TBCT
Transforming Breast Cancer Together

Better breast cancer care for a better life: A call to action

While screening and treatments have improved, breast cancer remains a serious threat to people, families, and European society. It is critical to ensure that those affected by breast cancer can access safe and high-quality procedures throughout the care pathway, from early diagnosis through treatment, including end-of-life care and survivorship.

1/8 European women is **likely to develop breast cancer** throughout her lifetime

Breast cancer screening is key to

1. improving clinical prognosis
2. lowering mortality rates
3. reducing treatment costs

Still, its implementation remains inconsistent across Europe

KEY FACTS ABOUT BREAST CANCER:

Breast cancer remains **the most common cancer** in the EU

Access to innovative oncology medicines varies significantly among and within EU countries undermining patients' access to new, promising therapies

The COVID-19 pandemic had major consequences on cancer care in Europe causing **significant delays in breast cancer screening**

There is **no reliable data** about European patients living with metastatic cancer

TBCT welcomes Europe's Beating Cancer Plan (EBPC).
Here is how the Quality of Care for cancer patients, survivors, their families, and carers can be improved through policy:

KEY ASKS TO POLICYMAKERS

Screening

The new EU-supported cancer screening scheme aims at helping Member States to ensure that 90% of EU population who qualifies for breast cancer screening is offered screening by 2025. For this purpose, the European Institutions should:

- Build tools for better and more **uniform implementation of existing recommendations, with mechanisms for continuous/more frequent reviews** reflecting technological advances and structured involvement and consideration of patient perspectives
- Establish a **European platform** to monitor screening programs at national level

Early diagnosis

To improve diagnosis, the European Institutions should support Member States by:

- Investing in the development and uptake of **early detection tools, diagnostic and treatment solutions** by developing **EU-funded research initiatives and partnerships**
- Leveraging the European Health Data Space (EHDS) to create an **EU harmonised registry** to collect breast cancer data, including metastatic breast cancer data

Access to care

To improve access to care, the European Institutions should:

- Leverage the Mission on Cancer, the EU Innovation Agenda, and other **initiatives to promote research and deploy new technologies**, such as AI and machine learning, to improve screening, the quality of diagnosis and care and facilitate personalised medicine
- **Improve the efficiency of the European Medicines Agency's marketing authorisation process**, e.g., through streamlined, accelerated pathways for new technologies
- Accelerate the EBCP initiative 'Strengthen and integrate **telemedicine and remote monitoring in health and care systems'** and promote the virtual consultation model learning from the best practices of the European Reference Networks (ERNs)

Quality of care

To improve the quality of care, the European Institutions should:

- Support and monitor the **implementation of National Cancer Control Plans (NCCPs)**, with robust frameworks for sharing information, expertise, and best practices as well as measures for **effective and quality care and treatment**, including the use of innovative health technologies for both early and metastatic patients
- Encourage Member States to equip Comprehensive Cancer Centers (CCCs) with the means to address the specific needs of breast cancer patients through **experienced multidisciplinary clinical teams and leveraging the learnings from ERNs**
- **Support establishment of certified Breast Units Centres** for all European breast cancer patients to be treated, including metastatic breast cancer patients
- **Develop and fund educational programs to ensure advanced communication skills** for all HCPs caring for patients with metastatic cancer
- Support research to **assess the discrepancies and discrimination** that cancer survivors face, including those with metastatic cancer
- Promote **long-term care strategies in the NCCPs** which meet metastatic patients' needs beyond palliative care
- Implement **legislation that protects breast cancer patients' right to work and access to financial services**

ABOUT TBCT

'Transforming Breast Cancer Together' initiative (TBCT) is a multi-stakeholder platform established in November 2017. Our goal is to improve services for patients in an area of still high unmet needs and reduce the societal impact of breast cancer by elevating it as a health policy priority to improve its prevention, diagnosis, and care across Europe.

Twitter: @TBCTEU

OUR MEMBERS:

ABC GlobAlliance

epp group in the european parliament

European Cancer Patient Coalition

European School of Oncology

esso The European Society of Surgical Oncology

EUROPA DONNA The European Breast Cancer Coalition

EUSOMA European Society of Breast Cancer Specialists

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WORKING WITH CANCER