative cycle (2024-2030), advocacy will focus on making Europe a leader in innovative cancer research. ECL will improve cancer care through national comprehensive cancer infrastructures ensuring centralised expert care when needed, as well as better cooperation between the comprehensive cancer centres.

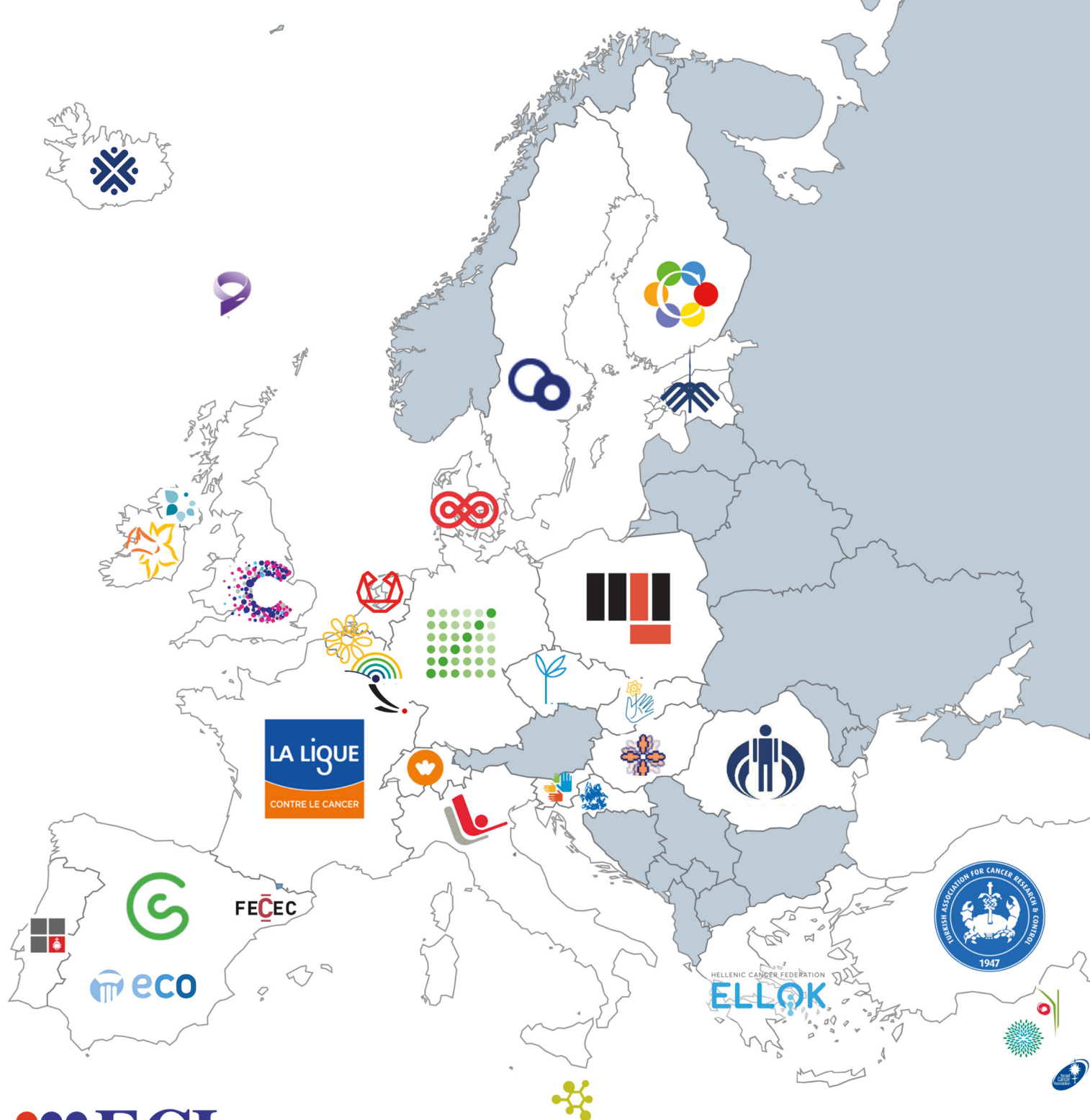
Goal: to achieve equal access to affordable medicines for all cancer patients



PILLAR 4 - QUALITY OF LIFE FOR PATIENTS, CARE, SURVIVORS AND CARERS

ECL wants all European (ex)patients to get the best care (formal, patient support and palliative care) as possible and to positively impact the life of patients, survivors and their caregivers. ECL has a clear focus on the rights of patients and survivors and will work hard to ensure that those rights are understood and being applied throughout the pan-European region.

Goal: to improve the quality of life for those touched by cancer in Europe



Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL)
Chaussée de Louvain 479, 1030 Brussels

☎ +32 2 256 2000 ✉ ECL@cancer.eu
🏠 www.cancer.eu 📘 @cancerleagues

EU Transparency Register Number: 19265592757-25

Published in Brussels Oct 2024 by ECL. Any reproduction in full or in parts must mention the title and credit. Icons by Freepik.