

European Synergies on Cancer and NCD Prevention – Tackling health inequalities across the prevention spectrum

Date: 5 November 2025 · **Time:** 9h – 17h · **Location:** Thon Hotel, Brussels

Scope & purpose

Preventing noncommunicable diseases (NCDs)—such as cancer and cardiovascular diseases—is one of the greatest public health challenges facing Europe. NCDs account for over 80% of all deaths and disability in the EU. Yet, many of these conditions are preventable through effective public health strategies and policies. It is estimated that improved disease prevention could reduce the NCD burden by up to 70%.

However, the burden of NCDs is not shared equally. There are striking health inequalities across Europe, with disadvantaged groups facing significantly higher risks. Tackling these inequalities is essential. NCD prevention needs to consider health determinants both at personal and societal level, ranging from policies and regulations addressing structural drivers to strategies targeting individuals at risk. Furthermore, actors focusing on each level need to coordinate and collaborate to use complimentary skills and combine knowledge to tackle these societal problems in an equitable way.

The Joint Action PreventNCD works on synergies with four complementary EU4Health-funded action grants—ELISAH, FILTERED, PEACHD, and ShowUp4Health—to maximize publicly funded action and strengthen collective efforts in preventing cancer and other NCDs and reducing health inequalities across Europe. These initiatives support the goals of Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan and the Healthier Together – EU NCD Initiative.

This final synergy conference aims to bring together multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary stakeholders, in a forward-looking interactive format, to discuss and identify key successful synergy actions and recommendations for future prevention initiatives in Europe, aimed at reducing inequalities in the risk and burden of cancer and other NCDs.

Objectives

- **Reinforce the importance of centring equity in prevention**, underlining evidence of savings and benefits, and strategies to address health inequalities comprehensively—through both structural policy measures at the societal level, and targeted interventions at the community and individual levels.
- **Present the objectives and strategies employed in the five projects** with a focus on experiences from addressing health inequalities with different population groups.
- **Discuss practicalities and ways forward fostering collaboration between EU initiatives** to reduce health inequalities, showcase good & promising practice for synergistic collaboration and elucidate the role of key players – civil society, academia, care providers, public health authorities, political actors – needed for successful policy implementation.
- **Present effective interventions for a comprehensive approach** to NCD and cancer prevention including regulative population-based measures and interventions targeting specific groups, including at-risk populations.

Provisional Programme

| Time | Session title | Aim of the session |
|---------------|--|---|
| 8:30 | Registration opens | Registration, coffee and refreshments |
| 9:00 – 9:35 | <p>Welcome and setting the scene</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Welcome and Objectives of this event</i> (Linda Granlund) - <i>EC welcome</i> (HaDEA + SANTE, TBC) - <i>Setting the scene: Working across the spectrum of NCD preventive interventions to address inequities</i> (Knut-Inge Klepp, JA PreventNCD) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcoming and presenting the objectives - Demonstrate the need to work across the prevention spectrum to address inequities in health and the value of synergy collaboration - Present strategies employed by JA PreventNCD to address equity in health |
| 9:35 – 10:30 | <p>Plenary:</p> <p>Population-wide primary prevention to reduce health inequities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Overview health inequities in Europe, EuroHealthNet latest report</i> (TBC) - <i>The need to tackle structural drivers at a societal level to reduce social inequalities in NCD prevention</i> (Arnfinn Helleve, JA PreventNCD) - <i>From siloes to synergies - addressing equity through population-wide prevention measures</i> (Florence Berteletti, FILTERED) - <i>How to apply an equity lens in interventions- experiences from applying an equity tool to enhance equity impact in NCD prevention</i> (Raffaella Bucciardini, JA PreventNCD) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Highlight the need for population-wide prevention to reduce health inequities - Present experiences/examples from the projects (JA PreventNCD and FILTERED) - Demonstrate synergies between JA PreventNCD and FILTERED |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | COFFEE BREAK | |
| 11:00 – 12:00 | <p>Plenary:</p> <p>Taking an intersectional approach to inequalities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Expertise and experience: Intersectional focus and trans-cultural adaptation of multi-factor brief interventions to tackle NCDs among diverse groups living with disadvantage</i> (Fleur Braddick, PEACHD) - <i>Integrating intersectionality in NCD prevention in community-based setting-presenting preliminary findings from pilots applying the community health action methodology</i> (Helena Krizan, JA-PreventNCD WP6) - <i>Integrated social- and healthcare approach – the methodological and theoretical background of ShowUp4Health</i> (Péter Juhász, ShowUp4Health) - <i>Decrease health inequalities in vulnerable groups (i.e., Roma communities) focusing on NCD prevention in Central Eastern Europe</i> (Endre Pasztor, ShowUp4Health) - <i>practical solutions of ShowUp4Health</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Examine prevention efforts (barriers, facilitators and adaptation) at the intersection of inequalities (e.g., between gender and migrant status) - Intersectionality – looking at different dimensions of socio-economic, socio-demographic and cultural disadvantages; - Highlight synergies between JA-PreventNCD and PEACHD and SU4H |
| 12:30 – 13:30 | LUNCH BREAK | |

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| 13:30 – 15:00 | <p>Plenary session:</p> <p>Working across silos – Interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral work to provide comprehensive prevention action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Prevention strategies to reduce health inequalities related to lifestyle and environment among vulnerable populations</i> (Paolo Contiero, ELISAH) - <i>Integrated approach to tackling the main risk factors for NCDs- findings highlighting intersectoral collaboration</i> (FILTERED) - <i>Strengthen implementation of Health-in-All-Policies (HiAP) at the various levels of governance</i> <p><i>Open discussion with participants: - Working across disciplines and sectors to promote health, and empower persons from disadvantaged settings to act on risk factors for NCDs</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Highlight interdisciplinary and intersectional work. What can we learn from each other in different disciplines and areas. - Highlight synergies between JA-PreventNCD and ELISAH - Share key learnings from the projects |
| 15:00 – 15:30 | COFFEE BREAK | |
| 15:30 – 16:30 | <p>Plenary:</p> <p>Where do we go next? – Discussing future options and opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is needed to succeed? - Suggestions to policy-makers (2 mins from each project's perspective) <p>Messages -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key messages from the public speaking programme on how to address equity in health (JA Prevent-NCD Youth advisory group - YAG) <p>Reaction panel (4 Members, TBC: WHO, MEP / EuroHealthNet, Patient association, Citizen association, YAG/Youth Cancer Europe)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discuss what is needed to successfully create sustainable change in prevention of NCDs - Highlight the challenges ahead and possible solutions - Demonstrate the importance of key players (including civil society) - Receive feedback from key players for the feasibility of actions and recommendations from projects |
| 16:30 | Open discussion on a joint statement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discuss key messages for a joint statement/policy brief |
| 16:50 | Concluding remarks and closing the conference | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wrap up the session |
| 17:00 | CLOSE | |