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Answer given by Ms Kyriakides
on behalf of the European Commission
(10.7.2024)

The Union of Equality strategies¹ adopted by the Commission in 2020 and 2021 stress, among other things, the need to combat stereotypes, fight age-based discrimination, and foster equal chances to thrive. These strategies take an intersectional approach and pay due attention to differences, including of age².

Europe's Beating Cancer Plan pays particular attention to combatting health inequalities, including ageism. The European Cancer Inequalities Registry³, one of its Flagship initiatives, monitors inequalities, including by age⁴. A factsheet⁵ alerts to the demographic effect on cancer burden and to age as a cancer risk factor. Furthermore, the Council Recommendation on cancer screening⁶ indicates age targets for breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screening, including for older age groups.

The Clinical Trials Regulation⁷ provides that clinical trial reports describe the population demographics, including age distribution. Furthermore, the European Medicines Agency's assessment report for marketing authorisation has a "special population" section, analysing age distribution of the target group, and discussing differences emerging from clinical data for excluding vulnerable groups.

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/gender-equality-strategy_en; https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/combating-discrimination/lesbian-gay-bi-trans-and-intersex-equality/lgbtiq-equality-strategy-2020-2025_en; https://commission.europa.eu/system/files/2021-01/eu_roma_strategic_framework_for_equality_inclusion_and_participation_for_2020_-_2030_0.pdf; https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/combating-discrimination/racism-and-xenophobia/eu-anti-racism-action-plan-2020-2025_en; <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/strategy-for-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities.html>

² https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/union-equality_en

³ <https://cancer-inequalities.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

⁴ <https://cancer-inequalities.jrc.ec.europa.eu/data-tool-by-age>

⁵ <https://cancer-inequalities.jrc.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/ECIR-inequalities-factsheet-2040-cancer-estimates-May-2023.pdf>

⁶ [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32022H1213\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32022H1213(01))

⁷ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2014/536/2022-12-05>