POLICY OBJECTIVES - TREATMENT & CARE ORGANISATION

The objective of the Belgian Cancer Inventory, is to provide Belgian decision-makers with the information needed to monitor the implementation and possible impact of various policies related to cancer in Belgium as well as progress towards reaching EU level policy objectives (as outlined in Europe's Beating Cancer Plan). It is for this reason, that each of the indicators has been matched to a policy area.

In this document, we are presenting the policies from the thematic area 'Treatment & Care Organisation'. These policy objectives are based on current EBCP priorities and Belgian policies. The policy objectives have also been formulated from the gap and needs analyses conducted by the Belgian EBCP Mirror Groups in 2023, and which resulted in 8 policy briefs.

NOTE: These indicators will be used in the monitoring and evaluation framework. This framework is not an assessment of needs and priorities across the cancer care continuum in Belgium, and as such the monitoring framework itself cannot be considered a Cancer Plan.

Socioeconomic and sociodemographic dimensions will be integrated, across different Belgian Cancer Inventory themes, via disaggregation of the indicators into subgroups to monitor and reduce inequality in cancer care and control.

Policy Objective

Enabling cancer patients to benefit from patient pathways for comprehensive cancer care by ensuring that 90% of eligible patients have access to a national comprehensive cancer centre (CCC) by 2030, as outlined in the EBCP's flagship action on creating national CCCs in all Member States and an EU network of CCCs by 2025.

Improving access to innovative cancer treatment and personalised medicine, as outlined in the EBCP's flagship action on launching the 'Cancer Diagnostic and Treatment for All' initiative and the action on establishing the Partnership on Personalised Medicine.

Investing in building a stronger and multidisciplinary cancer workforce, as outlined in the EBCP's action to launch the 'Inter-Speciality Cancer Training Programme'.

Improving the treatment and care of breast, colorectal and cervical cancer by developing or updating guidelines, quality assurance schemes and accreditation/certification programmes for these cancers, as outlined in the EBCP's action on this exact topic.

Facilitating the repurposing of existing medicines and the testing of new drug combinations to establish new cancer treatments, as outlined in the EBCP's actions on creating an EU platform to improve access to cancer medicines and launching a new project using High-Performance Computing to rapidly test existing molecules and new drug combinations.

Facilitating the conduct of clinical trials that bring innovation to patients, as outlined in the EBCP's action on implementing the legal framework for clinical trials.

Ensuring speedy access to innovative cancer treatments.

Ensuring access to high-quality and safe radiation technology, and supporting the education of radiation specialists, as outlined in the EBCP's action on creating the Strategic Agenda for Medical Ionising Radiation Applications of nuclear and radiation technology (SAMIRA) action plan and the Belgian policy on reforming the hospital care landscape.

Centralising and concentrating cancer care, as outlined in the Belgian policy on reforming the hospital care landscape.

Integrating cancer care, as outlined in the Belgian Interfederal Plan for Integrated Care.

Rendering cancer care more multidisciplinary, as outlined in the Belgian laws surrounding the multidisciplinary oncology consultations.

Increasing the uptake of telemedicine, as outlined in the Belgian Action Plan eHealth as well as the EBCP's action on strengthening e-health, telemedicine and remote monitoring systems and promoting the virtual consultation model of the European Reference Networks.