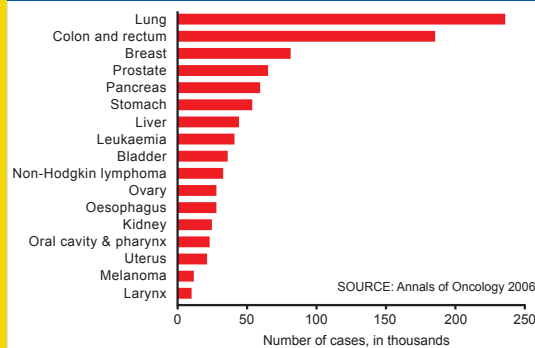


## Cancer in Europe

- 1 in 3 Europeans is diagnosed with cancer and the disease kills 1 in 4 people. Every family in Europe is touched in some way by this devastating disease. Cancer is the second most common cause of death after cardiovascular disease.
- There are more than 2,2 million new cases and more than 1,1 million cancer deaths in the EU 25 (estimated figures for 2006).
- Every day, more than 6000 Europeans are diagnosed with cancer and 3000 die from their disease.
- Breast, prostate, colon and lung cancers are the most common forms of cancer in this order. Together they counted for more than half of the entire cancer population in the European Union in 2006.
- Breast cancer is by far the most common form of the disease among women, accounting for 30.9% of all cases and 16.7% of cancer deaths in women. Although less common than in men, colon and lung cancer are the second and third most common causes of death from cancer in women.
- Prostate cancer is the most frequently diagnosed form of cancer in men, accounting for 24.1% of all cases and 10.4% of cancer deaths in men. Lung cancer continues to be by far the most common cause of cancer death in men, followed by colon and prostate cancer.
- Most of the other cancers are fortunately seen in smaller numbers and affecting not more than 5/10,000 people in the EU.
- There is an increasing incidence of cancer in children and adolescents in Europe. However, survival rates have improved dramatically over the past few decades.
- Screening programmes can help reduce deaths from certain cancers, yet in some Member States, these are poorly implemented or non-existent, despite the Council Recommendation on screening for colon, cervical and breast cancer, adopted by EU Health Ministers in 2003.
- In 2006, within Member States and across the EU 25, there were wide variations in outcomes and significant inequalities depending on access to information, geographic location, age, gender, socio-economic status and access to best quality care.
- Cancer survival is significantly lower in eastern European countries, including the new Member States, than in the EU 15.
- The number of Europeans with cancer will increase dramatically by 2015, largely due to the ageing population.

### CANCER CASES IN EUROPE



Figures based on "Estimates of the cancer incidence and mortality in Europe in 2006" (Annals of Oncology by the International Agency for Research on Cancer www.iarc.fr)

## Capacity Building for ECPC Member Organisations

ECPC provides a forum for European cancer patient groups to share best practice and skills. ECPC's "Advocacy Toolbox" was set up to provide helpful resources for cancer patient advocates and organisations. It includes

- **ECPC Conference Toolbox** – the ECPC step by step guide for organizing patient conferences, with ready to use templates
- **EU Policy Handbook** - 30-page handbook with a broad introduction of EU cancer policy, legislative procedures and measures.
- **Using Declarations and Guidelines as a Political Tool**
- **Building Good Patient Group Websites** – a guide on how to design and set up a websites for patient organization

## Join ECPC

We welcome all European Cancer Patient Organisations as members of ECPC and hope you will join us in the fight against cancer. Membership is currently free, please contact us at [info@ecpc-online.org](mailto:info@ecpc-online.org) or visit the ECPC website at <http://www.ecpc-online.org/members> to download the application form.



### ECPC Website

<http://www.ecpc-online.org>

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ECPC is registered as a non-profit association in The Netherlands, Reg.-Nr. 30211815



# EUROPEAN CANCER PATIENT COALITION

## Nothing About Us Without Us!

**1 in 3 Europeans is diagnosed  
with cancer and the disease  
kills 1 in 4 people**



**The European Cancer Patient Coalition speaks  
with a single voice for all cancer patients**

## About ECPC

Established in 2003, The European Cancer Patient Coalition (ECPC) is the voice of the European cancer patient community, uniquely representing the interests of all cancer patient groups from the major to the rarer cancers. It has been established to represent the views of cancer patients in the European healthcare debate and to provide a forum for European cancer patients to share best practice on patient advocacy.

## ECPC's Priority Areas (2009-2013)

- **Influence EU policy** that has an impact on the prevention, detection and treatment of cancer
- **Reach out to national level** to support ECPC members in their capacity building efforts on the national level
- **Build strategic partnerships** with key cancer stakeholders to create mutual benefit
- **Build ECPC's capacity** through an effective and growing organisation

## ECPC Members

We derive our mandate to speak with "one voice" for all cancer patients from our membership and our democratic structure. With its motto "Nothing about us without us!", ECPC represents more than 300 patient organisations in 41 countries, including all 27 EU Member States, representing the big cancers such as lung, breast, colon and prostate as well as the rarer cancers whose voice is seldom heard.

## How is ECPC organised and governed?

ECPC is an independent, non-profit "umbrella" organisation registered under Dutch charity law. Governed by an elected Board of nine members most of whom must be cancer patients, survivors or carers. ECPC's executive powers are vested in the President, Vice Presidents, Treasurer and Secretary. ECPC holds quarterly Board meetings and informs in membership through the Annual General Assembly, the ECPC website, regular newsletters and ECPC Summits and Masterclasses. ECPC has a Brussels office close to the European institutions, and ECPC's Head Office is based in Munich.

## ECPC Objectives

- To ensure that the **rights of cancer patients** are upheld and enforced
- To **increase cancer patients' representation and influence** at the highest level of decision-making, nationally and Europe-wide, in all areas that affect their health
- To **empower patients to become true partners** in the healthcare system
- To help patients obtain certain and timely access to appropriate and accurate **prevention, medical diagnosis, treatment and care, including psycho-social care**
- To **encourage population-based screening programmes** according to European quality guidelines
- To **promote the advance of cancer research**, including all applicable information on well-designed Clinical Trials and where possible the right to enroll in them
- To call for improved **multi-disciplinary training of health professionals**

## What are our activities?

One of ECPC's key priorities is to make cancer a priority for action on the European health policy agenda. With its policy activities, ECPC aims to effect change in legislative or regulatory policies to help optimise cancer prevention, detection, treatment and care throughout Europe. The policies also need to ensure that gaps within and between Member States are identified and eradicated, and that best practice is shared.

ECPC maintains close links with EU institutions (e.g. MEPs, the EU Commission, DG Sanco, DG Research, DG Internal Market, DG Enterprise, the Health Policy Forum (HPF), the European Medicines Agency and the EU Committee of Experts on Rare Diseases), monitors political development at EU level, identifies those which could impact on cancer patients, informs its member societies and contributes the cancer patient perspective to European health issues.

Some of ECPC's current main activities include:

- **Partnership for Action Against Cancer**  
The Partnership was initiated by the EU Commission in September 2009, bringing together the Commission, Member States and their Ministries of Health, patient organisations, health professionals, researchers, and industry. The Partnership aims to engage relevant stakeholders across the EU in a collective effort to tackle cancer by providing a framework for identifying and sharing information, capacity and expertise in cancer prevention and control. The long-term aim set out by the Commission is to reduce new cancer cases by 15% by 2020.
- **Commission DG SANCO Health Policy Forum**  
ECPC is a member of the Commission's Health Policy Forum that brings together about 40 key stakeholders with an interest in health policy. The HPF provides a platform for policy formulation and consensus building around the EU health strategy. It also aims to ensure that the Commission's health strategy is made clear to the public. It offers ECPC the opportunity to influence and contribute at an early stage to health policy development, setting of priorities and actions.
- **European Medicines Agency (EMA)**  
ECPC is Member of the EMA Working Party with Patients' and Consumers' Organisations (PCWP) and especially involved in two subgroups ("Patient Information" and "Pharmacovigilance and Risk Management"). The PCWP provides a permanent forum for interaction with patients and consumer organizations to ensure that there is an ongoing dialogue between the Agency and the end users of medicines.
- **Rare Cancers**  
Despite the rarity of each individual rare cancer type, around 200 clinically different rare cancers represent in total about 20% of all cancer cases, including all cancers in children. ECPC's activities targeting the specific challenges of rare cancers include e.g. the set up of an ECPC Rare Cancer Action Group, participation in the EU-funded RARECARE project, being a partner in the European Action Against Rare Cancers and close collaboration with other stakeholders, e.g. EURORDIS.

**Join ECPC in the fight against cancer!**