EPAAC Work Package 8
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Specific objectives

- To **identify** and **prioritize** areas in cancer research that will benefit from coordination.

- To **develop a coordination approach** that ensures that national decisions are taken based on a **joint EU-wide understanding** in order to avoid duplication of efforts.

- To **implement pilot projects** of research coordination **in selected areas**.
Guiding principles

- **Identify and prioritize research areas** that would benefit from coordination and cross-border collaboration
- **Involve all the stakeholders** in the cancer research continuum
- **Build consensus on principles** for coordination (priorities, shared values)
- **Create a ‘win-win’ situation** for all stakeholders by designing coordination methodologies that bring added value
- **Deliver added value** to previous coordination efforts
WP8: Process and progress towards goals

Launch of EPAAC, February 2011

Meeting with Member States and DG SANCO, Berlin, March 2012

Research Forum, Brussels, July 2012

Follow-up meeting, Paris, October, 2012

Follow-up meeting, Valencia, April 2013

Workshop, Madrid, September 2013

Research Forum Luxembourg, January 2014

Priorities for European coordination of CR

Agreement from MS on common principles around which CR coordination could be undertaken at EU level

Building of consensual positions on CR coordination through multidisciplinary and multi-stakeholder discussions

France, Italy and Spain lead on developing methodologies to facilitate CR coordination in key areas through pilot projects

Presentation of pilot project concepts to MS and EU policymakers and potential uptake of coordination methodologies at European level

CREATION OF ‘FORUM’ OF KEY EUROPEAN CR STAKEHOLDERS
Update on the cancer research coordination pilot projects

- European cancer research coordination in early phase clinical research (PP1)
- A European Platform for Cancer Outcomes Research (PP2)
- A Knowledge Hub in Cancer Epidemiology and Public Health Research (PP3)

The three projects are complex and translational in nature, address key areas in the cancer research continuum, and have involved all the relevant stakeholders in their conception.
Pilot Project 1
European cancer research coordination in early phase clinical research
PP1 is a patient centered initiative that seeks to provide best treatments for patients as well as access to novel drugs.
**PP1 Rationale:**
- To test a novel approach to EU cancer research coordination by expanding and/or interfacing existing national programs
- To spur access to innovative molecules for patients in the framework of early-phase academic trials

**PP1 Methodology:**

Organizational framework of designated clinical research centers linked with molecular biology infrastructures

Public-private partnership with pharmaceutical industry

To deliver state-of-the-art biomarker-driven phases I/II academic clinical trials on investigational drugs

Modeled from the French CLIP² program & UK Alliance program
Requirements for implementation

- Designate qualified early-phase clinical centers in participating countries
- Negotiate partnership with industry to spur access to innovative drugs and combination of targeted drug
- Launch calls for proposals across EU participating countries

Next steps

- To run the pilot with few countries and show the feasibility and added value of the network
- To work with IMI2 as a platform to get access to cross company libraries of molecules and perform cross company combination studies of targeted molecules
- To advance our knowledge on molecular profiling of relapsing tumors as well as on mechanisms of resistance to treatments
Pilot Project 2
A European Platform for Cancer Outcomes Research
PP2: A European Platform for Outcomes Research

- **Outcomes research** aims at evaluating the end results of healthcare practices and interventions both in individual patients as well as populations.

- **Outcomes research** describe, interpret, and predict the impact of interventions and other factors on 'final' outcomes; survival, disease-free survival, quality of life, perceptions and satisfaction related to healthcare, cost-effectiveness.

**Cancer outcomes research** can be considered as an integral part of translational research aimed at integrating early and late translational research in order to speed up the application of novel products, tools and approaches in healthcare systems.
Currently, despite the development and validation of outcome measures in the context of the health services research area, standardised tools or methodologies for assessing the impact of interventions and other factors (socioeconomic, organisational, technological, and behavioural) on final cancer outcomes are not being applied at a pan-European level.

Affect the decision-making process by hindering the objective evaluation (benefit for the subjects/patients and cost-effectiveness) of new agents and strategies for cancer prevention, diagnosis/early detection, treatment and palliation.

Hamper the delineation of a cancer research agenda intended to: (i) generate better scientific products and information, and (ii) optimise the quality of cancer care through an evidence-based decision-making process.
A European Platform for Outcomes Research: Objectives

**Overcome the lack of information in current databases concerning the impact of anti-cancer therapies on patients outcome**

**Integrate population-based cancer registry data with clinical data derived from clinical sets and biobanks in order to explain the differences in survival across areas and over time**

**Overcome the differences in clinical treatment patterns across countries**

**Evaluate the effectiveness of treatments recommended by guidelines and the impact of new treatments**

**The fundamental importance of High Resolution studies**

**PP2 objective in the middle term:**

Testing the feasibility of obtaining multicentre outcomes research measures based on a commonly standardized methodology.
A strategy and methodology for efficient coordination of cancer research and related funding by building upon existing knowledge and resources and creating functional synergies oriented to fill the gap between clinical research and public health interventions.
Next steps

- **Workshop in Rome** (7 February 2014). Bring together experts interested in the project with the aim of:
  - Addressing all pending issues
  - Identifying PP2-related activities in ongoing (or planned projects) in order to start collaborations
  - Preparing a roadmap for follow-up activities
- Continue contacts with funding organisations to confirm their interest in supporting financially PP2 in its implementation phase.
Pilot Project 3
Building a Knowledge Hub on Cancer Epidemiology and Public Health Research
EPHECANCAN HUB
What is the proposal all about?

- European virtual and multidisciplinary research centre on Cancer Epidemiology and Public Health (EPH)
- Network of quality research groups, emergent groups and groups in less favoured regions of the EU
- Should involve researchers, national funding agencies and other stakeholders

Why?

- >50% Cancer cases can be avoided with prevention strategies
- Globalisation of cancer determinants
- Funding for prevention is very low as compared to clinical research
  → Lack of critical mass
Objective

To increase the efficiency and excellence in cancer prevention through European EPH research coordination

- By **fostering collaboration** to make easier large population studies
- By **coordinating cancer EPH research agendas** at European, national and regional level
- By **mapping strengths and gaps across Europe**
- By facilitating the **innovation processes** and the effective **translation of knowledge** from cancer EPH studies to cancer prevention public policies and interventions.
- By enhancing **educational efforts** in all areas to implement EPH knowledge into intervention programmes as fast as possible.
- By **reducing the fragmentation** of European cancer EPH research
EPHECAN HUB is a coordination initiative intended to provide a better use of scarce resources dedicated to Epi and Public Health and to reach a critical mass of excellent researchers in Europe.
Taking the initiative forward

MEDIUM TERM

METHODOLOGY FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY
- Create a map of cancer prevention and RTD across EU
- Identify leading research initiatives across Europe
- Review past research
- Establish an initial network
- Implementation study
  - Legal issues
  - Funding
  - Structure

EPHECAN HUB
Implementation

LONG TERM
Conclusions (1)

- It was clear from the outset that **no single methodology** can be applied for coordination of all areas of cancer research between all countries. The challenge of the work package was thus **to tailor coordination methodologies to the specific research topics** at hand and to the needs and wishes of the interested parties.

- It was also evident from the outset that the **limited timeframe and budget** of the work package would render the initial goal (coordination of one third of all cancer research in Europe by 2013) unattainable. **Three areas of cancer research** which are highly relevant for coordination from a patient/population health perspective have been elaborated in pilot projects aimed at pooling efforts, expertise and resources between countries.
Conclusions (2)

- While it may be impossible to ‘copy and paste’ methodologies from one problem in cancer research to another, the three pilot projects are expected to serve as inspiration for coordination of other relevant areas in cancer research, and possibly even in other chronic disease research.

- WP8 can be seen as a “Forum” where funders and other stakeholders could join efforts for the sake of higher ambitions and for creating the building blocks of consensus and shared values between Member States, on which other funders and the European Commission may eventually bring complementary support in the form of mechanisms and/or finances for long-term collaboration.
Thank you for your attention!