

Review of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan

Exploring synergies between research projects and policy frameworks

EPF is part of the [‘Integrated iMMUnoprofiling of large adaptive CANcer patient cohorts’ \(IMMUCan\)](#) – an [Innovative Health Initiative \(IHI\)](#) project, which aims to determine more personalised therapeutic options for cancer patients thanks to a better understanding of the tumour microenvironment. The IMMUCan project recruited a total of 2600 patients.

In the run-up to the [Review of Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan \(EBCP\)](#), published in February 2025, this article explores the synergies between these two efforts, focusing on the complementarity between EBCP’s objectives and research projects like IMMUCan.

A policy-science continuum

The EBCP was launched on 3 February 2021, on the occasion of World Cancer Day. The plan stated that its launch reflected the ‘political commitment to leave no stone unturned to take action against cancer’ and that it will consider progress and challenges which emerged in the last decades¹.

The Review of the EBCP underlines the importance of precision medicine, data-driven care, and advanced technologies in transforming cancer control in Europe. This vision aligns with IMMUCan’s core goal: to decode the immune landscapes of cancer patients at scale and integrate this knowledge into clinical decision-making.

The EBCP’s third pillar, ensuring high standards in cancer care, highlights the need for personalised medicine, tailored to patients’ molecular and immunological profiles. IMMUCan’s large-scale cohort studies provides similar data to the ones the EBCP seeks to promote through initiatives like the “Cancer Diagnostic and Treatment for All” programme.

Research as a pillar of implementation

The EBCP Review acknowledges that research and innovation are central to delivering patient-centred cancer care. With the Horizon Europe programme and EU Cancer Mission earmarking over €2 billion for cancer-related projects, IMMUCan is emblematic of how these funds are being strategically deployed.

IMMUCan’s advanced immunoprofiling supports:

¹ [Review of Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan \(EBCP\)](#)

- Better stratification of patient cohorts for clinical trials.
- Identification of novel biomarkers for early diagnosis and treatment response.
- Enhanced understanding of immune evasion mechanisms, which are pivotal for immunotherapy.

These outcomes are essential to achieving EBCP's objectives of expanding personalised prevention and enabling equal access to innovative treatments across Europe.

Conclusion

The interplay between the EBCP and IMMUCan showcases how policy and science must evolve in tandem. The EBCP sets the stage for systemic change in cancer care; IMMUCan supplies the data, tools, and insight to make that vision a reality.