Session 5: European Cancer Initiatives

EU Mission on Cancer and the ECHoS project: connecting stakeholders in Precision Medicine

Funded by
the European Union

3rd November 2026

Cancer: a political commitment



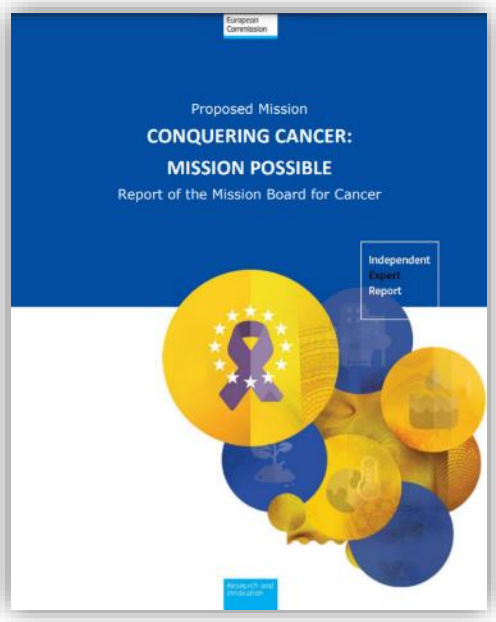
“I will put forward a European **plan to fight cancer**, to support Member States in improving cancer control and care”

(President Ursula von der Leyen´s political guidelines, July 2019)



Stella Kyriakides
commissioner for
Health and Food Safety







Mariya Gabriel
Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth

ECHoS
Cancer Mission Hubs

www.cancermissionhubs.eu

Europe's Beating Cancer Plan

10 Flagships



Launching a new Knowledge Centre on Cancer



Setting the European Cancer Imaging Initiative



Support vaccination against HPV for girls and boys



Launching EU Cancer Screening Scheme



Establishing a EU network of National Comprehensive Cancer Centres



Launching *Cancer Diagnostic and Treatment for All* Initiative



Lauching EU Initiative to Understand Cancer (UNCAN.EU)



Rolling-out the *Better life for cancer patients*' initiative



European Cancer Inequalities Registry

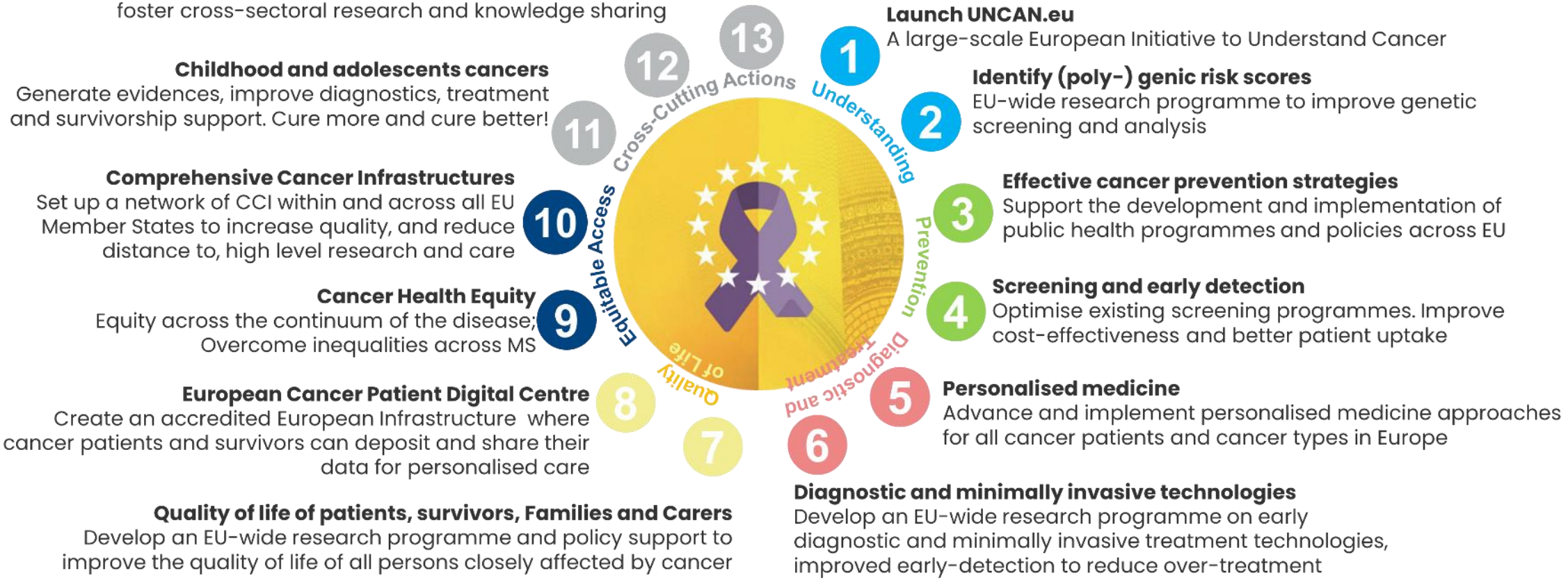


Lauching the *Helping Children with Cancer* Initiative

ECHoS
Cancer Mission Hubs

www.cancermissionhubs.eu

EU Mission on Cancer
13 Recommendations



EU-wide Cancer R&I Dissemination and Communication
Transform cancer culture, communication and capacity building;
Support the uptake of accurate and up-to-date knowledge across stakeholders

Launch UNCAN.eu
A large-scale European Initiative to Understand Cancer

Identify (poly-) genic risk scores
EU-wide research programme to improve genetic screening and analysis

Effective cancer prevention strategies
Support the development and implementation of public health programmes and policies across EU

Screening and early detection
Optimise existing screening programmes. Improve cost-effectiveness and better patient uptake

Personalised medicine
Advance and implement personalised medicine approaches for all cancer patients and cancer types in Europe

Diagnostic and minimally invasive technologies
Develop an EU-wide research programme on early diagnostic and minimally invasive treatment technologies, improved early-detection to reduce over-treatment

Quality of life of patients, survivors, Families and Carers
Develop an EU-wide research programme and policy support to improve the quality of life of all persons closely affected by cancer

European Cancer Patient Digital Centre
Create an accredited European Infrastructure where cancer patients and survivors can deposit and share their data for personalised care

Cancer Health Equity
Equity across the continuum of the disease;
Overcome inequalities across MS

Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructures
Set up a network of CCI within and across all EU Member States to increase quality, and reduce distance to, high level research and care

Childhood and adolescents cancers
Generate evidences, improve diagnostics, treatment and survivorship support. Cure more and cure better!

Oncology-focused Living Labs
Accelerate innovation and implementation of new technologie, foster cross-sectoral research and knowledge sharing

ECHoS
Cancer Mission Hubs

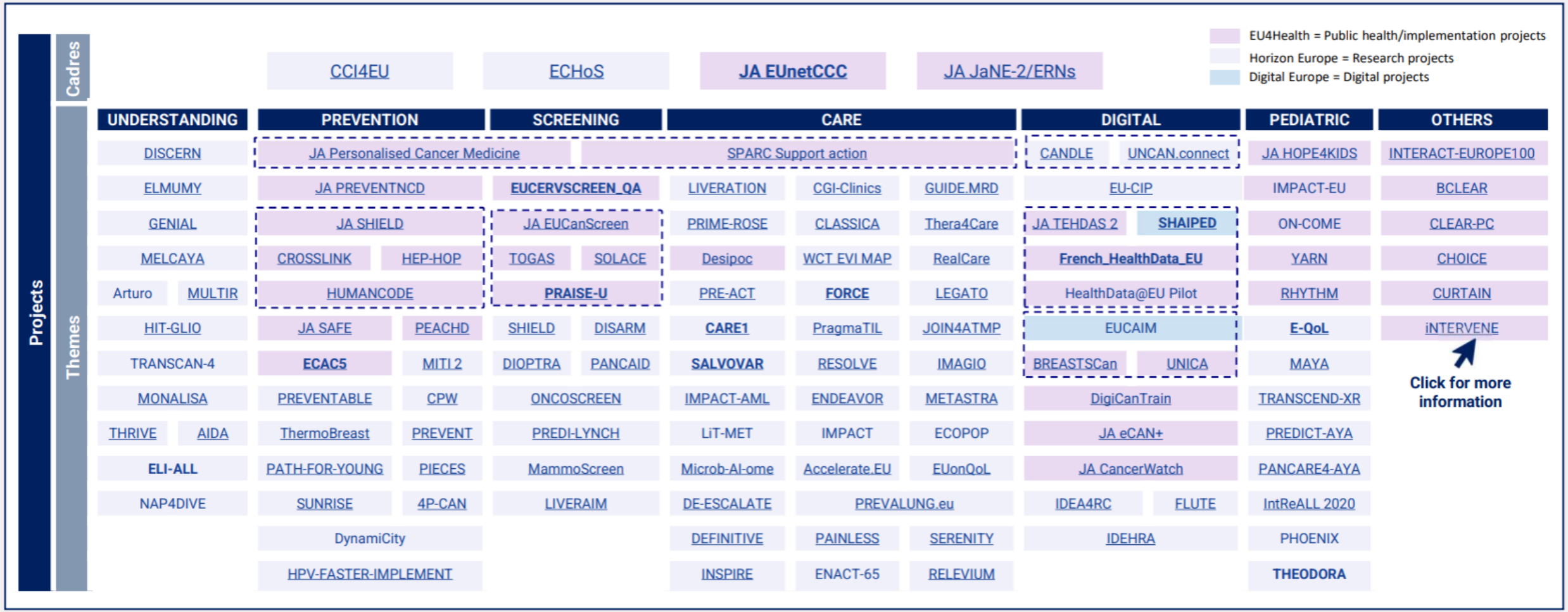
www.cancermissionhubs.eu

A growing cancer ecosystem

More than 100 cancer projects are currently ongoing

Themes: Projects with a central topic, message, or overarching idea to explore

Cadres: Projects dedicated to grouping or training; hand-picked personnel who lead, train, or form the core skeleton of a larger organization



This is a major success – but the next challenge is coherence, articulation and sustainability

European Networks

Data Management and Data Policies

Care

Governance



Knowledge

Research

ECHoS
Cancer Mission Hubs

www.cancermissionhubs.eu

European Networks

Data Management and Data Policies

Care

EUnetCCC

ONEFORALL

Co-funded by the European Union

Governance

Knowledge

Research

ECHoS Cancer Mission Hubs

www.cancermissionhubs.eu

European Networks

CANDLE

Data Management and Data Policies

UNCAN Connect

EU-CiP

Part of the European Cancer Patient Digital Centre

CI4EU

Care

EUnetCCC

ONEFORALL

Co-funded by the European Union

Governance

Knowledge

Research

ECHoS

Cancer Mission Hubs

www.cancermissionhubs.eu

European Networks

CANDLE

Data Management and Data Policies

UNCAN Connect

EU-CiP

Part of the European Cancer Patient Digital Centre

CI4EU

Care

EUnetCCC

ONEFORALL

Co-funded by the European Union

Governance

EU JOINT ACTION JANE

NETWORKS OF EXPERTISE ON CANCER

Knowledge

Research

ECHoS

Cancer Mission Hubs

EU JOINT ACTION JANE2

NETWORKS OF EXPERTISE ON CANCER

www.cancermissionhubs.eu

European Networks

CANDLE

Data Management and Data Policies

UNCAN Connect

EU-CiP
Part of the European Cancer Patient Digital Centre

CI4EU

Care

EUnetCCC
ONEFORALL
Co-funded by the European Union

ECHoS
Cancer Mission Hubs

Knowledge

EU JOINT ACTION JANE
NETWORKS OF EXPERTISE ON CANCER

TRANSCAN

Research

ECHoS
Cancer Mission Hubs

EU JOINT ACTION JANE2
NETWORKS OF EXPERTISE ON CANCER

www.cancermissionhubs.eu

European Networks









www.cancermissionhubs.eu

EUROPEAN UNION

Mission Work Programme 2027

EU MISSIONS CANCER

2027	Draft Topic Title	Indicative Budget		
HORIZON-MISS-2027-02-CANCER-01: Leveraging functional genomics to reveal novel targets for cancer treatment		€33.32m (€7-8 m)	RIA	
HORIZON-MISS-2027-02-CANCER-02: Clinical research by Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructures for the benefit of patients with common cancers		€20 m (€7-10 m)	IA	Lump Sum
HORIZON-MISS-2027-02-CANCER-03: Phase 1 including first-in-human clinical trials to test biomarker-guided medicines or multi-modal treatment interventions for patients with rare or very rare cancers or cancer subtypes		€24 m (€7-10 m)	RIA	Lump Sum
HORIZON-MISS-2027-02-CANCER-04: Improving equitable health outcomes and added value for and with cancer patients through health-economics research, health systems research and outcomes research		€10 m (€5-7 m)	RIA	Lump Sum
HORIZON-MISS-2027-02-CANCER-05: Pre-commercial procurement of affordable solutions for healthcare systems in the areas of cancer technologies, cancer medical devices, or cancer medicines		€26 m (€8-10 m)	PCP	
HORIZON-MISS-2027-02-CANCER-06: Support a Young Cancer Survivor Quality of Life (QoL) research programme by cancer charities and funding agencies		€3 m (€3 m)	CSA	Lump Sum
HORIZON-MISS-2027-06-SOIL-CANCER: Living labs to monitor and mitigate carcinogenic substances in and originating from soils: Evaluating their effects on human cancer risks		€12 m	RIA	

ECHoS and National Cancer Mission Hubs...

ECHoS
Cancer Mission Hubs

www.cancermissionhubs.eu

Mission Concept

Missions provide a solution, an opportunity, and an approach to address the numerous challenges that people face in their daily lives

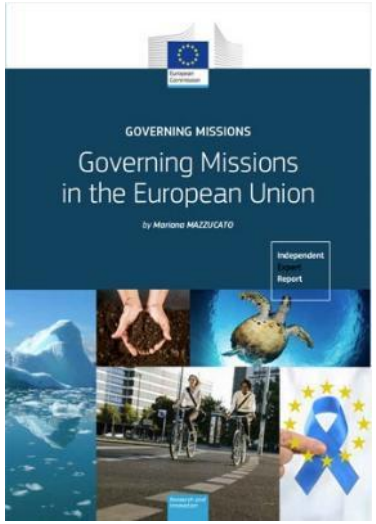


DG-RTD Commissioner Carlos Moedas and UCL Professor Mariana Mazzucato (2018)

2018



2019



Mission-oriented research is a portfolio of actions across disciplines intended to achieve a **bold**, **inspirational** and **measurable** goal within a defined **timeframe**.

Missions' goal is to involve **citizens** and **multiple stakeholders** more closely in setting **research priorities**, but not only, which will lead to **equal access** for everyone in Europe to the best of European Innovation & research resources and global know-how

ECHoS
Cancer Mission Hubs

Mission on Cancer

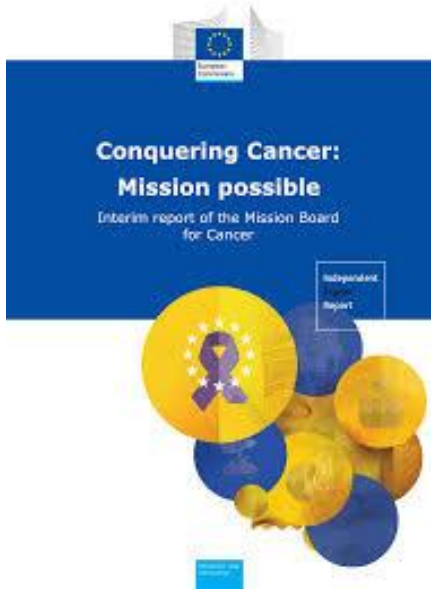
2018



2019



2020



2021



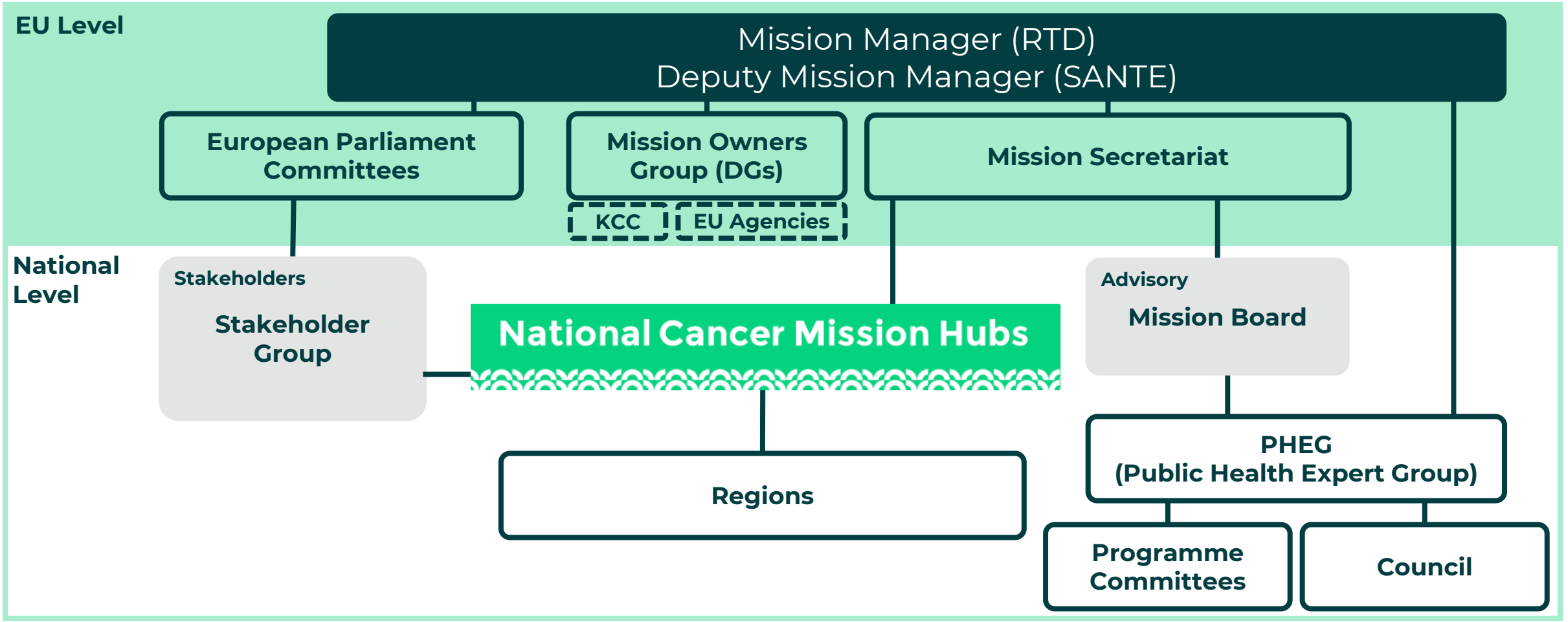
"Mission connect all **relevant actors** through new forms of partnerships for **co-design and co-creation** by focusing on targets that require **multiple sectors and actors** to solve."

Eliminate sector bias

ECHoS
Cancer Mission Hubs

www.cancermissionhubs.eu

Mission on Cancer - governance[1]



ECHoS Cancer Mission Hubs

www.cancermissionhubs.eu

1. Adapted from Figure 2 from Mission on cancer Implementation Plan. Available at: https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-09/cancer_implementation_plan_for_publication_final_v2.pdf

Cancer Mission - ECHoS project



Mission on Cancer Goal:
"Improving 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."

ECHoS

A coordinated response to ensure collaboration among relevant stakeholders and sharing experience and knowledge.
National Cancer Mission Hubs

ECHoS
Cancer Mission Hubs

www.cancermissionhubs.eu

1. Mission on cancer Implementation Plan. Available at: https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-09/cancer_implementation_plan_for_publication_final_v2.pdf

ECHoS in a nutshell

€6M+15M Funding	**39+60 Months**	**30 Participating Countries**	**61 Partners**

OVERARCHING GOAL

Support the implementation of the Cancer Mission activities in all member states and associated countries through the establishment and development of National Cancer Mission Hubs operating at national, regional and local levels.

ECHoS
Cancer Mission Hubs

www.cancermissionhubs.eu

ECHoS Consortium

ECHoS
Cancer Mission Hubs



Anabela Isidro
Co-coordinator



Hugo Soares
Co-coordinator

29 Countries/ 61 organisations (8 EU organisations)
Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey



NCMH: Penta Helix Multistakeholders collaboration model

Values

- **Trust**
- **Knowledge**
- **Diversity**
- **Leadership**

Objectives

- Position Cancer as a national priority in all policies.
- Promote capacity and capability building
- Nurture a collective awareness and social culture against cancer.
- Stimulate investment in cancer research and care

Competences

- Guarantee implementation of EU MoC and EBCP
- Coordinate multi stakeholder initiatives
- Create societal awareness
- Facilitate collaboration between stakeholders
- Support Health in all policies

Attitudes

- **Respectful**
- **Motivator**
- **Inspirational**
- **Diplomat**



ECHoS (2023-...)

17 NCMHs Implemented

Bulgaria, Greece, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Croatia, Finland, Israel, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Luxembourg, Portugal, Belgium, Norway, Hungary, Ireland

NCMH-like structures in development

Cyprus; Lithuania, Romania, Germany, France

Structures in Planning Phase

Türkiye, Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Slovakia, Slovenia



Support to NCMH and outreach

National Policy Dialogues



Tools & Trainings





Town Hall – Share BP



EU Policy recommendations





EU Mission on Cancer Fair



Policy Dialogues
Country Impact

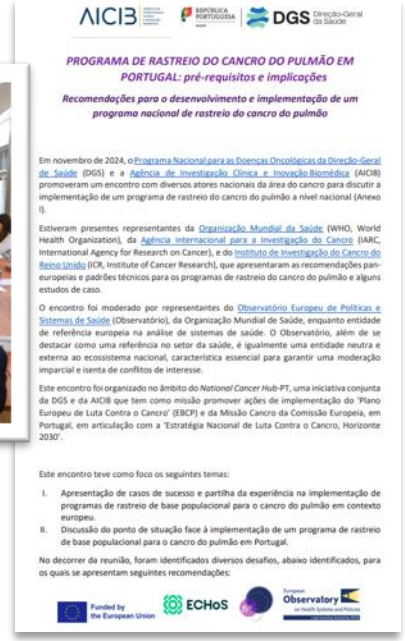
In collaboration with:
European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

Malta
NCMH creation



Portugal
Lung cancer screening pilots





Norway
Access to Precision Cancer Medicine (PCM) in Norway



Acceleration team



Greece
Framework to beat lung cancer





Ireland
Access to Cancer Treatment







MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

WP 1-3

Project Coordination

WP 4-6

Monitoring & Impact

WP10

Implementation & Capacitation of NCMHs

WP11

Creation of NCMH Network

WP7

NCMHs Expansion



WP8

ECHoS Academy

WP12-14

The Penta Helix in Action

WP9

Driving Synergies & Connectivity

WP15-17

Dissemination & Communication

WP18-20

Outreach & Event Organisation

COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION & OUTREACH

MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

WP 1-3

Project Coordination

WP 4-6

Monitoring & Impact

WP10

Implementation & Capacitation of NCMHs

WP11

Creation of NCMH Network

WP7

NCMHs Expansion



WP8

ECHoS Academy

WP12-14

The Penta Helix in Action

WP9

Driving Synergies & Connectivity

WP15-17

Dissemination & Communication

WP18-20

Outreach & Event Organisation

COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION & OUTREACH

The Penta Helix in Action
WP12 – WP14

14:30 – 15:00

The Penta Helix in action and its core collaboration engines

Leads: UCD, OCC

Operationalise the Penta Helix as a model for cancer innovation by **engaging across stakeholder groups** around shared priorities

T1 T2

CO-DECISION MAKING FRAMEWORK

Inclusive decisions and continuous learning

Decision Board + monitoring + adaptation

NORTH STARS

Outcome-driven demonstrators

Personalised prevention + patient-centred Real-World Evidence

CROWD INTELLIGENCE

Space to explore and prototype

Expeditions + Sprint Workshops

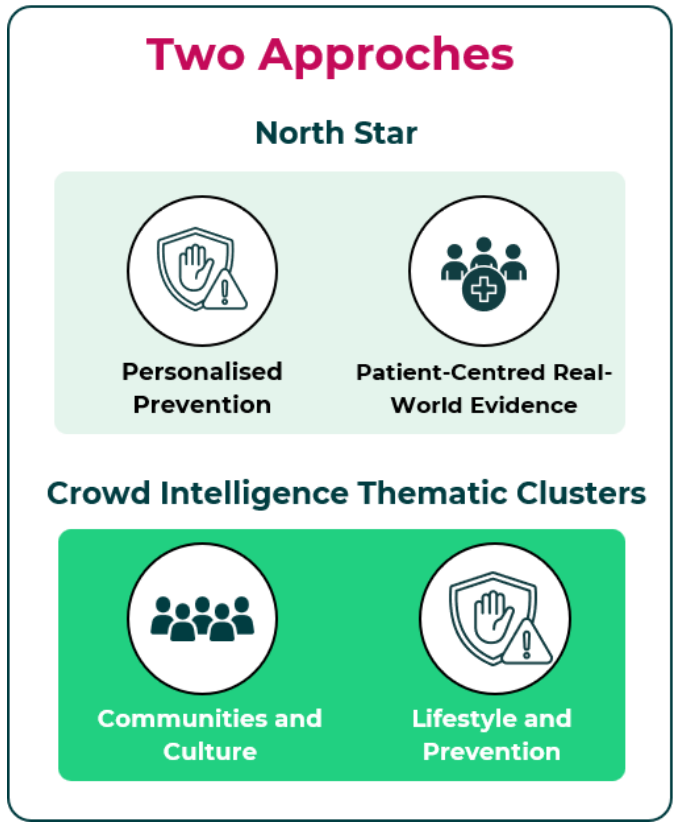
MOBILISATION & CAPACITY

Improve tools for meaningful participation

Targeted materials + workshops + community of practice

T3 T4

Two North Star demonstrators



PATIENT-CENTRED REAL-WORLD EVIDENCE FOR DECISION SUPPORT

CO-DESIGN
A strategic roadmap shaped with stakeholders across Penta Helix and relevant EU/national projects

PILOT
Operationalise 2-3 pilots, learn from national realities and refine oncology RWE framework

LEGACY
Equip and build a community of practice across NCMHs to exchange experiences and increase the number of oncology RWE studies across EU

Real-World Evidence for Access
Open Discussion

‘The problem is that nobody can predict what gets accepted and nobody fixes that alone.’
— Ketil Widerberg, Oslo Cancer Cluster







Gwynne Morley, IQVIA Ireland
Sumit Madan, Fraunhofer and University of Bonn

Doranne Hilarius, Chair of the Dutch Medication Audit
Katell Maguet, Change Katalyst

Take-Home messages

- The challenge is not a lack of data but **how evidence conversations are structured**
- An **integrated evidence roadmap**, agreed upfront by all stakeholders, **could speed up access decisions**
- **Minimal datasets** and agreed analysis methods would make **temporary access with data collection possible**
- **Real-world evidence can** also show which treatments to stop, making health systems **more sustainable**
- Fragmented records, interoperability and governance remain the main barriers
- **Patients must help shape which data is collected and how it is analysed**
- **NCMHs** can provide a **permanent space for the Penta Helix and host pilots** that show it works

TRANSCAN-4: Overview

TRANSCAN

Funded by the European Union

TRANSCAN

Partners



17 Countries/ 30 organisations

Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Taiwan, Turkey



Anabela Isidro
Coordinator



Hugo Soares
Co-coordinator

Funded by the European Union

TRANSCAN

TRANSCAN

Key Numbers

2011 - 2031	11 (+4)	160 (+20)	141 (+...)
	Joint Transnational Calls	Million €	Projects

Funded by the European Union

TRANSCAN

1. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Enhance coordination and alignment
- Mobilise and pool financial resources
- Demonstrate the impact of collaboration
- Explore innovative funding and collaboration approaches
- Promote Open Science and FAIR data

2. EC FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- JTCs process and grant management
- Monitoring of TRANSCAN 4 and funded grants
- Development of a Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda for 2030 to 2040
- Support to Early Career Researchers
- Patient Engagement
- Synergies with other initiatives
- Sustainability
- Communication and Dissemination

3. EXPECTED IMPACT

TRANSCAN-4 will foster **collaboration of national and regional funders** on translational cancer research, thereby contributing to setting out a credible pathway for supporting:

- THE EU MISSION ON CANCER
- EUROPE'S BEATING CANCER PLAN

TRANSCAN 4 strengthens **collaboration** among national and regional funders in translational cancer research, supporting the **EU Mission on Cancer** and **Europe's Beating Cancer Plan (EBCP)** objectives.

Funded by the European Union

TRANSCAN

1. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Enhance coordination and alignment
- Mobilise and pool financial resources
- Demonstrate the impact of collaboration
- Explore innovative funding and collaboration approaches
- Promote Open Science and FAIR data

2. EC FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- JTCs process and grant management
- Monitoring of TRANSCAN 4 and funded grants
- Development of a Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda for 2030 to 2040
- Support to Early Career Researchers
- Patient Engagement
- Synergies with other initiatives
- Sustainability
- Communication and Dissemination

3. EXPECTED IMPACT

TRANSCAN-4 will foster **collaboration of national and regional funders** on translational cancer research, thereby contributing to setting out a credible pathway for supporting:

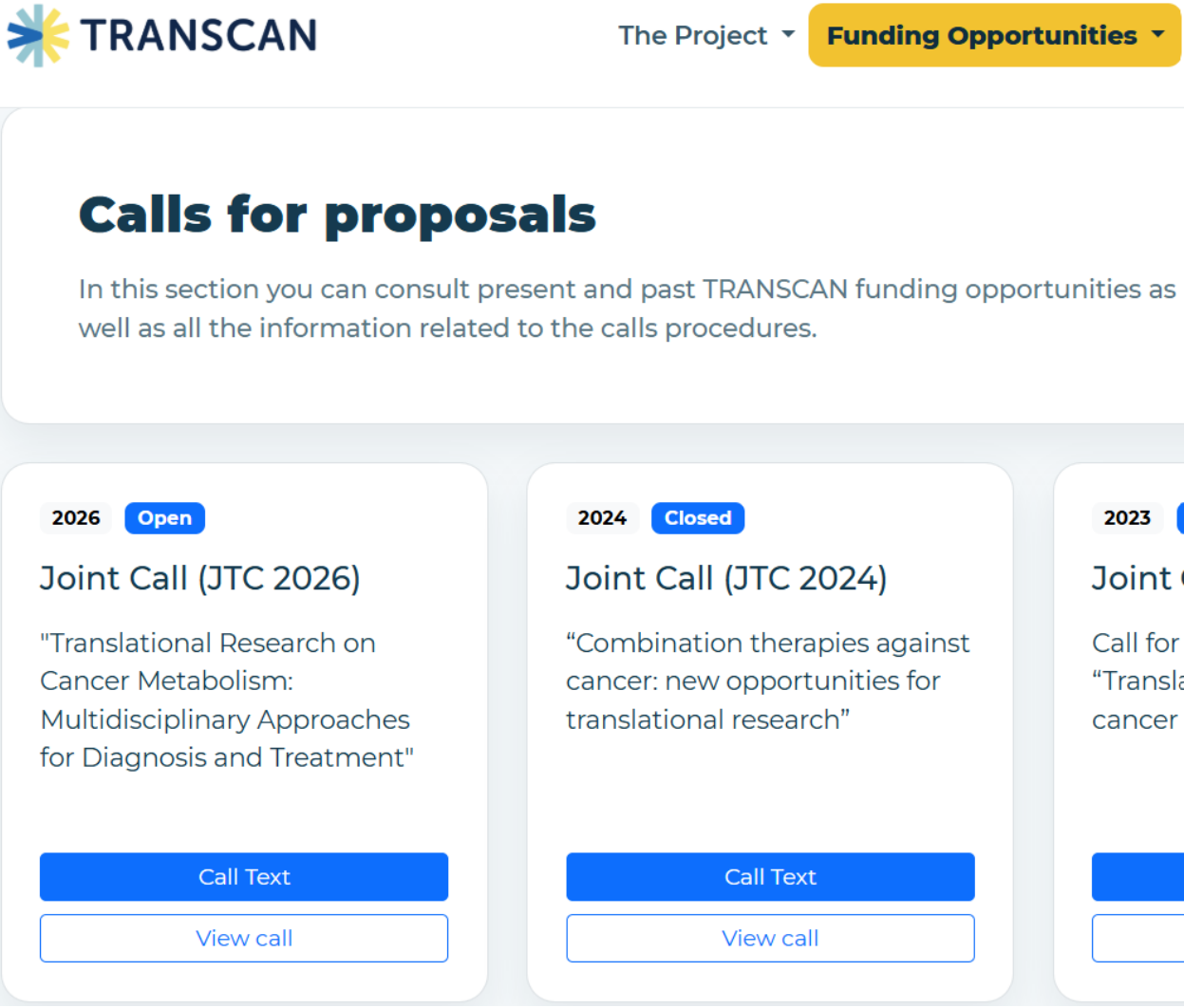
- THE EU MISSION ON CANCER
- EUROPE'S BEATING CANCER PLAN

TRANSCAN 4 strengthens **collaboration** among national and regional funders in translational cancer research, supporting the **EU Mission on Cancer** and **Europe's Beating Cancer Plan (EBCP)** objectives.

Funded by the European Union

TRANSCAN

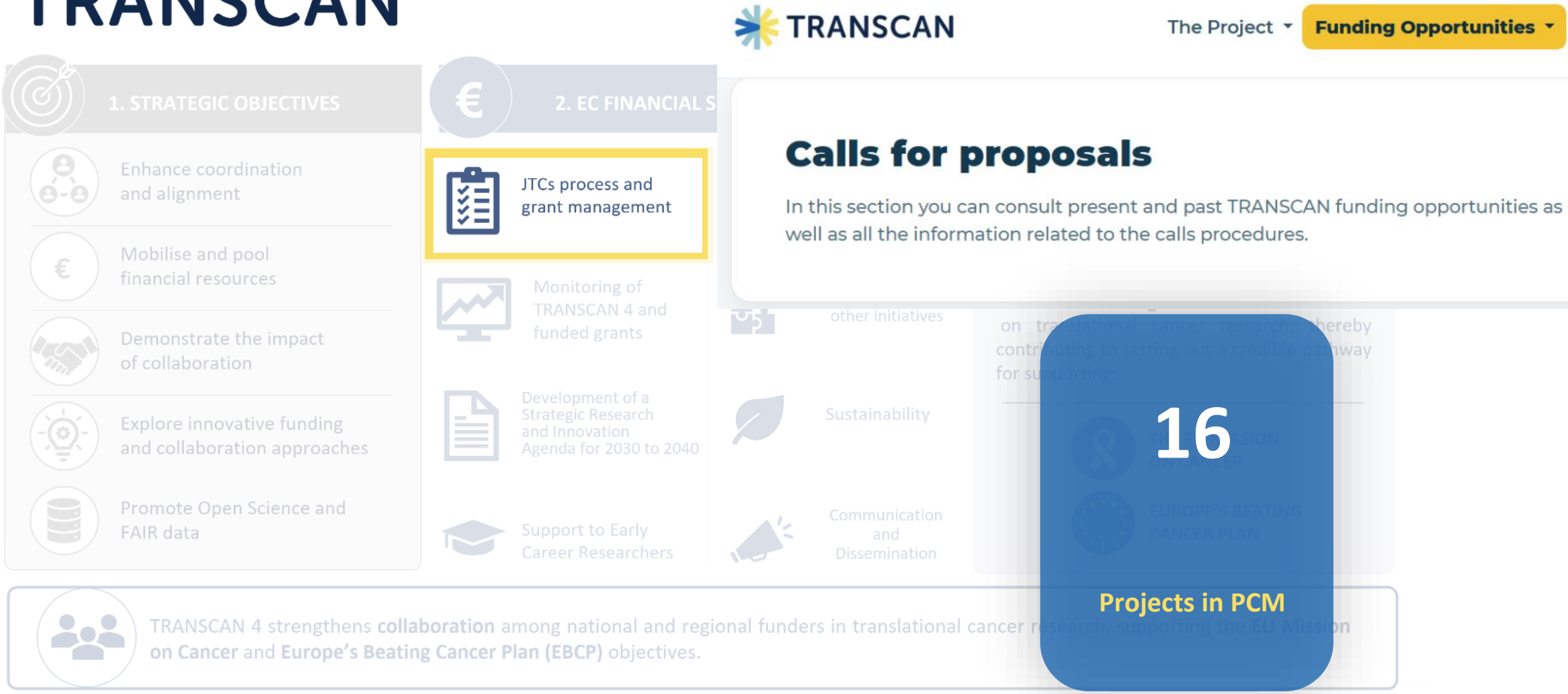




Funded by the European Union

TRANSCAN

TRANSCAN



Funded by the European Union

TRANSCAN

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION





ECHoS
Cancer Mission Hubs

TRANSCAN