

The LUCIA EU Project under the EU Mission Cancer



According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths worldwide, accounting for the highest mortality rates among both men and women. In the European Union, it is estimated to represent 19.5% of all cancer deaths.

In September 2022, the EU introduced a new approach to support the member states increasing the uptake of cancer screening. This approach indicates that an extension of screening to lung cancer should be considered based on future research.

This axis on research to support policy is the core of the EU Missions. The novelty of the Horizon Europe research and innovation programme for the years 2021-2027 lies in its aim to support the priorities of the European Commission such as the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan.

There are five missions. The LUCIA Project (Lung Cancer-related risk factors and their Impact Assessment) is part of the EU Mission Cancer. By 2030, this Mission will work to improve the lives of more than 3 million people through prevention, cure and solutions to live longer and better. Together with Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, it aims to provide a better understanding of cancer, allow for earlier diagnosis and optimisation of treatment and improve cancer patients' quality of life and beyond their cancer treatment.

The Mission has 4 objectives:

- Understanding of cancer
- Prevention and early treatment
- Diagnosis and treatment
- Quality of life for patients and their families.

Under these objectives, LUCIA is part of two clusters involving other projects under the Horizon Europe programme. The "Understanding" cluster aims to improve the understanding of the development of cancer in the context of the environment, work, and lifestyle. The second cluster, "Prevention and Early Detection" focuses on the boosting of cancer prevention for EU citizens.