

## EU4Health programme for a healthier and safer Union

### The Association of European Cancer Leagues warmly welcomes the proposal for the EU4Health Programme and the great importance it places on cancer control!

ECL views the EU4Health programme as the driving force behind the implementation of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan. Therefore, it is encouraging to see the resources and objectives outlined in the proposal for the EU4Health programme are compatible with the ambitions we have articulated for [Europe's Beating Cancer Plan](#).

The COVID-19 crisis has affected all areas of society and created profound challenges for health systems. The considerable resources allocated towards the immediate response and long-term recovery from the crisis are urgently needed and clearly demonstrates the significant value that EU action in public health can yield. Cancer leagues provided suggestions to national governments and European Commission on how to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on cancer care services [here](#).

However, whilst the proposal can have serious and lasting impact on public health, care should be exercised to avoid diluting the focus and objectives of the programme by attempting to cover too many areas with the available resources. Steps should also be taken to include the appropriate and relevant actors in the implementation of proven evidencebased measures consistent with the programme's objectives.

*ECL would like to highlight the following key points:*



The focus of the specific objective should be to implement proven, effective practice as supported by the best available evidence;



The general objective of Programme should recognise and address health inequalities and health literacy;



Duplication with other funding programmes at the Union level and with activities already performed by external actors and stakeholders should be avoided;



The indicators of the Programme should be aligned with those agreed upon under the Sustainable Development Goals;



Conflicts of interest (intellectual, professional and financial) regarding the engagement of stakeholders towards the development of actions supported by the Programme should be mitigated as far as is possible.