Joint Statement
Priorities for Eliminating Cervical Cancer as a Public Health Problem in Europe

2020 saw the adoption and launch of the first-ever global commitment to eliminate a cancer - the WHO's Global Strategy to Accelerate the Elimination of Cervical Cancer. In February 2021, EU Member States adopted the much-anticipated Europe's Beating Cancer Plan. 2021 will be about an integrated approach to the implementation of these two landmark strategies.

We, the Joint Signatories, call for all European Union (EU) and WHO/Europe member states to take immediate action towards fulfilling the ambitious goal of eliminating cervical cancer as a public health problem by prioritising the following actions using a comprehensive approach that leaves no-one behind:

1. Adopt, communicate and implement evidence-based screening policies
2. Ensure that cervical cancer screening is provided within an organised framework
3. Optimise screening coverage, especially in Central and Eastern Europe, intensifying efforts to reach women not responding to the screening invitation
4. Ensure treatment of the screen detected precancers and cancers
5. Maximise HPV vaccination coverage to reach the 90% target by 2030
6. Empowering women and working closely with civil society
7. Update the EU guidelines for cervical cancer control, advising on the integration of elimination services with women-centred approaches

We are calling for 17 November to be a recognised and celebrated as the Global Day for Cervical Cancer Elimination every year!