

CANCON STAKEHOLDER FORUM

Brussels, 6 June 2014

Meeting Report

The meeting was co-chaired by Josep Figueras, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, acting as external moderators to the forum, and Tit Albreht, Coordinator of the CANCON Joint Action.

The CANCON objectives were briefly described, following a description of the Forum programme. The objectives of the Stakeholder Forum are to:

- Inform stakeholders and provide them with first-hand information,
- Gather views and contributions on various elements of the Joint Action,
- Assess the potential stakeholder contributions in each Work Package,
- Disseminate results throughout the stakeholder groups.

It was emphasised that Joint Actions are important mechanisms not only for the involved Member States and the European Commission, but also for the broader range of stakeholder groups. It is important to create the right linkages between Joint Actions themselves and also with other groups, as this helps foster sustainability of the activities being carried out. Stakeholders can also play an important role in disseminating the Joint Action outputs. In general, the Collaborating Partners of CANCON and the Stakeholder Forum will act as internal/external reviewers of the Joint Action outputs.

The Stakeholder Forum was split into two smaller breakout groups. Each group heard brief presentations from all of the Work Packages – one section focused on horizontal work (Guide Coordination, Member State Platform, Dissemination, Evaluation), the other on core work (Screening, Integrated Cancer Control, Community Level Cancer Care, Survivorship and Rehabilitation). All of the presentations are available online at <http://www.cancercontrol.eu/who-we-are/stakeholder-forum>. The breakout groups were moderated by Willy Palm and Irene Glinos of the European Observatory.

The main discussion points/conclusions from both groups were:

➤ **Horizontal work**

- Important to include the Member States as much as possible in Guide Coordination and the Platform, so that the Guide has a better chance of reaching policymakers and implementation
- The Member State Platform can be viewed as an experiment for method of future collaboration and arena for exchange of information
- Need for building on work of EPAAC- both at level of Member State Platform and dissemination
- Appeal to Associated and Collaborating Partners to disseminate information on CANCON locally – all partners will be provided with a text for their websites
- Use of EU Presidencies as part of advocacy plan for CANCON
- Evaluation will include questionnaires to Collaborating Partners and stakeholders, should think about impact assessment and visibility to target audiences
- For the Guide Coordination Work Package, 1 representative per stakeholder group will be included in the Guide Coordination Committee, as all Collaborating Partners have the opportunity to be involved in specific Work Packages and therefore, Guide Chapters

➤ **Core work**

- The success of the all of the Work Packages should lie in the implementation of recommendations at national level, need to engage MS and stakeholders at national level
- Should focus on equity issues throughout all Work Packages
- Elements to include in chapter on Comprehensive Cancer Care Networks: monitoring of network to make sure it is working optimally, inclusion of primary and secondary prevention in the network (yes/no), need to include flexible recommendations to increase adaptability to national contexts, inclusion of facilitating elements/barriers to CCCNs

- Inclusion of pharmacists in patient pathways at primary level and the digital platform, should think about pathway for long-term survivors
- Could also focus on the importance of austerity and the economic crisis in Community Level Cancer Care Work Package
- Unlikely that all various groups will be covered in WP 8 (children, young people, minority groups, etc.), there will be a more narrow scope, need for European consensus for the distress thermometer
- Need to provide objective information on benefits and harms of screening to the population

All participants expressed enthusiasm for the notion that the European Guide on Quality Improvement in Comprehensive Cancer Control, the main deliverable of CANCON, should not be merely 'another report on the shelf'. Its success should also be measured by how widely it is disseminated and implemented at national level.

It would also be helpful if there was a mechanism for outcome evaluation of previous Joint Actions; such evaluation would help stakeholders in disseminating the positive aspects of cooperating in Joint Actions. CANCON dissemination should also therefore focus on dissemination after the completion of the Joint Action, as this is when the most work should be done on promoting the Guide at national level. The Work Packages on Dissemination, Guide Coordination and Member State Platform will work together to ensure a maximum level of dissemination to the policy community.

The Expert Working Group on Cancer set up by the European Commission will also provide an important link to make sure that the conclusions of CANCON are disseminated at a political level.

Collaborating partners are invited to contact respective Work Package Leaders on ways to collaborate within each specific Work Package. The list of Collaborating Partners is not closed and more partners can be added as the Joint Action progresses. For information on becoming a Collaborating Partner, please contact cancer.control@nijz.si.

This Stakeholder Forum was the first of three such meetings in the duration of the Joint Action. The next Stakeholder Forum is provisionally scheduled to take place in Brussels in Spring 2015, all Collaborating Partners will receive an invitation to attend the meeting.