

Crann Comhair (Vincent Devine, 2024)

HSA CARCINOGENS CONFERENCE · 29 OCTOBER 2026 · DUBLIN

Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, EU Cancer Mission & National Cancer Mission Hubs

Connecting research, policy and occupational cancer prevention

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Co-Lead, All-Island Cancer Research Institute (AICRI) · Full Professor of Cancer Biology, UCD

ECHoS Cancer Mission Hubs

THE CHALLENGE

Work-related cancer: a preventable burden

~50% of occupational deaths in the EU are caused by cancer, the leading cause

47% of workers in six EU countries, incl. Ireland, probably exposed to a cancer risk factor in the last week

1 in 4 probably exposed to two or more cancer risk factors in the same week



Most common: solar UV 20.8% · diesel exhaust 19.9% · benzene 12.8% · silica 8.4% · formaldehyde 6.4%

THE EU FRAMEWORK

Two EU engines against cancer

POLICY · EU4HEALTH & OTHER EU FUNDS

Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan

- Launched February 2021
- Prevention · early detection · care · quality of life
- ~50% of EU4Health cancer actions target prevention

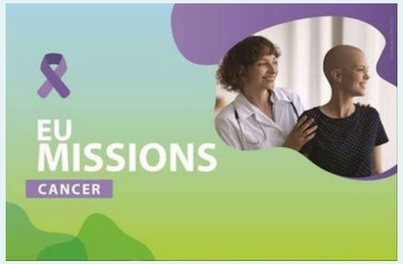


Shared goals

RESEARCH & INNOVATION · HORIZON EUROPE

EU Mission on Cancer

- Improve the lives of 3 million+ people by 2030
- 75 projects, €605M (2021–2025)
- Citizens and stakeholders at the centre



OCCUPATIONAL CANCER IN EU POLICY

Occupational carcinogens: a decade of EU action

2016 — Roadmap on Carcinogens launched

2021 — Beating Cancer Plan + EU OSH Strategic Framework

2022 — New limits: benzene, nickel, acrylonitrile

2023 — Asbestos limit cut at least 10×

2024 — Lead & diisocyanates; Roadmap 3.0, Ireland joins

2025 — European Code Against Cancer, 5th ed.

19 October 2026: 6th revision adopted by the Council

New limits for cobalt, PAHs, 1,4-dioxane and isoprene · welding fumes brought into scope

THE EU FRAMEWORK

The EU cancer project landscape (in Ireland)



Europe's Beating Cancer Plan · EU4HEALTH

CancerWatch
CraNE
Digi Can Train
Co-funded by the European Union
eCAN Strengthening eHealth for Cancer Prevention & Care
yarn EUROPEAN YOUTH CANCER NETWORK
EU CanScreen
EUnetCCC ONEFORALL
INTERACT EUROPE 100
JA PCM Joint Action Personalised Cancer Medicine
JA SAFE
EU JOINT ACTION JANE NETWORKS OF EXPERTISE ON CANCER
JA PreventNCD
MELODIC MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR YOUNG ADULTS WITH CANCER
VIVIAN ORION
PERCH PartnERship to Contrast HPV
Praise u
PROTECT EUROPE.
smartCARE
SOLACE
TOGAS TOWARDS GASTRIC CANCER SCREENING IMPLEMENTATION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

EU Cancer Mission · Horizon Europe

txr transcend-xr
4PCAN
CANDLE
CI-EU
DE-ESCALATE
DEFINITIVE
disarm
ECHoS Cancer Mission Hubs
TRACE TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH IN ACTION FOR CANCER IN REGIONAL ECOSYSTEMS
EU-CiP Part of the European Cancer Patient Digital Centre
EUonQoL
FORCE CONSORTIUM
IMPORTANT
MAYA
MONALISA
MULTIR
ONCOSCREEN
PanCare 4AYA
PRIME-ROSE Precision Cancer Medicine Repurposing System Using Pragmatic Clinical Trials
ThermoBreast

THE EU FRAMEWORK

Projects relevant to the Roadmap

EU4HEALTH

Beating Cancer Plan

Code Against Cancer, 5th ed.

Policy recommendations on occupational carcinogens

JA PreventNCD

25 countries; regulating hazardous exposures

HORIZON EUROPE

EU Cancer Mission

CPW (Cancer Prevention at Work)

Occupational health services as a route to prevention

4P-CAN

Prevention living labs, incl. pollution & radon

Mission Soil × Cancer call

2027 · €24M · carcinogens from soils

EU-OSHA · HORIZON

OSH & chemicals research

Workers' Exposure Survey

Exposure data, Ireland included

PARC

Chemical risk assessment & biomonitoring

EPHOR

Occupational exposure at population scale

CANCER MISSION HUBS

What is a National Cancer Mission Hub?



1

A national platform

to put the EU Cancer Mission and Beating Cancer Plan into practice

2

Five sectors, equal footing

the ‘Penta Helix’ model of shared governance

3

Builds on what exists

flexible models adapted to each country

4

19 Hubs set up by 2026

all Member States have joined the network

Building the Hub network

€6.1M	61	30	17
EU funding, 2023–26	partners	countries	Hubs recognised

14 policy dialogues in 10 countries

26 engagement tools in the ECHoS Playbook

20 synergies with EU initiatives, 7 on prevention

ECHoS II (from 2026)

A five-year roadmap for a European Network of Hubs: training, demonstration projects and peer learning.
Irish partners: NCCP and UCD (AICRI)

CANCER MISSION HUBS IN ACTION

What Hubs also do

1

Policy dialogues

Bring decision-makers and experts together on one cancer policy question

2

Knowledge exchange

Countries learn from each other’s Hubs; 24 countries took part

3

Stakeholder mapping

Find and engage the right people with a Playbook of 26 tools

4

Launch events & Fairs

Public, political visibility, e.g. Mission Fairs in Warsaw and Nicosia

5

EU synergies

Connect national needs with EU projects and tools

CANCER MISSION HUBS IN ACTION

Policy dialogues: from evidence to agreed action

Frame	Evidence	Dialogue	Recommend	Act
One defined policy question	National data + international experience	Facilitated, closed, all sectors present	Consensus recommendations & report	Feeds national plans and strategies

Topics so far

- Lung cancer screening
- Access to clinical trials
- Comprehensive cancer centres
- Precision medicine
- Mental health & cancer inequity
- Cancer workforce
- Setting up new Hubs

POLICY DIALOGUE IN PRACTICE

Case study: Greece



Athens · 2 July 2025
‘Addressing the Burden of Lung Cancer through National Planning’
Led by ELLOK, the Greek Hub, with ECHoS and the European Observatory
Ministry of Health, WHO, IARC, clinicians, industry, patients

1

Prevention first

Full implementation of tobacco control measures

2

Lung screening

Risk-based low-dose CT as a fourth national screening programme

3

Pilots to programme

Pilot projects to feed a national screening programme

4

Task force

A National Lung Cancer Task Force under the Ministry of Health

POLICY DIALOGUE IN PRACTICE

Case study: Ireland



Dublin · 23 October 2025

Inequity in cancer care for people with significant mental health difficulties

Hosted by AICRI and the NCCP with UCD, supported by ECHoS and the European Observatory

1 Integrated care pathways

In every designated cancer centre

2 Targeted screening

A national strategy to reach this group

3 Visible in the data

Record mental health status in cancer systems

4 Workforce & research

Training, and inclusion in clinical trials

Output: recommendations for the next National Cancer Strategy

POLICY DIALOGUE IN PRACTICE

Hubs in action: impact across Europe

Portugal

Lung cancer screening pilots

Greece

Framework to beat lung cancer

Norway

Precision medicine ‘acceleration team’

Lithuania

Ministries and partners convened on a national Hub

Ireland

Inequity recommendations for the next Cancer Strategy

Slovakia

Hub written into national oncology plan 2026–30

AN IDEA FOR IRELAND

A dialogue on occupational carcinogens?

1

The question

e.g. respirable silica or diesel exhaust in construction, quarrying and vehicle maintenance

2

The evidence

Exposure survey data, HSA inspections, cancer registry, international practice

3

Around the table

Regulators, NCCP, employers, trade unions, occupational physicians, researchers, workers

4

The outputs

Recommendations for the next Cancer Strategy and the HSA's next strategy and work programme; workplace awareness

IRELAND

NCMH Ireland

2023 — EU Cancer Mission Day Ireland

2024–25 — Stakeholder engagement & ECHoS exchange

2026 — Endorsed by the Department of Health; EU recognition via ECHoS

Dec 2026 — Launch Symposium & ECHoS Summit, Dublin

Hosted by **NCCP (HSE)** · **AICRI** a key stakeholder

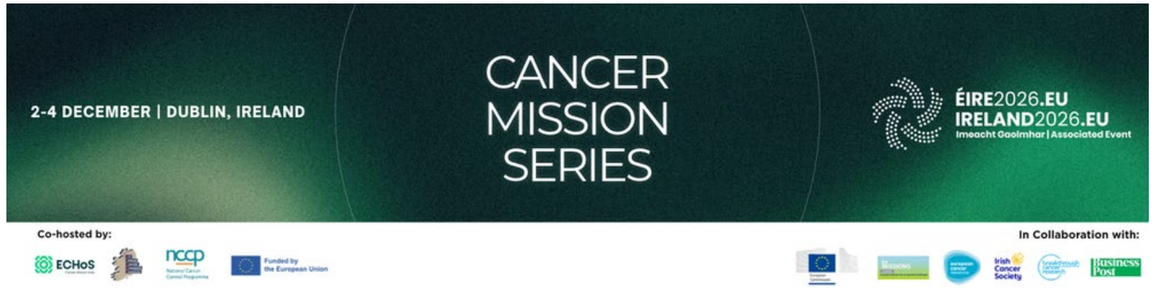
EU Cancer Mission Day Ireland, 26 September 2023



All Island Cancer Research Institute

nccp National Cancer Control Programme

An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health



BRINGING IT TOGETHER

From evidence to prevention: the Hub's role

1

Evidence

Exposure data, registries, research

2

Convene

Policy dialogues with all five sectors

3

Act

Regulation, strategy, workplace controls

4

Inform

Awareness for workers & employers

Monitor impact and feed back into the evidence

The Hub's role: make sure no step happens in isolation

Opportunities for Ireland

1

Bring occupational health into the Hub

HSA, employers, trade unions and occupational medicine at the table

2

Hold a Hub policy dialogue

On occupational carcinogens, as in Dublin and Athens

3

Link exposure and outcome data

Exposure surveys, cancer registry and research

4

Shape what comes next

Next Cancer Strategy, new EU limits, Roadmap 3.0, EU calls

BRINGING IT TOGETHER

Key messages

1. Cancer is the leading cause of work-related death in the EU, and largely preventable
2. EU policy and research already line up, and new limits were adopted this month
3. Hubs turn alignment into national action: policy dialogues in Athens and Dublin show how
4. Ireland will launch its own Hub in Dec 2026, a proven model

Join us: NCMH Ireland Launch Symposium & ECHoS Summit · 3–4 December 2026, Dublin

Go raibh maith agaibh

Thank you

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