

# Establishing Cancer Mission Hubs Networks and Synergies



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# Objectives



## ECHoS



To **promote the creation** of **National Cancer Mission Hubs** in MS/AC



To **create synergies** with other **European initiatives towards a “Cancer in all” approach**



To establish a **network of stakeholders** across Europe **supporting the advance of Cancer Mission**



To **create the foundations for a European network of NCMHs** by developing a business continuity and operations model framework.



**Citizens' Engagement**

# ECHoS Partners



## 30 Countries/ 61 organisations

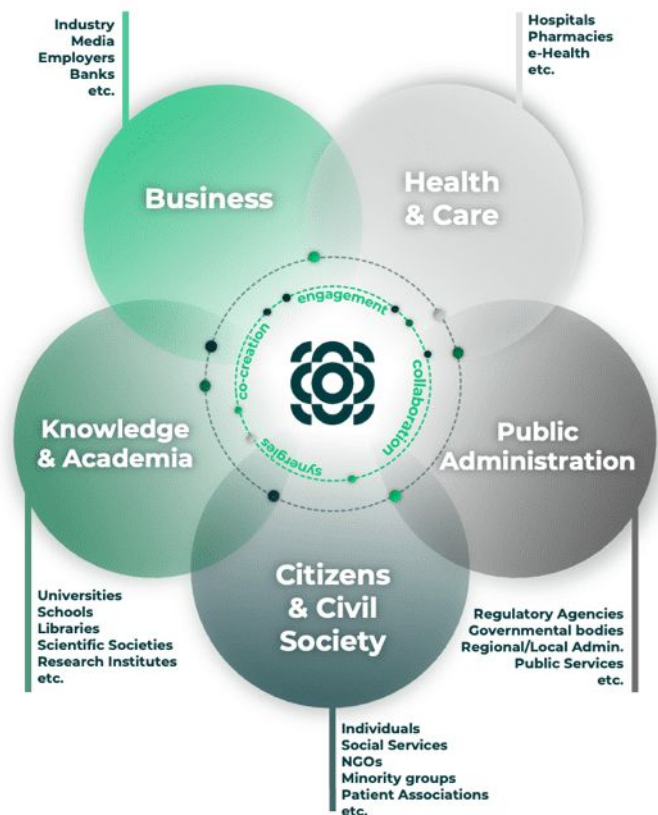
Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey









[www.cancermissionhubs.eu](http://www.cancermissionhubs.eu)



# NCMH Concept

## Collaboration and Activities



Values	Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Trust</b></li> <li> <b>Knowledge</b></li> <li> <b>Diversity</b></li> <li> <b>Leadership</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Position <b>fighting cancer</b> as a <b>national priority</b> in all policies.</li> <li>Promote <b>capacity building and synergies</b></li> <li>Nurture a collective awareness and social <b>culture against cancer</b>.</li> <li><b>Stimulate investment</b> in cancer research and care</li> </ul>
Competences	Attitudes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guarantee implementation of <b>EU Mission on Cancer and EBCP</b></li> <li>Coordinate <b>multi stakeholder initiatives</b></li> <li>Create <b>societal awareness</b></li> <li>Facilitate <b>collaboration</b> between stakeholders</li> <li>Support <b>Health in all policies</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Respectful</b></li> <li> <b>Motivator</b></li> <li> <b>Inspirational</b></li> <li> <b>Diplomat</b></li> </ul>

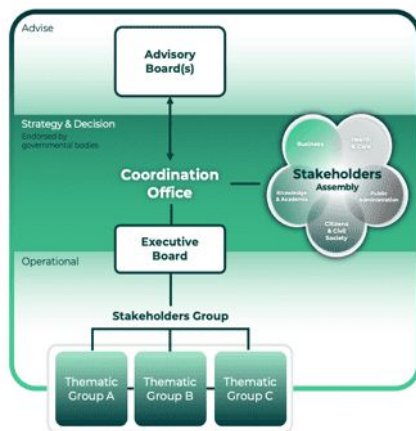
# NCMH Models

## – Definition and Structures

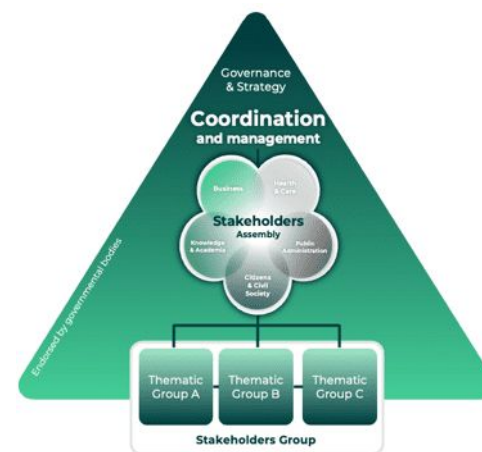
NCMHs are a **structure of governance of EU Mission on Cancer** operating across **national, regional, and local** levels in each MS/AC. By fostering **collaborations, dialogues and partnerships** between diverse stakeholders, including representatives of policymakers, healthcare professionals, researchers, business, patients and, citizens They play a pivotal role in **uniting efforts and accelerating research** and innovation on cancer prevention, cancer care and quality of life of cancer survivors and carers. **Convening national stakeholders** on the fight against cancer and ensuring the collaboration between MS and AC is central to the successful implementation of both Mission on Cancer and EBCP's objective of **improving the lives of 3 million people living with cancer by 2030**.



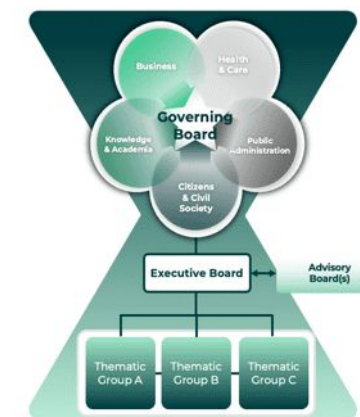
*Coordinated National Action*



*Consortium*



*Legal Organisation*



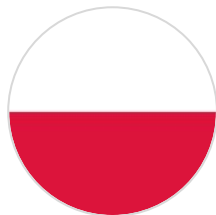
*Joint Venture*

# NCMHs Recognition and Implementation

Starting Stage



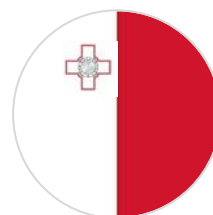
**Formally Recognised NCMHs**  
– Starting Stage



**Poland**



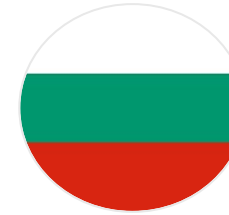
**Greece**



**Malta**



**The Netherlands**

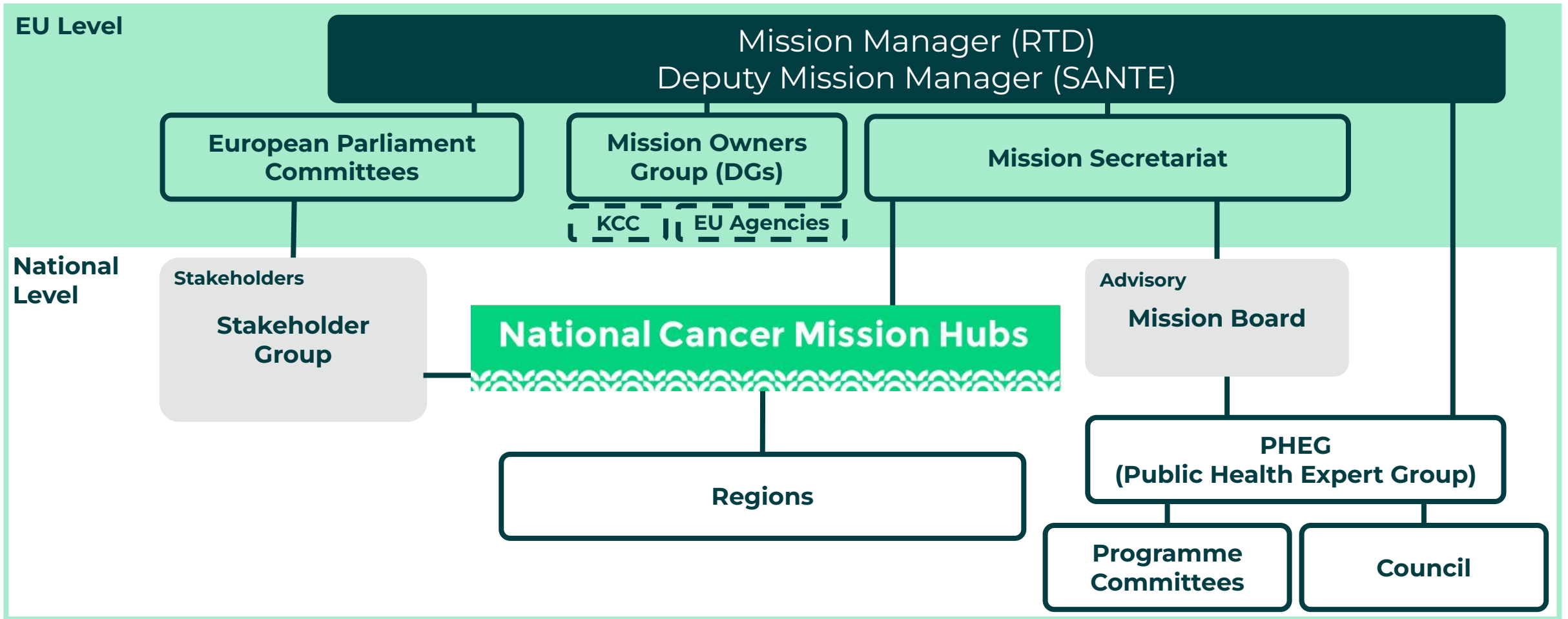


**Bulgaria**

Consolidator Stage

Advanced Stage

# Mission on Cancer - governance



# Malta Cancer Mission Hub



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Cancer Research and Innovation Hub Malta

Christian Scerri



# Nomination of Cancer Research and Innovation Hub Malta as Malta's Cancer Mission Hub

- Cancer Research and Innovation Hub (MCRIHM) – set up as a legally registered foundation (legal entity) under the Parliamentary Secretary for Youths, Research and Innovation within the Ministry for Education, Sports, Youths, Research and Innovation
- Setup through a cabinet decision, on a conjoint proposal between the Ministry of Health and Active Ageing and Ministry for Education, Sports, Youths, Research and Innovation
- Deed signed on the 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024 – registered as a legal entity
- June 2024 – decision by government to assign the role of the Cancer Mission Hub to CRIHM

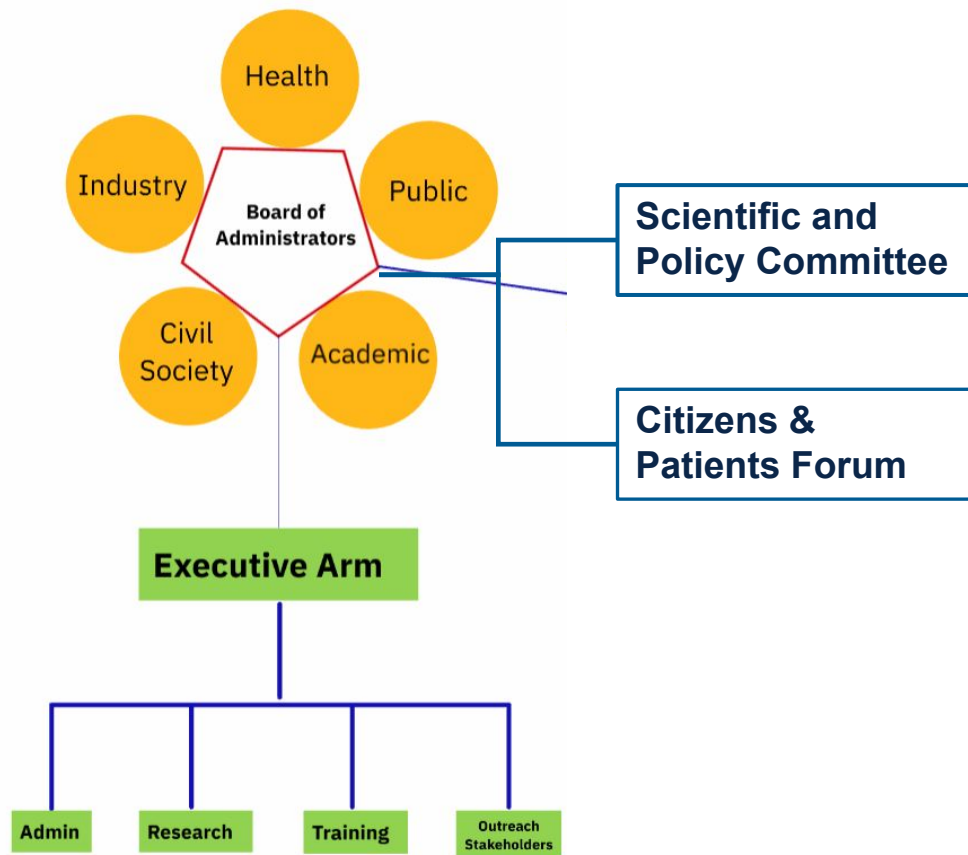


# Malta Cancer Mission Hub

- MCMH is Malta's national focal point for **coordinating policies on cancer research, prevention, care, and innovation.**
- Designed as a **multi-stakeholder platform based on the Penta Helix** model with the board representing members from Public Administration, Academia, Health, Industry and Civil Society.
- Functions include
  - Facilitating communication and collaborations among stakeholders.
  - Create Societal Awareness by mobilising citizens and organisations from the civil society.
  - Support Policy Dialogues by connecting policymakers with relevant stakeholders.
  - Encourage exchange of best practices, research data and findings, and resources among stakeholders.
  - Establish robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks to assess the impact of NCMH/MoC initiatives, ensuring accountability and transparency.



# Administrative Structure



- **Board of Administrators:**

- Ministry of Education and Research (**Public**)
- Ministry of Health and Active Ageing (**Health**)
- Malta college of Arts Science and Technology (MCAST – (**Academia**))
- University of Malta (**Academia**)
- Malta Cancer Platform (**Civil Society**)
- Leading Entrepreneur also vice-President of Malta Chamber of Commerce (**Industry**)
- Chair – (employed with both **Health** and **Academia** as well as involved in **Breast Cancer Patients Group**)

- **Scientific and Policy Committee:** Guides strategy and aligns policy.

- **Citizens & Patients Forum:** Ensures inclusivity, community engagement, and co-design.

- **Executive Arm** to manage work packages and working groups.

# General Objectives

1. Assist Ministry of Health to towards its aim to **position cancer** as a national health priority.
2. Build the required **critical mass** in cancer research infrastructure and research capacity
3. Promote **awareness and public literacy** on cancer, especially prevention.
4. Ensure **financial sustainability** via hybrid funding models.
5. Identify other centres to set up **international collaborative networks**

Each objective spans political, societal, technical, and economic dimensions.



# Specific Activities Supporting GOs

1. Advocate cancer inclusion in **national health, education and environmental strategies**.
2. Support the enhancement of the **national cancer registry** and the establishment of **genomics infrastructure**.
3. Develop **cancer literacy programs** for schools/workplaces through roadshows and the use of a special van.
4. Establish research and innovation fund to **support academic research, SMEs and startups**.
5. Identify other centres in the region, in particular the south of Europe, Mediterranean and other small European countries, to produce an **effective international/regional network** to share information and act in synchrony in policy design and implementation

# Alignment with ECHoS Objectives

- MCMH governance aligns with the NCMH Concept Models
- Supports ECHoS objectives:
  - Assist in the **co-design, co-creation, co-implementation, and co-evaluation** of cancer-related policies, research agendas and funding calls, prevention and awareness campaigns, digital and data infrastructures, citizen engagement processes and monitoring and evaluation frameworks
  - **Stakeholder dialogues and policy feedback mechanisms.**
  - **Participate in the establishment of the European NCMH Network.**
- Contribute to ECHoS II call which aims to support the NCMH Network across Member States.
- Prepares for expanded roles in citizen engagement, thematic policy dialogues, and synergies with other EU Missions (e.g., Climate, Oceans, and Cities).
- Identify similar centres in the region and if not present, assist in the formation of ones, in particular the Mediterranean and small EU countries



# Interaction with Key EU Cancer Initiatives

- **UNCAN:** Data mobilisation, research coordination.
- **ECPDC:** Cancer information and literacy (Room 1).
- **CCI4EU:** Stakeholder coordination, awareness, capacity-building.
- **JANE-2:** Support for omics and personalised medicine.
- **1+MG & TEHDAS2:** Data harmonisation and bioethics in cancer genomics.
- **EUCAIM:** Promote Malta's participation in cancer imaging data sharing.
- **EU-CIP:** Patient Portal (Partners)
- **CANDLE:** Creation of National Cancer Data Nodes (Partners)

# National Synergy and Relevance

- Complements national stakeholders including University of Malta, Ministry of Health, NGOs.
- Provides coordination, not duplication.
- Maintains alignment with national cancer plans and international standards.
- Actively collaborate with Horizon Europe National Contact Points to promote EU Cancer Mission funding and build mutual learning opportunities.



# Impact of CRIHM

- First year since conception – funded over **3.2 Million Euros** in funds for local research
  - per capita cancer research funds increased from 0.37 Euro, to **2.2 Euro in 2024** and **3.9 Euro in 2025**
  - percentage of total research funds dedicated to cancer increased from 0.25% to **1.5% in 2024** and **2.26% in 2025**
  - from a GDP, this has gone up from 0.000% to **0.005% in 2024** and **0.01% in 2025**
- Prepare Malta to fully benefit from Horizon Europe opportunities (already partners in 2 EU projects – CANDLE and CIP).
- Strengthens Malta's role in EU-wide data and research infrastructures.
- Builds sustainable innovation ecosystems in cancer research and ultimately care.



# Learnings

## **Early Stage of Development**

The hubs are still in their early stages of inception and implementation.

## **Diverse National Contexts**

A key lesson learned is that each of the 27 countries involved has unique characteristics and needs.

## **Tailored Conceptual Models**

To address these differences, the ECHoS project presented a range of conceptual models adapted to national contexts.

## **National Prerogative**

The establishment and development of the hubs is a national responsibility, leading to uneven progress—some countries are much more advanced than others.

## **Key Challenge: Uniform Management**

A major pain point is managing the hubs in a consistent, coordinated way across all countries while aiming for shared objectives.

## **Focus of ECHoS II**

ECHoS II is working to address this challenge by promoting alignment and coherence across all national hubs.

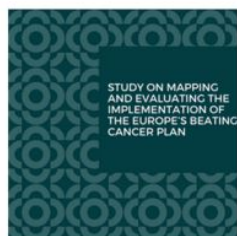
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