

# IMPACT REPORT 2025

Prepared by  
the Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL)

**EWAC**  
European Week  
Against Cancer

 **ECL**  
Association of European  
Cancer Leagues

 25-31 May

# EUROPEAN WEEK AGAINST CANCER

**The European Week Against Cancer (EWAC) took place between 25 and 31 May 2025 and brought together policymakers, cancer leagues, and health advocates from across Europe with one shared goal: to reduce the impact of cancer on people's lives and our societies.**

Together, we made a real impact. Thanks to our collective efforts, the 2025 EWAC campaign reached over 4.2 million people, with 9.6 thousand interactions online and 880 mentions on social media, amplifying our message across borders.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of European Week Against Cancer 2025. Whether you organised an event, spoke out online, or shared your story, your involvement mattered.

As we close the chapter on EWAC 2025, we invite everyone to save the date for the next European Week Against Cancer, taking place between 25 and 31 May 2026. Stay tuned to our website for updates and ways to get involved!

EWAC is a flagship initiative from the Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL), a non-profit umbrella organisation made up of 34 national and regional cancer leagues advocating for improved cancer control and care across Europe. Our vision is a Europe free of cancer.

[www.cancer.eu/ewac](http://www.cancer.eu/ewac)

**ewac**  
European Week  
Against Cancer

# A WEEK OF ACTION

Throughout the week, a wide array of webinars, events, and social media actions helped shine a light on the everyday challenges faced by those affected by cancer. These activities also highlighted the many impactful initiatives across Europe to prevent cancer, encourage screening and vaccination programmes, improve access to medicines, and promote cutting-edge research and innovation.

**25 MAY**

**Primary prevention**

**26 MAY**

**Early detection**

**27 MAY**

**Access to medicines**

**28 MAY**

**Digital health**

**29 MAY**

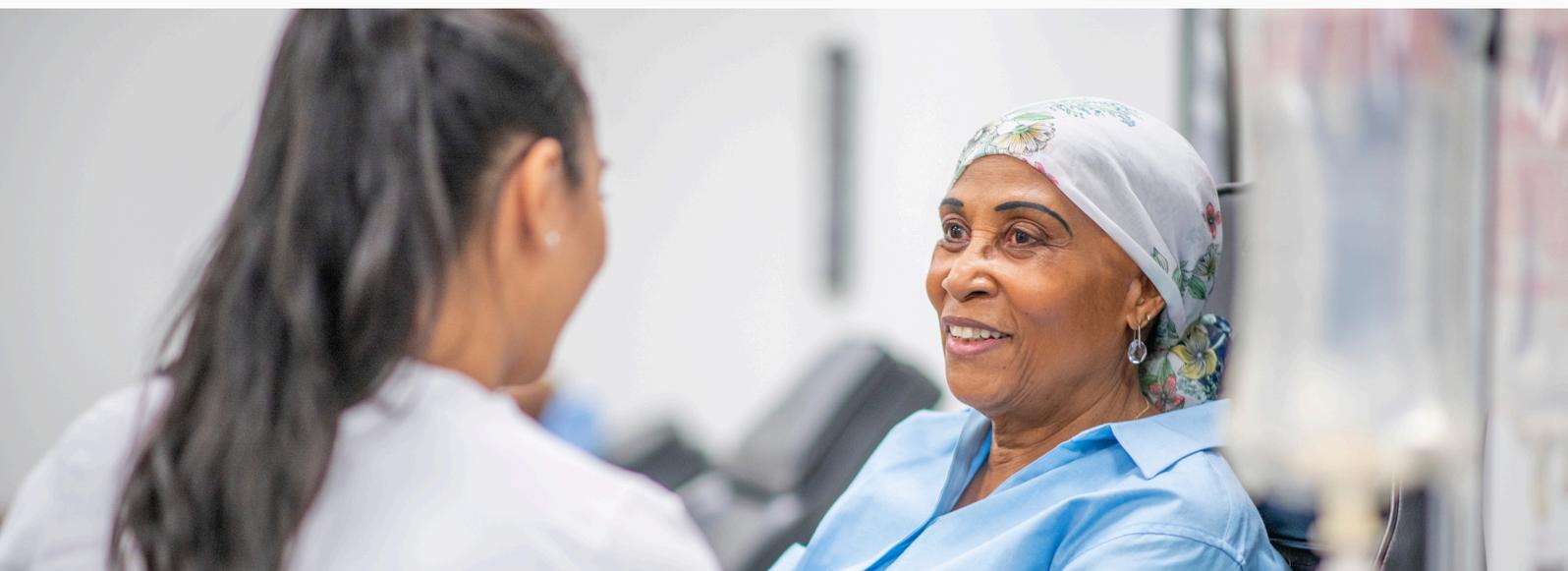
**Research**

**30 MAY**

**Patients and survivors**

**31 MAY**

**World No Tobacco Day**



# THE IMPACT OF THE EUROPEAN WEEK AGAINST CANCER 2025



**4.2 million**

people reached



**9.6 thousand**

interactions online



**880 mentions**

on social media



# 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

**European institutions,  
bodies and agencies**

**United Nations Agencies**

**MEPs Against Cancer**

**European cancer leagues**

**Civil society voices**



#EWAC2025

# EU INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES

European institutions, bodies, and agencies - including the European Commission, the European Medicines Agency, the European Economic and Social Committee, and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control - joined the 2025 European Week Against Cancer to raise awareness and showcase how EU policies and initiatives support research, prevention, early detection, and care for cancer patients and survivors.



European Commission

NEWS ARTICLE | 26 May 2025 | Directorate-General for Communication | 1 min read

### European Week Against Cancer: providing patients with high-quality healthcare

Each and every EU citizen deserves the very best in cancer care. As we mark the **European Week Against Cancer** (25-31 May), the European Commission reaffirms its commitment to achieve a European health union that delivers high-quality healthcare for all. Already through its **Europe's Beating Cancer Plan**, the Commission has provided support to millions of people affected by cancer across the European Union. It now works with almost 630 organisations and has committed €394 million to support its actions in cancer

 <https://shorturl.at/hWIm6>



European Commission Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety

**EU One Health** @EU\_Health

To mark the **#EuropeanWeekAgainstCancer** next week, join our webinar on the implementation of the **#EUCancerPlan** on 27 May. Opening remarks by **@OliverVarhelyi**. Register here: [europa.eu/!CKQBQ3](https://europa.eu/!CKQBQ3)

**EU Health and Food Safety** 19,999 followers

This week is **#EuropeanWeekAgainstCancer**.

Every minute, five people in the EU find out they have cancer. Through the **#EUCancerPlan**, it is our mission to make sure their chances of survival are the highest possible.

Since its launch in 2021, the EU Cancer Plan is providing support to millions of patients affected by cancer. We are now working with almost 630 organisations and have committed EUR 394 million under the **#EU4Health** programme to bolster our initiatives.

Our work does not stop there. Implementation of the EU Cancer Plan continues in full force:

- Prevention: A new edition of the European Code Against Cancer to provide practical advice on reducing cancer risks.



## European Commission's Joint Research Centre



**Sandra Caldeira** • Following  
Head of Disease Prevention Unit at European Comi  
2w •

Hope through data: that's what we work on every

Today is #Patients and #Survivors day #EWAC #EuropeanWeekAgainstCancer and the data in our #EuropeanCancerInformationSystem give hope!

125 cancer registries 68 cancer types 32 countries  
Incidence, Mortality, Survival, Prevalence

These indicators are improving!  
Not as fast as we'd wish for. Not everywhere, for every cancer type.

And that's why we keep at it: to give policymakers and citizens accurate and timely data, for targeted interventions and always better cancer outcomes. Find out about our work:

ECIS <https://lnkd.in/dmA6TS5z>  
ENCR <https://www.encre.eu/>



**Ciarán NICHOLL** • Following  
Director Health & Food EC-Joint Research Centre  
2w •

I'm dreaming of the moment where I won't have to worry anymore about cancer meaning it will be over, no more hearts broken, no more suffering.

As we mark the start of #EWAC2025, I'm proud to see the work being done by our amazing team at the [EU and Innovation](#) to fight against cancer.

- ✓ We identify and assess the risks associated with lifestyle factors that contribute to causing cancer (e.g. carcinogens, poor diet, physical inactivity...).
- ✓ We provide scientific advice on how to promote healthy habits and reduce the risk of cancer through dietary changes.
- ✓ We monitor cancer trends across EU countries, to inform cancer across the EU.
- ✓ We evaluate the potential health impacts of policy interventions aimed at reducing the burden of cancer, and make recommendations based on evidence-based science.
- ✓ We look at how AI could enhance cancer diagnosis.



**Ulla Engelmann** • Following  
European Commission Joint Research Centre JRC Director  
2w •

Spotlight on the #EuropeanWeekAgainstCancer

Every year, on 25-31 May, the [Association of European Cancer Leagues](#) organises this flagship initiative to raise awareness of the importance of cancer prevention and care. Each day is dedicated to a key theme and today, the focus rests on #research – the focus of progress in all cancer care. Here, the #JRC is playing a vital

JRC Directorate Nuclear Safety and Security was the first to test the novel concept of applying radionuclides in #cancer research – the pioneering research and successful results in the nuclear treatment of prostate cancer – achieved in 2014 in cooperation with the [Hospital Heidelberg \(UKHD\)](#) and published in the Lancet in last year – was a major milestone, highlighting the JRC's contribution to this field.



## European Medicines Agency



**European Medicines Agency**  
336,485 followers  
2w •

This week is #EuropeanWeekAgainstCancer.

At EMA, we are committed to supporting the fight ...more



317

4 comments • 31 reposts



## European Commission's Audiovisual Services



**European Commission's Audiovisual Service**  
@EC\_AVService

The European Week Against Cancer starts today.

The EU Cancer Plan provides diagnosis and treatment through an EU Network of Comprehensive Cancer Centres backed by EUR 90 million in EU funding.

Watch more [youtu.be/wUIMw3dIA7Q](https://youtu.be/wUIMw3dIA7Q)

Read more [europa.eu/1493xQy](https://europa.eu/1493xQy)  
#EWAC2025





## European Commission's Health and Digital Executive Agency



<https://shorturl.at/xBAId>



<https://shorturl.at/an1YI>



<https://shorturl.at/hiYIH>



<https://shorturl.at/26QOf>



European Economic and Social Committee @EU\_EESC

On EU Cancer Awareness Week, we call for a united EU approach to fighting cancer through:

- more coordination on demand & supply of early vaccinations;
- improved access and supply of nuclear medicine;
- increased funding for radiological technologies.

#EUCancerPlan



#EWAC2025

# UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES

During the 2025 European Week Against Cancer, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) released new videos, launched new factsheets, organised webinars, shared resources, and called attention to key risk factors like tobacco and alcohol.



<https://shorturl.at/FedGa>

#EUHPP Live Webinar:  
Launch of the IARC  
factsheets on  
Socioeconomic  
inequalities in cancer  
mortality

Friday, May 23, 2025 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM  
(UTC+02:00) Brussels, Copenhagen, Madrid, Paris

<https://shorturl.at/hNFPb>

#EWAC2025

# MEPS AGAINST CANCER

In the lead-up to the European Week Against Cancer, the MEPs Against Cancer (MAC) Interest Group celebrated 20 years of leadership in the fight for a cancer-free Europe with an event held at the European Parliament in Brussels. Supported by the Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL), the MAC group brings together policymakers from across the political spectrum and EU member states.



The MEPs Against Cancer group also hosted a webinar to discuss the growing body of scientific evidence between per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and cancer. The webinar, which was hosted by MEP Tilly Metz (Vice-Chair of the MAC group), explored effective policy measures to regulate and eventually phase-out these harmful chemicals in Europe.

Featured speakers included Tom Buis (Dutch Cancer Society, representing the Association of European Cancer Leagues), Paul Speight (EU Commission's Directorate-General for Environment), and Sandra Jen (Health and Environment Alliance).



 <https://shorturl.at/Y0f8v>



#EWAC2025

# EUROPEAN CANCER LEAGUES

Cancer leagues from all over Europe marked the European Week Against Cancer through a mix of online campaigns and in-person events. From advocating for stronger policy measures to prevent cancer, to hosting conferences focused on screening, members of the Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL) actively took the spotlight to raise awareness and drive action. Here are a few examples:



## Portuguese League Against Cancer



The Portuguese League Against Cancer organised a series of in-person events for both cancer patients and the general public, featuring activities such as yoga and cooking classes, as well as a dedicated conference to explore the challenges of lung cancer screening.



## Spanish Association Against Cancer



The Spanish Association Against Cancer, alongside the WHO Regional Office for Europe, Smoke Free Partnership, the European Respiratory Society, and the European Network for Smoking and Tobacco Prevention, organised a high-level workshop in Brussels to mark World No Tobacco Day.



To kick off the European Week Against Cancer, ECL launched a new position paper making the case to ban harmful PFAS chemicals across Europe, due to the growing scientific evidence linking these 'forever chemicals' to cancer.

<https://shorturl.at/jWr2M>

Deutsche Krebsgesellschaft e. V. (German ... 10,670 followers

Today on May 30, the European Week against #Cancer is all about patients and survivors. What challenges do people with cancer face when they want to #returntowork? On International Workers' Day, we learned a lot about their perspectives and experiences from our partner Association of European Cancer Leagues: <https://lnkd.in/d7upC-ER>

Together with the Robert Koch Institute, our researchers at German Cancer Society have published a paper about "Cancer in People of Working Age in Germany 1999-2022" – now available in English!

The publication shows that around 500,000 people are diagnosed with cancer in Germany every year. Thirty-five percent of those affected are between the ages of 20 and 64. How have the data changed over time for men and women? Which cancer diagnoses have the highest proportion of people of working age?

Read more: <https://lnkd.in/e9urgTZZ>

#EWAC2025 #oncology

FEDC Federació Catalana d'Entitats contra el Càncer @FecocFederacio  
Diumenge comença una nova edició de la Setmana Europea contra el Càncer que organitza la @cancerleagues.  
Cada dia se centra en un tema clau sobre la prevenció i l'atenció del càncer durant tota la setmana.  
[cutt.ly/mrcHHUit](https://cutt.ly/mrcHHUit)  
#EWAC2025

Setmana Europea Contra el Càncer 2025



La Setmana Europea Contra el Càncer (EWAC) se celebra cada any entre el 25 i el 31 de maig i és una iniciativa emblemàtica de l'Associació de Lligues Europees Contra el Càncer (ECL) i de la FECEC Junts contra el Càncer – que treballen per millorar el diagnòstic i l'atenció del càncer.



cancercode  
cancercode Did you know that up to 40% of cancer cases are preventable through healthier lifestyle choices?  
The European Code Against Cancer outlines 12 practical, evidence-based recommendations to help reduce your cancer risk — from healthy eating and physical activity to avoiding tobacco and limiting alcohol.  
Learn the steps  
Take action  
11 likes  
May 27



cancercode  
cancercode Cancer is now the leading cause of death for people aged 45-64 in many EU countries. But progress is happening.  
EU-funded projects are advancing cutting-edge cancer research and innovation.  
Across Europe, national and regional cancer leagues are supporting vital work — from prevention and early detection to treatment and survivorship.  
Liked by krebsliga and 10 others  
May 29



ΑΝΤΙΚΑΡΚΙΝΙΚΟΣ  
ΣΥΝΔΕΣΜΟΣ  
ΚΥΠΡΟΥ  
THE CYPRUS ANTI-CANCER SOCIETY

## Cyprus Anti-Cancer Society



antancer.cy

antancer.cy 31 Μαΐου - Παγκόσμια Ημέρα Χωρίς Καπνό  
Ο καπνός παραμένει η κύρια αιτία πρόληψης του καρκίνου, ευθύνεται για σχεδόν το 20% των περιστατικών στην Ευρώπη και προκαλεί περισσότερους από 700.000 αποτρίψιμους θανάτους κάθε χρόνο.  
\* Το κάπνισμα συνδέεται με τουλάχιστον 16 διαφορετικούς τύπους καρκίνου.  
\* Όσο νωρίτερα σταματά, τόσο μεγαλύτερα τα ωφέλη για την υγεία.  
\* Ο στόχος για μια Ευρώπη με λιγότερο από

13 likes  
May 31



antancer.cy

antancer.cy Την περίοδο 2019-2022, ασθενείς στη Γερμανία είχαν πρόσβαση σε 46 από τα 48 φάρμακα κατά του καρκίνου που εγκρίθηκαν στην ΕΕ. Στη Λιθουανία, μόλις 3.  
Δεν μπορούμε να αφήνουμε την πρόσβαση στη θεραπεία να εξαρτάται από τον τόπο διαμονής. Ήρα να γεφυρώσουμε τις ανισότητες: <https://cancer-inequalities.jrc.ec.europa.eu/> #EWAC2025 #Anticancer

19 likes  
May 28



## Cancer Society of Finland



syopajarjestot

syopajarjestot Jos tupakointi loppuisi, yhdeksän kymmenestä keuhkosyövästä voitaisiin ehkäistä.  
Tupakointi onkin suurin estettävissä oleva syöpäriski. Tupakointi liittyy lähes 20 prosenttiin syöpätapauksista Euroopassa. Tavoitellaan yhdessä ensimmäistä savutonta sukupolvea.  
Ilman syöpä -verkkosivuilta löydät tietoa siitä, mitä syöpänskeja tupakka aiheuttaa.  
Vietämme Euroopan syöpäviikkoa 25.-31.5. eri

37 likes  
May 25



botnicancer - Following  
Pohjanmaan Syöpäyhdistys - Österbottens Cancerförening

botnicancer 3w  
Europeisk cancervecka är på gång! - Käynnissä on Euroopan syöpäviikko!  
Pääsy syöpähoitoihin ei saa riippua postinumerosta. Uusien hoitojen korkeat hinnat sulkevat ne pois monen maan ulottuvilta. On aika tehdä elintärkeistä hoidoista yhteinen eurooppalainen asia.

21 likes  
May 27

#ECL Add a comment...

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΜΟΣΠΟΝΔΙΑ ΚΑΡΚΙΝΟΥ



## Hellenic Cancer Federation

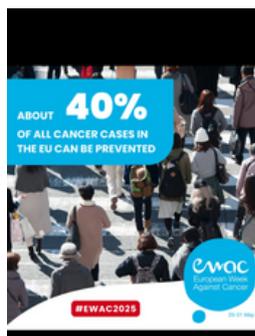


ellok\_org - Following

ellok\_org 3w  
Ευρωπαϊκή Εβδομάδα Κατά του Καρκίνου  
\* Η Ευρωπαϊκή Εβδομάδα κατά του καρκίνου αποτελεί μια κορυφαία πρωτοβουλία της ECL (Association of European Cancer Leagues), η οποία ενώνει οργανώσεις της κοινωνίας των πολιτών, επαγγελματίες υγείας και φορείς χάραξης πολιτικής, με στόχο την ευαισθητοποίηση γύρω από τη

12 likes  
May 26

#ECL Add a comment...



ellok\_org

ellok\_org 31 Μαΐου - Παγκόσμια Ημέρα κατά του καπνίσματος  
\* Η Ευρωπαϊκή Εβδομάδα κατά του καρκίνου αποτελεί κορυφαία πρωτοβουλία της ECL (Association of European Cancer Leagues) και ολοκληρώνεται σήμερα με την Παγκόσμια Ημέρα κατά του Καπνίσματος.  
\* 31 Μαΐου είναι η Παγκόσμια Ημέρα κατά του Καπνίσματος! Το κάπνισμα ευθύνεται για σχεδόν το 20% των περιστατικών καρκίνου

3 likes  
May 31

**#EWAC2025**

# CIVIL SOCIETY VOICES

Health and civil society groups across Europe joined the EWAC action by sharing resources, calls to action, and raising awareness about the importance of cancer prevention and care on social media and beyond.

**Association of European Cancer Leagues**

**European Cancer Organisation**

**GAMIAN-Europe**

**ABC Global Alliance**

**European Environmental Bureau**

**Health and Environment Alliance**

**BIG Against Breast Cancer**

**European Health Management Association**

**International Kidney Cancer Coalition**

**Cancer Patients Europe**

**European Liver Patients' Association**

**International Papillomavirus Society**

**CHEM Trust**

**European Lung Foundation**

**Lung Cancer Europe**

**Digestive Cancers Europe**

**European Society for Paediatric Oncology**

**Nederlands Kanker Collectief**

**EDC-Free Europe campaign**

**European Society of Surgical Oncology**

**Safe Food Advocacy Europe**

**European Association for Cancer Research**

**EU Food Policy Coalition**

**Standing Committee of European Doctors**

**European Association of Nuclear Medicine**

**Foodwatch International**

**Whole Grain Initiative**

**European Breast Cancer Coalition**

**World Bladder Cancer Patient Coalition**

# EUROPEAN WEEK AGAINST CANCER

**Thank you for supporting the European Week Against Cancer (EWAC)**

EWAC is a flagship initiative from the Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL), a non-profit umbrella organisation made up of 34 national and regional cancer leagues advocating for improved cancer control and care across Europe. Our vision is a Europe free of cancer.

Transparency register number: 19265592757-25



[ecl@cancer.eu](mailto:ecl@cancer.eu)



[www.cancer.eu](http://www.cancer.eu)

