

Feedback from ESMO - Call for Evidence on a Strategy for European Life Sciences

The [European Society for Medical Oncology \(ESMO\)](#), representing more than 40,000 oncology professionals in 179 countries and territories, welcomes the ambition of the European Union (EU) to establish a dedicated Strategy for European Life Sciences.

With new cancer cases in Europe expected to increase from 4.47 million in 2022 to 5.48 million in 2045¹, and being the second most common cause of death and morbidity in Europe², cancer continues to represent a major societal challenge that requires robust action from policy-makers at both the EU and national levels. To tackle the growing trend of cancer cases and make the EU a global leader in life sciences, it is important that **cancer is placed at the centre of the Strategy for European Life Sciences**. This is essential not only for strengthening Europe's competitiveness but also for improving the health and well-being of all EU citizens.

Considering this, and to achieve the above, ESMO deems it pertinent that the European Life Sciences Strategy:

- Advances the **knowledge and understanding of cancer mechanisms** (including carcinogenesis and treatment resistance), fosters **therapeutic innovation in oncology**, and drives **scientific and medical breakthroughs** in the cancer space. The Strategy should ultimately deliver tangible benefits for patients with cancer and support more homogenous and timely access to innovative cancer therapies across the whole EU;
- Supports the **translation of research results** into novel cancer treatments, medicinal products, and clinical applications (including new diagnostic tools, biomarkers, and related technologies) - with advancements being made accessible to all patients with cancer in Europe. Specific attention is to be given to the development of innovative solutions that can help address areas of high unmet needs in the rare cancers space;
- Supports research on, and enables the implementation of, evidence-based measures to improve **prevention and earlier diagnosis of cancer**;
- Offers a **holistic approach to life sciences in Europe**, with strong synergies being established with the relevant workstreams of Horizon Europe, the Mission on Cancer, Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, and the upcoming 10th EU Framework Programme (FP10) as well as future proposals for a European Research Area (ERA) Act and a European Innovation Act;

¹ International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). [Cancer Tomorrow](#).

² World Health Organization (WHO). [Cancer](#).



- Further supports **education, training and upskilling** in life sciences-disciplines and encourages career development in these domains;
- Is implemented in close coordination and alignment with national life sciences strategies in the EU Member States;
- Is supported by **robust EU funding** provided through the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).

ESMO stands ready to collaborate with the European Commission and all stakeholders on the development of the Strategy for European Life Sciences and ensure that it becomes a robust instrument for supporting science, research, and innovation in oncology.

For further information, please contact: publicpolicy@esmo.org