2026

Albania
Armenia
Austria
Belarus
Belgium
Bulgaria
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan
Latvia
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Moldova
Monaco
Netherlands
North Macedonia
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Russia
Serbia
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Tajikistan
Türkiye
Ukraine
United Kingdom
Uzbekistan

EUROPA DONNA
The European Breast Cancer Coalition
since 1994

Europa Donna – The European Breast Cancer Coalition is an independent non-profit organisation whose members are affiliated groups from countries throughout Europe. The Coalition works to raise awareness of breast cancer and to mobilise the support of European women in pressing for improved breast cancer education, appropriate screening, optimal treatment and increased funding for research.

Europa Donna has national groups in 47 member countries.

Europa Donna

The European Breast Cancer Coalition

ENSURING that breast cancer advocates are provided with up-to-date, accurate, evidence-based information and training through education and information programmes

Europa Donna Pan-European Conference

- Every two years
- Only conference dedicated primarily to breast cancer advocates and survivors
- Presentations by scientists and experts on topics of current interest to advocates
- Workshops and networking opportunities for advocates

Europa Donna Advocacy Training Course

- Every year
- Comprehensive course for new advocates covering
  - Basic science and epidemiology
  - Diagnosis and treatment
  - Screening and specialist breast units
  - Advocacy techniques
  - Communication skills training

European Breast Cancer Conference (EBCC)

- Every two years
- Europa Donna co-organises with EUSOMA and EORTC
- Unique multidisciplinary conference for patient advocates, physicians, scientists and researchers

Metastatic Breast Cancer Advocacy Online Conference

- Every year
- Training in MBC science and research, advocacy techniques, successful strategies, and best practice to improve services for those living with MBC
- Idea exchange and networking on key MBC issues

Europa Donna Advocacy Leader Conference

- Every two years
- Training in organisational management for Europa Donna country leaders
- Capacity building and fundraising techniques
- Training on topics of current concern: clinical trials, European health initiatives (ECIBC and Europe's Beating Cancer Plan), Health Technology Assessment, and more

Breast Health Day: 15 October

- National and international breast cancer prevention campaign
- Backed by research demonstrating the benefits of healthy lifestyles from a young age

Other Activities

- Forum roundtables
- Forum networking and support
- MBC awareness campaigns

New Tools and Projects to Empower Advocates

NEW

EmpowerED: The Breast Cancer Academy for Advocates

- A comprehensive knowledge hub created by and for advocates
- Advocates can build knowledge at their own pace and unlock their advocacy skills
- Advocates can learn from expert speakers
- **Find it at: empowered.europadonna.org/home**

ED Country Mapping Project: Inspiring, Networking, Dialoguing

- Europa Donna gathered insights on its national organisations' challenges and priorities through a comprehensive survey launched in 2024
- Throughout 2025, Europa Donna analysed data, organised meetings and site visits
- Goal for 2026 and beyond: identify common themes, create synergies, enhance cross-border collaborations and ultimately boost Europa Donna's advocacy work

ADVOCATING for improved breast services because breast cancer claims the lives of more European women than any other cancer and is the leading cause of cancer death in women worldwide, accounting for 1 in 6 cancer deaths.[1]

It is estimated that among women every year in Europe:

- 604,900 new breast cancer cases are diagnosed
- 160,000 deaths are due to breast cancer[1]

ADVOCATING for European policies, legislation and guidelines to guarantee best practice in breast cancer services

- Europa Donna played a very important role in obtaining the **European Parliament Written Declarations** "On the Fight Against Breast Cancer in the EU" of 2015 and 2010 and the **European Parliament Resolutions** on Breast Cancer of 2006 and 2003
- **Europa Donna is now advocating for the European Parliament to declare 15 October European Breast Health Day**
- Europa Donna's initiatives and achievements are described in an article published on **Oncopedia** which outlines the significant political impact and major milestones since the founding of the Coalition in 1994. Available at:
  https://www.oncopedia.wiki/contributions/europa-donna-and-the-political-impact-of-patient-advocacy-in-europe

The European Commission Initiative on Breast Cancer (ECIBC)

Europa Donna is an active participant in the Breast Cancer Working Group in this important EU initiative that has launched and implemented the following:

- European guidelines on breast cancer screening and diagnosis
- European quality assurance scheme for breast cancer services

Available at: https://cancer-screening-and-care.jrc.ec.europa.eu/en/ecibc

The Guidelines are regularly monitored and updated as new scientific evidence becomes available.

ENGAGING actively in high level research to improve breast cancer treatment and outcomes for patients via numerous research collaborations:

- **BIG Research Projects**
- **DEFINITIVE**
- **Path-for-young**
- **CARDIOCARE**
- **Cinderella**
- **OPTIMA**
- **IBeChange**
- **EBCTG**
- **IBCSG**
- **Many Other European Funded Breast Cancer Research Projects**

[1] *Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Laversanne M, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2024). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: https://gco.iarc.fr/today, accessed [11 February 2026].*

Advocacy Priorities for the Future:

- Contributing the patient perspective in the updates of the **European Breast Cancer Guidelines and Quality Assurance Scheme** of the European Commission Initiative on Breast Cancer **(ECIBC)**
- Disseminating and implementing **Europe's Beating Cancer Plan**
- Establishing population-based **mammography screening programmes** in all European countries and promoting effective participation
- Implementing **Breast Services** with **multidisciplinary teams** in all countries
- Improving access to best treatment and services for people living with **metastatic breast cancer**
- Establishing national and international harmonised **breast cancer registries**
- Furthering breast cancer **research** and personalised **treatment**
- **Prevention:** obtaining European Breast Health Day
- **Survivorship** and quality of life

10 Goals of Europa Donna

1. To promote the dissemination and exchange of factual, up-to-date information on breast cancer throughout Europe
2. To promote breast awareness and breast cancer prevention
3. To emphasise the need for appropriate screening, early detection and diagnosis
4. To campaign for the provision of, and access to, multidisciplinary and specialised treatment and care for all disease stages
5. To ensure provision of quality supportive care throughout and after treatment
6. To advocate appropriate training for health professionals
7. To acknowledge good practice and promote its development
8. To demand regular quality assessment of breast services
9. To ensure that all women understand fully any proposed treatment options, including entry into clinical trials and their right to a second opinion
10. To promote the advancement of breast cancer research

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www.europadonna.org

EmpowerED
https://empowered.europadonna.org/home

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ESO European School of Oncology

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