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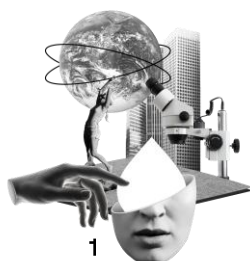
This example is extracted from our Deliverable 1.1 (p. 28 – 34) “Social Innovations in Support of the EU-Missions” and the full version can be openly accessed here: <https://simissionfacility.eu/publication-announcement-d-1-1/>.

The deliverable focuses on the role and contributions of social innovation (SI) to the [five EU-Missions](#) (part of Horizon Europe 2021 – 2027): Beating Cancer, Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities, Climate Change Adaptation, A European Soil Deal, and Restoring Our Oceans and Waters. To analyse these SI contributions to the Missions, an extensive literature analysis has been conducted to showcase the role of social innovation concepts within Mission relevant EU-funded projects. To complement this overview of EU Mission projects with cases of social innovations that contribute or could contribute to the EU Missions, the four social innovation databases (SI-databases) Social Innovation Match Tool, Social Innovation Driving Force of Social Change (SI-Drive), Critical Turning Points Database and Social Innovation in Energy Transition (SONNET) were reviewed additionally. Furthermore, mission-targeted projects are included as case studies in the deliverable to illustrate two examples of social innovation contributions for each of the five EU Missions.

The following practical examples serve to demonstrate, what role social innovation plays in the EU-Mission on Cancer, part of Horizon Europe (2021-2027) – that aims to improve the lives of over 3 million people by 2030 through enhanced prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and quality of life for patients and families. Our goal with these examples is to make seemingly abstract social innovation (SI) concepts tangible through real-world cases. We aim to illustrate how social innovation (such as changes in practices and behaviours, the introduction of new ways of working and collaborating, and the reshaping of social and institutional relationships) can meaningfully contribute to achieving the EU Missions.

disclaimer

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SOCIAL INNOVATIONS FOR CANCER

To analyse the role of social innovation in EU Mission projects contributing to the Cancer Mission the projects listed in CORDIS and social innovations collected in the SI-Databases were assessed. The results of the sequential analysis of projects for the Cancer Mission in CORDIS are shown in the following chart:

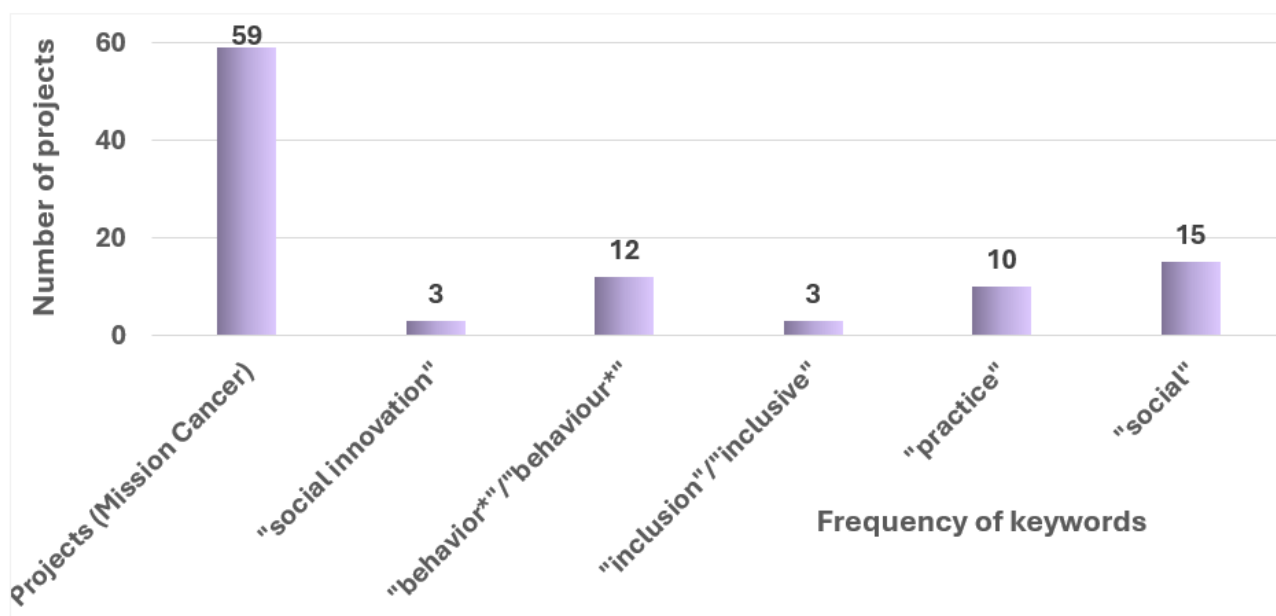
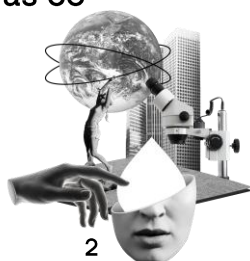


FIGURE 1 BAR CHART OF THE RESULTS OF THE SEQUENTIAL ANALYSIS OF PROJECTS FOR THE EU MISSION: CANCER IN CORDIS.

Hence, even though only three projects mention social innovation explicitly more than half use one of the keywords that could be used to describe social innovation activities. Looking for the use of multiple keywords, 10 projects matched with two keywords, one project matched with three keywords.

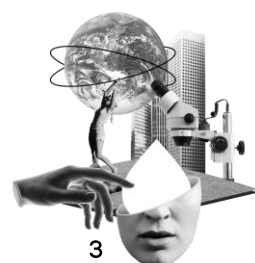
This analysis of objectives revealed that **behavioural change for cancer prevention** or for improving the quality of life of cancer survivors and the **establishment of new organisational practices**, account for the most common pattern of potential social innovations in that Mission Area. A review of the websites of five projects with the highest potential for social innovation showed that, by implementing living labs or pursuing research with cancer patients as co-





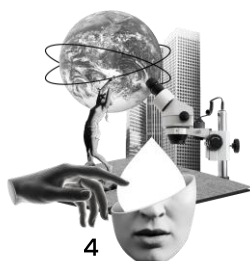
researchers, social innovations in regard to structuring the research process can be found in multiple projects. Since the implementation of concrete interventions, like in the case of 4P-CAN (<https://4p-can.eu/>) or co-design of specific tools or platforms, like in e-quol (<https://equolproject.eu/>) or iBeCHANGE (<https://ibechange.eu/>) have not started yet, it is more difficult to assess if social innovation as new practices, social relations, forms of organisation or institutional arrangements providing a solution in itself is as widely acknowledged. To assess this development, it is useful to further investigate if these tools will tackle behaviour individually and independent of structural influences, as the project iBeCHANGE building a platform for behavioural change used by individuals, suggests or if it takes a more systemic approach bringing together environmental/structural and individual levers for change, as suggested by the policy analysis of 4P-CAN. To exemplify how social innovations could be taken into account by EU Mission projects, the two projects 4P-CAN and e-Quol will be further described.

Given the broad scope of the Cancer Mission, which spans cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment and the quality of life of survivors, social innovations with potential relevance to this Mission extend across a wide range of thematic areas and approaches. This is reflected by our findings from scoping the above introduced SI-Databases. In total, the SONNET database lists three social innovations mentioning a contribution to health by reducing emissions. One initiative contributes to post-hospital care in the Critical Turning Points database. Of the 82 in-depth SI-Drive cases, 16 indirectly contribute to Cancer or healthcare more generally, the SI Match database lists eight initiatives supporting the Cancer Mission in a broad way and five initiatives funded under Portugal 2020. On Cancer specifically, we found only one case in the SONNET database linking to the topic of Cancer, namely a project lobbying for stricter regulations for air quality, while three initiatives funded under Portugal 2020 centre on challenges associated with cancer explicitly. Social innovations listed in the SI-databases that contribute more indirectly to the Cancer Mission either focus on the prevention or better collection and treatment of (hazardous) waste or changes in energy production, improving air quality minimising potential risks or they aim to overcome challenges in healthcare by establishing new forms of care that could contribute to improving the quality of life of cancer patients, survivors or their families. However, social innovations in the latter realm address care as such and could benefit from an adaptation to the specifics of the cancer to contribute to the EU Mission more directly.





The following section of the catalogue provides an overview of the most relevant social innovation-related projects funded under the EU Cancer Mission, complemented by selected examples from other social innovation databases. Together, these examples illustrate how social innovation is currently conceptualised within the EU Missions, while also highlighting the additional potential that social innovation offers for advancing the objectives of the Cancer Mission.





About the Project: The project 4P-CAN - short for "Personalized Cancer Primary Prevention Research through Citizen Participation and Digitally Enabled Social Innovation" (05/23 - 04/2027) focuses on cancer prevention by taking into account the risk factors on micro, meso and macro level. Centring on the modifiable risk factors of smoking, alcohol consumption, physical inactivity, excess body weight (overweight and obesity), HPV and HBV infections and environmental pollution, 4P-CAN investigates how barriers to policy implementation and individual behaviour influence each other. By applying personal network analysis in a living lab setting in South-Muntenia, Romania, the project sets out to identify influential nodes of the network and uses these to test different intervention measures.



Impressions from the Health Festival organised in Lerești Living Lab

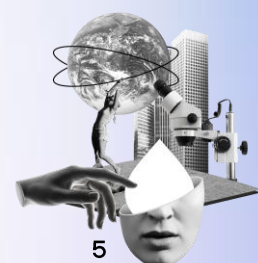
The Role of Social Innovation:

In 4P-CAN, stakeholder engagement is put on centre stage. Based on the assumption that more than half of all cancers could be prevented by changes in lifestyle, healthcare and the environment, the project emphasises the necessity to change practices enabling these changes. In this regard, special attention is paid to the influential roles of local policy-makers and personal networks in these processes. To this end, 4P-CAN brings together 130 stakeholders in Living Labs in Romania and Bulgaria setting up new relationships between citizens, policy-makers and health officials aiming to enhance cancer literacy in the local society and establish the living labs as long-term expert councils on primary cancer prevention.

More information: <https://4p-can.eu/>

Successful interventions to prevent cancers have to be developed in society and with local communities. Social innovation helps to shift the focus from top-down to bottom-up processes enabling healthier lifestyles.

Dr. Marius Geantă
(Coordinator 4P-CAN)





About the Project: Employing a Co-Design approach, e-QuoL (01/2024 - 12/2027) sets out to develop a psycho-social support app targeted to improve quality of life for children, adolescents and young adults (CAYACS) affected by cancer. The project focusses on the needs of survivors and their families in follow-up care. To this end, e-QuoL employs participatory research methods, involving not only CAYACS, their families, as well as adult survivors affected by cancer during childhood or adolescence, but also patient associations and networks as well as health institutes and an interdisciplinary team of researchers and industrial partners from 15 different countries. Through the research, the project set up a panel of survivors that together with the research group identified the unmet needs of CAYAC families and survivors. These identified and prioritised topics that informed the development of the psycho-social support app as well as educational material aimed at communicating long-term effects of cancer and survivors' needs to their local supportive networks.



Recording interviews with CAYACS & health care professionals

Photo: Résilience / e-QuoL

The Role of Social Innovation: Long-term follow-up care after the treatment of cancer during childhood or adolescence encompasses a whole range of new practices, yet to be developed and scaled. By putting the voices of survivors centre stage and setting up a transdisciplinary approach of co-design, e-QuoL contributes to the establishment of new relationships and new ways to identify survivors' needs and fruitful intervention practices. Listening to survivor's needs contributes to widening the perspective of health professionals to take into account neglected symptoms such as chronic fatigue. The development of the psycho-social app, is not an end in itself, but embedded in a holistic approach to overcome insufficient practices in health care and close the knowledge gaps of survivors' local supportive networks.

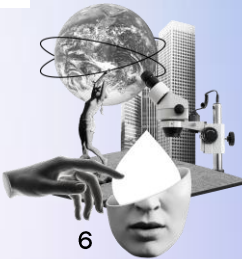
More information: <https://equolproject.eu/>



The e-QuoL

Consortium
Photo: Catherine Jouannet / CHU d'Angers

Listening to the needs of survivors and co-designing the app does not only make their voices heard but initiates small changes in post-treatment practices in a systemic way.





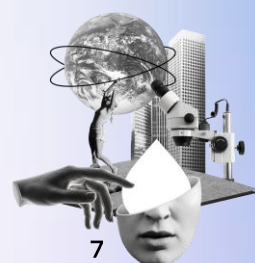
The following social innovations identified in the SI-Databases serve as an example of how social innovations contribute to the Cancer Mission. To cover the full spectrum of the Mission, the presentation entails one project contributing to the prevention of lung cancer by reducing air pollution (Polish Smog Alert) and one that improves coordination between different aspects contributing to improving the quality of life of patients and their families (Cancer 360).



Polish Smog Alert

Polish Smog Alert (PAS) is a civic initiative that addresses air pollution practices in Poland by reconfiguring governance arrangements and policy frameworks related to air quality. Rather than developing technological solutions, the initiative focuses on changing socially embedded practices of fuel use and heating through regulatory reform and public mobilisation. Its activities focus on pushing for standards on fuels and boilers, empowering local governments to regulate emissions, and advocating for policies that reduce harmful air pollution from heating and mobility. Its central goal is to improve air quality to levels that protect human health and meet national and EU standards. It focuses on shifting household heating practices and fuel use away from polluting options, enabled through regulatory change. The initiative further mobilises civil society to pressure policymakers and engages local governments by advocating for tools to regulate emissions. It advocates for governance innovations by giving municipalities the authority to set and enforce emission standards for heating devices.

More information: <https://www.polishsmogalert.org/>



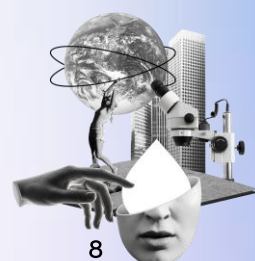


Cancer 360

Cancer 360 addresses the fragmentation of cancer care by introducing an integrated, person-centred support model that redefines how medical, psychosocial and social care practices are organised and delivered. Cancer 360 seeks to humanise and integrate cancer care, ensuring that patients, families, and caregivers receive coordinated, person-centred support across all stages of the disease. The core innovation is the creation of a 360° integrated support model that combines healthcare, psychosocial assistance, community involvement, and digital coordination tools. It establishes a network of collaboration among hospitals, social organisations, municipalities, and patient associations, breaking down silos between health and social systems. The approach redefines cancer care as a collective and holistic process, not limited to clinical treatment.

The initiative has contributed to enhance continuity and coordination of care between health and social sectors. It has improved well-being and satisfaction among cancer patients and caregivers. It further developed new partnership protocols between municipalities, hospitals, and NGOs and increased awareness of the need for holistic, community-based cancer care, overall. In doing so, Cancer 360 demonstrates how social innovation can strengthen health system responsiveness, improve quality of life and advance inclusive, needs-oriented approaches aligned with the objectives of the EU Cancer Mission.

More information: <https://inovacaosocial.portugal2020.pt/project/cancer360/>



contact

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