



International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD) 2026

Online Policy Dialogue on Europe's Beating Cancer Plan

*"Europe's Beating Cancer Plan Implementation for Children and Adolescents: Looking Ahead
What remains to be done to improve access to care, research and sustainable survivorship programmes*

Thursday, 26 February 2026 (15:30-17:00 CET)

Online webinar

Hosted by MEP Vlad Voiculescu (Renew, RO)

With the participation of
European Society for Paediatric Oncology (SIOP Europe)
Childhood Cancer International – Europe (CCI Europe)

The 2026 edition of the annual **International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD)** event will highlight the progress achieved under **Europe's Beating Cancer Plan (EBCP)**, in particular through its Spotlight on Childhood Cancer, while also drawing attention to further dedicated actions, resources, and policy commitment needed to address the remaining gaps.

The event is set to contribute to multi-stakeholder discussions surrounding the **European Parliament own initiative report on the EBCP**, currently in preparation under the leadership of MEP Voiculescu. As the EBCP moves into its next implementation phase and future EU cancer policy initiatives are shaped beyond 2025, the event aims to underline that childhood cancer must remain a visible priority. Strong political support and practical measures are needed to ensure that all children and young people with cancer in Europe benefit from equally high standards of care, research, and survivorship support, regardless of where they live.

SIOPe and CCI Europe will share evidence and perspectives from paediatric oncology professionals, parents and survivors to support this reflection process. The discussion will be then structured as an integrated panel addressing the full continuum of care - from access to research and high-quality medical and psychosocial care to long-term survivorship - with a focus on effective and sustainable policy and implementation on the ground.

One focus area will be **access to care, research and innovation**. Recognising the differences between paediatric and adult oncology⁽¹²³⁾, the discussion will explore how children and young people can be included and benefit fully from EU cancer initiatives including networks and infrastructure development. **Survivorship and psychosocial care** constitute a second core priority area. Through the EBCP, the EU has supported important projects and initiatives aimed to improve long-term follow-up, quality of life, and psychosocial support for childhood cancer survivors and their families (e.g., EU-CAYAS-NET). The next phase should ensure that these EU-funded initiatives are implemented sustainably across Member States, in line with the EBCP's objectives.

By bringing together policymakers and key stakeholders from across the childhood cancer community and beyond, this event aims to foster shared understanding and actionable policy directions to strengthen access to care, research, and sustainable survivorship services. The goal is to ensure that progress achieved at EU level through the EBCP translates into lasting, equitable impact for all children and young people with cancer across Europe.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

1	15:30- 15:40 <u>Special Welcome Address</u> o Vlad Voiculescu MEP (Renew, RO) - Host o Uta Dirksen, SIOPE President (University of Essen/DE) o Anita Kienesberger, CCI-E Chair
	15:40 – 15:50 <u>Setting the Scene: EBCP and Childhood Cancer: Achievements and Future Needs</u> o Gilles Vassal, SIOPE Board Member (Gustave Roussy Comprehensive Cancer Centre/FR) o Hannah Gsell, CCI-E
2	15:50– 16:50 <u>Panel Discussion on Future Policy Orientations for Children & Adolescents with Cancer in Europe</u> Moderator: o Maja Beck, SIOPE Board Member / Panelists o Delphine Heenen, CCI-E & KickCancer o Speaker DG SANTE, European Commission [invited] o Speaker DG Research, European Commission [invited] o MEP Vlad Voiculescu (RE, RO) o MEP Tilly Metz (Greens, LUX) [invited] o MEP Lucas Fourlas (EPP, CY) (pre-recoded video message, invited) o Speaker PanCare/SIOPE [invited]
3	16:50 –17:00 <u>Closing Remarks</u> o MEP Vlad Voiculescu (Renew, RO) - Host o Uta Dirksen, SIOPE President (University of Essen/DE) o Anita Kienesberger, CCI-E Chair

¹ Vassal G, Pearson ADJ. Cancer research in Europe: a focus on children and young people. *Lancet Oncol* 2023; 24: 8–9.

² Otth M, de Rojas T, Rauwolf KK. Differences in care delivery for children and adolescents with cancer in Europe – Results from the SIOPE OCEAN project. *EJC PO* 2025 June; 5 doi 10.1016/j.ejcped.2025.100219.

³ Rauwolf, Kerstin K. et al. Inequalities in availability of clinical trials for pediatric, adolescent, and young adult patients with cancer in Europe: results from the SIOPE OCEAN project *The Lancet Regional Health – Europe*, Volume 62, 101554.