

International Agency for Research on Cancer



# Towards the third implementation report on cancer screening in Europe and review of the Council Recommendation on cancer screening (2003)



Co-funded by  
the Health Programme  
of the European Union

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## Background

The second implementation report on cancer screening in the EU recommended an update of the Annex of the 2003 Council of the European Union Recommendation on cancer screening to ensure implementation of evidence-based screening practices in the Member States. The second report also stressed on the necessity of updating the implementation report itself consistently at regular intervals over time.

Since the publication of the second report, a number of meetings have taken place to establish a roadmap towards developing a third report and establishing a framework for the regular updating of this considerable task. In support of this ongoing process, the Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL), together with the Centre for Epidemiology and Cancer Prevention in Piemonte (CPO), the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and the Finnish Cancer Registry propose to convene a programme of meetings involving the principal co-authors of the report and key stakeholders to discuss the steps towards the next report on cancer screening in the EU.

To provide focus for this programme, the co-authors of the screening report have collaborated on a manuscript describing the advances in cancer screening since the publication of the Council Recommendation in 2003.

## Objectives

- To assess state of play since 2018 meetings regarding a roadmap towards a third report, considering new developments such as CanScreen5, the Innovative Partnership for Action against Cancer (iPAAC) and other relevant European projects;
- To discuss how the next report can address the social inequality and take account of innovations in cancer screening organisation;
- To inform decision-makers about recent developments in cancer screening that may warrant an update of the Annex of the Council Recommendation on cancer screening (2003);
- To propose a concrete set of actions for the next 12-18 months to implement the roadmap for a third implementation report.

## Participants

- Co-authors of the second report – IARC; CPO Piemonte; Finnish Cancer Registry;
- European Commission – DG Santé, JRC;
- Invited experts – EU-Topia project; Centre for Global Health Inequalities Research (CHAIN); local data providers to the second report and professionals engaged in cancer screening programme implementation.

## Date and venue

- 14 October 2019 - Leuven, Belgium
- 15 October 2019 - Brussels, Belgium

## Programme

Monday 14 October

### Towards a third implementation report on Cancer Screening in the EU: lessons learnt, priorities and next steps (part 1/2)

*Kindly hosted by Flanders Agency for Health and Care (VAZG)  
Dirk Boutsgebouw (VAC Leuven), Diestsepoort 6, 3000 Leuven  
Meeting rooms: 00.4A & 00.4B*

<b>13:30 – 17:00</b>		
13:30	Welcome reception	
14:00	Brief introduction to Cancer Screening in EU report (2017)	P Basu (IARC) A Ponti (CPO Piemonte)
14:10	Reflections on importance of the Cancer Screening in the EU report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lessons learnt from second report;</li> <li>• Why a third report is needed;</li> <li>• Additional issues to be incorporated;</li> <li>• Importance of regular intervals for reporting;</li> <li>• Review of Council Recommendation (2003).</li> </ul>	Brief interventions by representatives of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IARC;</li> <li>• CPO Piemonte;</li> <li>• Finnish Cancer Registry;</li> <li>• ECL;</li> <li>• Joint Research Centre (EU).</li> </ul>
14:30	Introduction to Cancer Screening in 5 continents (CanScreen5)	A Carvalho (IARC)
14:45	Introduction: Setting the context of cancer screening in Belgium Cancer screening programmes interaction with the National Cancer Registry	M Arbyn (Sciensano) I De Brabander (Belgian Cancer Registry)
15:00	Short Break	
15:15	Presentations by screening programme coordinators and data providers to Cancer Screening in the EU report (2017): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current status of the screening programmes</li> <li>• Organisation, protocol, main indicators (invitation and examination coverage) and how they are defined.</li> </ul>	JB Burrion (BruMammo – Brussels) M Candeur (CCREF – Wallonia) S Hoeck (CVKo – Flanders) M Goossens (CVKo – Flanders) P Martens (CVKo – Flanders) E Kellen (CVKo – Flanders)
16:00	Discussion - barriers for data collection and lessons learnt from Cancer Screening in EU report (2017) process	
16:45	Concluding remarks - suggestions for way forward for next report	
17:00	End of meeting	

## ECL Breakfast Policy Roundtable

# Latest developments in cancer screening programmes in Europe

Is it time to revisit the Council Recommendation on Cancer Screening (2003)?

Permanent  
Representation of the  
Republic of Croatia to  
the European Union

Rue D'Arlon 108,  
Brussels, Belgium

15 October 2019

### AGENDA

#### 08.30 – 10.00

08.00 – 08.30	Registration	
08.30 – 08.40	Welcome and introductions	
08.40 – 09.05	The impact of 2003 European Council recommendation on cancer screening in the EU Member States - why is it necessary to review the recommendations?	Partha Basu (IARC) & Antonio Ponti (CPO Piemonte)
09.05 – 09.25	Cancer screening within the Innovative Partnership for Action against Cancer (iPAAC)	Ahti Anttila (Finnish Cancer Registry)
09.25 – 09.40	European Commission Initiative on Breast Cancer: development of evidence-based recommendations for breast cancer screening	Nadya Dimitrova & Luciana Neamtiu (Joint Research Centre - JRC)
09.40 – 09.55	Open discussion	Moderated by Dr Nereo Segnan (CPO Piemonte)
09.55 – 10.00	Concluding remarks	

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REPUBLIC OF CROATIA  
Permanent Representation of the Republic of Croatia to the EU

International Agency for Research on Cancer



Centro di Ricerche per l'Epidemiologia  
e la Prevenzione Oncologica in Piemonte



Cancer Society  
of Finland

Tuesday 15 October

Towards a third implementation report on Cancer Screening in the EU:  
lessons learnt, priorities and next steps (part 2/2)

ECL office

Rue Belliard 15-17, Brussels 1040

<b>10:00 – 16:00</b>		
10:20	Brief introduction and review of agenda	
10:30	European Commission Initiative on Breast Cancer (ECIBC) Performance Indicators & Quality Requirements for screening programmes.	L Neamtiu & N Dimitrova (JRC)
11:00	Screening programme performance data collected through EU-TOPIA project: experience and lessons learnt	H de Koning (Erasmus MC)
11:30	Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Integration of efforts with EU-TOPIA and CanScreen5;</li><li>• Contribution of both for third Cancer Screening in EU report</li></ul>	
12:30	Lunch	
13:30	Looking forward - potential improvements for the next Cancer Screening in EU report (1/2): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Organisational requirements to address inequalities in cancer screening</li></ul>	M Balaj (CHAIN)
13:50	Discussion	
14:00	Looking forward - potential improvements for the next Cancer Screening in EU report (2/2): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Focus on Cervical Cancer Screening – what innovations will next report need to address?</li><li>• Expected outcomes iPAAC joint action – how can they inform development of the next screening report?</li></ul>	M Arbyn (Sciensano)  A Anttila (Finnish Cancer Registry)
14:30	Discussion	
14:45	Coffee break	
15:00	Discussion of draft proposal for third Cancer Screening in EU report	
15:45	Timeline and next steps	
15:55	Close of meeting	

## ANNOTATED AGENDA

### Monday 14 October (afternoon) – screening report meeting 1/2

- **Introduction** (2 minutes)
  - General introduction to the meeting, setting the context and general purpose can be given by David Ritchie (ECL).
  - Goals and main objectives of the meeting to be stated:
    - co-authors and experts involved with the 2<sup>nd</sup> implementation report of Cancer Screening in the EU invited for 2-day meeting to discuss the roadmap towards the next cancer screening report.
    - The first day will involve a dialogue with programme coordinators, data providers and professionals working with the cancer screening programmes in Belgium regarding the lessons learnt from the producing the 2<sup>nd</sup> report and a look ahead to future challenges, which may need to be considered in the 3<sup>rd</sup> report.
- **Brief introduction to Cancer Screening in EU report (2017)** (10 minutes)
  - Partha Basu & Antonio Ponti will provide brief reminder on the 2<sup>nd</sup> report and point towards the need for regular updates and a potential revision of Council Recommendation (2003).
- **Reflections on importance of the Cancer Screening in the EU report** (20 minutes)
  - Short reflections about the need for next report and update of Council Recommendation from all co-organising organisations. (max. 5 mins each)
- **Introduction to Cancer Screening in 5 continents (CanScreen5)** (15 minutes)
  - André Carvalho will introduce CanScreen5 as a tool that can be used to improve the process for the next screening report.
- **Setting the context of cancer screening in Belgium** (10 minutes)
  - Marc Arbyn will introduce the general setting in which the cancer screening programmes exist in Belgium. Further details about the respective programmes will be provided by the screening coordinators.

- **Cancer screening programmes interaction with the National Cancer Registry** (10 minutes)
  - Isabel De Brabander will make a short presentation explaining the relationship between the screening programmes and the national cancer registry in Belgium, detailing how the registry helps support the organisation and evaluation of the programmes.
  
- **Coordinators of the Belgian screening programme** (50 minutes)
  - Representatives of the three regional screening programmes (Brussels, Flanders, Wallonia). The presentations will cover:
    - Current status of the screening programmes; Organisation, protocol, main indicators (invitation and examination coverage) and how they are defined.
    - Other topics such as addressing inequalities and future challenges may be highlighted in the presentations.
  - Up to 15 minutes per region.
  
- **Discussion** (45 minutes)
  - Two preparatory questions based on the general issues that arose from the 2<sup>nd</sup> report have been prepared by Carlo Senore & Antonio Ponti:
    - **Participation and coverage by examination and invitation in those setting where screening programs are designed to integrate opportunistic activity and active invitation strategies**
    - The experience of the 2<sup>nd</sup> EU cancer screening report is suggesting that we need to address the following issues:
      - ✓ definition of the target population,
      - ✓ measurement of the indicators and comparability of the indicators across different regions/countries,
      - ✓ timing and quality of data collection.
    - Problems emerged when collecting data for breast and cervical cancer screening
    - **Screening outcomes: performance of recommended assessments, quality of the examinations and histology results –**
      - ✓ Timing and quality of data collection
      - ✓ Organisation of data and patients flow
      - ✓ Measurement of the indicators and comparability of the indicators across different regions/countries
    - Problems emerged when collecting data for colorectal cancer screening

- Additional points raised by participants in advance include:
  - Separation of key issues by programmes, for example, importance in breast cancer of improved discrimination amongst detected cancers;
  - Growing importance of risk-stratified strategies.

## Tuesday 15 October (breakfast) – Council recommendation roundtable

- **Welcome** (5 minutes)
  - The host organisation, the Permanent Representation of Croatia to the EU will formally welcome participants to the meeting. Words of greeting will be conveyed from the health attaché of Croatia on behalf of the Ambassador of Croatia to the EU.
- **Introductions** (5 minutes)
  - ECL Director Wendy Yared will briefly introduce ECL and welcome all participants to the meeting.
  - Nereo Segnan will moderate the presentations and discussion session and introduce the respective speakers.
- **The impact of 2003 European Council recommendation on cancer screening in the EU Member States - why is it necessary to review the recommendations?** (20 minutes)
  - Partha Basu & Antonio Ponti will present on the developments in cancer screening since the publication of the 2003 recommendation asking the question, in light of the advancements made, should the council recommendation be updated.
- **Immediate Questions** (5 minutes)
  - Floor open for immediate questions from audience.
- **Cancer screening within the Innovative Partnership for Action against Cancer (iPAAC)** (15 minutes)
  - Ahti Anttila will provide an overview of the relevant cancer screening activities in the current innovative Partnership for Action Against Cancer joint action (ipaac). The presentation will highlight the specific areas in screening that ipaac will address and flag up the forthcoming meeting in Helsinki on 5 December.
- **Immediate questions** (5 minutes)
  - Floor open for immediate questions from audience.

- **European Commission Initiative on Breast Cancer: development of evidence-based recommendations for breast cancer screening** (10 minutes)
  - Nadya Dimitrova & Luciana Neamtii will share the knowledge gained during the development of evidence-based recommendations for breast cancer screening and, in particular, point to the topic areas covered by the ECIBC recommendations which might be of interest in the context of the roundtable.
- **Immediate questions** (15 minutes)
  - Floor open for immediate questions from audience.
- **Discussion** (15 minutes)
  - Nereo Segnan will moderate the open discussion of the issues raised during the representations.
    - Of key consideration will be the status of other screening programmes e.g. lung cancer screening in the context of updating the recommendation.

### Tuesday 15 October (morning - afternoon) – screening report meeting 2/2

- **Introduction** (5 mins)
  - A brief recap and review of agenda can be given by David Ritchie (ECL)
- **European Commission Initiative on Breast Cancer (ECIBC) Performance Indicators & Quality Requirements for screening programmes.** (30 mins)
  - Presentations will cover -
    - ECIBC Performance indicators for breast cancer screening programmes
    - ECIBC Quality requirements for breast cancer screening programmes.
  - Both presentations will share what was already achieved by the first Commission initiative of this kind and support consequently the definition of the 3rd Screening report using latest knowledge available.
- **Screening programme performance data collected through EU-TOPIA project: experience and lessons learnt** (30 mins)
  - Harry de Koning will provide an outline of the experiences gathered from the EU-Topia project that may be helpful for improving the data collection, analyses and presentation of the next screening report.

- **Discussion** (60 mins)
  - An in-depth discussion will consider the work to date of the EU, notably through the ECIBC, and the EU-Topia project and consider alignments with the CanScreen5 platform in regard to the future screening report.
  
- **Organisational requirement to address inequalities in cancer screening** (20 mins)
  - In the context of potential improvements for the next cancer screening report, Mirza Balaj from CHAIN, will introduce the issue of socio-economic inequalities in cancer screening, focusing mostly on access to screening, and discuss the organisational readiness of cancer screening programmes to address this issue.
  
- **Discussion** (10 mins)
  - The discussion will consider how the next screening report can meaningfully address inequalities, considering the challenges and barriers that would likely be involved.
  
- **Focus on Cervical Cancer Screening – what innovations will next report need to address?** (15 mins)
  - In the context of potential improvements for the next cancer screening report, Marc Arbyn will give overview of key issues and innovations on the horizon that may be important to consider of the next report. This presentation will focus specifically on cervical cancer screening as a practical example.
  
- **Expected outcomes iPAAC joint action – how can they inform development of the next screening report?** (15 mins)
  - Ahti Anttila will make the link of the planned outcomes from IPAAC and how these can feed into the development of the next screening report. Issues that IPAAC will address, such as risk-stratification within screening programmes, can be highlighted and considered in the context of developing the roadmap for the next report.
  
- **Discussion** (15mins)
  - An open discussion follows considering the points raised and their impact on the road map for a 3<sup>rd</sup> cancer screening report. Specific issues relating to breast cancer screening and colorectal screening can be addressed in the discussion.

- **Next steps**

(45 mins)

- The final discussion session will consider the follow up to the meeting and contribution of the items discussed during the programme for the roadmap for the next screening report.
- Ideas for the follow up of the breakfast policy roundtable will be discussed in view of a possible call for the review of the screening recommendation.
- Important forthcoming meetings of ipaac and EU-Topia are milestones to include in the next steps:
  - Ipaac cancer screening meeting – 4 December 2019 – Helsinki
  - EU-Topia workshop – 13-14 January 2020 - Brussels