EUROPA DONNA
The European Breast Cancer Coalition

2020 Newsletter

Highlights from the
- 12th European Breast Cancer Conference Virtual
- EUROPA DONNA Webinar on Metastatic Breast Cancer Advocacy
- Webinars on breast cancer care during the COVID-19 pandemic

European advocacy initiatives

Annual advocacy activities in member countries
10
Goals

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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Introductory message from the President and the CEO

2020 has been a challenging year. It has been a year of profound loss to our organisation – our Founding President Gloria Freilich died in January and our Deputy CEO Karen Benn in September; both of these women devoted much or their lives and careers to EUROPA DONNA and to breast cancer advocacy. We shall be forever grateful to them for their contribution to forwarding our goals and our cause. And in March the COVID-19 pandemic hit, and lockdowns ensued across much of Europe on and off for most of the year.

Despite these setbacks we have pursued our goals and regenerated our organisation through virtual activities, Zoom meetings with national fora and virtual conferences with our Executive Board. In February, we attended the last in-person meeting in Brussels, where our former President and now European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Stella Kyriakides kicked off the Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan. We were pleased that the following day Stella also met with our Transforming Breast Cancer Together (TBCT) group to hear specifically about breast cancer issues in Europe and how these might be addressed in the new Plan.

In March, Marzia Zambon joined our staff as External Affairs Director and has been conducting Zoom meetings with national fora and virtual conferences with our Executive Board. In February, we attended the last in-person meeting in Brussels, where our former President and now European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Stella Kyriakides kicked off the Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan. We were pleased that the following day Stella also met with our Transforming Breast Cancer Together (TBCT) group to hear specifically about breast cancer issues in Europe and how these might be addressed in the new Plan.

In April, we held our first virtual Board meeting and Tanja Španič (Slovenia) was elected President of EUROPA DONNA. We would like to thank outgoing President Mona Elzayat for her contributions to the Coalition during her presidency and wish her all the best. We worked with European Breast Surgical Oncology (BRESO) Certification Curriculum on the launch of the breast surgeon curriculum and in the autumn our Communications Officer, Barbara Klein, represented us at a BRESO webinar discussing this important initiative. We continue our ongoing participation in research with virtual meetings on AURORA, MINDACT, OLYMPIA trials and the numerous HORIZON 2020 projects in which we are involved.

The first virtual European Breast Cancer Conference (EBCC12) took place on 2-3 October and ED Board members and staff participated in many sessions. Tanja served as co-chair of this international multidisciplinary conference in which ED is a full partner with European Society of Breast Cancer Specialists (EUSOMA) and the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC). ED held sessions on the European Commission Initiative on Breast Cancer (ECIBC) and metastatic breast cancer (MBC) advocacy. Board member Elizabeth Bergsten Nordström, who is representing ED on the EBCC Manifesto committee, provided the patient advocate input on the session devoted to the manifesto topic, “Why Don’t All European Breast Cancer Patients Get the Most Appropriate Care?” The ECIBC work should be completed this year and it will be important for ED to advocate for its implementation across Europe. During October, Tanja represented us on the 5th Breast Cancer in Young Women (BCYS) meeting held virtually and Marzia at the TBCT meeting with the Commissioner for Health and Food Safety as well as a webinar conducted by the European Alliance for Personalised Medicine.

At the end of October, 32 women participated in our first 2-day MBC Advocacy Webinar where they heard presentations from experts in various fields and attended workshops on specific topics; on the second day a special communications skills training programme developed for this meeting by our outside consulting team was held. It was an inspiring event, and all the participants appreciated this opportunity to network and learn.

During the pandemic it has been important to be flexible and to change our programming to meet the needs of our advocates across Europe; we want to ensure that we are listening to their concerns and are helping them meet the current challenges. In addition to virtual meetings, we have posted additional resources and COVID-19 related information on our website. In 2021, we will forge ahead with our online communication and also develop new materials to help advocates carry out their local initiatives during these unusual times. We know this virus has had and will continue to have an impact on breast cancer screening, diagnosis and treatment now and in the future. During the upcoming months we will continue monitoring this to provide updates on this situation and expert advice concerning future breast cancer initiatives to ensure high quality breast services across Europe.

Finally, we look forward to a return to normality and to meeting all of our advocates in person at our 15th Pan-European Conference in 2021.
EUROPA DONNA advocates joined the more than 2500 registered participants at the 12th European Breast Cancer Conference Virtual (EBCC12), held online on 2 and 3 October 2020. ED advocates chaired sessions and presented on topics ranging from European policy and breast care guidelines to COVID-19, issues faced by young women with breast cancer, follow-up and survivorship issues, and new developments in metastatic breast cancer (MBC). EUROPA DONNA is a co-organiser of EBCC in equal partnership with the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC) and the European Society of Breast Cancer Specialists (EUSOMA). It is the only breast cancer conference to include all the key collaborators in the breast cancer field – patient advocates, clinicians and scientists participate on an equal footing. This report is a summary of some of the sessions of particular importance to EUROPA DONNA.

At the opening session, EUROPA DONNA President and conference co-chair Tanja Španič presented the EBCC Arts and Humanities Prize for the Finnish film “Daily Living Although-Animation” by Sari Nyman. Throughout the rest of the session patients were the main focus. In her lecture as recipient of the European Breast Cancer Science Award, Fatima Cardoso of Portugal called on advocates to make their voices heard. She cited the article by ED CEO Susan Knox, published in The Breast, on the European advocacy perspectives on specialist breast units and accreditation. As an important facet of patient education, she said that women need to know where to go to be treated and need to demand to be treated according to the EU guidelines. She encouraged advocates to use the ABC Global Charter to address the most urgent and actionable gaps in treatment and care of patients with MBC in their own countries. The keynote lecture by Amylou Duec of the USA focused on the essential role of patient-reported outcomes in clinical trials, for clinical practice and for health technology assessments.

Remembering Karen Benn
Throughout the conference, a short presentation by EUROPA DONNA CEO Susan Knox commemorated the life and advocacy work of ED Deputy CEO, Karen Benn, who died of MBC on 4 September 2020. Many other presenters also paid tribute to Karen and her more than 18 years dedicated to breast cancer advocacy.

EBCC12 Manifesto: Why Don’t All European Breast Cancer Patients Get the Most Appropriate Care?
The EBCC Manifesto session focused on identifying areas where reimbursement rules could be modified to improve distribution of resources and offer best level care to women with breast cancer. Some examples of discordance between reimbursement rules and clinical practice include:

- Imaging services (eg, access to tomosynthesis, MRI-guided biopsy)
- Molecular biology testing (eg, prognostic testing and genetic mutation testing)
- Surgery (eg, reconstruction and risk-reducing procedures)
- Radiation (eg, moderate hypofractionated schedules)
- Medication (eg, access to ambulatory, oral chemotherapy options, biosimilars, and essential inexpensive medicines)

It was noted that it is necessary to educate patients on what to demand and to involve them directly in seeking to change these reimbursement rules. As part of the multidisciplinary panel, ED Executive Board member Elizabeth Bergsten Nordström encouraged women to learn how healthcare and treatments are reimbursed in their country, to be familiar with evidence-based guidelines and demand to be treated accordingly.

For more on the EBCC12 Manifesto → https://conferences.eortc.org/ebcc12
Implementing the European Commission Initiative on Breast Cancer

A special EUROPA DONNA session was dedicated to implementing the European Commission Initiative on Breast Cancer (ECIBC), which has created EU guidelines for breast cancer screening and diagnosis and is finalising its quality assurance scheme (QAS) for the entire continuum of breast services. ED CEO Susan Knox chaired the session, which brought together representatives of the European Commission, the Guidelines Development Group (GDG), and the QAS Development Group. Susan stressed the importance of this initiative for breast cancer advocacy going forward.

Key points from the presentations:

- The ECIBC website has 3 main sections: 1) the evidence-based European guidelines for screening and diagnosis, including explanations of the recommendations for patients, 2) a catalogue of more than 190 breast cancer treatment guidelines from around the world, 3) information on the QAS.

- The GDG developed the guidelines using a rigorous methodology; they are subdivided into sections for screening, diagnosis, and training of staff. Implementation of the guidelines so far has begun or is being considered in Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Italy, Norway, Slovakia, Chile, Bahrain and Tunisia.

- The QAS Development Group is creating a voluntary quality assurance scheme for breast cancer services and has collected more than 80 indicators or requirements covering general aspects, screening, diagnosis, pathology, imaging, training of professionals, treatment, rehabilitation, follow-up, and palliative care. Next steps involve imminently publishing a manual and other support tools for breast cancer services. The QAS will then undergo testing, receive feedback from users before feasibility testing, and launching of pilot breast care centres. The aim is that with certified centres, women will be able to benefit from the application of all of the essential requirements.

For more on the ECIBC
See https://healthcare-quality.jrc.ec.europa.eu

Breast Cancer and COVID-19

ED External Affairs Director Marzia Zambon co-chaired a session on managing breast cancer during the COVID-19 pandemic, where algorithms and guidelines for delaying treatment were presented. Here are some of the main findings discussed during the conference:

- In a study in The Netherlands, suspension of screening programmes from March to June 2020 was associated with a decrease in the number of women diagnosed with breast cancer.

- Another model-based study of the Dutch breast cancer screening programme found that increasing capacity to achieve a full catch-up predicted better outcomes than delaying screening.

- Another study in The Netherlands showed that, among women with breast cancer during the pandemic, 48% felt lonely and 27% were worried about the effect on their aftercare.

- An algorithm to identify post-menopausal women with early luminal breast cancer in whom neoadjuvant endocrine therapy can be used in order to delay surgery, after a full risk-benefit analysis.

- Telemedicine consultation should be used whenever feasible, multidisciplinary team working needs to be maintained, delays in surgical treatment should be reduced and based on evidence.

For more on COVID-19 and breast cancer see page 6.
Providing the Patients’ Perspective: Young Women and Survivorship

ED President Tanja Španić and former ED Executive Board member Olivia Pagani chaired and participated in a session on young women with breast cancer that focused on fertility, pregnancy and hormonal treatment. Of note are the 2020 ESO-ESMO international consensus guidelines for breast cancer in young women that require women to have onco-fertility counselling as soon as possible after diagnosis. In a session on survivorship and the latest practices in follow-up of patients, ED Communications Officer Barbara Klein shared her personal experience with hereditary breast cancer. Also discussed were digital tools to help patients monitor symptoms and side effects of therapy. There was a decrease in serious adverse events and reductions in doses of medication as a result of the use of specific mobile apps. The session also underlined the importance of lifestyle and physical activity in preventing recurrence.

Strategies for Women with Metastatic Breast Cancer

In a EUROPA DONNA session on MBC chaired by ED Executive Board Member Biljana Dodeva, Fatima Cardoso of Portugal said that, as in the case of the non-metastatic setting, MBC treatment needs to be tailored to patient preferences and characteristics, disease and tumour characteristics, and that high quality pathology is critical to this, as is defining patients’ priorities and treatment goals. Anne May of The Netherlands presented the ongoing PREFERABLE EFFECT study that aims to translate to MBC findings that physical exercise during adjuvant chemotherapy for early breast cancer has beneficial effects on physical fitness, fatigue and other side effects of treatment. ED External Affairs Director Marzia Zambon presented ED’s advocacy activities in recent years, including advocacy training, conferences, and the 2018 survey on MBC and return to work. Rosanna D’Antona, President of ED Italy, described the ForteMente project in Italy to provide psychological support for women with MBC. It calls for the National Healthcare System to provide psycho-oncological support for breast cancer patients as only 25% are receiving it. In another session on MBC in the elderly, ED Executive Board Member Ellen Verschuur represented the patient perspective on the panel and emphasised considering quality of life in the care of any women with MBC.

For more on MBC advocacy see the report on page 5.
Staying Connected: EUROPADONNA Webinar on Metastatic Breast Cancer Advocacy  
30-31 October 2020

Insights on treatment and current research for MBC

Fatima Cardoso, Director of the Breast Unit in Champalimaud Clinical Center in Lisbon, Portugal and President of the ABC Global Alliance, gave two comprehensive presentations on research and treatment for MBC. She said that it is crucial for MBC management to be provided by a multidisciplinary team different from the early breast cancer team. This and other main recommendations are published in the ESO-ESMO ABC5 guidelines. At diagnosis, a biopsy should be performed and psychosocial care should be offered. Biological markers, especially hormone receptor and HER2 status, should be assessed at least once in the metastatic setting. These are key to determining treatment options. She described the classes of therapy available against the limited targets in MBC (ie, endocrine therapy, anti-HER2 therapy, BRCA deficiency), as well as sequential chemotherapy, and new delivery mechanisms. Knowing the treatment history in early breast cancer and advanced stages is important for choosing therapies to reduce treatment resistance. She said that more research is needed to identify new biomarkers for novel “smarter” treatments, but to be mindful that newer and/or resistance drugs are not always the most effective options. Research to overcome treatment resistance is a vital step towards transforming MBC into a chronic disease. She said that there is an enormous gap in registry data for MBC and advocates should fight for these data to be collected. She also called for reconsideration of trial endpoints in MBC, independent funding of research, and equal access to treatment between and within countries.

See https://mbc.europadonna.org/guidelines-on-mbc

Effects of physical exercise for treatment-related side effects

With a focus on survivorship, Dr Anne May of the Julius Center, University Medical Center Utrecht in The Netherlands described the benefits of physical exercise and the ongoing PREFERABLE trial in MBC. In early breast cancer, aerobic and/or resistance exercise was found to improve quality of life, and to decrease cancer- and treatment-related fatigue, anxiety and depression. Based on recent feasibility studies of an exercise programme with women with MBC, the PREFERABLE EFFECT randomised controlled trial is evaluating the effect of a structured and individualised 9-month exercise intervention in women with MBC on quality of life, fatigue, and other disease- and treatment-related effects. Recruitment began in January 2020 with some delays due to COVID-19 restrictions. EUROPA DONNA is a partner in PREFERABLE, an international collaborative project funded by the European Union within the Horizon 2020 programme.

See https://www.h2020preferable.eu

MBC ForteMente Project for psycho-oncological support

Rosanna D’Antona, President of EUROPA DONNA Italy, described the ForteMente advocacy programme undertaken in Italy with the aim of providing psycho-oncological support to patients in all specialist breast units in the country. A survey the organisation conducted on the needs of women with MBC showed that 98% of women with MBC and their caregivers believe that women should receive psychological support provided by qualified healthcare professionals, yet only 25% who seek such support find a psycho-oncologist in their health centre. Once equipped with these data, they presented them to national authorities. A new phase of the project is now assessing psychological support provided through a virtual platform, with results expected by early 2021.

Living and working with cancer

Isabelle Lebrocquy, Founder of oPuce in The Netherlands, described how she started this organisation after losing her job following her cancer treatment. An online survey she performed herself to gather missing data revealed that almost 25% of the more than 1000 respondents had lost their job after cancer. Access to affordable insurance was another issue. She took the cause to the Dutch parliament and the motion was unanimously signed. She has since established oPuce to create opportunities for cancer survivors in some large multinational companies. The organisation also created a talent connector app. Ms Lebrocquy said that the initiative could be rolled out across other countries.

EUROPA DONNA MBC Advocacy Resources
MBC subsite of EUROPA DONNA website containing:
- Findings of various ED MBC surveys
- Links to guidelines and ED publications
- MBC advocacy tool kit
And much more. See https://mbc.europadonna.org
Addressing the Challenges of Breast Cancer Care During the COVID-19 Pandemic

At the beginning of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic caught many of us and our health care services off guard. To provide support for EUROPA DONNA Fora and evaluate the situation for breast care services in Europe, ED Head Office held 4 separate webinars with national representatives in the spring. Many countries were in various degrees of lockdown, with oncological services delayed or reduced. Some continued with surgery, radio- and chemotherapy, but follow-up appointments were postponed or offered by telephone. Rehabilitation and lymphoedema therapy were offered by video in a few. In most countries, the screening programme was temporarily suspended. In those where it was not, participation was reduced. Many of the fora were busy providing information on breast cancer and COVID-19, primarily support services and counselling for women via telephone, videoconference or social media, as many women being treated were in isolation at home. Some fora ran hotlines, provided masks, food packages, or kept women connected virtually for webinars, yoga sessions and the like.

EUROPA DONNA’s External Affairs Director Marzia Zambon participated in a webinar on cancer care in times of COVID-19 that was organised by ED Georgia. She spoke about the Coalition’s role in the Transforming Breast Cancer Together initiative and ED’s contribution to the paper “Impact of COVID-19 on Breast Cancer Patients.” This set out seven key challenges in accessing appropriate treatment and care: reduced resources, delays in screening and diagnosis, delays in treatment, discontinuation of clinical trials, and three types of emotional distress, caused by uncertainty about treatment and follow-up, caused by fear of COVID-19, and caused by uncertainty for cancer survivors (eg, cancellation of appointments, work and financial issues).

Ms Zambon outlined the support that EUROPA DONNA offered its member fora via digital roundtable sessions, providing COVID-19-related information from reliable sources, encouraging the following of guidelines, and trying to ensure that its 2020 programme was minimally affected. The Coalition has been following and contributing to the EU response to the pandemic. The EU response has involved providing emergency support, a joint procurement agreement for medical equipment, ensuring high-quality virus testing, creating a European team of coronavirus experts, providing data and support through the European Centre for Prevention and Disease Control, and publishing updated information and guidelines.

Various guidelines on COVID-19 and breast cancer have been released:

- The European Commission Initiative on Breast Cancer (ECIBC) has an information corner on COVID-19 and breast cancer providing information and guidelines on the management of breast cancer screening and care during the COVID-19 pandemic. [See](https://healthcare-quality.jrc.ec.europa.eu/covid-19-information-corner)

- The European Society of Medical Oncology (ESMO) has published guidance for clinicians and has defined clinical situations that are high, medium and low priority for key settings: outpatient visits, diagnosis and imaging (eg, population screening is considered low priority), surgery, radiation, and medical treatment. [See](https://www.esmo.org/guidelines/cancer-patient-management-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/breast-cancer-in-the-covid-19-era)

- The European Cancer Patient Coalition has published guidelines covering risk of infection, protective measures, managing anxiety and stress, and other issues. It has also launched a survey “Mapping EU Member States’ response to the COVID-19 pandemic and cancer” to monitor the experience of cancer patients, cancer survivors or cancer carers from all parts of the EU. [See](https://ecpc.org/covid-19-information)
Making our Voices Heard

Contributing to Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan and the Transforming Breast Cancer Together Group

EUROPA DONNA has contributed to the European Commission’s “Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan”, which is expected to be published in early January 2021 and will propose actions to be made for four key pillars: prevention, early diagnosis/screening, treatment, and quality of life and survivorship. ED has provided feedback and the results of its member survey on the current state of breast services to Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Stella Kyriakides, who is a former ED President, and to members of the DG SANTE Cancer Team. ED also contributed to a submission made by the Transforming Breast Cancer Together (TBCT) group, whose mandate is to elevate breast cancer as a health policy priority. ED representatives participated in various meetings on this topic throughout the year. During the TBCT awareness event “Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan: Bridging the Gap in Breast Cancer Care” held on 15 October, ED External Affairs Director Marzia Zambon spoke about the state of breast services in European countries. The event aimed to outline the huge gaps in breast cancer care that still exist across EU countries. MEP Frances Fitzgerald chaired the event and Commissioner Kyriakides gave the keynote address. A report compiling the results of the ED survey is available on www.europadonna.org.

Launch of the European Code of Cancer Practice and the ECCO European Cancer Summit

A new European Code of Cancer Practice, launched on 23 September, establishes 10 key overarching rights that cancer patients should expect of their healthcare system. EUROPA DONNA Executive Board member Sema Erdem, who is also co-chair of the Patient Advisory Committee (PAC) of the European Cancer Organisation (ECCO), spoke about the right to information at the launch event. The Code is available in 20 languages. In November, Sema participated in the ECCO Cancer Summit as co-chair of the PAC, where she spoke about ED’s recent survey on the current state of breast cancer services in Europe. In May, Sema presented the patient’s perspective on quality breast cancer care during the ECCO Advancing Requirements for Quality Breast Cancer Care Virtual event. ED’s Marzia Zambon and Communications Officer Barbara Klein also participated in the virtual event.

Advocating for Standards in Breast Surgery

This year saw the publication of the European Breast Surgical Oncology Certification Curriculum (BRESO), and the launch of its website. Over an 18-month period leading up to the launch of the curriculum, ED CEO Susan Knox served as the patient advocate representative on the BRESO organisational/management structure working group. In September, ED’s Barbara Klein participated in a BRESO webinar to give the patient’s perspective on the need for certified breast surgeons. The webinar discussed in detail the curriculum and the pathway and requirements for certification in breast cancer surgery so that future breast surgeons can become certified and be recognised in any European country. ED has been advocating for European standards for breast surgery for many years to ensure that women receive high quality care which then results in better outcomes.

Webinars to Keep Connected

EUROPA DONNA has participated in the numerous webinars that have flourished in response to the pandemic. Two COVID-19 and cancer-related webinars were held in May. ED’s Marzia Zambon participated in one on cancer care in times of COVID-19 that was organised by ED Georgia. She spoke about ED’s role in the TBCT initiative and ED’s contribution to the paper “Impact of COVID-19 on Breast Cancer Patients.” Later that month, the European Commission held a webinar on cancer and COVID-19, featuring Commissioner Stella Kyriakides. ED’s Marzia Zambon and Daniela Pirisi, ED Events and Administration Officer, also participated. In October, the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC) and the Breast International Group (BIG) held a webinar to raise awareness about breast cancer and the importance of international academic research. ED Executive Board member Elizabeth Bergsten Nordström provided the patient’s perspective on the importance of giving patients the right information about risks of de-escalation of breast cancer treatments. Additionally, throughout the year ED has been holding Zoom meetings with its local groups.
For the 13th year running, EUROPA DONNA has held its Breast Health Day campaign, which is observed throughout most of the Coalition’s 47 member countries. The aim is to inform women of all ages that lifestyle factors play an important role in preventing breast cancer and its recurrence, as well as the importance of early detection. Here is a snapshot of some of this year’s activities.
Albania

Highlights of 2019

- For Breast Health Day (BHD), “Ride for Life”, a bicycle ride to raise awareness about breast cancer (BC)
- A meeting with patients, oncologists and psychologists to support women with BC
- A meeting with girls and their mothers to spread the message “Education begins with young girls”
- An awareness-raising campaign about BC for the employees of a multinational business services company
- An annual event, “Donate Hair, Give Hope”
- Publication of the newsletter

Activities in 2020

- A series of podcasts focusing on BC topics
- Providing information and raising awareness through social media (Facebook live and Instagram live) with medical staff, psychologists, patients, nutritionists and members
- A solidarity run, “Race for the Cure Albania”
- BHD
- Café Donna
- “Let’s Discuss”, a meeting with patients and members
- The annual event, “Donate Hair, Give Hope”

Armenia

Highlights of 2019

- In spring and autumn, 8 regional screening visits, 5 screening projects in the capital
- In June, a conference for doctors and later a patient forum, both entitled “Towards health – We Are Against Cancer”
- In July, an open-door awareness-raising project, “Ribbon Party”
- Launching a first patient book, “Tips for Preparing for Mammography and Screening”
- Participating in TV programmes, media meetings, fundraising activities

Activities in 2020

- In March, holding a fundraising concert, “You Are Not Alone”, to raise awareness
- In September, an international conference and a scientific conference, both entitled “Healthcare and Innovation”, and a patient forum “Towards Health”
- Holding outdoor and screening activities

Austria

Highlights of 2019

- Holding the 6th Austrian Breast Cancer Congress
- Hosting the 14th ED Pan-European Conference in Vienna
- “Du bist nicht allein” (You Are Not Alone) campaign
- An awareness campaign with flash mobs
- Café Donna, a monthly event
- Information packages and pillows for BC patients
- A brochure on metastatic BC (MBC)
- Social media work and advocacy

Activities in 2020

- From August on, Café Donna will be a virtual monthly event
- Virtual meetings and strategic planning
- A new website
- Presence on social media, including advocacy
- ED Austria Advocacy Training, postponed to November 2021
- A mother and child workshop has been postponed
In October, humanitarian bowling, the 20th Pink Ribbon
In September, ED Zagreb Pink Run
In April, participating in Patient Association Academy
In March, Daffodil Day
In February, provision of free psychological help for women
In February, conference on World Cancer Day
In January, a roundtable on the side effects of chemotherapy

**Highlights of 2019**
- Participating in the Pink Walk
- An activity, “Relais pour la Vie” (Relay for Life)
- A congress “Pink Monday” about resuming work after BC
- A social media campaign for BHD
- Attending the EU Parliament event for “Transforming Breast Cancer Together: The Next 5 Years to Reimagine the Future of Breast Cancer Care in the EU”
- Participating in the ED Pan-European Conference
- Speaking at the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC) conference, “What do I need to know? Quality of Life During and After BC”
- Present at a book-launch, “Breast Cancer: Global Quality Care”
- Publishing an article online, “Breast Cancer Screening: For Whom And How? What’s New?”
- Mailing the 2019 newsletter and updating social media

**Activities in 2020**
- In February, participating in a conference “Talk & Walk Pink 2020”
- In February, sponsoring the theatre play “What the luck?” about hereditary BC
- Pending due to COVID-19: Pink October and 20th Anniversary of ED Belgium

**Bulgaria**

**Highlights of 2019**
- In October, a public forum for journalists, “How do we talk about cancer?” for oncology experts, psychologists, social workers and patients. The forum overturned some outdated and harmful notions and attitudes concerning cancer.

**Activities in 2020**
- An online study involving 1800 patients sharing worries, fears and complications relating to COVID-19. Scientific organisations’ recommendations – World Health Organisation (WHO), American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) were shared with patients. The results of the study were shared with the medical community to stimulate the dialogue between doctors and patients.
- Developing a system of recommendations for cancer patients, in cooperation with the Bulgarian Oncological Scientific Society, through YouTube video appeals by key multidisciplinary specialists and the social media profiles of famous artists, musicians, journalists who support the scientific approach in understanding COVID-19.

**Croatia**

**Highlights of 2019**
- In January, a roundtable on the side effects of chemotherapy
- In February, conference on World Cancer Day
- In February, provision of free psychological help for women with BC in the ED Croatia office
- In March, Daffodil Day
- In April, participating in Patient Association Academy organised by a pharmaceutical company
- In September, ED Zagreb Pink Run
- In October, humanitarian bowling, the 20th Pink Ribbon Day, BHD and a conference for pregnant and breastfeeding women, and a conference and public health campaign “Pinkypromiss” (Pink Promise)

**Activities in 2020**
- In January, starting a genetic counselling programme for women at risk of BC
- In February, holding a conference for pregnant and breastfeeding women (the plan is to have 3 conferences in 3 cities in Croatia)
- In October, Pink Ribbon Day

**Cyprus**

**Highlights of 2019**
- Annual activities: conference participation, fundraising fashion show, “Bosom Friends” programme, psychological support, lectures, solidarity runs, co-organisation of a Cancer Day event, monitoring operation of the Nicosia General Hospital specialist breast unit (SBU), press conference announcing October activities, the Pink Silhouette walk, pink illumination of various landmarks, BHD activities
- Participation in steering committee of national screening programme
- Board membership in the Cyprus Patient’s Organisation representing Cyprus at the European Patient Forum (EPF)
- Post-surgery physiotherapy for patients
- A meeting with the National Organisation of Gynaecologists
- A lecture on osteoporosis
- Presenting a study on Cypriot women living with MBC at a conference funded by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)

**Activities in 2020**
- Annual activities: co-organisation of a Cancer Day event, a fundraising fashion show, lectures
- On-line services during lockdown: “Bosom Friends” programme, psychological support for patients and families, post-surgery physiotherapy (self-care tips) for patients
- Board members of Cyprus Patient’s Organisation representing Cyprus at the EPF
- BC awareness activities based on COVID-19 regulations

**Czech Republic**

**Highlights of 2019**
- Organising a break for young patients and their children to relax in the mountains
- Exhibition of the Breast Wall at ESMO conference in Barcelona
- A project, the Breast Wall in Visegrad 4 countries (Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic and Slovakia)
- The Reach to Recovery International Conference in Prague (about 250 people)
- Organising a one-week stay for MBC patients and their friends to relax in a spa resort
- For BHD, “We are Swimming the Breaststroke”
- The Alliance Annual Conference in Prague

**Activities in 2020**
- A week’s relaxing break for MBC patients and their friends
- Advocacy during COVID-19 situation
- For BHD, fighting against BC through “artivism” (artistic representation of MBC)
- Attending the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EBCC) Virtual
- Prevention – planting Sakura trees

**Denmark**

**Highlights of 2019**
- Establishing a new vision, “A world where mortality due to breast cancer is non-existent”
• Signing an extended collaboration agreement with a law firm to ensure that ED Denmark’s members may obtain advice and guidance regarding legislation on insurance and compensation
• Expanding the member portfolio to include healthy people with gene mutations
• Reviewing Danish screening guidelines for BC
• Contributing to a change in legislation regarding compensation rights for cancer patients. Injuries due to a delayed call to cancer screening, caused by resource shortages, are now considered eligible for compensation

Activities in 2020
• Updating news on ED Denmark’s website
• A membership campaign targeting people with gene mutations
• Helping to develop health care tools for joint decision-making

Estonia

Highlights of 2019
• In May, a BC social media campaign, “Pink Rules”
• Special MBC events and an airing of new video on MBC
• In August, an annual retreat for cancer patients
• Nationwide cancer patient group meetings
• In October, a national pink ribbon campaign
• Commitment to a new Cancer Control Plan event

Activities in 2020
• Holding development meetings regarding a National Cancer Control Plan
• In May, a campaign to raise awareness about breast health and cancer prevention
• A fundraising campaign to buy a 3D mammography machine for the mammography bus
• In August, a retreat for cancer patients
• In October, BHD events

Finland

Highlights of 2019
• Advocating for equal and sufficient treatment for lymphoedema
• Participating in the Finnish Oncology Nursing Society educational days
• Holding discussion groups for BC and MBC patients
• Art therapy and exercise courses to support rehabilitation after BC
• A seminar on BHD, “Together for Breast Health”

Activities in 2020
• A seminar and wellbeing events for BC patients to celebrate ED Finland’s 15-year anniversary
• Holding new virtual peer support/discussion groups and lectures on various topics, including sexuality, lymphoedema, hope and relationships
• Getting involved in cancer research programmes as a patient organisation
• Organising holiday weeks with peer support activities for families with BC or MBC

France

Highlights of 2019
• A Quality of Life Award for 2 major projects by regional organisations helping patients
• Setting up 5 regional days for MBC patients
• Implementing follow-up of the MBC plan with a coalition of other patient organisations
• Updating the brochure on hereditary BC and genetic risk, and the MBC brochure
• In October, launching an exhibition on BC from screening to support care
• In November, annual conference on cancer follow-up

Activities in 2020
• Due to COVID-19, remodelling activities to a virtual format: launching of a survey on the implications of confinement for the BC patient, launching of Café Donna by Skype, calling patients directly, launching an ED France mobile application
• Updating the brochure on hormonal treatment
• Annual conference on BC and patient experts in clinical trials and real-life studies

Georgia

Highlights of 2019
• Participation in the ED Advocacy Training Course, the ED Pan-European Conference, and the ED MBC conference
• A roundtable with members of parliament, governmental bodies, doctors, NGOs, mass media and BC patients
• For BHD, “The Pink Walk”
• A social media activity, the “Pink Ribbon Challenge”
• Attending the International Experience Exchange with Patient Organisations (IEEPO) conference in Rome
• Lectures by ED Georgia, the Caucasus Cancer Society H.O.P.E. and the Georgian Young Oncologists
• Opening of the “Pink Space”, a psychosocial rehabilitation centre for cancer patients

Activities in 2020
• A webinar, “COVID and Oncopatients”, as part of a mutual project with UICC and Tbilisi City Hall
• In October, attending the EBCC virtual conference
• Participation in the Breast Cancer in Young Women (BCY4) conference in Lugano, Switzerland
• Participation in the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium (SABCS)

Greece

Highlights of 2019
• Participating in the 16th Pan-Hellenic Volunteer Day Conference
• A letter to the President of the Greek Parliament proposing the establishment of a subcommittee on BC issues under the Committee of the Parliament on Social Affairs
• Participating in a solidarity run “Race for the Cure”
• Donating digital mammograms for 15 ED Greece members
• A meeting with the Minister of Health to provide information about ED Greece and submit proposals for supporting women’s rights using European guidelines
• Recommending the ED Greece new scientific committee
• Participating in the Authentic Athens Marathon
• Lectures delivered at the event on “Gender in Health”, at the European Parliament in Brussels

Activities in 2020
• A meeting between ED Greece and the Deputy Mayor of Health for Athens to plan future BC awareness-raising activities
• Voting at the Board meeting to establish an ED Greece blood bank
Iceland

**Highlights of 2019**
- Organising the 10th “Casting for Recovery”, a fishing trip for BC patients and advocates to share experiences, in collaboration with the Icelandic Cancer Association counselling service
- In spring and autumn, holding a course “My Way” for women who have been diagnosed with BC and have completed treatment
- In October, holding a well-attended Pink Symposium entitled “You Are Not Alone” in collaboration with partners. A Resolution was submitted to the Ministry of Health and other authorities to call for shorter waiting times for women being diagnosed with BC
- Participating in the ED Pan-European Conference in Vienna

**Activities in 2020**
- Planning for the Nordic Breast Cancer Conference to be held in Iceland and postponed until 2021
- Planning two “Casting for Recovery” outings for 2021

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Ireland

**Highlights of 2019**
- Launching a new website
- An MBC information event, “How You Can Get to Know Your Cancer”
- A seminar for ED Ireland’s 21st anniversary seminar, “21 Years of Progress in Breast Cancer Research”
- Ongoing development of the MBC Connect private website
- Attendance and a stand at various cancer workshops and seminars – Living Well with Cancer, Patient Voice in Cancer Research, etc.
- Appointment to the National Screening Advisory Committee

**Activities in 2020**
- In October, an MBC Information event
- Continued involvement in relevant cancer/BC events
- Continued participation in National Cancer Control Programme committees and working groups
- Lobbying for implementation of National Cancer Strategy

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Israel

**Highlights of 2019**
- For BC awareness month: a press release and campaigns in the media and social media; BC events and partnerships: a “Celebrating Life” seminar; Pink Yacht Flotilla; Bra Tree Display; a hot-air balloon “Get Checked” campaign; Tel Aviv Municipality building illuminated in pink; a Fighting BC postage stamp; a campaign via the Mobile Mammography Unit
- Media promotion of “Yad Lehachlama” (Reach to Recovery) with trained volunteer BC survivors supporting newly diagnosed patients
- Year-round seminars, training sessions, conferences and support groups for BC patients and survivors
- A Facebook live event
- Public information booklets and advertisements

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Strength in Numbers

activities in 2020
- COVID-19 information and support for cancer patients: patients’ questions answered by oncolgists, tele-support group, dedicated webpages
- A press release on BC in Israel
- Public service announcements, social media campaigns and fundraising events
- Seminars and support groups

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Italy

**Highlights of 2019**
- A national survey and gathering of signatures to obtain psychological support for women with MBC in SBUs
- An empowerment programme for advocates: 8 sessions, 2 cities, 200 participants
- A regional information campaign on SBUs
- MBC National Day: 60 events in 50 cities, advocacy, a national conference
- A national survey and social campaign regarding the 10 main patients’ requests to improve the quality of SBUs

**Activities in 2020**
- A social report to quantify the value of associations’ activities, complementary to national welfare system
- Enhancing the caregiver’s role through a virtual photographic exhibition and collection of testimonials and requests
- A survey on the state of the art of SBUs in several regions together with associations, clinicians and institutions
- Requesting and obtaining an MBC National Day: social campaign, regional initiatives and a national event

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Kyrgyzstan

**Highlights of 2019**
- Organising the visit of an ED Luxembourg representative, including meetings with BC patients’ groups in Bishkek
- Working with health promotion centres for early detection of BC and cervical cancer
- Conducting BC and cervical cancer awareness-raising events in Talas Oblast
- In October, holding a charity concert for patients at the National Oncology Centre Hall
- Developing videos on BC and cervical cancer for awareness-raising among the population

**Activities in 2020**
- In February, organising the Congress of Breast Cancer Patients
- Organising on-line advisory committees with specialists from the European School of Oncology, the Kyrgyz National Centre and the Osh Interregional Oncology Centre
- Developing new videos on BC issues for awareness-raising among the population
- Pink October events

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Latvia

**Highlights of 2019**
- Organising and holding psychosocial rehabilitation programmes for women after BC
- Opening a day centre for psychosocial support of newly diagnosed BC patients in the largest oncology hospital in Latvia
- Developing voluntary mentors’ movement for women after BC, with training and supervision for mentors
- Organising various activities for BC awareness month and ED Latvia’s “Open Day” on 15th October

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**Activities in 2020**
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- Organising various activities for BC awareness month and ED Latvia’s “Open Day” on 15th October

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• Publishing booklets on psychosocial support for patients, their relatives, colleagues and children

Activities in 2020
• Adapting to the COVID-19 situation and looking for ways to continue to support BC patients and their relatives
• Planning and running special psychosocial rehabilitation programmes for women after BC
• Developing the voluntary mentors’ movement for women after BC
• Developing regional activities and self-support groups
• Organising activities for BC awareness month in October

Lithuania

Highlights of 2019
• In March, participation in the traditional Health Fair with lectures
• In May, the ED General Assembly with participation by the Parliamentary Speaker Irena Degutienė
• Attending the ED MBC conference and the ED Pan-European conference
• For BHD, an interview with the public, “Don't Be Afraid, Check In Tomorrow”, with doctors from the National Cancer Institute
• A national project, “Crowd Ideas”, to find out what is missing for BC patients in Lithuania, with the Parliamentary Speaker Irena Degutienė as Ambassador
• A solidarity run “The Magdalena Night Run”
• “And Life Goes On” project, to spread information about BC

Activities in 2020
• In October, a virtual General Assembly
• BHD on 15th October
• Continuation of the project “And Life Goes On” when the situation regarding COVID-19 allows

Luxembourg

Highlights of 2019
• Teaching lessons and testimonies at nursing schools
• Co-sponsoring of #WIN event of Luxembourg artist Jacques Schneider
• “Broschtkriibslaf” (Race Against Breast Cancer) solidarity run
• Discovery Day at the National Service for Post-Oncology Rehabilitation
• Collection and distribution of external breast prostheses in collaboration with ED Kyrgyzstan
• A public conference, “Better Results Through Holistic Treatment”
• Events to raise awareness about BC in schools and in the workplace

Activities in 2020
• A weekend of brainstorming by ED Luxembourg committee members
• Designing a new website
• Flyers and publications about radiotherapy and BC, as well as about physiotherapy and BC
• In autumn, various small-scale events to raise awareness in place of the annual BC run which was cancelled due to COVID-19

Malta

Highlights of 2019
• In June, a fashion show with BC survivors and children of BC survivors as models
• Awareness-raising talks in schools and businesses
• Hilda Schembri Memorial Lecture with special guest Mona Elzayat

Activities in 2020
• Celebration of 30-year anniversary of BC support group in Malta, including a gala dinner
• A translation of information leaflets from English to Maltese for a surgeon
• Participating in the ED Advocacy Training Course and attending the ED Pan-European Conference
• Attending the 5th Advanced Breast Cancer conference (ABC5) in Lisbon

Activities in 2020
• Organising of online meeting to maintain contact with members during COVID-19 pandemic
• Referring patients for counselling when necessary
• Celebration of World Cancer Day with the national cancer platform NGO that includes other cancer NGOs

The Netherlands

Highlights of 2019
• Helping patients to choose the best treatment for them
• Improving care and raising awareness for women with MBC
• Organising a session for nurses about improving supportive care and aftercare
• Drawing attention to best practice in BC care in hospitals
• Advocacy for better organisation of BC care (eg, expert care)

Activities in 2020
• Improving and distributing information about BC care from the patient’s perspective
• Encouraging precision medicine
• Helping patients to choose the best treatment for them and implementing shared decision making
• Improving care and information for women with MBC
• More awareness and better care for people with hereditary BC

North Macedonia

Highlights of 2019
• In October, the Go Pink Walk (Race for the Cure)
• 12th National Breast Cancer Conference
• 1st Balkan meeting for BC patient organisations
• Psychosocial support groups
• A help-line for patients and their families
• Attending the ED Advocacy Training Course
• Breast awareness training in high schools

Activities in 2020
• Annual activities: the Go Pink Walk, the 13th National Breast Cancer Conference, 2nd Balkan meeting for BC patient organisations, the help-line for patients and their families
• BC events in 14 cities
• Activities to support cancer patients during the COVID-19 pandemic, with distribution of therapies across the country
• Online groups for psychosocial assistance and support for cancer patients
• Several meetings with the Minister of Health to solve the problems that cancer patients experience due to COVID-19

Norway

Highlights of 2019
• A Pink Ribbon campaign raising €3.2 million
• Providing training for BC advocates and peers
• Organising a network meetings for people with the BRCA mutation, for women with MBC, and for young BC patients
Strength in Numbers

• Participating in the ED MBC Advocacy Conference and the Pan-European Conference in Vienna
• Participating in “Reach to Recovery” in Prague
• Collaborating in a meeting with ED Czech Republic

Activities in 2020
• Information and advocacy via webinars
• A Pink Ribbon Campaign
• Peer-to-peer work
• Producing an informative film about MBC
• Launching two educational films – #sjekk333 and Breast Cancer Sexuality

Poland

Highlights of 2019
• In March, the XXII ED Poland Congress of Delegates. President and Board elections.
• In May, participating in the inauguration of the national oncological strategy, including SBUs.
• In October for the BHD campaign: press conferences, “Health Marches”, financing of mammography testing for women under 50 and over 70, a Zumba marathon.
• Participating in the 14th ED Pan-European conference.
• In November, celebrating ED Poland’s 25th anniversary: a scientific conference, a poster exhibition, a concert workshop (screening, genetic research, psycho-oncology).
• Attending the ED Advocacy Training Course in Milan.

Activities in 2020
• From January to March, fundraising for ED activities.
• In September, XXIII ED Poland Congress of Delegates.
• Participating in EBCC.
• BHD campaign.

Portugal

Highlights of 2019
• Annual activities: BC screening programme, two research grants for BC, representation on the National Health Council, legal support, fundraising campaigns to support fight against BC, women’s race against BC.
• Expert medical support for oncological patients on medical boards.
• Participating in the International Centre for Parliamentary Studies (iCPS) Breast Cancer Europe Roundtable 2019.
• Participating in the BC patient forum of a major pharmaceutical company.
• A BC awareness-raising campaign, “Innovation for Life”.
• Pink October activities.
• Campaign with a cosmetics company to raise awareness for BC and funds for another direct digital mammography unit.

Activities in 2020
• Annual activities: BC screening programme, two research grants for BC, representation on the National Health Council, legal support, fundraising campaigns to support fight against BC.
• Petition for the rights of cancer patients.
• Launching the 4th edition of the Cancer Patients’ Rights Guide.

Romania

Highlights of 2019
• Annual activities: 5th “Happy Run” with over 4100 participants, wig donation “Brave Cut” Campaign, pink illumination event, “Adolescence in Pink”, a breast health awareness campaign in schools.
• Supporting activities by ASPO (Association of Oncological Patient Support) promoting early detection and improving the quality of life of patients with BC and other oncological or chronic diseases.
• Roundtables at the Romanian Parliament presenting the results of the study from a project to close the survival-rate gap between European countries.
• Participating in the ED Pan-European Conference.

Activities in 2020
• A mobile diagnostic campaign for breast and cervical cancer.
• A COVID-19 prevention kit for oncological patients undergoing hospital treatment during the pandemic.
• Supporting activities by ASPO (psychological support groups and art therapy).
• Advocacy activities and events stressing the necessity of a national BC screening programme.

Russia

Highlights of 2019
• Providing support for BC patients, families and friends through the first charity Breast Support Centre “Together”.
• Participating in the ED MBC Advocacy Conference, ED Pan-European Conference and the ED Advocacy Training Course.
• Donating medical equipment for BC screening to a medical centre.
• Conducting training for clinical oncologists and radiologists involved in BC treatment.
• For BHD: public talks “All About Breast Health” for working women; an Open Day “My First Mammograms” in mammography units.

Activities in 2020
• Providing regular support for women with BC, families and friends in Russia and Russian speakers abroad.
• Conducting a session for cancer NGOs within the White Night International Cancer Forum.
• Participating in EBCC12.
• Developing an educational programme for oncologists and training for radiologists.
• For BHD: public talks “All About Breast Health” for working women; an Open Day “My First Mammograms” in mammography units.

Serbia

Highlights of 2019
• Founding a Patients’ Academy, with BC survivors as students, teachers from the Oncology Institute and certification at the end of the course. The aim is to enable BC survivors to educate women on BC all over the country.
• In February, participation by ED Serbia representatives in media training for patients’ associations.
• Planning finances and content for 2020.
• Annual meeting of ED Serbia.
• Four lectures on BC prevention.
Activities in 2020

- Contacts with Ministry of Health to support activities for education of BC survivors at the Patients’ Academy
- Foundation of psychosocial mobile units in medical institutions
- Accreditation and provision of five training sessions
- Advocacy for new drugs and devices on the so-called “positive list”

Slovakia

Highlights of 2019

- October to December, an exhibition of art by BC survivors, in Bratislava
- In October for BHD, a press conference of the Ministry of Health and a celebration of the initiation of BC screening in Slovakia
- In June, “Race for Healthy Breasts”, a solidarity run and educational activity on BC prevention

Activities in 2020

- In June, “Race for Healthy Breasts”, a solidarity run and educational activity on BC prevention. This year online.
- From May to October, online support for BHD through sport
- From May to October, online presentation of healthy eating
- In October, evaluation of the best mammography screening unit and evaluation of the participants of BHD activities
- Support for mammography screening and women’s education, with printing and distribution of educational materials

Slovenia

Highlights of 2019

- Annual activities: publication of 4 issues of ED News (85,000 copies per issue), patient counselling, “Running and Walking for Hope” in 9 locations, 2-day seminar for ED Slovenia members
- Psychosocial support for patients and relatives, including children
- Special patient groups (young, metastatic, gynaecological cancers)
- Lectures throughout Slovenia

Activities in 2020

- Annual activities: publication of 4 issues of ED News (85,000 copies per issue), patient counselling, 2-day seminar for ED Slovenia members
- A Patient’s Diary, for newly diagnosed patients
- Psychosocial support for patients and relatives, including children
- Special patient groups (young, metastatic, gynaecological cancers)
- Lectures throughout Slovenia
- October activities: a press conference, visiting Parliament, collaboration with professional athletes, local awareness-raising campaigns

Spain

Highlights of 2019

- ED Spain summer course for specialists and women with BC, covering the challenge of maintaining the public health system’s sustainability, focusing on clinical research and innovation
- A BHD press conference to present the 2019 Manifesto, awareness campaigns on early detection and fundraising
- Active involvement in the National Health System Cancer Strategy as a member of the follow-up and evaluation committee
- Coordination and support for local organisations’ activities
- Support for women with BC and their families
- Physiotherapy for lymphoedema

Activities in 2020

- Summer course on patient advocacy, the sustainability of the public health system and attention to survivorship
- A BHD awareness campaign on early detection and the presentation of the 2020 Manifesto
- Advocacy activities and participation in the National Cancer Strategy
- Support for women with BC and their families
- Physiotherapy for lymphoedema
- Fundraising for clinical trials

Sweden

Highlights of 2019

- In February, for World Cancer Day, participating in a programme on national TV addressing taboos about BC in immigrant communities
- Launching a report and film about rehabilitation and MBC
- In October, launching a BC report on risk factors and development of the screening programme
- Hosting roundtable discussions with politicians with a focus on unequal care and slow drug introduction for MBC patients
- Rehab-weeks and partner-weekends, funded by ED Sweden

Activities in 2020

- Campaign on patients’ rights
- BC campaign in different languages (Arabic, English, Persian, Somali and Turkish)
- Information campaign on BC and COVID-19
- Member survey and press release on a working life after BC
- In October, a BC report about the lack of radiologists and the development of artificial intelligence (AI)
- Rehab-weeks and partner-weekends, funded by ED Sweden

Switzerland

Highlights of 2019

- Starting up a sport group Fit & Fun
- In March, “Simply the Breast”, the first Swiss public conference for BC patients and their relatives, with a wide-ranging programme of lectures, workshops, yoga and music
- Participating in different solidarity runs with ED shirts for BC survivors and Breast Friends
- Building new “Tavola Rosa” meetings for patients in different towns
- Attending different conferences

Activities in 2020

- Collaborating in the development of an inspirational patient booklet, providing advice on nutrition (recipes), sport (exercises) and mindfulness, especially for MBC patients
- Speaking at the board of directors of a health insurance company
Strength in Numbers

- Participating as a patient in a multi-stakeholder conference
- Tavola Rosa meetings via video conference during COVID-19

**Tajikistan**

**Highlights of 2019**
- Meetings with MBC patient groups
- A roundtable on access of women with MBC to basic services with participation by government representatives, the National Oncology Centre and patient groups
- Meeting with the government to discuss financing of screening programmes for women from low-income families
- Starting a hotline for MBC patients and holding information campaigns for patients, family members and support groups
- Media presence and creation of a Facebook page
- Organisation of a project on palliative care at the home care level
- For Pink October, workshops for MBC patients and a seminar on BC prevention and early detection
- Meetings with a mammography specialist
- A meeting with the Vice-speaker of Parliament about MBC patients’ access to chemotherapy
- Organising focus groups for MBC patients and families on palliative care and chemotherapy

**Activities in 2020**
- Campaigns to improve access to treatment for cancer patients
- A roundtable on the accessibility to palliative care at home, and patients’ rights to health and access to opioid analgesics
- Prevention of COVID-19 among BC patients and a COVID-19 BC patients’ hotline
- Humanitarian aid for oncology hospitals and BC patient groups (part of the USAID Food for Peace project)
- Collaboration with Amearicares for the supply of cancer medications
- Developing recommendations on organising palliative care at a home-care level in Tajik and Russian
- In October, BHD activities

**Turkey**

**Highlights of 2019**
- Screening programme for immigrant women
- Providing psycho-oncological support for patients with advanced BC
- Bazaars
- Seminars

**Activities in 2020**
- Providing transportation support for patients receiving treatment during the pandemic
- Providing online support to women undergoing treatment
- Different online meetings for patients

**Uzbekistan**

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**United Kingdom**

**Highlights of 2019**
- ED UK Reception hosted by the Lord Mayor of Westminster, featuring a lecture on the history of BC through art
- Participation in OPTIMA meeting on collaboration with research nurses and how to increase trial recruitment
- Marketplace Event: breast team informing the public about cancer screening, BC signs and symptoms
- Assistance in panel discussion on biosimilars, and speaking to nurses about CDK4/6 inhibitors
- Speaking at the Nurses’ Forum on quality of life for patients and healthcare professionals
- Breast Check Clinics for “Check4Cancer” delivered by a breast care specialist nurse
- “Casting for Recovery UK”, fly fishing weekends for BC survivors

**Activities in 2020**
- Meeting with the Cross-Party Group on Cancer, a debate with the Cabinet Secretary
- A lecture in Scotland on leadership in cancer nursing for oncology nurses
- BC patient workshops covering menopause, reproductive health and intimacy
- An invitation to ED UK Deputy Chair Dr Harmer to become a Medical Advisory Group Member for Charity CoppaFeel!
- Contribution to global peer navigator programme content for MBC
- Organisation by ED UK of a virtual meeting on cancer including BC talks
- Participation in the Imperial College Women’s Network event

**Ukraine**

**Highlights of 2019**
- Holding the fifth BHD event at the Ukrainian Parliament with parliamentarians and cabinet ministers taking part. ED Ukraine representatives and MPs raised awareness of the importance of BC prevention and screening in an event with media presence
- Donating a mammography unit to the Sumy Regional Cancer Centre, purchased with funds raised in cooperation with a cosmetics company

**Activities in 2020**
- Organising interactive meetings for BC patients and survivors to exchange experiences, knowledge and “their way through” stories
- Meetings with mass media on how to write and inform about BC and other women’s cancers
- In October, a Pink Gala
- Organising series of meetings with Uzbek oncologists on promoting the EU guidelines for quality assurance in BC screening and diagnosis
15th EUROPA DONNA Pan-European Conference
23-24 October 2021 – planned for Zagreb, Croatia  
Save the date

EUROPA DONNA MBC Advocacy Webinar
Spring 2021

20th Annual EUROPA DONNA Breast Cancer Advocacy Training Course
19-21 November 2021

Stay tuned for upcoming Webinars and Interactive Zoom Meetings with Fora in 2021 which will take place on a regular basis, covering many different topics and enhancing communication and exchange among member countries

In 2022
13th European Breast Cancer Conference (EBCC-13)
23-25 March – Barcelona, Spain  
Save the date

EUROPA DONNA 2020 Survey: The Current State of Breast Services in Europe
EUROPA DONNA has published the findings of its survey on the current state of breast services from the perspective of its member organisations. Advocacy leaders from 34 countries provided updates on mammography screening and diagnosis, specialist breast units, metastatic breast cancer, general aspects of breast cancer care in their country, and additional topics such as COVID-19 and cancer care.

Upcoming publications
- A report on the EUROPA DONNA Metastatic Breast Cancer Advocacy Webinar, held 30-31 October 2020
- A booklet on breast cancer care and COVID-19 in Europe

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