



Venue: European Parliament, Brussels

Organiser: MEP Victor Negrescu and 4P-CAN Consortium

Format: Multi-stakeholder policy dialogue (120 min) + “Art of Networks” exhibition

Concept note

Closing the Loop: Linking Policy and Implementation - Scaling Equitable Cancer Prevention in Eastern Europe

Background and rationale

Cancer prevention policies are strongest when they are implementable - designed with a clear understanding of the local conditions that determine uptake and sustainability. Across Europe, and particularly in Eastern Europe and rural/underserved communities, prevention outcomes are shaped by intertwined factors: socio-economic constraints, workforce and service capacity, trust, health literacy, local governance, social norms, and the real-life pathways through which people access information and services. These realities often remain underrepresented in high-level policy design, leading to an implementation gap even where evidence and guidelines are robust.

4P-CAN project (2023-2027, Horizon Europe, contributing to the implementation of the EU Mission on Cancer) addresses this gap by combining implementation research, social sciences, and stakeholders and citizen engagement to generate practice-based evidence on what it takes to deliver cancer prevention effectively and equitably. A core pillar is the Lerești Living Lab (Argeș County, Romania) - a real-world community platform where cancer prevention is co-designed and tested bottom-up with those who deliver and experience it: citizens, schools, community organisations, health professionals, and local/regional authorities. The Living Lab enables structured co-creation, rapid learning, and accountability, translating community insights into implementable actions - and translating implementation lessons into policy-relevant recommendations.

Purpose of the event

To convene EU and Member State actors in a focused discussion on how to link policy and implementation in cancer prevention by embedding local realities into programme design, strengthening implementation capacity, and enabling scaling that preserves equity - especially in Eastern Europe.

What we propose at the European Parliament (two connected components)

1) Multi-stakeholder policy dialogue

A moderated discussion grounded in Living Lab evidence and the lived experience of implementation, focusing on:

- Bottom-up prevention design: how community realities, citizen perspectives, and frontline delivery constraints can be systematically incorporated into prevention strategies
- Implementation capacity and governance: the enabling conditions for delivery (partnerships, workforce, local coordination, trusted communication channels, data feedback loops)
- Equity by design: practical ways to integrate East - West and rural - urban inequities into planning, financing, monitoring and accountability
- Scaling and transfer: how Living Lab methods and learnings can support replication across regions without “one-size-fits-all” solutions

2) “Art of Networks” exhibition

An exhibition translating Lerești Living Lab data into an accessible visual format, making visible how social networks, local actors, and community dynamics shape prevention behaviours and the uptake of prevention measures. The exhibition is designed as a dialogue tool - supporting policymaker engagement beyond conventional formats.

Participation and invited stakeholders

The event will connect European-level decision-making with real-world implementation actors, ensuring the dialogue is anchored in delivery conditions:

European level (policy and strategic alignment):

- Members of the European Parliament (political host MEP Victor Negrescu and interested MEPs), policy advisors
- European Commission services and EU-level initiatives relevant to prevention and inequalities
- Representatives from the EU Mission on Cancer ecosystem and prevention-focused networks

National, regional and local level (implementation and governance):

- Local and regional authorities from Argeș County directly involved in the Lerești Living Lab and prevention actions (ensuring a “reality check” on feasibility, governance and resourcing)
- National public health and cancer prevention stakeholders (ministries/agencies, programme implementers)
- Health system actors involved in cancer prevention pathways (primary care, community health, public health services)

Community and civil society (bottom-up design and trust):

- Citizen representatives engaged in the Lerești Living Lab, including voices across generations and community groups
- Schools and community organisations involved in prevention actions
- Civil society and patient/survivor organisations working on prevention, equity, and access
- Researchers and experts in implementation science, social sciences, health equity and communication

Participation will be structured to avoid a “top-down panel only” format and to ensure local stakeholders are not symbolic: local/regional voices and citizen representatives will contribute as implementation partners, presenting concrete constraints and enablers and co-shaping the takeaways.

Expected outputs

The event will produce outputs designed for immediate usability by policymakers and implementers:

1. Policy-to-Implementation Takeaways

A concise set of actionable points outlining what EU and Member State actors can do to strengthen implementation capacity and embed equity - explicitly reflecting Eastern Europe and rural realities.

2. Practice-to-Policy Insights Brief

A short brief capturing:

- key implementation lessons from the Living Lab (what enables uptake, what blocks it, what makes it sustainable)
- implications for policy design, funding instruments, and monitoring frameworks
- recommendations for scaling through adaptable models and local governance

3. Implementation Reality Checklist

A simple checklist for policymakers/programme designers to test whether a cancer prevention initiative is implementable locally (governance, workforce, trust channels, citizen involvement, feedback loops, equity safeguards).

4. Stakeholder & governance mapping summary

A structured summary of the local/regional stakeholder landscape and governance insights emerging from the Living Lab - supporting replication and transfer to other regions.

5. Follow-up pathway

A curated contact group and follow-up mechanism to connect EU-level actors with implementation sites and stakeholders, supporting continued exchange on living labs and equitable prevention delivery.