

#HealthUnion
#EUCancerPlan

Europe's Beating Cancer Plan: the new EU Cancer Screening Scheme



Unit B1: Cancer, Health in all policies
Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety

Policy context

- **Europe's Beating Cancer Plan** as overarching policy framework
- Flagship: **A new EU Cancer Screening Scheme**, encompassing:
 - Council Recommendation on cancer screening
 - European guidelines and quality assurance schemes
 - Improved monitoring and exchange of data

Policy context

- **Council Recommendation on cancer screening**, adopted 12/2022, calling on Member States to:
 - offer **evidence-based and person-centred cancer screening** within national priorities, taking into account the basic principles of safety, ethics, public engagement and equity, through systematic population-based programmes;
 - implement accessible screening programmes in accordance with **European guidelines and quality assurance schemes**;
 - facilitate the development of piloting '**risk-stratified cancer screenings**' protocols, guidelines, and indicators.

Policy context

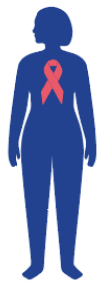
- ensure that **benefits and risks**, including potential overdiagnosis and overtreatment, are presented to the people participating in the screening in an understandable way;
- aim to **collect, manage and evaluate data** on all screening tests, assessments and final diagnoses;
- regularly **monitor the process and outcome** of organised cancer screening and report these results quickly;
- adequately **train personnel** at all levels to ensure that they are able to deliver high-quality screening.

Policy context

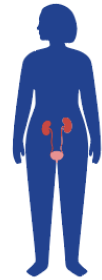
- seek a **high level of participation**, based on fully informed consent [...] [and] to take action to ensure **equitable access** to screening,
- consider the **introduction of novel screening tests** and methods taking into account international research results;
- **report** to the Commission **on the implementation** of this Recommendation within three years of its adoption and, subsequently, every four years to help follow up on this Recommendation.

Policy context

Council Recommendation on cancer screening: Technical annex



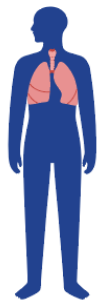
BREAST CANCER
suggesting a lower age limit of 45 and a higher age limit of 74 (standard 50 – 69), plus MRI scans when medically appropriate



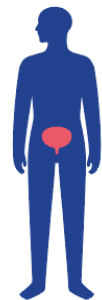
HPV testing for women aged 30 to 65, every 5 years or more, to detect CERVICAL CANCER, taking account of HPV vaccination status



Triage testing for COLORECTAL CANCER in people aged 50 – 74 through faecal immunochemical testing (FIT) to determine follow-up via endoscopy/colonoscopy



LUNG CANCER
testing for individuals at high risk (i.e. smokers), incl. prevention approaches



Prostate specific antigen testing for PROSTATE CANCER in men, plus MRI scans for follow-up



In places with high GASTRIC CANCER incidence and death rates, screening for Helicobacter pylori and surveillance of precancerous stomach lesions

EU4Health Programme

- Joint Action **EUCanScreen** – 06/2024 – 05/2028
 - **Objective:** The aim of this Joint Action is to support the full implementation of cancer screening for breast, colorectal and cervical cancers; and feasibility testing, planning, piloting of implementation of cancer screening for prostate, lung and gastric cancers to facilitate a step-wise approach for roll-out and full implementation.
 - The Joint Action will **link to the work** of the EU Knowledge Centre on Cancer and **ongoing EU funded actions** under the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and the Horizon Europe Mission on Cancer.
 - EU funding of EUR 31 million

EU4Health Programme

- **CanScreen-ECIS:** Strengthening cancer screening data collection to update European Cancer Information System and improve quality and coverage of cancer screening programmes in Europe – 09/2022 to 02/2024
- **TOGAS:** Towards gastric cancer screening in the European Union – 03/2023 to 02/2026;
- **SOLACE:** Strengthening the screening of Lung Cancer in Europe – 04/2023 to 03/2026;
- **PRAISE-U:** Prostate cancer Awareness and Initiative for Screening in the European Union – 04/2023 to 03/2026.

EU4Health Programme

- the **European Commission Initiatives on Breast, Colorectal and Cervical Cancer** – ongoing
- the **European Commission Initiatives on Lung, Prostate and Gastric Cancer** – upcoming
- the third **EU Cancer Screening Monitoring Report** – upcoming

Thank you

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