



## D7.11 Annual Report 3 on Cluster Activities

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| 17 | Ioanna - Theodora Petroulia  | EODY                | PREVENT |
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| 19 | Alexis Strader               | EHMA                | PREVENT |
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| Version | Author                                                                                                                                                                                    | Date       | Status                                               |
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| 1.1     | ONCODIR<br>Martina Pipoli<br>Michele Calabro<br>Angela Fayos<br>Martinez<br>Marco Di Donato<br>PIECES<br>Anna Tokar<br>Clara Fábregas<br>Luis Rodriguez-G<br>C-CAPTAIN<br>Laura Domínguez | 28/04/2026 | Updated version including comments from all projects |
| 1.2     | Luis Rodriguez-G                                                                                                                                                                          | 31/05/2026 | Coordinator final review and submission              |



## List of Abbreviations

| Abbreviation      | Definition                                                                                                                                |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>4P-CAN</b>     | Personalized CANcer Primary Prevention research through Citizen Participation and digitally enabled social innovation                     |
| <b>AI</b>         | Artificial Intelligence                                                                                                                   |
| <b>CFIR</b>       | Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research                                                                                        |
| <b>CPW</b>        | Cancer Prevention at Work: Occupational health surveillance in the implementation of prevention of infection-related cancer               |
| <b>CO-CAPTAIN</b> | Cancer prevention among individuals with mental ill-health: co-adapting and implementing patient navigation for primary prevention        |
| <b>CoP</b>        | Communities of Practice                                                                                                                   |
| <b>CRC</b>        | Colorectal Cancer                                                                                                                         |
| <b>DMP</b>        | Data Management Plan                                                                                                                      |
| <b>EC</b>         | European Commission                                                                                                                       |
| <b>EU</b>         | European Union                                                                                                                            |
| <b>FAIR</b>       | Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable                                                                                         |
| <b>HCV</b>        | Hepatitis C Virus                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Hp</b>         | <i>Helicobacter pylori</i>                                                                                                                |
| <b>HPV</b>        | Human Papilloma Virus                                                                                                                     |
| <b>KPI</b>        | Key Performance Indicator                                                                                                                 |
| <b>KVC</b>        | Kveloce                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>LL</b>         | Living Lab                                                                                                                                |
| <b>OMOP</b>       | Observational Medical Outcomes Partnership                                                                                                |
| <b>NCI</b>        | National Cancer Institute                                                                                                                 |
| <b>NGO</b>        | Non-Governmental Organization                                                                                                             |
| <b>NKUA</b>       | National & Kapodistrian University of Athens                                                                                              |
| <b>ONCODIR</b>    | Evidence-based Participatory Decision Making for Cancer Prevention through implementation research                                        |
| <b>PCP</b>        | Primary Cancer Prevention Programs                                                                                                        |
| <b>PCP-IT</b>     | Primary Cancer Prevention Programs – Implementation toolkit                                                                               |
| <b>PI</b>         | Principal Investigator                                                                                                                    |
| <b>PIECES</b>     | Towards large-scale adaptation and tailored implementation evidence-based primary cancer prevention programmes in Europe                  |
| <b>PREVENT</b>    | Improving and upscaling primary prevention of cancer by addressing childhood obesity through implementation research-the PREVENT approach |
| <b>R&amp;I</b>    | Research and Innovation                                                                                                                   |
| <b>SOPs</b>       | Standard Operating Procedures                                                                                                             |
| <b>tbc</b>        | To be confirmed                                                                                                                           |
| <b>WG</b>         | Working Groups                                                                                                                            |
| <b>WP</b>         | Work Package                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Y1</b>         | First year                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Y2</b>         | Second year                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Y3</b>         | Third year                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Y4</b>         | Fourth year                                                                                                                               |



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## Executive Summary

Deliverable D7.11 presents the conclusions from the third annual meeting of the “Prevention and Early Detection – Implementation Research Cluster” that took place on **March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, online**, jointly worked and agreed upon the common annual meeting.

This report provides an overview of the Cluster and its projects, summarizing the key presentations from its third annual meeting. It reviews updates on project progress, outlines ongoing activities within the Cluster’s Working Groups, and highlights planned actions for the fourth year.

Additionally, the report summarises the main third-year achievements, particularly regarding more structured approaches to citizen engagement, a stronger practical understanding of how inequalities emerge during implementation, improved coordination on data management, and the consolidation of shared policy-oriented reflection across projects. The main conclusions from the meeting are also presented.



# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 MISSION CANCER & CLUSTER PRESENTATION

### 1.1.1 Mission Cancer

The European Union, through its **Mission Cancer program**, is funding six innovative projects in the field of cancer prevention and early detection, in a way of combating one of the most prominent causes of death and socioeconomic burden among Europeans, which is preventable to a great extent. Ergo, the “Prevention and Early Detection (P&ED)–Implementation Research” Cluster comprises the collaborative effort of the six participating funded projects to improve cancer screening through working collaboratively to extend each other’s research and enhance their respective impact. **The main cluster’s objective is to contribute, scale up, and improve primary cancer prevention and early detection programmes**, considering the specific needs of the target population, **in particular economic, cultural, and geographical conditions, aiming at developing policy recommendations and decision-making.**

### 1.1.2 Cluster Presentation



The **CO-CAPTAIN** project aims to address disparities in care for people with mental illness in Europe through innovative solutions such as the Patient Navigation Model. This approach focuses on patient empowerment, removing systemic barriers and ensuring access to primary prevention services. With the collaboration of experts and local governments, the project uses scientific approaches to reduce the burden of cancer and improve the overall health of people with mental health problems, reducing costs in health and social care systems in Europe. In addition, it aims to integrate integrated cancer care pathways and provide policy recommendations at the European level.



The **CPW** project researches the cost-effectiveness and social acceptance of incorporating prevention of cancers associated with *Helicobacter pylori*, Hepatitis C virus and Human Papillomavirus into ongoing primary occupational health surveillance programmes. The project involves workers and their families, policymakers, occupational health organizations, health authorities, companies and workers’ representatives, and cancer and patient organisations, among others, to identify the best strategies to increase the adherence of the population of workers in screening programs of infection-related cancers.



**ONCODIR** will identify risk factors associated with colorectal cancer and integrate multidisciplinary research methods and technologies (including health policy analytics, artificial intelligence, and decision support theories) to deliver evidence-based and personalized recommendations on colorectal cancer prevention. ONCODIR is developing a platform based on artificial intelligence and privacy principles. It will provide recommendation services based on input from citizens, clinicians, and policymakers. The project will consider factors such as lifestyle, nutrition, and economics.



**PREVENT** is a collaborative action to improve and upscale primary prevention of cancer by addressing childhood obesity. Through diligent implementation research and a comprehensive approach, this project aims to lay the foundation for a future where healthier lifestyles and brighter tomorrows await every child. The PREVENT project mission is rooted in epidemiological studies that have highlighted a clear link between obesity and increased risks of various types of cancer, including colon, endometrium, postmenopausal breast, and kidney cancer, among others.



**4P-CAN'S** mission is to understand barriers, whether legislative, socio-economic, commercial, or behavioural to the widespread adoption of cancer primary prevention measures across Central and Eastern Europe. By understanding barriers to policy implementation and individual adherence to healthy behaviours, 4P-CAN will improve primary prevention activities and reduce inequalities. With the collaboration of 17 organizations from 11 countries, including both EU and non-EU Balkan countries, as well as Western EU countries, 4P-CAN is dedicated to achieving these goals and fostering a healthier future.



The **PIECES** project aims to adapt and implement existing evidence-based programmes to improve implementation outcomes and by that, improve the reach and effectiveness of primary prevention programmes in real-world settings. It will address a wide range of risk factors and focus on the specific behaviour change mechanisms that promote healthy behaviours associated with a reduction of cancer incidence among the European Union (EU) population and beyond.



## 1.2 SCOPE

The scope of this deliverable is to summarize the main conclusions of the **third ‘Prevention and Early Detection (P&ED) – Implementation Research’ Annual Cluster Meeting** that took place on **March 31st, 2026, online**. During the meeting, each Working Group (WG) provided a review of their third-year activities, the current status of ongoing tasks, and plans for the fourth year of work.

## 1.3 STRUCTURE

Following the overview of the “**Prevention and Early Detection (P&ED) – Implementation Research**” Cluster as well as the projects comprising it, the following sections review and summarise the presentations of the **third ‘Prevention and Early Detection (P&ED) – Implementation Research’ Annual Cluster Meeting**. Section 2 presents the main points raised during the HaDEA Representative intervention by Marianne Ines Da Silva, placing the Cluster’s work within the broader European policy and funding context. Section 3 summarises the introduction to the Joint Action PreventNCD presented by Federica Rossetti and highlights its relevance and potential synergies with the Cluster’s activities. Section 4 provides an overview of the updates shared by the Cluster’s Working Groups, together with the related next steps and cross-cutting discussion points. Section 5 reports on the Policy Recommendations Development Session, including the reflections stemming from CO-CAPTAIN conclusions and key outcomes, pilot project experiences, cross-project collaboration, and the plenary wrap-up. Section 6 summarises the Planning Session dedicated to the 4th Cluster Meeting to be hosted in person. Finally, Section 7 presents the overall wrap-up and next steps emerging from the meeting.

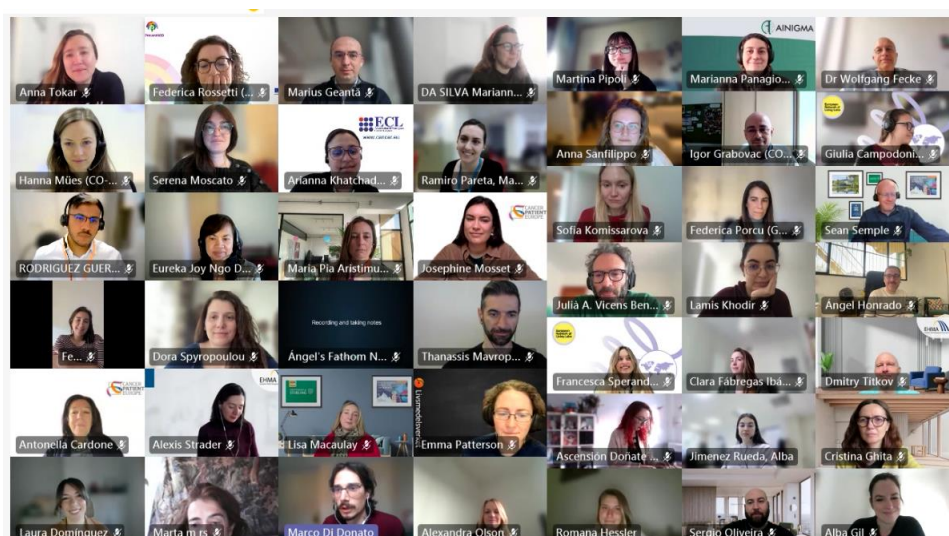


Figure 1. Participants attending the 3<sup>rd</sup> Online Cluster meeting

Source: Extracted from the presentation on 31st March 2026



## 2 REPRESENTATIVE INTERVENTION FROM HADEA

**Marianne Ines Da Silva**, representing the **European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA)**, opened the meeting by framing the work of the Prevention and Early Detection – Implementation Research Cluster within the broader context of the EU Cancer Mission. She stressed that clusters are increasingly seen not only as coordination mechanisms among projects, but also as strategic spaces to generate policy-relevant knowledge, foster networking, and strengthen synergies across initiatives.

Her intervention recalled the scale of the cancer challenge in Europe and the continued strategic relevance of the **EU Cancer Mission**, which remains structured around **four core objectives**:

1. understanding cancer
2. prevention and early detection
3. diagnosis and treatment
4. and quality of life.

She also highlighted the **Mission's cross-cutting priorities**, including: equity, citizen engagement, childhood cancer, innovation, and personalised medicine.

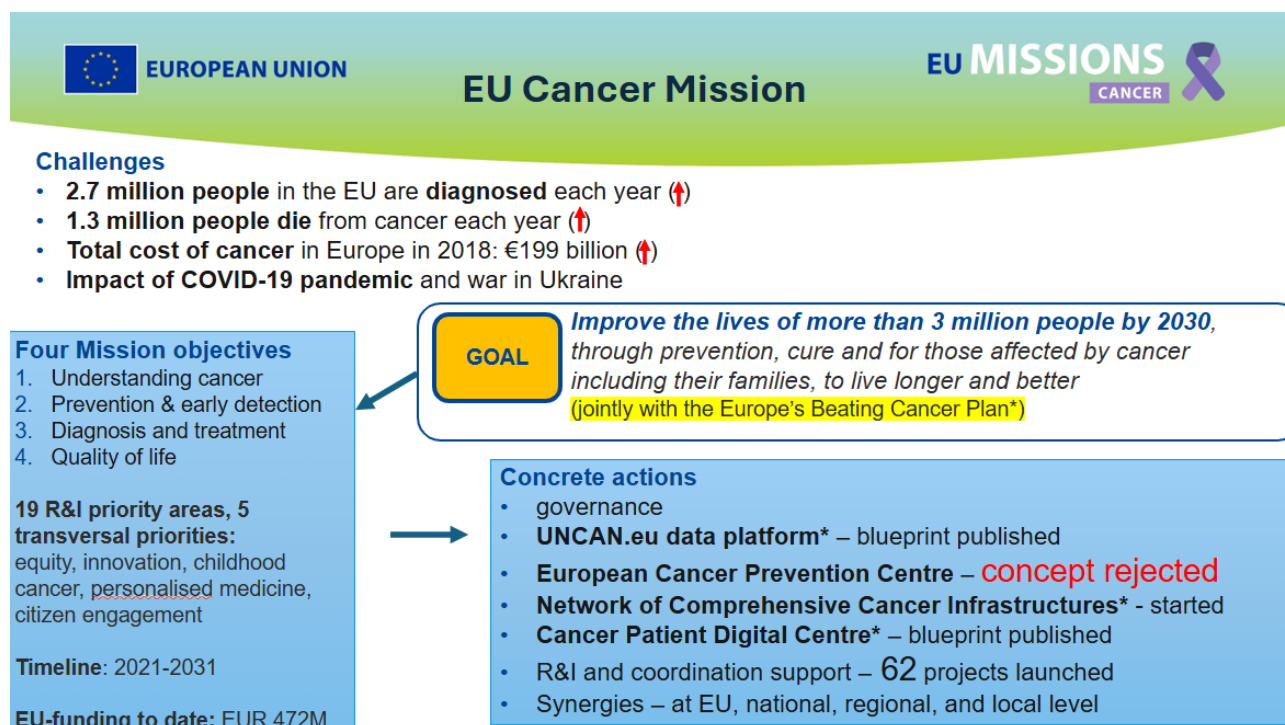


Figure 2. EU Cancer Mission

Source: Extracted from the presentation of Marianne Ines Da Silva on 31st March 2026

**A central message of the presentation was the growing importance of inter-cluster**



**collaboration.** The HaDEA representative noted that several clusters are now active across the different Mission pillars and suggested that the next step should be to strengthen links not only within each cluster, but also across clusters, in order to maximise impact and promote mutual learning. In this regard, the Prevention and Early Detection – Implementation Research Cluster was presented as part of a wider and evolving ecosystem of Mission project clusters.

The intervention also referred to broader Mission-level activities supporting visibility and exchange, including cluster communication materials, videos, and policy webinars organised by DG RTD to connect stakeholder, citizen, and research perspectives and make better use of project results.

|                                                                                       |                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 - Cluster Understanding (risk factors & determinants)                               | – launched Sept. 2022 |
| 1 - Cluster Understanding (tumour-host interactions)                                  | – launched Sept. 2023 |
| 1 - Cluster Understanding (environmental exposure in CAYA)                            | – tb launched Q2 2026 |
| 2 - Cluster Prevention & early detection (screening)                                  | – launched Sept. 2022 |
| 2 - Cluster Prevention & early detection (implementation research)                    | – launched Jan. 2023  |
| 2 - Cluster Prevention & early detection (behavioural change)                         | – launched Sept. 2023 |
| 2 Cluster Prevention & early detection (heritable cancers)                            | – launched Q4. 2025   |
| 3 - Cluster Diagnosis and Treatment (refractory cancers)                              | – launched Jan. 2023  |
| 3 - Cluster Diagnosis & treatment (diagnostics)                                       | – launched Sept. 2023 |
| 3 - Cluster Diagnosis & treatment (Innovative Surgery)                                | – tb launched Q2 2026 |
| 3 - Cluster Diagnosis & treatment (innovative clinical trials for paediatric cancer ) | – tb launched Q2 2026 |
| 4 - Quality of Life                                                                   | – launched Sept. 2023 |
| 4 - Quality of Life (AYA)                                                             | – launched Jan. 2025  |
| 4 - Quality of Life (Nutrition for older cancer patients )                            | – tb launched Q2 2026 |

Figure 3. Update on Mission project clusters

**Source:** Extracted from the presentation of Marianne Ines Da Silva on 31st March 2026

Finally, the HaDEA representative provided a brief overview of upcoming Cancer Mission calls and encouraged Cluster participants to consider contributing to the wider EU research ecosystem also as external experts for future evaluations. During the discussion, she clarified that **there is still uncertainty regarding the future structure of cancer-related funding under the next Multiannual Financial Framework**, although cancer is expected to remain a strategic priority.

Overall, the **intervention highlighted three key takeaways for the Cluster:**

1. the need to increase the policy relevance of project results
2. the importance of stronger synergies across clusters and initiatives
3. the value of ensuring that Cluster outputs are visible, transferable, and aligned with wider European policy developments.



### 3 JOINT ACTION PREVENTNCD: INTRODUCTION AND SYNERGIES WITH THE CLUSTER

Following the HaDEA intervention, the meeting continued with a presentation by **Federica Rossetti from Sciensano**, who introduced the **Joint Action PreventNCD** and outlined its potential relevance for the Prevention and Early Detection – Implementation Research Cluster. The presentation framed PreventNCD as a large-scale European initiative aimed at reducing the burden of cancer, heart disease, and other non-communicable diseases by addressing their shared risk factors through a holistic and coordinated prevention approach.

PreventNCD was presented as a **four-year Joint Action** running from January 2024 to December 2027, with **a total budget of EUR 95.5 million, involving 25 countries, 108 partners, 68 tasks, 113 subtasks, and 98 pilots**. These figures highlighted the scale and operational breadth of the initiative, confirming its role as a major European platform for prevention-oriented action across cancer and other NCDs.

**A key message of the presentation was that PreventNCD acts across multiple levels of prevention.**

- At societal level, the Joint Action addresses broader determinants of health through work on regulation, taxation, cross-border trade, consumer environments, product labelling, advertising, online marketing, environmental exposures, and policy monitoring.
- At community level, it promotes healthier living environments in counties, municipalities, education settings, workplaces, health services, and digital environments.
- At personal level, it focuses on identifying individuals at risk and implementing risk-stratified and personalised prevention approaches, supported by communication strategies and attention to ethical, legal, and social implications. Cross-cutting dimensions such as Health in All Policies, social inequalities, and monitoring are embedded throughout the Joint Action structure.



## Primary Prevention of NCD

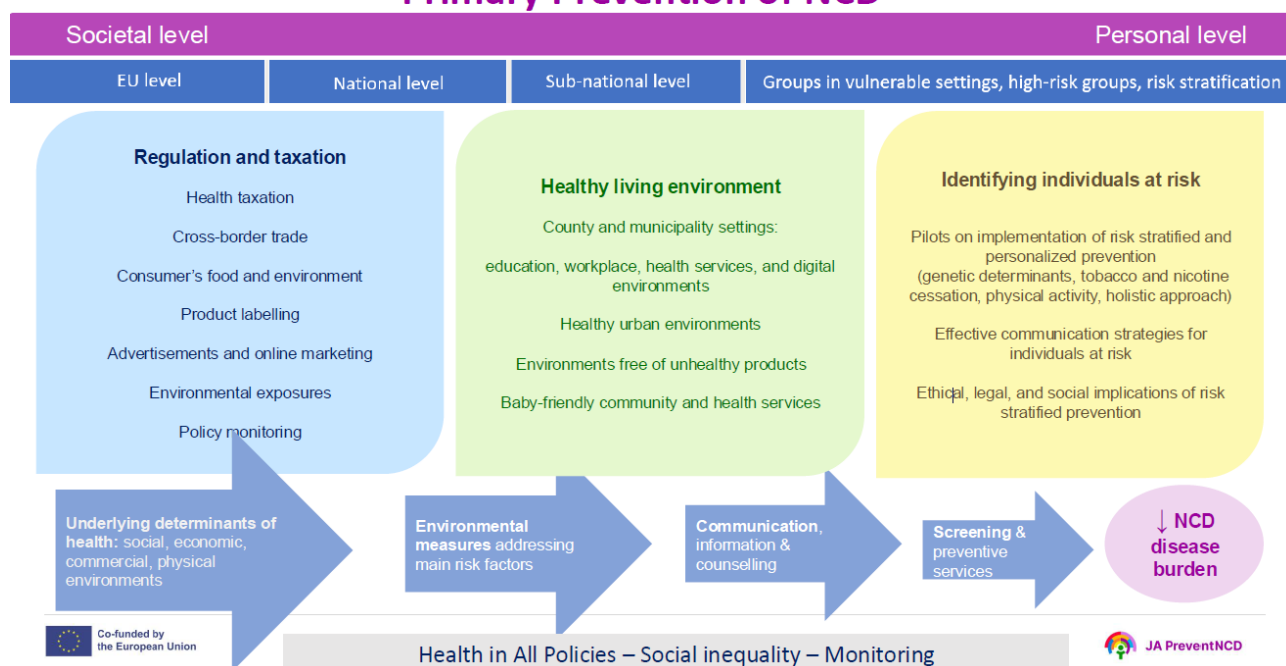


Figure 4. Multilevel logic of JA

Source: Extracted from the presentation of Federica Rossetti on 31st March 2026

Particular attention was given to **Work Package (WP) 10**, led by Federica Rossetti, which focuses on identifying individuals at risk and supporting personalised prevention policies. The objective of this work package is to strengthen Member States' capacities to plan and implement personalised prevention while assessing both genetic and lifestyle-related risk factors. As illustrated in the presentation, this approach is based on a sequence that includes risk profiling, stratified prevention, evidence integration, and risk communication, while also considering ethical, legal, and social implications such as empowerment, equity, and solidarity.



## Zoom on identify individuals at risk – prevent and treat

### Objectives of this Work Package:

- To improve MSs capacities to plan and implement personalized prevention policies
- To assess genetic and lifestyle risk factors to support holistic prevention of cancer and other non-communicable diseases

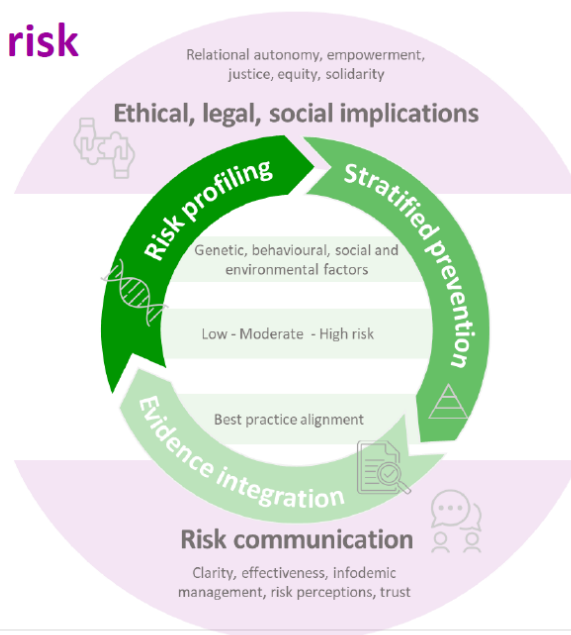


Figure 5. Zoom on identify individuals at risk – prevent and treat

Extracted from the presentation of Federica Rossetti on 31st March 2026

The presentation also clarified that exchanges had already taken place between representatives of PreventNCD, projects from the Prevention and Early Detection Cluster, members of the EU Cancer Mission Board, and DG RTD in order to explore collaboration opportunities. Two concrete examples of potential synergies were highlighted. The first concerned **PIECES**, whose Primary Cancer Prevention Implementation Toolkit was identified as potentially testable by PreventNCD partners. A second concrete link was noted in Italy, where one partner is involved in both the Joint Action and Work Package 10 through the development of a personalised prevention website. The second example concerned **4P-CAN**, where possible synergies were identified with PreventNCD work on policy monitoring, implementation and enforcement, as well as with LLs and pilots focused on second-hand smoking and smoke-free environments.

Beyond these specific examples, the presentation suggested a broader complementarity between the Joint Action and the Cluster. While the Cluster brings together Horizon Europe Mission Cancer projects with a strong implementation research orientation, PreventNCD operates as a wider policy and public health action involving national systems, large-scale pilots, and multi-level prevention strategies. **This makes the Joint Action particularly relevant as a possible channel for scaling up, transferring, or further testing approaches developed within Cluster projects.**

The presentation concluded with an open invitation to continue exploring synergies between PreventNCD and Cluster projects, both through already established contacts and through future collaboration opportunities. In this sense, the session served not only as an



introduction to the Joint Action, but also as a practical contribution to the meeting's broader objective of strengthening connections between projects, initiatives, and policy-oriented prevention efforts at European level.



## 4 WORKING GROUPS UPDATES, NEXT STEPS AND Q&AI

This session provided a structured overview of progress across the Cluster's Working Groups and created space for discussion on ongoing activities, main outputs, cross-cutting issues and next steps. Updates were presented by the Working Groups on R&I, Data Management Plan, Addressing Inequalities, Citizen Engagement, and Communication and Dissemination. Together, these contributions showed the increasing maturity of the Cluster's collaborative work and highlighted the transition from internal coordination towards more concrete shared outputs, including codebooks, scientific papers, communication products and policy-oriented reflections.

### 4.1 RESEARCH & INNOVATION

| Research and Innovation (PREVENT leading) |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Presentation                              |           | <p>Role of PREVENT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Leads the R&amp;I Working Group within the Cluster.</li><li>• Supports the identification of common scientific and implementation challenges across projects.</li><li>• Facilitates the development of Cluster-level policy recommendations.</li><li>• Promotes exchange on evidence-based, accessible and affordable primary cancer prevention interventions.</li><li>• Encourages collaboration with citizens, health professionals, patients and policymakers in order to strengthen the relevance and uptake of project results.</li></ul> |
| Report 1<br>(2024 – Vienna, Austria)      | Y1 Update | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identification of common scientific domains and implementation challenges across the six sister projects.</li><li>• Early exchange on how different project designs, target populations and methodological approaches could contribute to a shared reflection on primary cancer prevention and implementation research.</li><li>• Initial positioning of the Working Group in support of future Cluster-level policy recommendations.</li></ul>                                                                                                                        |



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|                                                       | Steps towards Y2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue mapping common scientific and implementation domains across the projects.</li> <li>• Promote discussion on barriers affecting the adoption and implementation of primary cancer prevention interventions.</li> <li>• Support the progressive development of shared policy-oriented reflection across the Cluster.</li> <li>• Strengthen exchange between projects on evidence generation, implementation experience and possible common outputs.</li> </ul>                                                                                |
| <b>Report 2<br/>(2025 –<br/>Barcelona,<br/>Spain)</b> | Y2 Update        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress towards a more structured policy-oriented exercise across the Cluster.</li> <li>• Development of an updated policy brief focusing on challenges and opportunities emerging at community, national and EU level.</li> <li>• Comparative mapping of cross-cutting scientific domains across the sister projects.</li> <li>• Identification of points of alignment, complementarities and possible areas for future collaboration.</li> <li>• Consolidation of policy discussion as one of the core shared outputs of the Cluster.</li> </ul> |
|                                                       | Steps towards Y3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update the Cluster policy recommendations on the basis of project progress and implementation experience.</li> <li>• Collect further evidence on common barriers and opportunities emerging across projects.</li> <li>• Strengthen the comparative reflection across projects in order to move from project-specific insights towards more shared policy messages.</li> <li>• Use the next annual meeting as an opportunity to refine the Working Group's contribution to Cluster-level deliverables.</li> </ul>                                    |



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| <b>Report 3<br/>(2026) –<br/>Online</b> | Y3 Update        | <p>At the third Cluster meeting, the Research and Innovation Working Group recalled its objective of supporting the development and uptake of evidence-based, accessible and affordable primary cancer prevention interventions, while also addressing barriers to implementation through collaboration with citizens, health professionals, patients, researchers and policymakers. The session introduced the updated work on policy recommendations and highlighted the progress made since the second Cluster meeting.</p> <p>The discussion emphasised the value of mapping cross-cutting scientific and implementation domains across the sister projects in order to strengthen alignment, interaction and future collaboration. The Working Group presented the updated policy recommendation process as a comparative exercise based on common challenges and opportunities identified at community, national and EU level. A shared template had been circulated among the projects to collect updated contributions and support the drafting of the next deliverable.</p> <p>Given the short time elapsed since the previous annual meeting in Barcelona, the Working Group noted that projects were at different stages of maturity in terms of policy outputs. In this context, particular relevance was given to the experience of CO-CAPTAIN, whose final project phase was expected to provide especially valuable evidence and recommendations for the next Cluster-level deliverable. The session also served as a direct introduction to the following plenary and policy recommendations discussion.</p> |
|                                         | Steps towards Y4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue populating the shared comparison tables in order to consolidate updated project contributions.</li> <li>• Integrate final evidence emerging from projects, particularly CO-CAPTAIN, into the updated Cluster policy recommendations deliverable.</li> <li>• Compare common barriers and opportunities across projects in order to refine stronger shared policy messages.</li> <li>• Support the drafting, revision and finalisation of the updated policy recommendations in the weeks following the third Cluster meeting.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

**Main conclusions**

Across the three reporting moments, the R&I Working Group has evolved from an initial mapping and coordination function towards a more mature role centred on comparative policy-oriented reflection. By the third Cluster meeting, the group had clearly positioned itself as a key driver of the Cluster's common policy work, helping to translate diverse implementation experiences into shared recommendations and future-oriented strategic messages.



## 4.2 DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN

| Data Management Plan (CPW leading) |                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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| Report 1 (2024 – Vienna, Austria)  | Presentation     | <p>Role of CPW:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leads coordination of Data Management in the cluster</li> <li>Organizes Working Groups (WG) meetings</li> <li>Design collaborative strategies</li> <li>Act as a consultation point for partner projects in specific cluster projects' data management issues (technical and legal requirements on data management, how to comply with FAIR principles, definition/description of variables and, standard data format and vocabularies).</li> <li>Questions and requests: <a href="mailto:cpw.dmp@almahealthdb.it">cpw.dmp@almahealthdb.it</a></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                                    | Y1 Update        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identification of differences and similarities in data management strategies across projects</li> <li>Optimization of data comparability and interoperability, share and discussed with Principal investigators (PI) in cluster meetings</li> <li>Work on common issues</li> <li>Identification of collaboration points, such as the creation of a community in a trusted repository for data sharing, potential overlaps in data variables across projects, options of standardizing information.</li> <li>Common DMP Chapter was submitted, although it is a living document that may be adapted during the course of the cluster</li> <li>CPW has proposed Zenodo as a data repository platform for cluster community – Pending to be approved by the rest of projects</li> </ul> |
|                                    | Steps towards Y2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Webinar on FAIR principles</li> <li>tbc: To catalogue the possible anonymous and /or anonymizable sources from now until the end of the project</li> <li>tbc: To identify overlaps with the sets of variables collected within the projects (each project starting with CPW will release their description of datasets)</li> <li>tbc: To catalogue the current hypotheses regarding the standardization of datasets and related metadata (CPW plans to adopt OMOP standard)</li> <li>tbc: To standardize the descriptions of datasets to be published on the common repository</li> <li>Other actions may be proposed by the other members of the cluster.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                |



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| Report 2 (2025 – Barcelona, Spain) | Y2 Update        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DMP leader held a webinar on data management concepts and procedures and shared a spreadsheet template to collect information on each project research variables</li> <li>DMP leaders have faced challenges harmonizing datasets due to high heterogeneity among the six projects, making it difficult to identify meaningful overlapping variables for combined analysis</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|                                    | Steps towards Y3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposal to publish a comprehensive codebook by January 2026 cataloging all variables collected across projects with standardized descriptions and linked concepts to clarify meanings for future researchers. The codebook will be evaluated for publication in public repositories (e.g., Zenodo).</li> <li>Evaluate the opportunity of enriching the codebook with standard terminologies (e.g., SNOMED, ICD-10).</li> <li>Planned series of one-on-one meetings with projects to clarify specific metric definitions and implementation outcomes to tailor support and improve data standardization efforts.</li> <li>The team recognized the opportunity to incorporate co-creation processes as data sources, enriching qualitative insights for publications.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Report 3 (2026) – Online           | Y3 Update        | <p>During the third Cluster meeting, the Data Management Plan Working Group reported continued progress towards a common strategy for data management across the six sister projects. Building on the difficulties identified in Barcelona, the group confirmed that the most feasible approach was not the direct identification of overlapping variables across projects, but the development of project-specific codebooks documenting variables, metadata and data structures in a more transparent and standardised way.</p> <p>To support this process, CPW developed and circulated a common codebook template structured around project-level metadata and detailed variable lists. A further workshop was organised to present selected standardised vocabularies and provide practical guidance on how to complete the templates. In parallel, bilateral one-to-one meetings were held with the sister projects to better understand project-specific data characteristics and needs. At the time of the meeting, first draft codebooks had already been received from PREVENT, PIECES and CO-CAPTAIN, while work was still ongoing for ONCODIR, 4P-CAN and CPW itself.</p> <p>The group also discussed the possibility of defining a common strategy for submitting new terms to standard vocabularies such as LOINC and SNOMED where project-specific variables are not yet represented. During the discussion, HaDEA suggested exploring</p> |



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|                         |                  | possible links with broader European initiatives such as UNCAN.eu and CANDEL, in order to connect the Cluster's work with wider Mission-level data infrastructures and interoperability efforts.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|                         | Steps towards Y4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalize the completion of all six project codebooks.</li> <li>• Agree on the Zenodo publication profile and submit the codebooks.</li> <li>• Continue strengthening the use of selected standard vocabularies and metadata approaches.</li> <li>• Explore alignment with broader European cancer data initiatives and infrastructures.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Main conclusions</b> |                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Working Group has progressively refined its strategy from a broad harmonisation effort to a more realistic and operational approach centred on project-specific codebooks.</li> <li>• This approach reflects the diversity of the Cluster while improving transparency, structure and future comparability of data-related outputs.</li> <li>• The next priority is to complete and publish the codebooks and strengthen links with wider European data infrastructures.</li> </ul> |



## 4.3 ADDRESSING INEQUALITIES

| Addressing Inequalities (CO-CAPTAIN leading) |                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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| Objectives                                   |                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detect and analyse health inequalities in cluster projects</li> <li>• Develop strategies to jointly address identified inequalities within the cluster</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Report 1<br>(2024 – Vienna, Austria)         | Y1 Update        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Webinar reviewing the concept of inequalities in health care and specifically in Cancer prevention and treatment</li> <li>• Cluster projects have been working on their Project Positionality Matrix, and their team's positionality to map potential issues that may influence interpretation of project results and identify possible improvement measures (work in progress) (4PCAN is pending to submit its matrix. Deadline: 31/10/2024)</li> <li>• Based on Positionality Matrix received, an early set of recommendations has been prepared in order to minimise negative effects of positionality, maximise inclusion and participation of vulnerable population, and enhance the influence on policy makers</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                                              | Steps towards Y2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue working on the Positionality Matrix</li> <li>• Further analysis of Matrix and elaboration of a Report to share ideas on what can be done till the next cluster meeting</li> <li>• Implementation of changes based on recommendation</li> <li>• Analysis of the early results of the cluster</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Report 2<br>(2025 – Barcelona, Spain)        | Y2 Update        | <p>As part of the ongoing work of the <b>Working Group on Health Inequalities</b> of the <i>Prevention &amp; Early Detection Cluster</i>, two key tools are being developed to reflect on how equity is being addressed in the cluster's projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Survey on Positional and Team Composition.</b> This is an updated version of the reflexivity tool used last year. It invites each project to reflect on the current composition of their teams (e.g., gender, disciplines, lived experience), with the aim of promoting transparency and critical reflection during implementation.</li> <li>• <b>Draft Analytical Matrix for Equity.</b> This working document analyzes how equity is being incorporated into the implementation phase. A first version of the matrix has been developed based on presentations, meetings, and shared materials, including a complete example for CO-CAPTAIN. The collaboration of the other projects is required to complete and validate the data.</li> </ul> |



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|                          |                  | Both tools were presented and discussed at the cluster's second annual meeting, with the aim of gathering input and reinforcing their usefulness as instruments for analysis, learning, and formulating future recommendations.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|                          | Steps towards Y3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All projects will complete the <b>Positionality and Team Composition Survey</b> to update information on team diversity and structure.</li> <li>• Each project will review and update their section in the <b>Draft Analytical Equity Matrix</b> to ensure data accuracy and completeness.</li> <li>• A <b>common position paper</b> will be co-developed by the six projects, using the matrix as a basis to reflect on how equity is addressed in implementation.</li> <li>• Work will begin on the <b>Interim Report on Inequalities Recommendations</b>, a joint deliverable due in <b>May 2026</b>, summarising shared lessons and concrete policy proposals.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Report 3 (2026) – Online | Y3 Update        | <p>During the third Cluster meeting, the Working Group on Inequalities reported progress on several activities carried out since the previous annual meetings, including a needs assessment, a webinar on health inequalities and continuing exchanges across the Cluster. A joint paper, developed in collaboration with CPW, was presented as one of the main ongoing outputs of the group. This paper brings together evidence collected across the projects to analyse how inequalities emerge during implementation and how different adaptations can help address them in practice.</p> <p>The Working Group explained that the analysis focuses on which populations are reached, what barriers affect participation, what forms of adaptation have been introduced by projects, and what lessons can be drawn collectively. The discussion highlighted that inequalities often become more visible during implementation than at design stage, and that projects have responded in different ways, including through tailored communication strategies and community engagement approaches. At the same time, the group noted that projects vary in the extent to which such adaptations are monitored and documented in a systematic way.</p> <p>The group also reminded partners of the need to complete and return the requested inputs for the joint paper and related activities, particularly in view of the end of the CO-CAPTAIN project in May 2026. The current work is expected to feed into an interim report on inequalities, which will summarise Cluster-level</p> |



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|                         |                  | actions, project contributions, and recommendations for policy and practice.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|                         | Steps towards Y4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete the collection of project inputs for the joint paper and interim report.</li> <li>• Finalise the comparative analysis of how inequalities are addressed across the six Cluster projects.</li> <li>• Submit the interim report on inequalities, including policy and practice recommendations.</li> <li>• Use the results to support more structured and operational reflection on equity within the Cluster.</li> </ul>                                                 |
| <b>Main conclusions</b> |                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Working Group has progressively moved from conceptual reflection on inequalities towards a more practical and comparative analysis of how equity issues emerge during implementation.</li> <li>• Its current work is helping the Cluster understand common patterns, gaps and adaptation strategies across projects.</li> <li>• The outputs under development are expected to strengthen the policy and practice relevance of the Cluster's work on inequalities.</li> </ul> |

## 4.4 CITIZEN ENGAGAMENT

| Citizen Engagement (4P-CAN leading) |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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| <b>Objectives</b>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mapping Best Practices:</b> Identify and analyse successful <b>citizen engagement strategies in cancer primary prevention</b> from across the Cluster's projects</li> <li>• <b>Co-Creation of a Citizen Engagement Framework:</b> Collaborate to co-create a comprehensive <b>framework for citizen engagement</b> tailored to cancer primary prevention following the EC Code of Practice on Citizens engagement for knowledge valorisation</li> <li>• <b>Enhancing Community Participation:</b> Strengthen citizens engagement in Cluster projects by applying the co-created framework, ensuring citizens play an active role in <b>co-designing interventions</b> that reflect their needs and contribute to sustainable cancer primary prevention efforts.</li> </ul> |



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| <b>Report 1<br/>(2024 –<br/>Vienna,<br/>Austria)</b> | Y1 Update        | <p>As part of our <b>Year 2 plan</b>, and building upon the webinar organized by 4P-CAN on <b>September 3rd</b> and the session during the Cluster meeting in Vienna on <b>September 23rd</b>, the next step will be the co-creation of a <b>Citizen Engagement Framework</b> aligned with the <b>EC Code of Practice on Citizen Engagement for Knowledge Valorisation</b>.</p> <p><b>Some of the criteria that the Citizens Engagement Framework will take into account include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Citizen Engagement Strategy:</b> Presence of a clear strategy and action plan for engaging citizens in knowledge valorization.</li> <li>• <b>Implementation Methods:</b> Use of appropriate participatory methods such as living labs, co-creation workshops, public consultations, or interactive digital platforms.</li> <li>• <b>Trans-disciplinarity and Collaboration:</b> Degree of collaboration across different sectors and domains, involving citizens, researchers, healthcare professionals, and decision-makers.</li> <li>• <b>Social Inclusion and Diversity:</b> Ensuring participation of diverse and vulnerable groups, promoting gender equality, and addressing barriers to engagement.</li> <li>• <b>Recognition and Incentives:</b> Mechanisms to acknowledge and reward citizen contributions, such as awards, certifications, or other recognition schemes.</li> <li>• <b>Evaluation and Impact:</b> Implementation of an evaluation framework with clear indicators and metrics to assess the effectiveness of engagement processes and their impact on cancer primary prevention.</li> </ul> |
|                                                      | Steps towards Y2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Use of Digital Technologies:</b> Integration of human-centric and sustainable digital solutions to facilitate citizen engagement and promote inclusivity.</li> <li>• <b>Sustainability and Scalability:</b> Potential for replication and scaling of engagement actions in other contexts or regions, supported by toolkits and best practices.</li> </ul> <p>Based on these criteria and the direct input from the projects within the Cluster, we will <b>co-create the Framework for Citizen Engagement in cancer primary prevention</b>. This framework will guide future initiatives, ensuring a unified, effective, and sustainable approach across all Cluster projects. By aligning with the European Commission's <b>Code of Practice on Citizen Engagement for Knowledge Valorisation</b>, we ensure that our strategies adhere to European best practices and address the real needs of citizens.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |



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| <b>Report 2<br/>(2025 –<br/>Barcelona,<br/>Spain)</b> | Y2 Update        | <p>During the cluster meeting in Barcelona, representatives from each project shared the citizen engagement activities they had carried out as part of their project and the activities that will be carried out in the following years.</p> <p>This allowed us to gather the final piece of input we needed to complete the Citizen Engagement Framework.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                                       | Steps towards Y3 | <p>In the following period we will work on operationalizing the Citizen Engagement Framework into two scientific articles and one policy paper.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Report 3<br/>(2026) –<br/>Online</b>               | Y3 Update        | <p>During the third Cluster meeting, the Working Group on Citizen Engagement reported progress on several outputs aimed at analysing how citizen engagement has been implemented across Cluster projects. These included the continued refinement of the document on citizen engagement as a driver of knowledge valorisation in cancer prevention and early detection, as well as scientific work on equity dimensions and on the measurement of engagement across projects. The group explained that these outputs are intended to provide a more systematic basis for comparing participatory approaches within the Cluster.</p> <p>Among the main findings presented during the meeting, the Working Group highlighted that citizen engagement across the Cluster has so far focused mainly on informing and consulting, while stronger forms of collaboration and empowerment remain important objectives for the future. Community-based approaches and Living Labs were identified as particularly effective in real-world implementation settings, while time, trust-building and sustained support were recognised as essential conditions for meaningful engagement. The group also noted that one-size-fits-all engagement approaches risk producing unequal outcomes, whereas more context-adapted and community-sensitive approaches are better suited to reaching underserved groups and supporting long-term participation.</p> <p>The Working Group also signalled its intention to continue turning these comparative findings into joint outputs, including possible scientific publications and broader dissemination opportunities.</p> |



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|                         | Steps towards Y4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relaunch the internal survey to gather updated information on the evolution of citizen engagement across projects.</li> <li>• Finalise and submit the scientific articles currently under development.</li> <li>• Develop further outputs based on updated comparative findings across the Cluster.</li> <li>• Explore the submission of a joint session on citizen engagement to the European Public Health Conference 2026.</li> </ul>                                                                        |
| <b>Main conclusions</b> |                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Working Group has built a strong comparative basis for understanding how participatory approaches are being developed across the Cluster.</li> <li>• Its findings confirm both the progress made and the need to move towards deeper, more durable and more empowering forms of engagement.</li> <li>• The outputs under development are helping position citizen engagement not only as a project activity, but as a strategic dimension of knowledge valorisation and implementation practice.</li> </ul> |

## 4.5 COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION

| Communication and Dissemination (PIECES leading) |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| <b>Objectives</b>                                |           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing awareness about the cluster's scope, initiatives and expected impacts</li> <li>• Help individual projects spread their activities and results</li> <li>• Influence key stakeholders, especially policymakers</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Report 1 (2024)<br/>– Vienna,<br/>Austria</b> | Y1 Update | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Target groups identified</li> <li>• Co-creation of cluster logo, deliverable and presentation templates, cluster brochure</li> <li>• Establishment of the umbrella branding (graphic elements, colours and typography) and guidelines, so it can be implemented consistently by each cluster project in different formats.</li> <li>• As agreed by the working group members, no cluster-specific social media profile, website or newsletter has been created. Instead, cluster-related information will be disseminated through the existing communication</li> </ul> |



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|------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                    |                  | <p>channels of the individual projects in order to reach a wider audience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of cluster-related content for social media, newsletters and websites</li> <li>• A common hashtag has been created to help track all cluster-related social media posts: #CancerPreventionEU</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|                                    | Steps towards Y2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving and updating the initial tools and channels</li> <li>• Disseminating synergies and cross-cutting activities among cluster projects</li> <li>• Effective monitoring of the process through specific KPIs</li> <li>• Other communication channels are also planned for the future: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Joint scientific publications, prioritising open access</li> <li>○ Press releases</li> <li>○ Media appearances (articles in specialised journals and magazines, interviews)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Events (workshops, conferences, symposia...)</li> <li>• Addressing communication-related needs of the other cluster workgroups</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Report 2 (2025 – Barcelona, Spain) | Y2 Update        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Created a LinkedIn newsletter, produced monthly in collaboration with all the cluster projects.</li> <li>- Periodic meetings to check current progress and discuss ideas for the future.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                                    | Steps towards Y3 | <p><b>Cluster Newsletter:</b> Continue regular publication to maintain engagement and visibility.</p> <p><b>Cluster Video:</b> Propose production of a video by early 2026 highlighting collaborative outputs rather than individual projects. Estimated cost: €300–400 per project, with funding coordinated across the cluster.</p> <p><b>Webinars for Policymakers and Researchers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Policymaker Webinar (before Summer 2026): Focus on common policy recommendations and preliminary results. Leverage existing work to avoid duplication.</li> <li>- Researcher/Implementer Webinar (2027): Launch of a common repository, targeting researchers and implementers to encourage adoption and collaboration.</li> </ul> <p><b>Final Project Events:</b> Each project will aim to secure presentation slots at their final events to showcase collective outputs.</p> |



|                             |                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Report 3 (2026)<br>– Online |                  | <p>Communication strategies will be aligned across projects to maximize sustainability, policy influence, and overall impact.</p> <p><b>Communication of joint academic publications</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|                             | Y3 Update        | <p>During the third Cluster meeting, the Working Group on Communication and Dissemination presented the main achievements accomplished so far, including the development of Cluster templates and brochure, the launch of a LinkedIn account and a monthly newsletter, and the organisation of a round table in Barcelona. These activities were described as important building blocks in strengthening the Cluster's visibility and outreach.</p> <p>A specific update was provided on the performance of the Cluster's communication channels. The LinkedIn account and the monthly newsletter <i>Health in Action</i> were presented as the strongest dissemination tools currently in place, allowing both Cluster activities and project-level developments to be showcased in a regular and structured way. Between March 2025 and March 2026, the Cluster account gained 328 followers and reached nearly 5,000 LinkedIn members, with strongest engagement from professionals in programme and project management, research, healthcare, education and business development. At the time of the meeting, eight newsletter issues had been published, reaching 189 subscribers and generating more than 1,000 article views.</p> <p>Looking ahead, the Working Group outlined plans to develop a Cluster video, to explore a communication initiative linked to World Cancer Research Day in September, and to consider a webinar for researchers and implementers focused on a common repository. During the discussion, it was clarified that the purpose of the video is not to present each project individually, but to explain what the Cluster as a whole has achieved so far and what its next steps are. HaDEA also stressed the importance of communication products that clearly present the added value of the Cluster as a collective initiative.</p> |
|                             | Steps towards Y4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalise and produce the new Cluster video.</li> <li>• Continue the regular use of LinkedIn and the monthly newsletter as shared communication channels.</li> <li>• Assess the feasibility of a communication initiative linked to World Cancer Research Day.</li> <li>• Explore the organisation of a future webinar for researchers and implementers focused on a common repository.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |



#### Main conclusions

- The Working Group has developed a functioning and recognisable shared communication infrastructure for the Cluster.
- Communication activities are increasingly moving from set-up to more strategic use of common tools and formats.
- The next step is to further strengthen the visibility of the Cluster's collective achievements and the added value of collaboration across projects.

## 4.6 PLENARY DISCUSSION: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND NEXT STEPS

The plenary discussion served to connect the Working Groups updates with the following session on policy recommendations, while also highlighting the main **cross-cutting issues emerging across the Cluster**. The exchange reaffirmed the shared objective of supporting evidence-based, accessible and affordable primary cancer prevention interventions, and of addressing implementation barriers through collaboration with citizens, health professionals, patients, researchers and policymakers.

A key point raised during the discussion was the importance of **moving beyond project-specific perspectives and identifying common challenges and opportunities** across the Cluster. Although the projects differ in focus, scale and implementation setting, participants recognised several recurring issues that cut across activities at community, national and EU level. These common elements were seen as particularly relevant for strengthening the coherence of future Cluster-level outputs.

The plenary also **emphasised the value of mapping cross-cutting scientific and implementation domains across the sister projects**. This was considered useful both for clarifying complementarities among projects and for supporting stronger alignment, interaction and future collaboration within the Cluster. In this sense, the discussion confirmed the role of the Cluster as a shared space for comparison, mutual learning and policy-oriented reflection.

At the same time, the **discussion pointed to the need to continue translating project-level findings into more structured and common messages**. This was particularly relevant in view of the next policy deliverable, which will need to build on updated project contributions and further consolidate the common priorities identified during the meeting.

Overall, **the plenary discussion helped frame the next steps of the Cluster's work by bringing together the main themes emerging from the Working Groups** and by reinforcing the need for continued coordination in the preparation of shared policy recommendations and future Cluster outputs.



## 5 POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS DEVELOPMENT SESSION

The **Policy Recommendations Development Session** constituted one of the core moments of the third Cluster meeting. Building on the Working Groups (WGs) updates and the plenary discussion, the session focused on identifying lessons emerging from implementation practice across the Cluster and translating them into shared policy-oriented messages.

**Particular attention was given to the experience of CO-CAPTAIN**, the challenges and learnings generated by pilot-based implementation, and the opportunities for stronger cross-project collaboration to support the uptake and sustainability of project outcomes.

### 5.1 CO-CAPTAIN CONCLUSIONS AND KEY OUTCOMES

As an introductory contribution to the policy session, the **CO-CAPTAIN team** presented key conclusions and early outcomes from its final project phase. Given that CO-CAPTAIN is approaching the end of its implementation cycle, **its experience was considered especially valuable for informing the Cluster's policy reflection**. The presentation recalled that the project implemented a patient navigation model for primary cancer prevention among persons with mental health problems across four pilot countries: **Spain, Austria, Poland, and Greece**.

The team reported that more than **1,300 individuals** had been approached across the pilot sites and that **309 participants** had completed the baseline questionnaire and entered the intervention. Although the acceptance rate varied substantially across countries, **the project achieved a retention rate of almost 70%**, which was considered a positive result in light of the target population and the complexity of the intervention context.

From the quantitative side, the presentation highlighted that no major significant changes had yet been observed in some lifestyle-related variables, partly because the initial sample already showed relatively favourable profiles in certain respects. However, more encouraging findings were reported for several patient-reported outcomes. **In particular, the team noted significant improvements in health anxiety, depression and anxiety symptoms, as well as increased satisfaction with health**. These changes were seen as especially relevant because emotional well-being may act as an important enabler for later uptake of healthier behaviours and preventive actions.



The presentation also included **preliminary qualitative findings from interviews with patient navigators involved in implementation**. These interviews suggested that the intervention was generally perceived as well adapted to local settings, responsive to participant needs, and supported by adequate resources. A very high level of navigator satisfaction with the implementation process was also reported, although the team noted that more critical reflections from final-stage interviews would be important for drawing lessons and formulating final policy recommendations.

In addition, the CO-CAPTAIN team introduced **ongoing work under its policy-related work package (WP5)**, including a systematic review, a Delphi process to validate standards, and local co-design workshops aimed at producing policy recommendations and scale-up plans. These efforts were framed as a way to move from project-level evidence towards more actionable recommendations for integrated care, continuity of support, and the reduction of inequalities at the interface between mental health and cancer prevention services.

Overall, CO-CAPTAIN's contribution highlighted **the importance of vulnerable population-focused interventions, the value of combining quantitative and qualitative evidence, and the need to embed implementation lessons into broader policy and service design considerations**.

## 5.2 PILOT PROJECT EXAMPLES: CHALLENGES AND LEARNINGS

**The second part of the policy session focused on examples from different pilot projects and on the challenges and learnings emerging from their implementation experience.** This discussion showed that, despite major differences in topic, setting, and target groups, projects face a number of recurring obstacles when translating evidence into practice.

Among the main issues discussed were challenges related to stakeholder engagement, technical usability of tools and platforms, implementation capacity, data sharing, bureaucratic delays, health literacy, and the sustainability of interventions beyond the duration of project funding. Participants also reflected on the difficulty of adapting prevention tools and approaches to different local contexts while maintaining sufficient consistency and transferability across countries and sites.

Examples shared during the session illustrated these points from different perspectives.

- **CPW** emphasised the challenge of promoting prevention initiatives through occupational health settings, particularly in contexts characterised by low trust in



institutions, uneven acceptance of preventive services, and the need to tailor messages to different worker subgroups.

- **PIECES** stressed the complexity of implementation across diverse settings and countries, pointing to challenges such as variable local coordination roles, ethical and bureaucratic procedures, usability issues linked to the toolkit, and the need for greater implementation skills and technical support among local teams.
- **ONCODIR** highlighted barriers linked to different literacy levels, local adaptation needs, clinician workload, and the lack of common standards for some prevention-related content across countries.
- **4P-CAN** underlined difficulties in maintaining long-term citizen engagement, ensuring continuity beyond project funding, integrating cancer prevention with broader prevention agendas, and responding to different local realities in a flexible yet structured way.

At the same time, the **exchange also highlighted important learnings and opportunities**. Across projects, participants pointed to the value of trusted health professionals and community actors, more tailored and inclusive approaches to prevention, stronger implementation skills and competences, family- or community-based strategies, and improved collaboration with local authorities and policymakers. These elements were seen not only as practical solutions to implementation challenges, but also as foundations for more effective and equitable policy development.

Overall, this part of the discussion confirmed that pilot experiences are generating a rich body of implementation knowledge. While many of the challenges are context-specific, **the session demonstrated that several of them can be translated into broader policy lessons relevant across the Cluster**.

## 5.3 CROSS-PROJECT COLLABORATION TO SUPPORT UPTAKE OF OUTCOMES

**A further focus of the session was the role of cross-project collaboration in supporting the uptake, sustainability, and policy relevance of Cluster outcomes.** Participants agreed that one of the main added values of the Cluster lies precisely in its capacity to create a shared space where projects can compare implementation experiences, identify common patterns, and refine their outputs considering one another's work.

The discussion highlighted that this collaboration is particularly important when projects are dealing with issues such as implementation barriers, transferability, policy uptake and long-term sustainability. By exchanging tools, approaches and lessons learned, Cluster projects can avoid fragmentation and reinforce the value of their individual results. Cross-project collaboration was also seen to ensure that outputs do not remain isolated within single



projects but instead contribute to a broader and more coherent prevention agenda at the European level.

Participants further noted that collaboration should not be limited to internal Cluster exchanges, but should also extend to related initiatives, policy actors, and wider European platforms where appropriate. **In this sense, the session reinforced the importance of continuing to connect the Cluster's work with other projects, Joint Actions, Mission-level initiatives, and institutional actors able to support the uptake of results beyond the life of the projects themselves.**

**The exchange also confirmed the need to continue the collaborative drafting process for the next policy deliverable.** This requires the projects to keep populating the shared comparison tables and to refine common messages in a way that captures both diversity of experience and convergence of priorities. In this regard, cross-project work was presented not simply as a coordination exercise, but as an essential condition for producing stronger, more credible and more actionable policy recommendations.

## 5.4 PLENARY WRAP-UP AND PRIORITY MESSAGES

**In the final wrap-up of the session, participants agreed on a number of shared priorities to guide the next phase of the Cluster's policy work.**

These included:

- the need to strengthen community education and awareness.
- support cross-border collaboration.
- encourage infrastructure and financial incentives for telemedicine and prevention services.
- and establish national and EU-level repositories for cancer prevention programmes supported by more harmonised ethical and regulatory standards.
- the value of public-private cooperation was also acknowledged.

More broadly, the wrap-up confirmed **that future policy recommendations should reflect both the practical challenges encountered during implementation and the opportunities identified through project experience.** Across the discussion, priority messages concerned the importance of more tailored and inclusive prevention strategies, stronger implementation skills and competences, improved collaboration with policymakers and local authorities, and greater attention to long-term sustainability and uptake beyond project funding.



# COMMON POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Community education and awareness programmes
2. Fund and support cross-border collaboration
3. Encourage the development of infrastructure and financial incentives to support telemedicine, healthcare applications, and other essential services
4. Establish and maintain National and EU-level repositories for cancer prevention programmes
5. Harmonizing ethical and regulatory standards across EU member states
6. Encourage public-private partnerships in health



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*Figure 6. Common policy recommendations*

Extracted from the presentation on 31st March 2026

Participants also agreed on the immediate follow-up process for the policy deliverable. The shared comparison tables **will remain open until mid-April** in order to allow projects to further consolidate their contributions. A first draft of the updated policy recommendations is expected by the end of April, followed by a revision phase and finalisation before submission.

Overall, the plenary wrap-up confirmed that the Cluster is entering a more mature phase of policy-oriented work. The discussion demonstrated a growing capacity to move from project-specific implementation experiences towards common messages that are relevant not only for the Cluster itself, but also for wider European policy and prevention debates.

The conclusions drawn from those working sessions are presented in the new shared Deliverable on Common policy recommendations following the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cluster meeting Deliverable 7.11.

## 6 PLANNING SESSION FOR THE 4<sup>TH</sup> CLUSTER MEETING

The final part of the meeting was dedicated to forward planning for the fourth and final Cluster meeting, which is expected to take place in person. This session focused on possible dates and location, the main thematic priorities to be addressed, and the preliminary orientation of the agenda. The discussion also reflected the intention to make



the final meeting not only a coordination milestone, but also a strategic moment to consolidate lessons learned, strengthen policy impact, and support the uptake of Cluster outcomes beyond the lifetime of individual projects.

## 6.1 PROPOSED DATES AND LOCATION

Participants discussed the timing and location of the **fourth Cluster meeting**, confirming the intention to organise it in person in Athens, with the PREVENT team taking the lead in hosting and facilitating the event. During the discussion, it was clarified that the meeting is expected to take place at the **NKUA setting in Athens**, while maintaining the possibility of a hybrid format in order to facilitate broader participation from invited stakeholders and institutional representatives who may not be able to travel.

In terms of timing, the discussion confirmed that the preferred period remains **the end of September or the beginning of October 2026**. However, participants also noted a number of scheduling constraints linked to other events, project commitments, and the need to ensure the attendance of relevant institutional actors. Particular attention was given to the importance of avoiding overlap with a large Cancer Mission showcase event organised by DG RTD in Brussels at the end of September and the beginning of October, as well as with other Cluster-related activities and project-specific obligations. It was therefore agreed that a further internal coordination step would be needed in order to identify the most suitable date.

The discussion also highlighted that the timing of the meeting should remain compatible with the overall project calendar, in particular with the need to produce final deliverables and follow-up outputs before the end of the ONCODIR project. This reinforced the importance of maintaining the meeting within an early autumn window rather than postponing it too far into late 2026.



## Overview

**What:** 4th (and final) cluster meeting

**Where:** IN-PERSON at the NKUA campus in Athens, Greece

**When:** end of Sept./beginning Oct. 2026 - ideally to coincide with the WP6 Pilot study visit + workshop

**Who:** All cluster projects

**Meeting focus:** Policy and lessons learned



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*Figure 7. Overview of 4<sup>th</sup> Cluster meeting*

Extracted from the presentation on 31st March 2026

## 6.2 KEY AREAS OF FOCUS FOR THE 4<sup>TH</sup> MEETING

Participants agreed that the **fourth Cluster meeting should** go beyond a simple final reporting exercise and instead **focus on the longer-term policy and strategic value of the Cluster's work**. One of the main priorities identified was the **need to reflect collectively on the policy impact of the Cluster after several years of collaboration, with particular attention to how project-level results can be translated into wider lessons, recommendations, and uptake opportunities**.

**A second key area of focus concerned lessons learned from implementation practice across the Cluster**. The final meeting was seen as an opportunity to bring together the main experiences generated by the projects, identify recurring implementation barriers and enablers, and consolidate a more mature reflection on what has worked, what has proven more difficult, and what should be sustained or transferred in the future.

**Participants also stressed the importance of discussing how to ensure the uptake and sustainability of project outcomes beyond project funding**. In this regard, the final Cluster meeting was envisioned as a space to consider how tools, policy messages, implementation approaches, and collaborative outputs generated by the projects can continue to inform practice, policy and future initiatives at European, national and local level.



Finally, the discussion highlighted the value of involving external stakeholders in order to increase the relevance and visibility of the final meeting. This included possible participation from EU institutions, related projects and initiatives, policymakers, patient organisations, and potentially representatives from other Cancer Mission clusters or connected actions. The objective would be not only to present the Cluster's work, but also to position it more clearly within wider European policy and research debates.

## 6.3 PRELIMINARY AGENDA ORIENTATIONS

A draft agenda for the fourth Cluster meeting was presented as a basis for discussion. The orientation proposed was that of a full-day meeting structured around a limited number of strategic blocks rather than a long sequence of project updates. Among the initial ideas discussed were an opening session with invited institutional and external guests, a reflection on the policy impact of the Cluster after several years of collaboration, and a dedicated session on lessons learned and future ambitions.

### Draft Agenda for Discussion

| Time        | Topic                                                                                                       | Format                                                          | Facilitator | Duration |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------|
| 09:30-9:45  | Welcome & agenda overview, invited guest introductions                                                      | Plenary                                                         | PREVENT     | 15 min   |
| 09:45-10:25 | Our policy impact: (X years) of the P&ED Cluster                                                            | Interventions from each project lead (7 min each)               | CO-CAPTAIN  | 40 min   |
| 10:25-10:40 | COFFEE BREAK                                                                                                |                                                                 |             | 15 min   |
| 10:40-11:10 | Lessons learned. Cluster ambitions, outcomes and what we got right                                          | Moderated discussion with project leads                         |             | 30 min   |
| 11:10-12:00 | Working Groups final report out                                                                             | Interventions from each WG (5 minutes each) + 15 min discussion |             | 45 min   |
| 12:00-13:00 | Cluster policy alignment: the Prevention and Early Detection (behavioural change) Cluster (joining online)  | Presentation + facilitated discussion                           |             | 60 min   |
| 13:00-14:30 | LUNCH                                                                                                       |                                                                 |             | 90 min   |
| 14:30-14:50 | Introduction to afternoon sessions – Development of Joint recommendations linked to the Beating Cancer Plan | Plenary                                                         |             | 20 min   |
| 14:50-15:35 | Breakout sessions for small group work on the final policy output                                           | Breakout groups                                                 |             | 45 min   |
| 15:35-15:50 | COFFEE BREAK                                                                                                |                                                                 |             | 15 min   |
| 15:50-16:20 | Breakout group debrief, agreement on our policy recommendations and key messages                            |                                                                 |             | 30 min   |
| 16:20-16:30 | Final reflections, wrap up and close                                                                        |                                                                 |             | 10 min   |



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Figure 8. Draft agenda of 4<sup>th</sup> Cluster meeting

Extracted from the presentation on 31st March 2026

Participants also discussed the importance of keeping space in the agenda for final updates from the Working Groups, especially where these could contribute to a broader reflection on outcomes, transferability and future sustainability. In addition, the possibility of involving external speakers and representatives from related projects or institutions was seen as an important way to enrich the discussion and increase the visibility of the meeting.



A further element proposed for the agenda was **the development of a joint policy-oriented output to be shaped during the final meeting itself**. The idea discussed was to use the meeting not only to present accumulated results, but also to co-produce a concise final output capable of capturing the main lessons and strategic messages of the Cluster in a form suitable for wider circulation. This would help ensure that the fourth meeting produces not only discussion, but also a tangible and forward-looking result.

**Overall, the planning session confirmed that the fourth Cluster meeting is expected to function as both a closing milestone and a projection point towards future uptake and collaboration.** The next steps agreed included the circulation of a save-the-date, further internal work on logistics and agenda setting, and the identification of relevant guests and related initiatives to be invited.

## 7 CONCLUSIONS

**The third Prevention and Early Detection – Implementation Research Cluster Meeting confirmed the value of the Cluster as a shared space for coordination, exchange and policy-oriented reflection.**

The meeting provided an opportunity to situate the Cluster's work within the broader EU Cancer Mission framework, to explore synergies with the Joint Action PreventNCD, to review progress across the Working Groups, and to advance a common discussion on policy recommendations and future priorities.



### Wrap up and next steps

1. Follow up email by ONCODIR team with slides and link to session recording (by 1/4 – ONCODIR Team)
2. Policy Recommendations
  - Further update on the R&I Tables by Cluster projects reps (by mid April, 17/4 – Everyone)
  - Sharing first draft and Revision by Cluster projects reps (between end of April and mid may– Everyone)
  - Final Version by WG R&I Lead (by 3rd Week May – WG R&I Lead)
  - Each project to submit 3rd Policy Recommendations Shared deliverable (by end of May – each project)
3. Cluster Meeting Conclusions shared deliverable draft (by 17/4 - ONCODIR)
  - Revision by Cluster projects reps (by 23/4 - Everyone)
  - Final Version by ONCODIR (by 28/4 - WG R&I Lead)
  - Each project to submit 3rd Meeting Conclusions Shared deliverable (by 30/4 – Everyone)
4. Set date for 4th and Final meeting (by TBC – PREVENT Team)
  - Seek collaboration and possible date overlap with other Cluster suggested by Laura (Understanding Cluster?)
  - Invitations to DG RTD, SANTE, relevant cluster project AND other non-cluster related initiatives (e.g., ECHOS)
  - Connect with the Prevent team to share info/suggestions



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Figure 9. Wrap up and next steps

Extracted from the presentation on 31st March 2026



A recurring message across the different sessions was that the Cluster is now moving into a more mature phase of collaboration. Rather than focusing only on information sharing, the discussion showed a stronger orientation towards common outputs, comparative reflection, and more structured policy messages emerging from implementation practice. This was particularly visible in the discussions on inequalities, citizen engagement, data management, communication activities and policy recommendations, all of which increasingly rely on joint work and shared learning across projects.

The meeting also reinforced the importance of connecting Cluster activities with wider European initiatives and institutions. **Contributions from HaDEA and PreventNCD, as well as the discussion on future guests and external actors for the fourth Cluster meeting, highlighted the need to ensure that Cluster results are visible, transferable and linked to broader policy, research and implementation ecosystems.**

In terms of immediate follow-up, participants agreed to continue populating the shared tables supporting the next policy recommendations deliverable until mid-April. A first draft of the updated recommendations is expected by the end of April, followed by a revision phase and finalisation before submission. In parallel, work will continue on the meeting conclusions and on preparations for the fourth and final Cluster meeting, including the definition of date, agenda, logistics and invited stakeholders.

**Overall, the third Cluster meeting demonstrated that the Prevention and Early Detection (P&ED) – Implementation Research Cluster has developed into a meaningful platform for mutual learning and collective policy reflection.** The next months will be important to consolidate these efforts into final shared outputs and to ensure that the knowledge, tools and recommendations generated by the Cluster can support future uptake and collaboration beyond the lifetime of the individual projects.



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