February 2017 saw the conclusion of a Joint Action on Cancer funded by the EU Commission to develop recommendations for improving cancer care in Europe. The main delivery of the joint action, Cancon Guide, has been published\(^1\). It is a result of three years' hard work by top cancer experts in 25 countries and 126 partner organisations.

The work of the task force was summarised by the leader of the project, Tit Albrecht, “Effective cancer control saves lives, money and time” adding “the quality improvement of cancer care will be reached by focusing on the patient’s experience, care and health services organisation, delivery and accessibility”

At the closing meeting a number of policy papers were tabled to highlight how Member States can enhance their cancer services and improve patient outcomes. These included:

**Paper 1:** improving cancer genomics, placing strategies for personalised medicines within the public health perspective. It is hoped that by including these strategies in public health programmes we can achieve early diagnosis and relieve disease burden.

**Paper 2:** National Cancer Control Plans need suitable preparation, adoption, implementation and evaluation to be in place in all European countries if the NCCP is to be an effective management tool to improve services and outcomes.

**Paper 3:** Reducing waste through a more relevant use of suitable health care practices. Systems need to be reviewed and out of date practices replaced by more efficient and effective clinical management options.

**Paper 4:** An evaluation system to assess prevention systems. This programme looked at the available prevention strategies and made recommendations for their local evaluation.

**Paper 5:** Looked at tackling social inequalities in cancer control and made recommendations. Social inequalities in cancer refer to the differences in health that are systematic, socially produced, unnecessary and avoidable, and in addition are considered unfair and unjust.

\(^1\) [http://cancercontrol.eu/guide-landing](http://cancercontrol.eu/guide-landing)