

# IMPACT REPORT 2025

Prepared by  
the Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL)

ewac

European Week  
Against Cancer

 **ECL**  
Association of European  
Cancer Leagues

25-31 May

# EUROPEAN WEEK AGAINST CANCER

**The European Week Against Cancer (EWAC) took place between 25 and 31 May 2025 and brought together policymakers, cancer leagues, and health advocates from across Europe with one shared goal: to reduce the impact of cancer on people's lives and our societies.**

Together, we made a real impact. Thanks to our collective efforts, the 2025 EWAC campaign reached over 4.2 million people, with 9.6 thousand interactions online and 880 mentions on social media, amplifying our message across borders.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of European Week Against Cancer 2025. Whether you organised an event, spoke out online, or shared your story, your involvement mattered.

As we close the chapter on EWAC 2025, we invite everyone to save the date for the next European Week Against Cancer, taking place between 25 and 31 May 2026. Stay tuned to our website for updates and ways to get involved!

EWAC is a flagship initiative from the Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL), a non-profit umbrella organisation made up of 34 national and regional cancer leagues advocating for improved cancer control and care across Europe. Our vision is a Europe free of cancer.

**[www.cancer.eu/ewac](http://www.cancer.eu/ewac)**



# A WEEK OF ACTION

Throughout the week, a wide array of webinars, events, and social media actions helped shine a light on the everyday challenges faced by those affected by cancer. These activities also highlighted the many impactful initiatives across Europe to prevent cancer, encourage screening and vaccination programmes, improve access to medicines, and promote cutting-edge research and innovation.

**25 MAY**

**Primary  
prevention**

**26 MAY**

**Early  
detection**

**27 MAY**

**Access to  
medicines**

**28 MAY**

**Digital  
health**

**29 MAY**

**Research**

**30 MAY**

**Patients and  
survivors**

**31 MAY**

**World No  
Tobacco Day**





# THE IMPACT OF THE EUROPEAN WEEK AGAINST CANCER 2025



**4.2 million**

people reached



**9.6 thousand**

interactions online



**880 mentions**

on social media



# **2025 HIGHLIGHTS**

**European institutions,  
bodies and agencies**

**United Nations Agencies**

**MEPs Against Cancer**

**European cancer leagues**

**Civil society voices**





#EWAC2025

# EU INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES

European institutions, bodies, and agencies – including the European Commission, the European Medicines Agency, the European Economic and Social Committee, and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control – joined the 2025 European Week Against Cancer to raise awareness and showcase how EU policies and initiatives support research, prevention, early detection, and care for cancer patients and survivors.



European Commission



<https://shorturl.at/hWIm6>



European Commission Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety

**EU One Health** @EU\_Health

To mark the [#EuropeanWeekAgainstCancer](#) next week, join our webinar on the implementation of the [#EUCancerPlan](#) on 27 May. Opening remarks by [@OliverVarhelyi](#). Register here: [europa.eu/!CKQBQ3](https://europa.eu/!CKQBQ3)



3:31 PM · May 21, 2025 · 672 Views

**EU Health and Food Safety** 19,999 followers

This week is [#EuropeanWeekAgainstCancer](#).

Every minute, five people in the EU find out they have cancer. Through the [#EUCancerPlan](#), it is our mission to make sure their chances of survival are the highest possible.

Since its launch in 2021, the EU Cancer Plan is providing support to millions of patients affected by cancer. We are now working with almost 630 organisations and have committed EUR 394 million under the [#EU4Health](#) programme to bolster our initiatives.

Our work does not stop there. Implementation of the EU Cancer Plan continues in full force:

- Prevention: A new edition of the European Code Against Cancer to provide practical advice on reducing cancer risks.



## European Commission's Joint Research Centre



**Sandra Caldeira** • Following  
Head of Disease Prevention Unit at European Commi  
2w •

👤 Hope through data: that's what we work on every

Today is #Patients and #Survivors day #EWAC  
#EuropeanWeekAgainstCancer and the data in our  
#EuropeanCancerInformationSystem give hope!

📊 125 cancer registries 68 cancer types 32 countries  
📈 Incidence, Mortality, Survival, Prevalence

🟢 These indicators are improving!

🟡 Not as fast as we'd wish for. Not everywhere, for e  
every cancer type.

👉 And that's why we keep at it: to give policyma  
and citizens accurate and timely data, for targeted an  
interventions and always better cancer outcomes. Fin  
about our work:

ECIS <https://lnkd.in/dmA6TS5z>

ENCR <https://www.encre.eu/>



**Ciarán NICHOLL** • Following  
Director Health & Food EC Joint Research Centre  
2w •

I'm dreaming of the moment where I won't have to  
anymore about cancer meaning it will be over, no m  
more hearts broken, no more suffering.

As we mark the start of #EWAC2025, I'm proud to re  
the work being done by our amazing team at the EU  
and Innovation to fight against cancer.

📌 We identify and assess the risks associated with  
lifestyle factors that contribute to causing cancer (ex  
carcinogens, poor diet, physical inactivity...).

📌 We provide scientific advice on how to promote  
habits and reduce the risk of cancer through dietary

📌 We monitor cancer trends across EU countries, to  
in cancer across the EU.

📌 We evaluate the potential health impacts of polic  
interventions aimed at reducing the burden of cancer  
recommendations based on evidence-based science

📌 We look at how AI could enhance cancer diagno



**Ulla Engelmann** • Following  
European Commission Joint Research Centre JRC Directo  
2w •

Spotlight on the #EuropeanWeekAgainstCancer 🌟

Every year, on 25-31 May, the [Association of European Ca  
Leagues](#) organises this flagship initiative to raise awarenes  
importance of cancer prevention and care. Each day is ded  
key theme and today, the focus rests on #research – the fc  
progress in all cancer care. Here, the #JRC is playing a vital

JRC Directorate Nuclear Safety and Security was the first to  
the novel concept of applying radionuclides in #cancer the  
pioneering research and successful results in the nuclear tr  
prostate cancer – achieved in 2014 in cooperation with the  
[Hospital Heidelberg \(UKHD\)](#) and published in the Lancet  
last year – was a major milestone, highlighting the JRC's cr  
this field. 📺 🌟



## European Medicines Agency



**European Medicines Agency**  
336,485 followers  
2w •

This week is #EuropeanWeekAgainstCancer.

At EMA, we are committed to supporting the fight ...more



👍👍👍 317

4 comments • 31 reposts



## European Commission's Audiovisual Services



**European Commission's Audiovisual Service**  
@EC\_AVService

👉 The European Week Against Cancer starts today.

The EU Cancer Plan provides diagnosis and treatment through an EU  
Network of Comprehensive Cancer Centres backed by EUR 90 million in  
EU funding.

Watch more [youtu.be/wUIMw3dIA7Q](https://youtu.be/wUIMw3dIA7Q)

Read more [europa.eu/1493xQy](https://europa.eu/1493xQy)  
#EWAC2025







## European Commission's Health and Digital Executive Agency



<https://shorturl.at/xBAld>



<https://shorturl.at/an1Yl>



<https://shorturl.at/hiYIH>



<https://shorturl.at/26QOf>



## European Economic and Social Committee



## European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control





#EWAC2025

# UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES

During the 2025 European Week Against Cancer, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) released new videos, launched new factsheets, organised webinars, shared resources, and called attention to key risk factors like tobacco and alcohol.



World Health Organization



Laura Brennan's parents lost their daughter to [#CervicalCancer](#) – a type of [#cancer](#) that can be prevented with the [#HPV](#) vaccine.

Watch them speak about their experience: [bit.ly/427xHEG](https://bit.ly/427xHEG)

#EWAC2025



International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)



IARC NEWS PRESS RELEASES FEATURED NEWS VIDEOS AND PODCASTS INFO

28 May 2025

CERVICAL CANCER INFECTIONS STOMACH CANCER

## IARC marks European Week Against Cancer 2025

Scientists and other personnel at the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) are marking European Week Against Cancer 2025 by highlighting different aspects of the Agency's work in cancer prevention research on IARC's website and social media channels throughout the week.

European Week Against Cancer takes place every year, beginning on 25 May and ending on World No Tobacco Day, 31 May. Each day of the week offers an occasion to highlight a different aspect of the cancer continuum: primary prevention on day 1, early detection on day 2, access to treatment on day 3, digital health and care on day 4, research on day 5, patients and survivors on day 6, and World No Tobacco Day on day 7.



<https://shorturl.at/FedGa>

IARC - International Agency for ...  
31,098 followers  
2w •  
IARC marks [#EuropeanWeekAgainstCancer](#) 2025 by highlighting different aspects of the Agency's work in [#cancer](#) prevention research – from today and from our 60 year history! [#IARC60](#) [#EWAC2025](#) [#EWAC](#) <https://lnkd.in/d/YA-T3U>



The WHO Regional Office for Europe and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) present:

### WEBINAR SERIES ON ALCOHOL POLICY

MAY 27 15:30 - 16:30 CEST	JUN 18 15:00 - 16:00 CEST	SEPT 3 10:00 - 11:00 CEST	SEPT 24 15:00 - 16:00 CEST
Understanding alcohol and cancer: science and policy	Alcohol tax and price policies – the economic approach to reducing alcohol harm	Alcohol availability policies – regulating access to reduce consumption	Marketing bans – the role of advertising in alcohol consumption

**SAVE THE DATES - REGISTER ONLINE**

#EUHPP Live Webinar:  
Launch of the IARC  
factsheets on  
Socioeconomic  
inequalities in cancer  
mortality

Friday, May 23, 2025 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM  
(UTC+02:00) Brussels, Copenhagen, Madrid, Paris



<https://shorturl.at/hNFPb>

#EWAC2025

# MEPS AGAINST CANCER

In the lead-up to the European Week Against Cancer, the MEPs Against Cancer (MAC) Interest Group celebrated 20 years of leadership in the fight for a cancer-free Europe with an event held at the European Parliament in Brussels. Supported by the Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL), the MAC group brings together policymakers from across the political spectrum and EU member states.





The MEPs Against Cancer group also hosted a webinar to discuss the growing body of scientific evidence between per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and cancer. The webinar, which was hosted by MEP Tilly Metz (Vice-Chair of the MAC group), explored effective policy measures to regulate and eventually phase-out these harmful chemicals in Europe.

Featured speakers included Tom Buis (Dutch Cancer Society, representing the Association of European Cancer Leagues), Paul Speight (EU Commission's Directorate-General for Environment), and Sandra Jen (Health and Environment Alliance).



<https://shorturl.at/Y0f8v>



#EWAC2025

# EUROPEAN CANCER LEAGUES

Cancer leagues from all over Europe marked the European Week Against Cancer through a mix of online campaigns and in-person events. From advocating for stronger policy measures to prevent cancer, to hosting conferences focused on screening, members of the Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL) actively took the spotlight to raise awareness and drive action. Here are a few examples:



## Portuguese League Against Cancer



The Portuguese League Against Cancer organised a series of in-person events for both cancer patients and the general public, featuring activities such as yoga and cooking classes, as well as a dedicated conference to explore the challenges of lung cancer screening.



## Spanish Association Against Cancer



The Spanish Association Against Cancer, alongside the WHO Regional Office for Europe, Smoke Free Partnership, the European Respiratory Society, and the European Network for Smoking and Tobacco Prevention, organised a high-level workshop in Brussels to mark World No Tobacco Day.





To kick off the European Week Against Cancer, ECL launched a new position paper making the case to ban harmful PFAS chemicals across Europe, due to the growing scientific evidence linking these ‘forever chemicals’ to cancer.


<https://shorturl.at/jWr2M>

DKG
Deutsche Krebsgesellschaft e. V. (German ...
10,570 followers
2w •

Today on May 30, the European Week against #Cancer is all about patients and survivors. What challenges do people with cancer face when they want to #returntowork? On International Workers' Day, we learned a lot about their perspectives and experiences from our partner Association of European Cancer Leagues: <https://lnkd.in/d7upC-ER>

Together with the Robert Koch Institute, our researchers at German Cancer Society have published a paper about "Cancer in People of Working Age in Germany 1999-2022" – now available in English!

The publication shows that around 500,000 people are diagnosed with cancer in Germany every year. Thirty-five percent of those affected are between the ages of 20 and 64. How have the data changed over time for men and women? Which cancer diagnoses have the highest proportion of people of working age?

Read more: <https://lnkd.in/e9urgTZ2>

#EWAC2025 #oncology

FECEC
Federació Catalana d'Entitats contra el Càncer
@FececFederacio

Diumenge comença una nova edició de la Setmana Europea contra el Càncer que organitza la @cancerleagues.

Cada dia se centra en un tema clau sobre la prevenció i l'atenció del càncer durant tota la setmana.

[cutt.ly/mrCHHuit](#)

#EWAC2025  
Trend: 100%

26 MAY
Primary prevention

26 MAY
Early detection

27 MAY
Access to medicines

28 MAY
Digital health

29 MAY
Research

30 MAY
Patients and survivors


31 MAY
World No Tobacco Day

EWAC
European Week Against Cancer


EWAC2025

Setmana Europea Contra el Càncer 2025

La Setmana Europea Contra el Càncer (EWAC) se celebra cada any entre el 25 i el 31 de maig i és una iniciativa emblemàtica de l'Associació de Lligues Europees Contra el Càncer (ECL) i de la FECEC. Aquesta iniciativa té l'objectiu de sensibilitzar sobre la importància de la prevenció i l'atenció del càncer a tot Europa. La seva visió és una Europa lliure de càncer.



ECL Youth Ambassadors




cancercode

cancercode Did you know that up to 40% of cancer cases are preventable through healthier lifestyle choices?

The European Code Against Cancer outlines 12 practical, evidence-based recommendations to help reduce your cancer risk — from healthy eating and physical activity to avoiding tobacco and limiting alcohol.

Learn the steps  
Take action



cancercode

cancercode Cancer is now the leading cause of death for people aged 45–64 in many EU countries. But progress is happening.

EU-funded projects are advancing cutting-edge cancer research and innovation.

Across Europe, national and regional cancer leagues are supporting vital work — from prevention and early detection to treatment and survivorship.



## Cyprus Anti-Cancer Society



anticancer.cy

anticancer.cy 31 Μαΐου - Παγκόσμια Ημέρα Χωρίς Καπνό

Ο καπνός παραμένει η κύρια αιτία πρόληψης του καρκίνου, ευθύνεται για σχεδόν το 20% των περιστατικών στην Ευρώπη και προκαλεί περισσότερους από 700.000 αποτρίψιμους θανάτους κάθε χρόνο.

- ✳ Το κάπνισμα συνδέεται με τουλάχιστον 16 διαφορετικούς τύπους καρκίνου.
- ✳ Όσο νωρίτερα σταματάς, τόσο μεγαλύτερα τα ωφέλη για την υγεία.
- ✳ Ο στόχος για μια Ευρώπη με λιγότερα από

13 likes  
May 27



anticancer.cy

anticancer.cy Την περίοδο 2019-2022, ασθενείς στη Γερμανία είχαν πρόσβαση σε 46 από τα 48 φάρμακα κατά του καρκίνου που εγκρίθηκαν στην ΕΕ. Στη Λιθουανία, μόλις 3.

Δεν μπορούμε να αφήνουμε την πρόσβαση στη θεραπεία να εξαρτάται από τον τόπο διαμονής. Ώρα να γεφυρώσουμε τις ανισότητες: <https://cancer-inequalities.jrc.ec.europa.eu/> #EWAC2025 #Anticancer

19 likes  
May 26



## Cancer Society of Finland



syopajarjestot

syopajarjestot Jos tupakointi loppuisi, yhdeksän kymmenestä keuhkosyövästä voitaisiin ehkäistä.

Tupakointi onkin suurin estettävissä oleva syöpänsä. Tupakointi liittyy lähes 20 prosenttiin syöpatapauksista Euroopassa. Tavoitellaan yhdessä ensimmäistä savutonta sukupolvea.

Ilman syöpää -verkkosivuilta löydät tietoa siitä, mitä syöpänskejä tupakka aiheuttaa.

Vietämme Euroopan syöpäviikkoa 25-31.5. eri

37 likes  
May 25



botniacancer - Following  
Pohjanmaan Syöpäyhdistys / Österbottens Cancerförening

botniacancer 3w Europeisk cancervecka är på gång! - Käynnissä on Euroopan syöpäviikko!

Pääsy syöpähoitoihin ei saa riippua postinumerosta. Uusien hoitojen korkeat hinnat sulkevat ne pois monen maan ulottuvilta. On aika tehdä elintärkeistä hoidoista yhteinen eurooppalainen asia.

21 likes  
May 27



## Hellenic Cancer Federation



ellok.org - Following

ellok.org 3w Α Ευρωπαϊκή Εβδομάδα Κατά του Καρκίνου

Η Ευρωπαϊκή Εβδομάδα κατά του καρκίνου αποτελεί μια κορυφαία πρωτοβουλία της ECL (Association of European Cancer Leagues), η οποία ενώνει οργανώσεις της κοινωνίας των πολιτών, επαγγελματίες υγείας και φορείς χάραξης πολιτικής με στόχο την ενισχυμένη γύρω από τη

12 likes  
May 26



ellok.org

ellok.org 31 Μαΐου - Παγκόσμια Ημέρα κατά του καπνίσματος

Η Ευρωπαϊκή Εβδομάδα κατά του καρκίνου αποτελεί κορυφαία πρωτοβουλία της ECL (Association of European Cancer Leagues) και ολοκληρώνεται σήμερα με την Παγκόσμια Ημέρα κατά του Καπνίσματος.

31 Μαΐου είναι η Παγκόσμια Ημέρα κατά του καπνίσματος! Το κάπνισμα ευθύνεται για σχεδόν το 20% των περιστατικών καρκίνου

3 likes  
May 31



**#EWAC2025**

# CIVIL SOCIETY VOICES

Health and civil society groups across Europe joined the EWAC action by sharing resources, calls to action, and raising awareness about the importance of cancer prevention and care on social media and beyond.

**Association of European Cancer Leagues**

**European Cancer Organisation**

**GAMIAN-Europe**

**ABC Global Alliance**

**European Environmental Bureau**

**Health and Environment Alliance**

**BIG Against Breast Cancer**

**European Health Management Association**

**International Kidney Cancer Coalition**

**Cancer Patients Europe**

**European Liver Patients' Association**

**International Papillomavirus Society**

**CHEM Trust**

**European Lung Foundation**

**Lung Cancer Europe**

**Digestive Cancers Europe**

**European Society for Paediatric Oncology**

**Nederlands Kanker Collectief**

**EDC-Free Europe campaign**

**European Society of Surgical Oncology**

**Safe Food Advocacy Europe**

**European Association for Cancer Research**

**EU Food Policy Coalition**

**Standing Committee of European Doctors**

**European Association of Nuclear Medicine**

**Foodwatch International**

**Whole Grain Initiative**

**European Breast Cancer Coalition**

**World Bladder Cancer Patient Coalition**

# EUROPEAN WEEK AGAINST CANCER

**Thank you for supporting the European Week Against Cancer (EWAC)**

EWAC is a flagship initiative from the Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL), a non-profit umbrella organisation made up of 34 national and regional cancer leagues advocating for improved cancer control and care across Europe. Our vision is a Europe free of cancer.  
Transparency register number: 19265592757-25



[ecl@cancer.eu](mailto:ecl@cancer.eu)



[www.cancer.eu](http://www.cancer.eu)

