



The “Cancer Prevention Across Europe” campaign (PrEvCan) was launched in Greece on 4 November, the first day of the three-day Hellenic Symposium in Cancer Nursing, organised by the Hellenic Oncology Nurses Society, Part of the Hellenic Nurses Association (HONS-HNA).

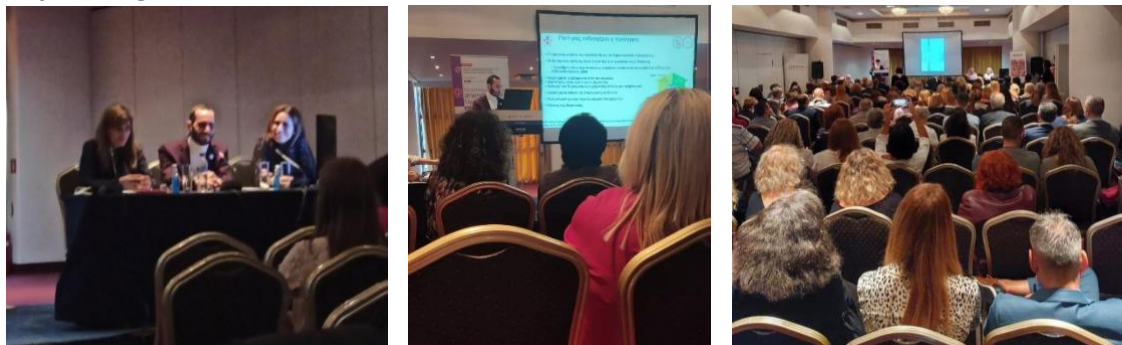
The Hellenic Symposium in Cancer Nursing proved to be one of the leading national cancer events, bringing together stakeholders from across Greece and Cyprus who are committed to improving cancer outcomes and providing high quality cancer care.

This report is a brief summary of the session entitled “Cancer prevention at the heart of cancer care and policy”, which provided a forum for relevant stakeholders in cancer care and policy to discuss the national strategy for cancer prevention; the PrEvCan campaign that is led by EONS; and the role and contribution of cancer nurses in cancer prevention.



The presentation of PrEvCan functioned as a platform to open a discussion among the participants (cancer nurses, medical oncologists, patient advocates, representatives from the leadership of the Ministry of Health and academicians) about the lack of a national cancer plan and strategy, the underrepresentation of cancer nurses in decision-making, the focus of health systems on cancer treatment rather than prevention, the lack of training of healthcare professional in cancer prevention, the importance of raising public awareness around cancer prevention, as well as building future collaborations and commitments to cancer prevention.

Key messages of the session summarised below are:



- Cancer is an increasing public health challenge at a national level and worldwide,
- Raising awareness is a core part of cancer prevention,
- We urgently need to increase the cancer prevention funding,
- Cancer plan and strategy must be a political commitment,
- Cancer nurses should be part of the political decision making,
- Prevention is the best and most economical way to face
 - The increasing burden of cancer
 - The inequalities in health and cancer care
 - The changing demographic characteristics of the population
 - The exposure to risk factors
 - The complexity and diversity of cancer
 - And the cost of treatment



After the session, representatives of the national partners of PrEvCan (the Hellenic Oncology Nurses Society, the International Hellenic University, the University of West Attica and the Cyprus Oncology Nursing Society) had a fruitful and productive meeting about their joint actions for the forthcoming months of PrEvCan. Among others, their agenda includes webinars, a day conference on cancer prevention and the recommendations of the European Code against Cancer, an art exhibition related to ECAC recommendations with the participation of university students, the promotion of PrEvCan in national meetings and congresses.