

Fast Facts



Our vision

- Equal access to quality cancer care for all patients across Europe.

Our mission

- To have comprehensive national cancer plans in all countries of the European Union through a Call for Action to the European Commission to develop a Europe-wide cancer strategy.
- To gather one million signatories to support our Call for Action - available at www.cancerunited.org.
- To ensure that cancer care reflects the impact of cancer on a person's life.

Campaign milestones

- The Cancer United Campaign will be launched in Brussels on 19 October 2006 followed by national activities in every Member State of the European Union over the next 18 months.
- The Cancer United Campaign will undertake a fact-finding mission alongside the national activities.
- The Cancer United campaign will return to Brussels in Spring 2008 to present its findings and the Call for Action to the three main EU institutions: the European Parliament, European Commission and European Council of Ministers.

More about the Cancer United Campaign

- The Cancer United Campaign is being driven by a coalition of patients, patient groups, doctors, nurses, researchers, industry, policy makers and major institutions involved in cancer research and care.
- The campaign will be taken to each member state of the EU and will be led by a National President in each country.
- The Cancer United Campaign is managed by an Executive Board.
- Prof. John Smyth, Professor of Medical Oncology at Edinburgh University and President of the Federation of European Cancer Societies is the Chair of the Executive Board.
- Ingrid Kössler, President of the Swedish Breast Cancer Association is the Co-Chair of the Executive Board.
- Other Executive Board Members of the Cancer United Coalition are:
 - Dr Matti Aapro, Dean of the Multidisciplinary Oncology Institute, Genolier and Executive Director of the International Society for Geriatric Oncology (SIOG)
 - Prof Franco Cavalli, Director, Oncology Institute of Southern Switzerland (IOSI)

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- Prof Alexander Eggermont, Immediate Past-President, European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC)
 - Lynn Faulds-Wood, Chairman, European Cancer Patient Coalition (ECPC)
 - Tom Hudson, President, Europa Uomo
 - Catherine Steele, International Head Public Policy, Pharma Business, Roche
 - Prof Mike Stevens, CLIC Professor of Paediatric Oncology, University of Bristol, UK
 - Prof Thomas Tursz, Organisation of European Cancer Institutes (OEI)
 - Anita Waldmann, President, Myeloma Euronet
 - Dr Yvonne Wengstrom, President, European Oncology Nursing Society (EONS)
- The Cancer United Campaign is supported by an unrestricted grant from Roche.

Why do we need the Cancer United Campaign?

- Cancer touches every family in Europe. It is the second main cause of death after cardiovascular disease¹.
- Around 1.7 million people die from cancer in Europe each year - every two minutes another six families will have lost someone to cancer².
- Although major advances have been made in cancer treatment, around a half of cancer patients still die of the disease³.
- In men, the most commonly diagnosed cancer is lung cancer (19%); in women, the most commonly diagnosed cancer is breast cancer (27%)⁴.
- Access to quality cancer care varies from country to country: if, for example, you live in Spain you are much more likely to have access to the newest therapies than if you live in the UK⁵.
- In the EU25, the probabilities of surviving lung cancer 5 years after diagnosis are almost twice as high in the country with the best survival rate than in the country with the worst⁶.

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¹ E Niederlaender, Statistics in Focus: Populations and Social Conditions - Health, Eurostat, European Communities, Jun 2006

² Boyle, P and J Ferlay, Cancer incidence and mortality in Europe, 2004. Ann Oncol 2005; 16; 481-488

³ Jönsson, B and N Wilking, A pan-European comparison regarding patient access to cancer drugs, Karolinska Institutet in collaboration with Stockholm School of Economics, Stockholm, 2005

⁴ Boyle, P and J Ferlay, Cancer incidence and mortality in Europe, 2004. Ann Oncol 2005; 16; 481-488

⁵ Jönsson, B and N Wilking, A pan-European comparison regarding patient access to cancer drugs, Karolinska Institutet in collaboration with Stockholm School of Economics, Stockholm, 2005

⁶ M. P. Coleman, G. Gatta, A. Verdecchia, J. Estève, M. Sant, H. Storm, C. Allemani, L. Ciccolallo, M. Santaquilani, F. Berrino and the EURO CARE Working Group; EURO CARE-3 summary: cancer survival in Europe at the end of the 20th century; Annals of Oncology 14 (Supplement 5): v128-v149, 2003