

97th ENCR Steering Committee (SC) Meeting and Meeting of the JRC-ENCR Management Committee minutes

Date and place: 23 March 2026, Videoconference

Attendees: ENCR SC, JRC-ENCR Management Committee, Representatives from the European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC)

Welcome and adoption of the minutes of the 96th ENCR SC meeting

The minutes of the 96th ENCR SC meeting were approved with a minor modification.

ENCR Membership

A revised draft of the membership criteria was discussed, placing greater emphasis on contribution to ECIS. The new draft states that regional registries that feed a central registry are also eligible for full membership, and it clarifies that the ENCR is inclusive of European countries beyond the EU-27. The final version will be circulated for approval at the next SC meeting.

Update on ECIS

The status of the 2026 submissions was revised, highlighting an improvement in the timeliness of ECIS data that will be published in 2026. The first-phase validation was carried out in February and March; the second phase from April/May onwards will address incidence, survival and stage corrections, with updated data to be available by the end of summer to update incidence and mortality statistics in ECIS and for survival estimates to be calculated by CRATE2 (CancerWatch WP7.2).

EU-27 incidence estimates were released in Dec 2025; estimates for the remaining European countries are expected in April 2026, with long-term estimates possibly by June 2026.

Access to ECIS database

An ECIS Review Board has been established to assess the scientific soundness of data requests from the ECIS database. The workflow proceeds as follows: initial JRC screening → ECIS Review Board assessment → scientific opinion to the JRC-ENCR Management Committee, who acts as decision body. Assessment criteria are being revised for alignment with the European Health Data Space (EHDS) requirements, and legal guidance.

ICD-O-4 updates (FB)

Conversion tables will be published on the IARC website in April 2026, followed by a book (covering ICD-O-4, ICD-10 and ICD-11 comparisons) in October 2026.

A joint IACR-ENCR conversion tool is under consideration. The JRC's Quality Check Software shall be upgraded to incorporate ICD-O-4.

ENCR Recommendations and Working groups

- *Tumours of unknown primary site*: work ongoing.
- *Multiple primary tumours*: the registries' consultation deadline has been extended to the end of March 2026.
- *Haematological malignancies*: The group is expected to reconvene after the ICD-O-4 is finalised.
- *Non-melanoma skin cancers*: A narrative review was published in *Cancers*. The next step is to discuss the methodology for European NMSC estimates, based on IARC experience and assessment of data availability done by the JRC.

ENCR trainings

- Two webinars will be organized in the second half of the year, addressing the 2025-issued recommendations on treatment, and on recurrences.

CancerWatch: preliminary results from survey 5.1

The survey reached 192 registries and has a great success rate. Results will be consolidated and shared for CancerWatch revision by summer; the registry list will be used to update the ENCR registry directory.

AoB

- *ENCR elections*: To be held at the end of 2026; members are invited to propose candidates.
- *Next meeting*: Scheduled to be held in-person at JRC-Ispra on 12 June 2026.