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## IARC launches the World Code Against Cancer Framework

**Lyon, France, 4 February 2022** – One in five people worldwide develop cancer during their lifetime. Prevention of cancer has become one of the most significant public health challenges of the 21st century. It has a critical role to play in the fight against cancer.

Based on current scientific evidence, at least 40% of all cancer cases could be prevented with effective primary prevention measures, and further mortality can be reduced through early detection of tumours.

To mark World Cancer Day (4 February), the International Agency for Research of Cancer (IARC) and partners are launching the new World Code Against Cancer Framework (<https://cancer-code-world.iarc.who.int>), an online platform that will promote cancer prevention globally and the development of Regional Codes Against Cancer.

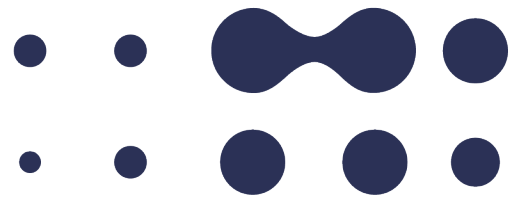
“Some risk factors are common worldwide. However, epidemiological patterns (e.g. certain infections) are region-specific, and, more importantly, socioeconomic and cultural conditions and access to effective cancer prevention interventions vary across regions,” explains Dr Carolina Espina, the IARC scientist who leads this project. “Regional Codes Against Cancer will be developed independently and will be based on reviewing and summarizing the latest scientific evidence, to translate this evidence base into cancer prevention recommendations.”

The World Code Against Cancer Framework provides the common strategy and methodology to develop region-specific recommendations on cancer prevention, tailored to the context and needs of the population in a particular region.

“The World Code Against Cancer Framework builds on the success of the 4th edition of the European Code Against Cancer, which showed the need for guidance of the general population and health decision-makers on how to reduce their risk of cancer,” says Dr Joachim Schüz, the IARC scientist who led the development of the European Code Against Cancer 4th edition, which was launched in 2014.

The 4th edition provided 12 evidence-based recommendations, and its funder – the European Commission – has just announced an update in Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan.

“This new platform will host existing Regional Codes Against Cancer, such as the European Code Against Cancer 4th edition, as well as Regional Codes that are currently under development, such as the Latin America and the Caribbean Code Against Cancer, and other future Regional Codes,” says Dr Espina.



The Latin America and the Caribbean Code Against Cancer is expected to be launched in 2023. It will be the first regional adaptation of the European Code Against Cancer, under the umbrella of the World Code Against Cancer Framework.

It will provide clear recommendations suited to Latin America and the Caribbean to educate the population on cancer prevention. This Regional Code Against Cancer will also be an exceptional public health instrument to guide and support governments in the implementation of their cancer control strategies, as well as an e-learning tool for primary health care providers.

The World Code Against Cancer Framework is a collaborative initiative coordinated by IARC that includes partners such as World Cancer Research Fund International (WCRF International), the European Commission, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), and the Latin American and Caribbean Society of Medical Oncology (SLACOM) and Network of National Cancer Institutes and Institutions (RINC).

**For more information, please contact**

Véronique Terrasse, Communications Group, at +33 (0)6 45 28 49 52 or [terrassev@iarc.fr](mailto:terrassev@iarc.fr)  
or IARC Communications, at [com@iarc.fr](mailto:com@iarc.fr)

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) is part of the World Health Organization. Its mission is to coordinate and conduct research on the causes of human cancer, the mechanisms of carcinogenesis, and to develop scientific strategies for cancer control. The Agency is involved in both epidemiological and laboratory research and disseminates scientific information through publications, meetings, courses, and fellowships. If you wish your name to be removed from our press release emailing list, please write to [com@iarc.fr](mailto:com@iarc.fr).