

# Pancreatic Cancer Declaration

By 2020, pancreatic cancer is set to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death by cancer, if no action is taken<sup>1</sup>. This Declaration by the European Multi-Stakeholder Platform on Pancreatic Cancer outlines what action is needed to halt this violent and deadly disease.

Philippe De Backer MEP, Françoise Grossetête MEP, Philippe Juvin MEP, Daciana Sârbu MEP

The EU has a central role to play in the fight against pancreatic cancer: it is time for EU institutions and Member States to support European citizens affected by pancreatic cancer, and trigger real change in research, diagnosis and care.

## By 2020: 5 key targets

- 1** Launch education and awareness campaigns in all Member States
- 2** Develop specific plans to tackle pancreatic cancer and integrate pancreatic cancer in the broader Member State cancer control policies
- 3** Improve early diagnosis by launching national campaigns towards healthcare professionals and patients
- 4** Improve data collection and work towards the development of pancreatic cancer registries in Europe
- 5** Increase the number of pan-European and national pancreatic cancer research projects

### 1. Raising awareness on pancreatic cancer

- Raise awareness in the general population through active promotion of awareness campaigns.
- Increase political awareness on pancreatic cancer in order to trigger political leadership and action on this disease.

➔ Pancreatic cancer has the lowest survival rate of all cancers and its prevalence is still expected to increase in decades to come<sup>2</sup>.

### 2. Pancreatic cancer in cancer control policies: bridging the gaps

- Include pancreatic cancer in cancer control policies at EU and national level, more specifically in rare cancer initiatives.
- Develop national pancreatic cancer plans with measurable action plans, ensuring comprehensive standards of diagnosis and care across Europe.

### 3. Improving diagnosis of pancreatic cancer

- Increase awareness of pancreatic cancer towards the scientific and patient communities to enable earlier diagnosis.
- Develop pancreatic cancer training programs for treating physicians about symptoms and risk factors to improve earlier diagnosis.

➔ Pancreatic cancer has the **lowest survival rate** of all cancers, with a median survival rate of 3 to 6 months for a person diagnosed with metastatic pancreatic cancer. It is the only cancer whose **mortality is increasing in both sexes<sup>4</sup>**.

➔ Although survival rates in pancreatic cancer are very low, there are variations across Europe. 5-year survival rate in men can rank from 3% to 7% in countries such as Estonia. In women, this median survival rate ranks from 1.3% in Slovenia to 7.5% in Czech Republic<sup>3</sup>. This shows that early diagnosis and improved standards of care can make a difference in reaching higher survival rate for patients.

## 4. Implementing efficient data collection and pancreatic cancer registries

- Improve data collection on surgery and treatment of pancreatic cancer patients, supporting physicians and researchers' efforts to better understand the disease.
- Leverage EU-wide initiatives, such as the European Network of Cancer Registries, to support the development of national registries.

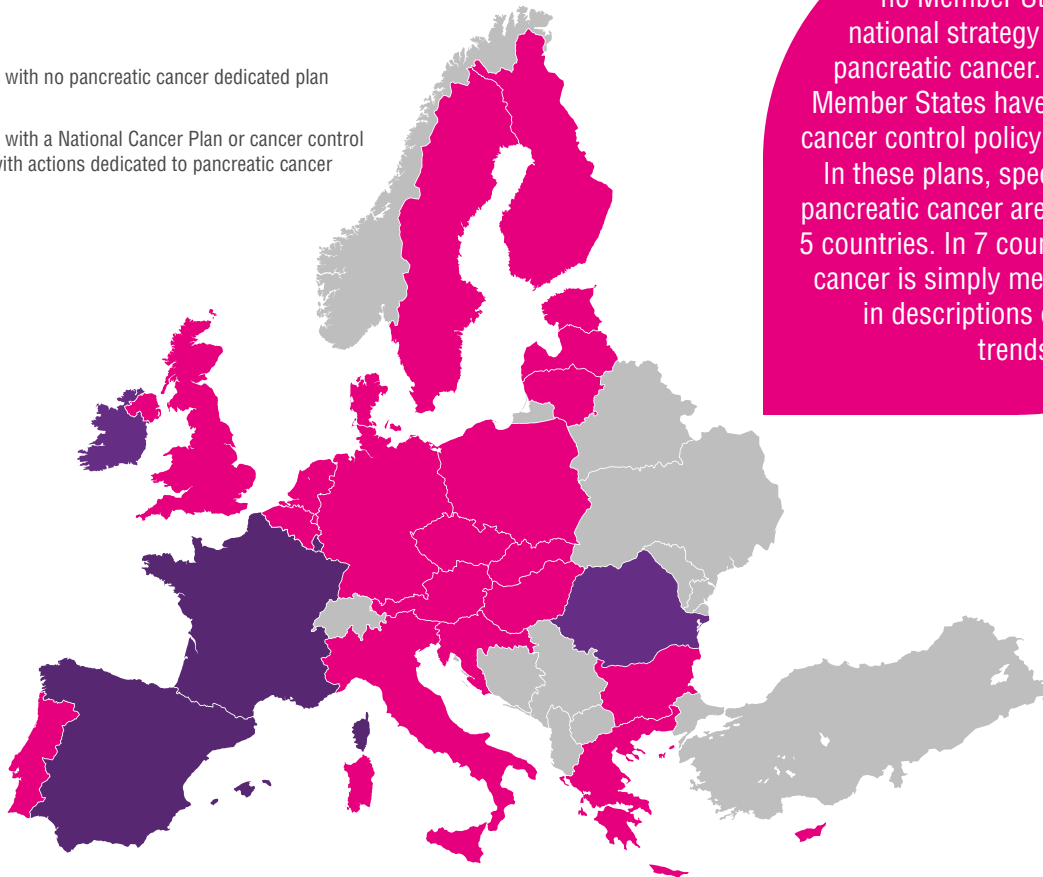
➔ Pancreatic cancer research receives less than **2%** of all cancer research funding in Europe. In the UK, **£42 million** are allocated to breast cancer research, while **£5.2 million** go to pancreatic cancer research<sup>5</sup>.

## 5. Investing in pancreatic cancer research

- Increase allocation of funds for the research into pancreatic cancer in order to improve diagnosis and enable patients to receive treatment at an early stage of their disease.
- Create new funding streams within Horizon 2020 to support research on pancreatic cancer.

A strong need for public policy support: no plans dedicated to pancreatic cancer today in the European Union.

- Countries with no pancreatic cancer dedicated plan
- Countries with a National Cancer Plan or cancer control policies with actions dedicated to pancreatic cancer



➔ There is, to date, no Member State with a national strategy dedicated to pancreatic cancer. Almost all EU Member States have implemented a cancer control policy at national level. In these plans, specific actions on pancreatic cancer are included in only 5 countries. In 7 countries, pancreatic cancer is simply mentioned, mostly in descriptions of mortality trends.

<sup>1</sup> Pancreatic Cancer Action Network. The alarming rise of pancreatic cancer deaths in The United States: Why we need to stem the tide today, 2012. [http://www.pancan.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/incidence\\_report\\_2012\\_executive\\_summary.pdf](http://www.pancan.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/incidence_report_2012_executive_summary.pdf) [Last accessed April 2014]  
<sup>2</sup> Malvezzi M, Bertuccio P, Levi F, La Vecchia C, Negri E, et al. European cancer mortality predictions for the year 2013. *Annals of Oncol.* 2013; 24:792-800  
<sup>3</sup> Carrato et al, 2015. "A Systematic Review of the Burden of Pancreatic Cancer in Europe: Real-World Impact on Survival, Quality of Life and Costs." DOI 10.1007/s12029-015-9724-1  
<sup>4</sup> Worni M et al. Modest Improvement in Overall Survival for Patients With Metastatic Pancreatic Cancer: A Trend Analysis Using the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Registry From 1988 to 2008. *Pancreas.* 2013; doi:10.1097/MPA.0b013e318291fbc5  
<sup>5</sup> Pancreatic Cancer Action – Research Funding - <https://pancreaticcanceraction.org/pancreatic-cancer/stats-facts/research-funding/> - Last accessed 18 February 2015

The European Multi Stakeholder Platform on Pancreatic Cancer is composed of European experts, academics, patients, clinical practitioners, journalists and policy makers and is committed to raising awareness around pancreatic cancer with a view to improving standards of care, diagnosis and data collection for patients suffering from pancreatic cancer across Europe. For more information, please consult our website [www.pancreaticcancereurope.eu](http://www.pancreaticcancereurope.eu). The platform is financially supported by Celgene and Baxalta now part of Shire.