

A new European consortium, funded with 6 million Euros, will create a network of support for EU Mission on Cancer

- The project *Establishing of Cancer Mission Hubs: Networks and Synergies (ECHO S)* aims to coordinate R&I and Healthcare actions on cancer, with policy-making processes, towards people-centric healthcare and research systems.
- The consortium brings together the leading expertise of more than 50 governmental, healthcare, academic, and nonprofit organizations from 28 countries.
- National Cancer Mission Hubs (NCMHs) will be created in each country to engage a broad range of stakeholders from both public and private sectors in collaborative initiatives and policy dialogues on cancer, at national, regional and local levels.

Oslo, Norway, May 3rd, 2023

Cancer represents a global health challenge. It affects everyone regardless of gender, or even social status and is a tremendous burden for patients, families, friends, and societies. According to the [European Cancer Information System](#), the incidence of cancer in Europe by 2040 is expected to increase by 20.96% and mortality by 31.76%. This means that if no further actions are taken, around 3.24 million people will be diagnosed, and 1.66 million people will die in Europe. In Norway, the prediction for 2040 is about 50,000 new cases/year - *i.e.* +42% compared to 2020: there is a pressing need to act, together.

Driving the Horizon Europe [Mission on Cancer](#) initiative is the ambitious goal to improve “*the lives of more than 3 million people by 2030 through prevention, cure and for those affected by cancer including their families, to live longer and better*”. This is also the driving force behind the project ECHO S, *Establishing of Cancer Mission Hubs: Networks and Synergies*.

ECHO S, a new, three-year European consortium supported by [Mission on Cancer](#), will play a vital role in supporting the bold and inspirational goals defined by this European initiative. Bringing together the expertise of 58 leading organisations, from governmental, healthcare, research, academic and non-profit sectors, this key consortium will ultimately provide member states and associated countries (MS/AC) with the capacity to gradually create National Cancer Mission Hubs (NCMHs). These NCMHs, operating at national, regional, and local levels, will have a vital role in involving all relevant stakeholders, including citizens, in cancer-related policy dialogues.

“The fight against cancer can no longer be an isolated endeavour. Currently, research, innovation and healthcare initiatives are largely siloed within specific communities and the engagement of citizens is either poor or nonexistent,” said Dr. Anabela Isidro, member of the AICIB (Agency for Clinical Research and Biomedical Innovation in Portugal) board. *“Supported by the European Beating Cancer Plan and the EU Mission on Cancer, cancer occupies a central*

place within the European political agenda. At the conclusion of the Conference on the Future of Europe, political leaders championed pan-European cooperation towards a Health in All Policies approach, and a data-informed, citizen-focused, research-driven agenda. The time to act is now.” She concluded.

Norway is represented by Oslo Cancer Cluster, The Norwegian Cancer Society, The Norwegian Research Council, Oslo University Hospital and SINTEF, which will collaborate closely with the consortium coordinators (AICIB) and leading experts across Europe, to establish a NCMH in our country. This combined effort will coordinate R&I and Healthcare actions on cancer with policy-making processes towards people-centric healthcare and research systems in ways that cannot be achieved through individual efforts and fragmented initiatives.

Marine Jeanmougin, responsible for EU affairs and digitalisation at Oslo Cancer Cluster and task leader in the ECHO S project said: *“The ambitious approach taken by the European Commission to reduce the cancer burden for patients requires a coordinated response from relevant actors across Europe. The strong collaboration between Oslo Cancer Cluster, the Research Council, the Cancer Society and their partners, has brought Norway to take a central role in ECHO S. The Cancer Mission Hub Norway has the potential to shape best practices, in a joint effort with our European collaborators.”*

The recent COVID-19 emergency exposed the fragilities in health systems, halting research, arresting clinical trials, and forcing limited resource allocation to tackle these emerging needs. Still, it also highlighted countries’ capacity to create functional synergies in health, policy, and research, successfully impacting the health scenario. With the Kick-Off Meeting occurring today, ECHO S will set the foundations for a strong and cohesive network of NCMHs among MS/AC aligned with [Mission on Cancer](#). ECHO S will break new frontiers, beyond established research and health systems, reaching from individual citizens to European Institutions, Civil Society, Social Sector, Academia, Public and Private Sectors, improving the current landscape and setting a brighter future in cancer.

About AICIB - Agency for Clinical Research and Biomedical Innovation

AICIB is the Portuguese Agency for Clinical Research and Biomedical Innovation. Our mission is to promote, coordinate and support activities in the areas of clinical and translational research (CI&T) and biomedical innovation, contributing to the optimization of Portugal’s clinical, scientific, and technological potential. AICIB activities are structured around 5 main pillars (i) Foster Translational Clinical Research and Biomedical Innovation, (ii) Support the development of Clinical Academic Centres, (iii) Promote Clinical Trials, (iv) Support Digital Transformation in Health and (v) Foster the internationalization of Portuguese Health Research. For more information visit <http://www.aicib.pt>.

About

Oslo Cancer Cluster (Beneficiary)

Oslo Cancer Cluster is an oncology research and industry cluster dedicated to improving the lives of cancer patients by accelerating the development of new cancer diagnostics and treatments. Read more here: <https://oslocancercluster.no/>

Norwegian Cancer Society (Beneficiary)

The Norwegian Cancer Society (NCS) is one of the largest organisations in Norway representing the voices of those affected by cancer. They work to prevent and fight cancer and to improve quality of life for patients and their families. Read more here: <https://kreftforeningen.no/en/>

Norwegian Research Council (Beneficiary)

The Research Council's task is to make the best research and innovation possible. Their aim is to promote a society where research is created, used and shared, and thus contributes to restructuring and enhanced sustainability. Read more here: <https://www.forskningsradet.no/en/>

Oslo University Hospital (Associated Partner)

Oslo University Hospital (OUS) is a highly specialised hospital in charge of extensive regional and local hospital assignments and the provision of high-quality services for the citizens of Oslo. The hospital also has a nationwide responsibility for a number of national and multi-regional assignments and has several national centres of competence. Read more here: <https://oslo-universitetssykehus.no/>

SINTEF (Associated Partner)

SINTEF is one of Europe's largest independent research organisations. Every year they carry out several thousand projects for customers large and small. Read more here: <https://www.sintef.no/en/>

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Partners



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