



## Association of European Cancer Leagues

### STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION 2014-2018

**VISION:** A Europe free of cancers

**MISSION:** the mission of the Association of European Cancer Leagues is to influence and improve cancer control and cancer care in Europe through collaboration between its members in their fight against cancer, and to influence EU and pan-European policies.

#### Introduction

The burden of cancer in Europe continues to increase. The strain is tremendous and immeasurable on patients, families, and societies.

In 2012, there was an estimated 3.4 million new cases (excluding non-melanoma skin), and 1.8 million cancer deaths in Europe. Both genders were affected almost equally: of the 3,439,598 new cancer cases diagnosed in 2012, 53.2% were among men and 46.8% among women. There were 1,754,550 cancer deaths, of which 55.9% were in men and 44.1% in women. The biggest killers of the 1.8 million deaths in 2012 were lung, colorectal, breast, and stomach cancers.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Ferlay J, Steliarova-Foucher E, Lortet-Tieulent J, Rosso S, Coebergh JW, Comber H, Forman D, Bray F. Cancer incidence and mortality patterns in Europe: estimates for 40 countries in 2012. *Eur J Cancer*. 2013;12:1374–1403. doi: 10.1016/j.ejca.2012.12.027.

**Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL)**  
<http://www.europeancancerleagues.org>  
Chaussée de Louvain, 479, B-1030 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel : +32 2 256 2000, Fax : +32 2 256 2003  
[info@europeancancerleagues.org](mailto:info@europeancancerleagues.org)

## About ECL

The Association of European Cancer Leagues is an alliance of national and regional Cancer Leagues. ECL is located in Brussels and is a non-profit association.

It was created in 1980 and consists of member leagues located all over extended Europe. From Iceland to Turkey, cancer leagues join their efforts to fight cancer.

ECL currently<sup>2</sup> has 25 member societies in 22 European countries, representing more than 252 million citizens. Our members spend more than 850 Million Euros in total per annum to fight cancer, with a combined staff of over 2,550 people and more than 200,000 volunteers. Cancer leagues are financed mainly by public donation. Some also receive support from private businesses and governmental funds.

ECL represents cancer leagues in the context of EU policy. The ECL advocate on the member's priorities and supports and offers a platform for an exchange of experiences on the fields of activities of ECL member leagues. Activities include: cancer prevention (e.g., healthy lifestyles and vaccinations HBV, HPV ), public information, professional education and assistance, as well as information services, patient support in particular, rehabilitation for patients and their families and relatives, palliative support, participation in and support for cancer research.

ECL is structured with the General Assembly as the supreme governing body of ECL, which consists of delegates from each member organisation. The General Assembly approves of nominations to the Executive Board and decides upon future strategies and actions.

The Executive Board is responsible for executing the decisions taken at the General Assembly, proactively plan strategy, priorities and target of ECL which must be approved by the General Assembly. It sets up the annual work programme of the organisation and assumes its follow-up.

The ECL Secretariat is located in Brussels, Belgium. The office administers and coordinates ECL affairs and activities as defined by the Executive Board and in line with the policies given by the General Assembly. The Secretariat monitors European Union activities related to cancer and, communicates latest EU strategies, reports and findings to the ECL members and influence key decision makers at the EU institutions to achieve ECL strategy. The Secretariat alerts and mobilises members for specific activities related to the European Code Against Cancer, such

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<sup>2</sup> As of March 2014

as tobacco control alcohol, obesity, UV radiation and on patient-related and other legislation of importance for research and cancer control.

## **ECL Strategic Goals**

### **Goal 1 Influence cancer control policies**

Maintain and strengthen ECL's position in influencing EU and pan-European cancer prevention and control policies.

### **Goal 2 Promote cancer prevention**

Promote cancer prevention for all those living in Europe in order to reduce the incidence of cancer.

### **Goal 3 Encourage access to cancer screening**

Enhance access to scientifically proven effective and quality controlled cancer screening programmes in accordance with EU guidelines and best international evidence.

### **Goal 4 Ensure access to treatment and support**

Promote the rights of cancer patients by addressing inequalities and improving access to evidence-based diagnostics, treatment, follow up, and all aspects of support.

### **Goal 5 Support the development and implementation of national cancer control programmes and cancer registries.**

Work for and support the development and implementation of national cancer control plans and programmes in all European countries.

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