

EXPERTS UNITE FOR BETTER CANCER CONTROL IN EUROPE

In cancer, a new era is already here. We are no longer only asking how long cancer patients are surviving, but also how well they are surviving.

'The Joint Action for Comprehensive Cancer Control (Cancon) is an important project and forum for the development of good practice recommendations for cancer care in Europe', says **Tit Albreht**, the coordinator of Cancon and cancer control expert at the Slovenian Institute of Public Health.



The aim of Cancon is to create a *European Guide on Quality Improvement in Comprehensive Cancer Control*.



'Thanks to the expertise of a broad range of stakeholders, we will ensure that the Guide will reach its target audiences which include governments, parliamentarians, health care professionals at every level', says **Sakari Karjalainen**, Secretary General of the Cancer Society of Finland. The Cancer Society of Finland is leading two work packages of the joint action: dissemination and cancer screening.

Dr. Karjalainen is currently President of the Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL - the NGO connecting cancer leagues). ECL is active in Cancon as it was in the European Partnership for Action against Cancer (EPAAC).

COLLABORATIVE MOOD AND DASH OF POLICIES

Why does Europe need joint actions? The organisations participating are committed to the common cause to reduce suffering arising from cancer. The European Commission finances half of the programme cost, the associated partner organisations contribute the other half.

What is driving cancer experts to collaboration?

EUROPE – MANY PRACTICES, UNEVEN OUTCOMES

Cancer research is international, so working together is

nothing new. What makes Cancon so unique is the effort to develop policy solutions for all European countries. Cancer patients in Europe do not have the same levels of access to treatment or support. Some patients survive their disease better than others. It can depend on factors such as the country and on the socio-economic status. Prevention, early detection and treatment are important factors of survival.

'ECL aims to connect cancer leagues across Europe to reduce inequalities as evident in one of our five strategic goals', said Dr **Wendy Yared**, Director of ECL and member of the EU Expert Group on Cancer control. Dr Yared is also involved in the groups preparing Cancon policy papers on prevention and on equity.

How is cancer care implemented? Is there a cancer plan to monitor cancer control efforts? And finally, is there the will to ensure that cancer survivors' needs are well understood? Patient organisations contribute to Cancon activities with a voice that is stronger than ever before.

The Guide for cancer control will be ready in February 2017. It will be distributed in

various ways in member states, through professional and patient organisations and with the help of numerous collaborative partners of Cancon. Seven fast facts about Cancon:

- Cancon is a European wide joint action, which aims at improving cancer control
- The endeavour started in 2014 and ends in February 2017
- It will produce a *European Guide on Comprehensive Cancer Control*
- Now 65 organizations and 25 countries - of which 23 member states of the European Union - are working on it
- Joint action is progressing as planned and according to is timetable
- The Guide is soon moving forward to editing process
- The real test will be how the recommendations of the Guide will be implemented across Europe.



MORE INFORMATION

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