

(English version)

Question for written answer E-004037/25
to the Commission
Romana Jerković (S&D)
(15 October 2025)

Subject: Europe's Beating Cancer Plan funding

Europe's Beating Cancer Plan aims to support Member States with more than EUR 4 billion in EU funding, including from EU4Health, Horizon Europe and other instruments. Both transparency and effectiveness in the use of these funds are essential to ensure the implementation of the EU's Beating Cancer Plan across the EU.

Can the Commission answer the following:

For each Member State, what is the amount of EU cancer-related funding requested by national or regional public authorities (excluding non-governmental organisations and private entities), as well as the amount allocated, the amount actually used and distributed to date, and the status of the projects funded (ongoing, completed, or not yet started)?

Submitted: 15.10.2025

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(20 January 2026)

Under the cancer and health promotion strand of the EU4Health Annual Work Programmes 2021 to 2024 a total of EUR 573.3 million was programmed to address cancer.

Direct grants to Member States are the main mechanism to provide funding to entities nominated by national authorities ⁽¹⁾. In addition, public bodies ⁽²⁾ including national authorities are eligible to apply for competitive Action Grants.

Annex I shows amounts committed for 16 Joint Actions and 49 Action Grants involving public entities, out of which 10 actions have been completed ⁽³⁾.

To date, Horizon Europe ⁽⁴⁾ (2021-2027) has supported the implementation of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan (EBCP) ⁽⁵⁾ with EUR 2.3 billion of EU funding for research and innovation on cancer ⁽⁶⁾, of which EUR 2 billion were disbursed to entities at Member State level ⁽⁷⁾.

As the best proxy for national or regional public authorities, the total cancer-centred funding allocated to public bodies ⁽⁸⁾ under Horizon Europe amounts to EUR 61 million.

The 2021-2027 Erasmus+ programme has funded 88 cancer-related projects with a total value of EUR 12.4 million ⁽⁹⁾. No country-specific data are collected on the cancer-related funding by the Erasmus+ implementation monitoring system.

Between 2021 and February 2025, 231 project proposals related to cancer research have been signed under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, representing EUR 141 million in funding.

The Digital Europe (DEP) Work Programmes 2021-2024 supports the implementation of the EBCP either directly (with a European Cancer Imaging Initiative) or in a horizontal way (through projects on genomics and Virtual Human Twins, which have cancer use cases).

Disaggregation of DEP spending data at any kind of national, regional or sectorial level would not be meaningful ⁽¹⁰⁾.

⁽¹⁾ In accordance with Article 13 (5) of Regulation (EU) 2021/522 establishing a Programme for the Union's action in the field of health ('EU4Health Programme') for the period 2021-2027. It should be noted that the Programme does not operate on basis of earmarked national allocations. National funding shares indicated by the Commission, therefore strictly reflect work allocation within successful project consortia.

⁽²⁾ Organisations need to declare themselves as a public organisation during the registration process of the Funding and Tenders portal. This declaration is later confirmed by the Commission's Research Executive Agency. These public bodies include also Research Organisations and Secondary or Higher Education Establishments if they are public bodies.

⁽³⁾ 'Completed' are projects which have ended and are paid.

⁽⁴⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en.

⁽⁵⁾ See section '9. Funding', at https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:8dec84ce-66df-11eb-aeb5-01aa75ed71a1.0002.02/DOC_1&format=PDF.

⁽⁶⁾ 92.5% of these projects are either ongoing or in preparation and 7.5% are closed.

⁽⁷⁾ See Annex 1 below.

⁽⁸⁾ Excluding Research Organisations and Secondary or Higher Education Establishments.

⁽⁹⁾ Data from the Erasmus+ Project Results Platform: <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects>.

⁽¹⁰⁾ The Digital Europe Programme Regulation makes no reference to Member State-specific implementation and disaggregating spending by Member State can provide a misleading picture, as the projects are not designed to deliver national interventions, but rather to produce EU-wide impacts.

See annex: Annex
