Youth Ambassadors Summer School 2018 Overview

At the end of August, ECL’s Youth Ambassadors met for a three day Summer School in Paris. The event was kindly hosted by ECL member - La Ligue Contre le Cancer. After the Youth Ambassador group doubled in number this spring, this Summer School welcomed 31 participants from 28 European countries.

Youth Ambassadors are students and young professionals drawn from many disciplines including medicine, public health, law, and political sciences. They all share a deep conviction that cancer can be defeated by following the 12 messages of the European Code against Cancer (ECAC).

DAY 1

The first day was focused on networking and experience sharing. Following the introductory session Youth Ambassadors presented their successes and learnings from their activities promoting ECAC in their countries. During the second part of the day Tim Smits (KU Leuven) lead a session on behavioural psychology entitled “the six principles of persuasion.”
DAY 2

The second day of the Summer School focused on lectures and presentations from guest speakers. The day started with a session about a timely topic – Vaccines. Christine Berling (Ministry of Solidarity and Health - France) gave an introduction to the EU Joint Action on Vaccinations. Emilie Karafillakis (LSHTM) followed up by addressing the key issue of Vaccine Hesitancy. Youth Ambassadors also had a chance to hear and discuss the use of internet technologies for health communication in a session lead by Santiago Hors-Fraile (Salumedia), whilst Cristiana Fonseca (Portuguese League against Cancer) shared from her personal experience “how to better communicate cancer to young people.” The final presentation of the day focused on the upcoming World Cancer Day with Thuy Khuc-Bilon (UICC) introducing to the Ambassadors the new World Cancer Day campaign (2019-2021).

DAY 3

The final day of the Summer School began with Charlotte Marchand (iNCA - French National Cancer Institute) introducing the baromètre cancer, giving an insight into the public’s knowledge about cancer. An important part of the last Summer School’s day was planning of the Youth Ambassador activities for the next year. It was agreed that the Ambassadors shall:

- Engage in a collaborative action for the next World Cancer Day on 4 February 2019;
- Create a working group to take part in the EU Joint Action on Vaccinations.

Summer School ended with a field visit to one of the world’s leading cancer-research institutes: the Gustave Roussy Institute of Oncology. The visit showcased the innovative work of the institute from fundamental research through to patient treatment, care and support.