

# ELISAH: the European project to reduce the impact of breast cancer

Project Duration

January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2026

**Sponsor: European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA) (Call EU4H-2022-PJ3)**

**Scientific Coordinator at AOUP: Prof Walter Mazzucco**

PROJECT NUMBER: 101128640

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EU CONTRIBUTION TO AOUP € 66,343.00

## In Short



The three-year European Commission-funded project ELISAH - European Linkage of Initiative from Science to Action in Health - launched on February 8, 2024 in Milan, Italy - aims to study lifestyles that increase the risk of breast cancer, including the role of pollution from the urbanised environment, diet, sedentariness, tobacco and alcohol - mapping them in order to define new, tailor-made prevention tools that are also effective for disadvantaged regions.

A budget of around EUR 1 million has been allocated for the project, led by the Fondazione IRCCS National Cancer Institute (Italy) in Milan coordinating 11 partners from Italy (the AOU Policlinico 'Paolo Giaccone' of Palermo, the non-profit organisations Salute Donna and Cittadini per l'aria, and the Universities of Brescia and Perugia), Spain (Institut Català d'oncologia, Girona Biomedical Research Institute-Idibgi; Institut d'Investigació Sanitària Pere Virgili-lispv), Ukraine (Utility Non-Profit Enterprise Ivano-Frankivsk Central City Clinical Hospital; Carpathian Institute Of Analytics - FrankoLytics) and Greece (Ethniko Kai Kapodistriako Panepistimio Athinon). The multidisciplinary consortium includes epidemiologists, clinicians, statisticians, public health professionals, psychologists, physicists and engineers.

Representatives of all the partners involved in the project met on February 8, 2024 in Milan for the project kick-off meeting.

### *THE THREE-YEAR ELISAH PROJECT*

Breast cancer remains a global health challenge. In 2020, regardless of gender, it was the first cancer worldwide in terms of frequency (11.9% of cases). More than 2.2 million cases were diagnosed globally, including more than half a million in Europe, with 684,996 deaths. Only 5-10% of all breast cancers have a genetic cause, while the remaining 90-95% are related to lifestyles and environmental factors. The Elisah project focuses on these so-called modifiable risks factors.

Elisah will be structured in two parts in order to implement health policies and interventions in line with the principles of the [Beating Cancer Plan](#) of the European Union:

- the first is a detailed analysis of national cancer control plans, breast cancer incidence rates in Europe and the distribution of risk factors;
- the second part involves the implementation of innovative interventions and actions to overcome current limitations in breast cancer prevention. These include a web platform to support lifestyle changes, target initiatives to increase knowledge of risk factors, and screening in specific geographical areas.

### **THE 'PAOLO GIACCONE' POLYCLINIC OF PALERMO PARTNER IN THE EUROPEAN ELISAH RESEARCH PROJECT FOR BREAST CANCER PREVENTION**

The A.O.U.P. 'Paolo Giaccone', through the Multidisciplinary Unit of Clinical Epidemiology with Cancer Registry, directed by Prof. Francesco Vitale, participates in the project 'European Linkage of Initiative from Science to Action in Health (ELISAH)', financed by the European Commission (Call EU4H-2022-PJ-3) to promote prevention of breast cancer.

The research team of the Multidisciplinary Unit of Clinical Epidemiology with Tumour Registry, coordinated by Prof. Walter Mazzucco, provides breast cancer incidence data collected by the Palermo and Province Tumour Registry, while leading the study on the epidemiological impact of lymphomas associated with breast implants, which is conducted in collaboration with the network of the Italian Association of Cancer Registries (AIRTUM) and the other bodies belonging to the ELISAH consortium,.

The local research team includes specialised healthcare professionals (Rosalba Amodio, Giorgio Graziano and Rita Mannino), working at the Multidisciplinary Unit of Clinical Epidemiology with Cancer Registry. Specialty training doctors in Hygiene and Preventive Medicine of the University of Palermo are also actively involved in the project activities.