What are EU Missions?

Partly inspired by the Apollo 11 mission to put a man on the moon, EU missions are a commitment to solve major societal challenges like:

- Fighting cancer;
- Adapting to climate change;
- Living in greener cities;
- Ensuring soil health for healthy food, people, nature and climate;
- Protecting our oceans.

Each EU mission will have a specific timeframe and budget depending on how difficult their challenge is. They will go beyond research and innovation, and will spark innovation across sectors to deliver effective solutions. Moreover, missions will play a crucial role in achieving EU priorities such as the European Green Deal and Europe’s Beating Cancer Action Plan.

Your participation counts

We need you to make missions happen. So far, Mission Boards, a broad mix of experts from innovation, research, policy making, civil society and practitioner organisations, have been helping the European Commission to specify possible missions. Now is the time to engage with Europeans like you to make sure missions are relevant and make a real difference. By working together we can achieve much more.

Conquering Cancer: Mission Possible

The mission’s aim is more prevention, better treatment, more lives saved, and a better quality of life for patients and their families living with, and after, cancer. The mission will lift off towards the end of 2020 with a timeframe of ten years to achieve the goal of saving more than three million lives with more prevention, and more people living longer and better by 2030.
Get involved in the Cancer mission - because cancer concerns us all. Healthy people want to remain healthy, patients and their families living through cancer benefit from improved therapies, cancer survivors expect better life quality after treatment, and carers need better support. We are all concerned when it comes to our health and wellbeing.

A plan for the mission

The Cancer Mission Board started working on the content of the mission in September 2019. A first plan was published in early June 2020, representing a common vision of what the mission should achieve and how it could be done. They identify five complementary areas:

1. understand
2. prevent what is preventable
3. optimise diagnostic and treatment
4. support quality of life
5. ensure equitable access.

The mission aims to address all types of cancer in all phases. From prevention of risk factors, to survivorship support, and end-of-life care, for all ages under all circumstances for everyone across the European Union. These include people with rare cancers, cancers in children, adolescents, adults and old people, in socially or economically vulnerable families, among people living in remote areas, etc.

A better understanding of the processes and factors that lead to cancer can enhance actions on prevention, treatment and quality of life. Complementarily, the chance of receiving a diagnosis in time to survive the disease differs substantially across Europe and even within countries. Overcoming the imbalances in access to cancer knowledge, prevention, diagnostics, treatments and care is a priority.

The Board is proposing 13 bold recommendations, centred on people needs. The recommendations call for a new level of cooperation not seen before between citizens, researchers, institutions and countries.

Your opinion matters, so have your say! This is a brief summary of what the Cancer Mission Board believes is the best way to move forward. But what is important to you? Which actions do you think are the most relevant to conquer cancer? Your feedback will be used by the Board to adjust its plan. Let’s join forces because together we can do better in conquering cancer.

Join the conversation on Twitter: #MissionCancer #EUmissions #HorizonEU and stay up to date with latest developments on our website https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe-next-research-and-innovation-framework-programme/missions-horizon-europe_en