



YARN Youth Cancer Council

In-Person Meeting – Information Booklet

15 - 17 February | Brussels, Belgium

Just as **yarn is made of individual threads woven together**, the European Youth Cancer Network (YARN) connects the voices, stories and strengths of young people across Europe affected by cancer.

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Welcome to YARN

Hello and welcome to the second in-person meeting of the YARN Youth Cancer Council in Brussels.

We are very much looking forward to bringing the Council together in person, to reconnect, exchange perspectives, and continue shaping YARN's work through lived experience, shared learning, and collective input.

YARN – European Youth Cancer Network is an EU co-funded project running from July 2025 to June 2028, led by Youth Cancer Europe. The project brings together partners from 28 European countries, working across healthcare, research, patient advocacy, and policy.

YARN focuses on strengthening peer support and social networking, improving mental health and psychosocial standards, supporting education and career reintegration, addressing relapse, metastatic cancer and late effects, promoting healthy lifestyles and personalised rehabilitation, advancing long-term follow-up and transition of care, and embedding equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) within healthcare systems and patient organisations.

The project also works to improve access to reliable, multilingual information, including for people living with treatment side effects, relapse, or metastatic disease.

Youth-led, policy-focused: the Youth Cancer Council

At the core of YARN is the Youth Cancer Council (YCC), a pan-European advisory group of 100 young people with lived experience of cancer.

The Council plays an active role in consultation, decision-making, and project design across YARN. By embedding lived experience throughout the project's governance and delivery, YARN ensures that youth perspectives are not only represented, but are actively shaping the systems, policies, and standards that affect them.

Practical information

This booklet includes practical information to help you plan your journey.

Accommodation

Youth Cancer Europe has booked **accommodation** for you in [Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre](#) for 2 nights (15-17 February). The address is Av. du Boulevard 17. **Meals** are provided.

Check-in starts from 14:00, check-out by 12:00. Breakfast is included and served between 6:30-10:00.



Getting to Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre

1. From Brussels South Station/Gare du Midi/Brussel-Zuid:

- Uber/ Bolt: depends on the traffic, from 15 minutes.
- Tram lines: lines 4 and 10 to **Rogier station**.

2. From Brussels Airport – Zaventem:

- Uber/Bolt: depends on the traffic, from 30 minutes.
- Train from **AIRPORT** (the station is located directly beneath the departures and arrivals halls) to **Brussel-Noord station**: 11 minutes. The hotel is located 500 meters from this station.

3. From Charleroi Airport:

- Uber/Bolt: depends on the traffic, from 60 minutes.
- Flibco bus from Charleroi Airport to Brussels South Station, then Uber/Bolt or tram lines 4 and 10 to **Rogier station**.

Please note that **taxis cannot be reimbursed**, except for participants with **accessibility needs**. We kindly ask the participants to use **public transport** to and from the airport/train station.

Reimbursement of Travel Expenses

Youth Cancer Europe will reimburse your economy return flight or train travel in line with EU unit-cost rules.

After the event, please complete the [travel reimbursement form](#) and email it, together with **scanned receipts or invoices**, to Ana Totovina (email address below).

Once we receive the form and documents, reimbursement will be processed as soon as possible. Bank transfers usually take **2-3 working days** to reach your account.

Please note that reimbursement is only possible for costs incurred by participants who **attended the meeting**. Please also remember to keep all receipts and invoices, as they are required for reimbursement. Only **pre-approved** costs can be reimbursed.

If you have any questions about travel, accommodation, or the meeting itself, please reach out to us:

- Ana Totovina | ana.totovina@youthcancereurope.org | +40729973947
- Hanna Ryzhkova | hanna@youthcancereurope.org | +40758105142

We've planned this meeting with different energy levels and needs in mind.

That includes mobility access, plenty of breaks, a later start, and quieter spaces if things feel overwhelming.

If you need to step out, rest, move around, or engage at your own pace, that's completely okay.

Your wellbeing comes first.

Agenda

15 February | Arrivals

Lunch will be organised by Ana Totovina for early arrivals.
Announcement will follow via WhatsApp.

19:30 Dinner organised in the hotel

16 February | Meeting room: Oslo 1&2

09:00 - 09:30 Registration and Welcome coffee

09:30 - 09:45 Welcome and introductions

09:45 - 10:15 Overview of the EU co-funded YARN project

10:15 - 10:45 Short update on the ACE Academy

10:45- 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 - 11:30 **Exploring the Role of Social Connections in the Lives of Young People Affected by Cancer**
(Work Package 1, Task 1.5)

11:30 - 12:00 **EDI Self-Assessment Tool for Patient Communities**
(Work Package 5, Task 5.3)

12:00 - 12:30 Youth Council Terms of Reference

12:30 - 14:00 Lunch

14:00 - 14:45 **Educational Resources and Support Tools for Adolescents and Young Adults in Advanced Disease and Palliative Care**
(Work Package 4, Task 4.3)

This session may be emotionally challenging for some participants. You're welcome to engage at your own pace and step out if needed.

14:45 - 15:00 Introduction to the healthy lifestyles component of YARN

15:00 - 15:30 Coffee Break
Change into comfy clothes if desired

15:30 - 17:00 Healthy Lifestyle Workshop (in Bergen)

17:00 - 17:30 Wrap-up and next steps (in Oslo 1&2)

20:00 Dinner - The Chairman (Bd Baudouin 30)

17 February | Departures