EU CanScreen
European Joint Action on Cancer Screening

How can we measure sustainability of organised cancer screening?

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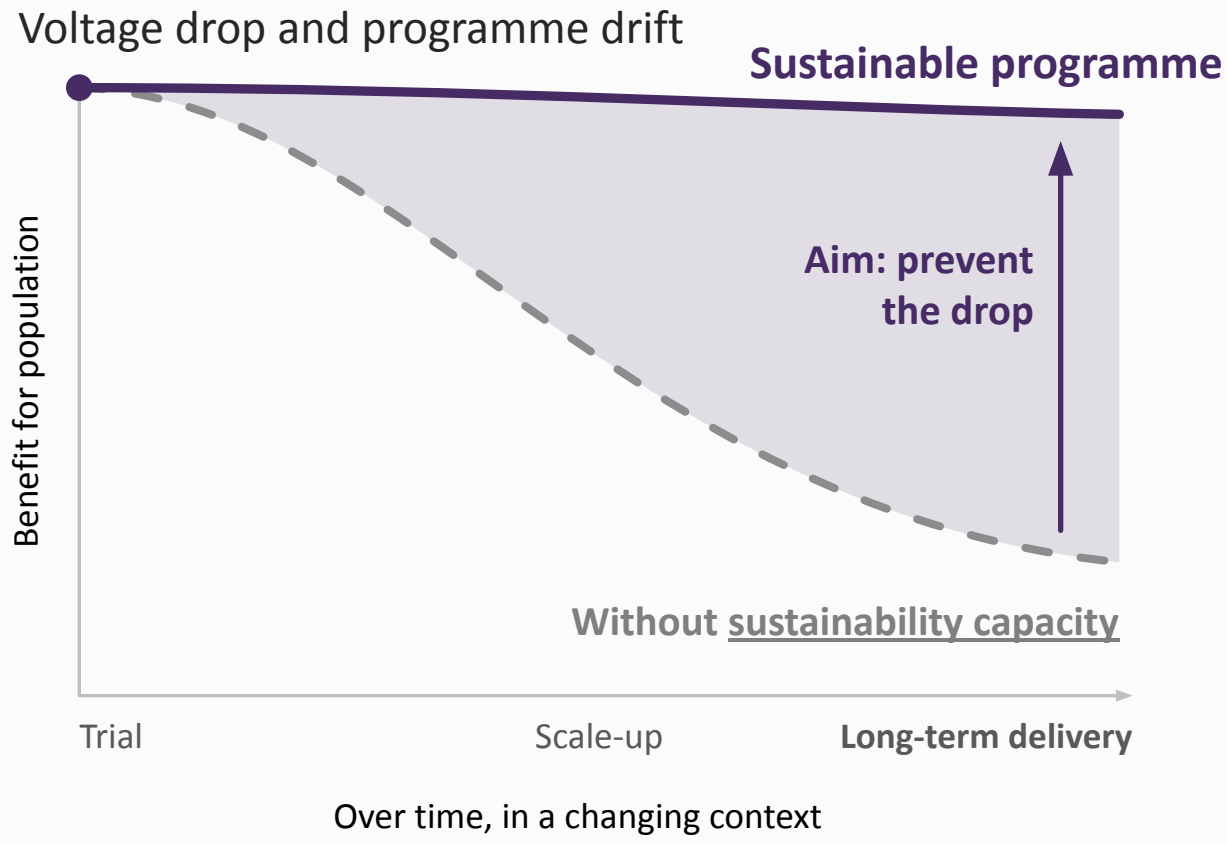
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Sustainability: what are we aiming for?

- **Maintained core elements**
- **Adapting while protecting core**
- **Achieving the desired goal**

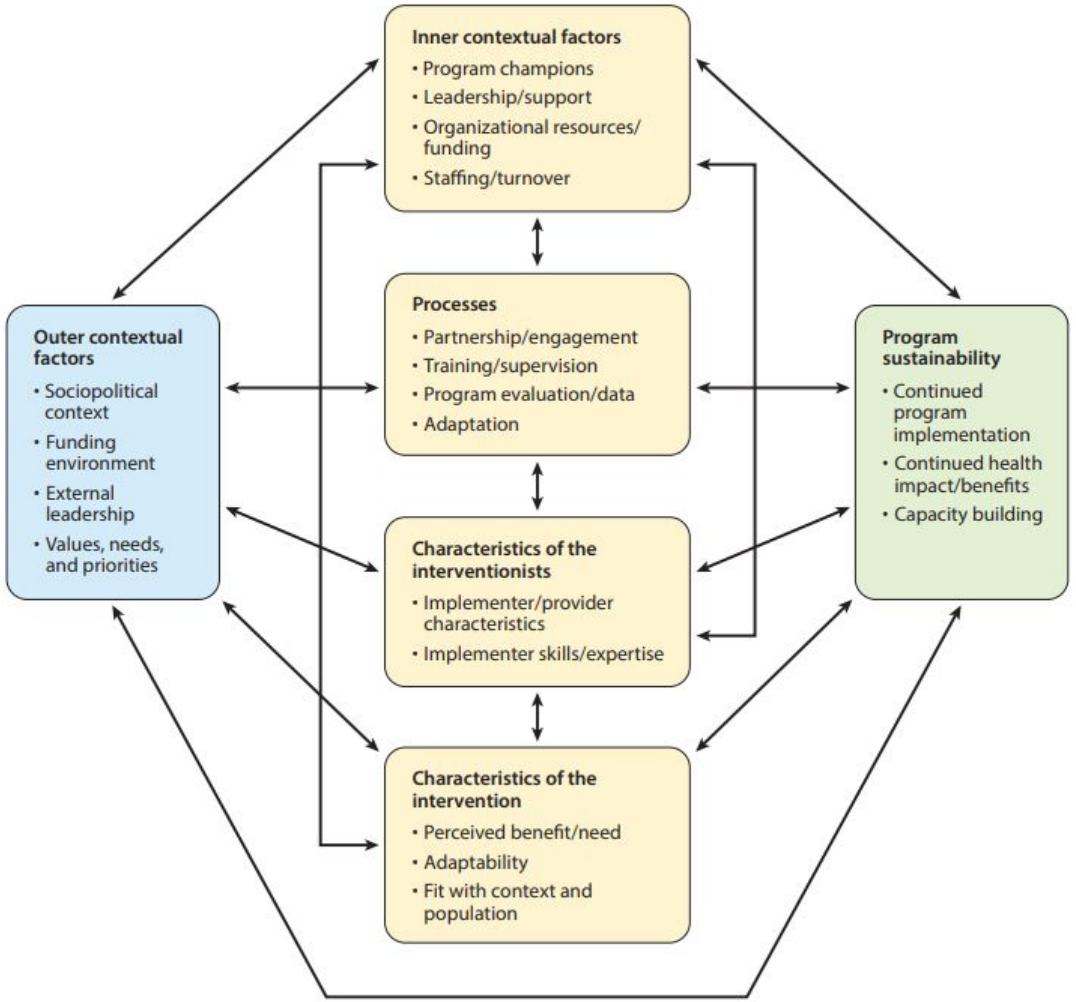


Illustrative. Concept from Chambers, Glasgow & Stange (2013), The dynamic sustainability framework, Implementation Science 8:117.

What constitutes Sustainability capacity?

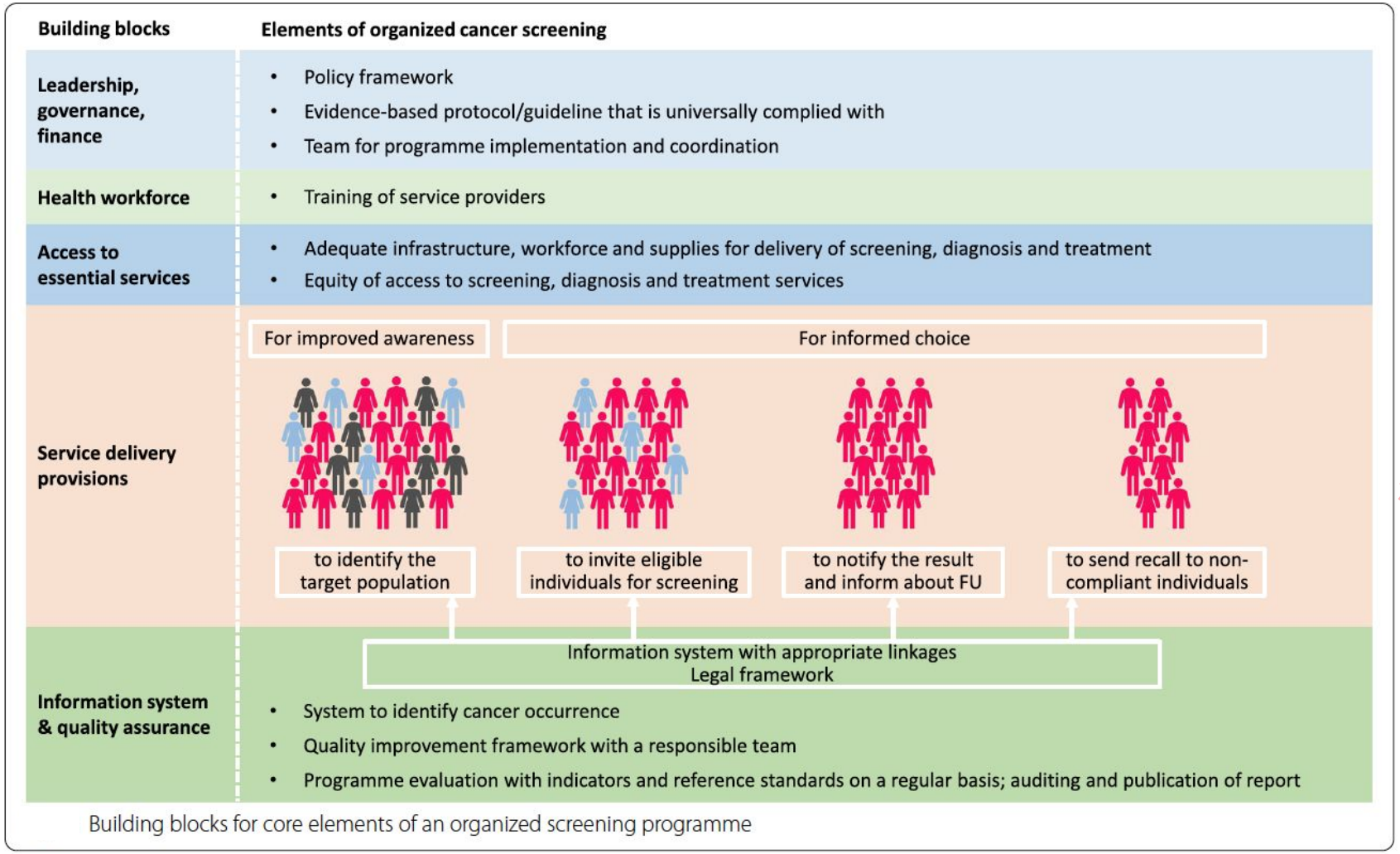
The presence of **structures** and **processes** that allow a program to maximize resources to successfully implement and maintain evidence-based policies and activities (Shelton et al. 2018).

Integrated Sustainability Framework



Shelton, Rachel C et al. Annual review of public health vol. 39 (2018): 55-76. doi:10.1146/annurev-publhealth-040617-014731

Sustainability capacity in organised cancer screening



Building blocks for core elements of an organized screening programme

System should be designed in a way that enables efficient use of resources to implement and maintain evidence-based organised cancer screening delivery and equitable impacts

Zhang et al., BMC Medicine 2022

How can we measure sustainability capacity of organised cancer screening programmes?

Sustainability measurement tools

Program Sustainability Assessment Tool

- A self-evaluation tool designed to assess the sustainability capabilities of a programme.
- Comprises 40 questions that span 8 sustainability domains.



PSAT developed by Washington University, St Louis, MO.
More information can be found on http://www.sustaintool.org/psat

Program Sustainability Assessment Tool (PSAT)

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Program Adaptation: Taking actions that adapt your program to ensure its ongoing effectiveness

	To little or no extent						To a very great extent	Not able to answer
1. The program periodically reviews the evidence base.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	NA
2. The program adapts strategies as needed.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	NA
3. The program adapts to new science.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	NA
4. The program proactively adapts to changes in the environment.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	NA
5. The program makes decisions about which components are ineffective and should not continue.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	NA

Average score

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Pros and Cons of PSAT

Pros

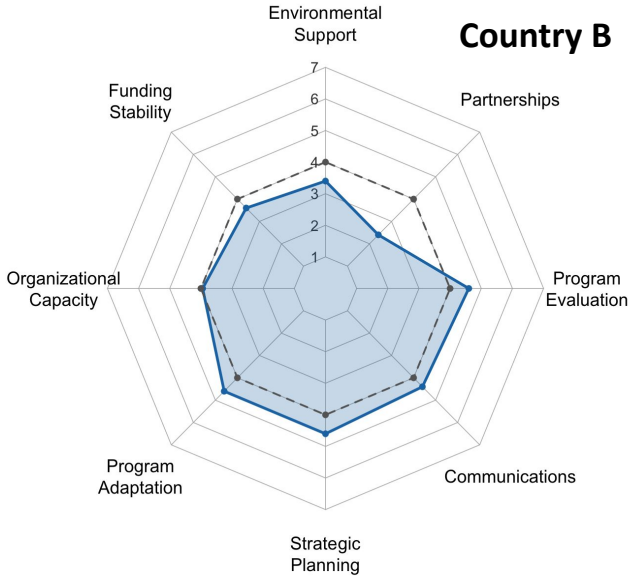
- Easy to administer
- Gives quantitative scores
- Enables identification of weak areas

Cons

- Subjectivity in scoring
- Ambiguity in some statements
- Cancer screening-specific structures and processes not adequately captured (Guida et al. 2026).

Guida, A., Togawa, K., Vicentini, M. *et al. BMC Public Health* (2026)





Sustainability capacity assessment tool for cancer screening

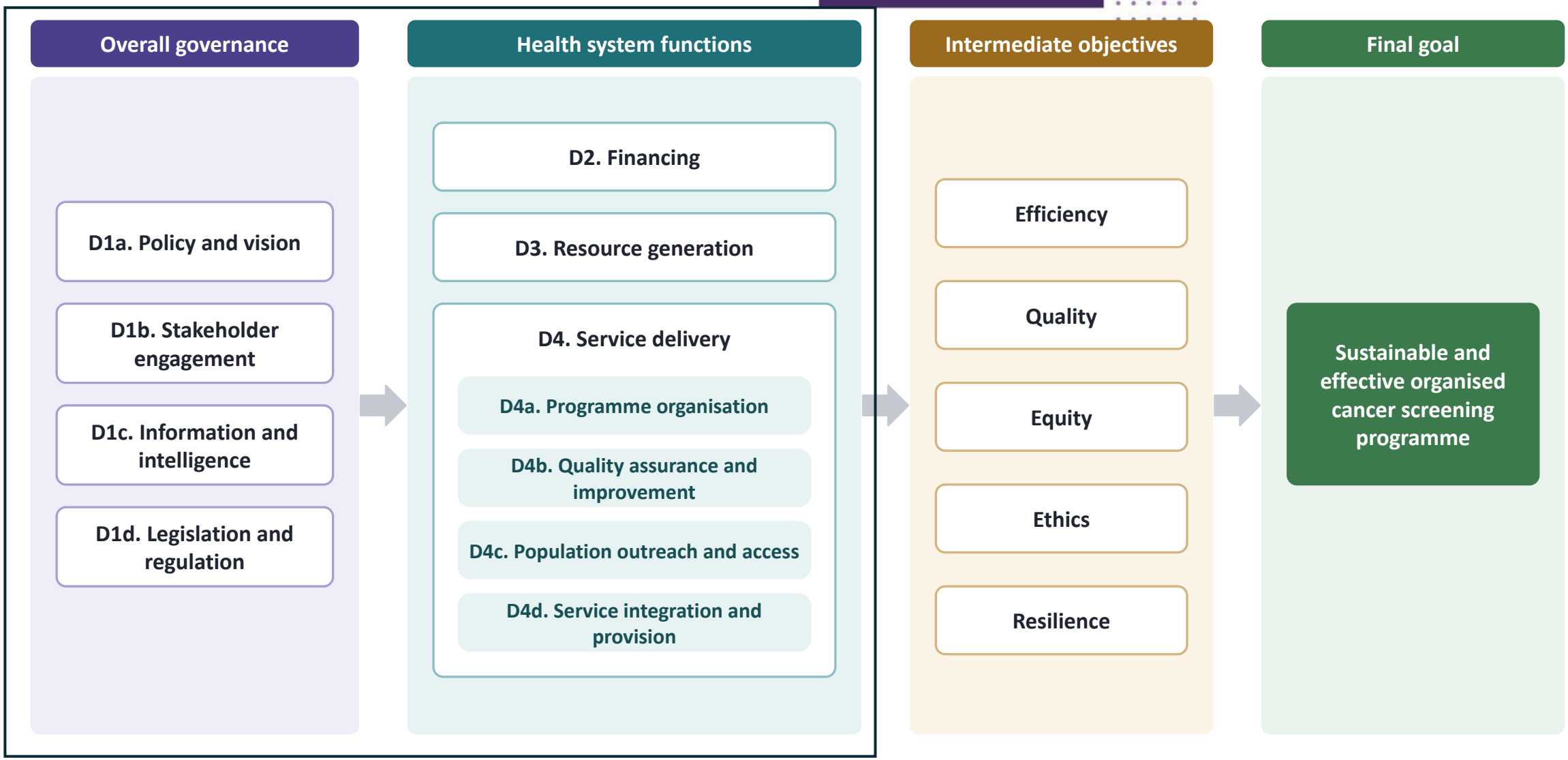
EUCanScreen WP4 aim: develop a structured tool for assessing the sustainability capacity of cancer screening programmes in Europe

Four-stage modified Delphi · To develop **consensus-based** sustainability capacity statements

Development Draft statements	**Round 1** Rate importance	**Round 2** Prioritise	**Round 3** Confirm	**Consensus** Agree
Drafted from frameworks and oganised screening criteria	Rate 94 statements on a 5-point importance scale	Rate 63 statements as Essential or Desirable	Confirm 54 statements and assess rating descriptors	Online meeting to agree final statements and descriptors
94 statements	**63 statements**	**54 statements**	**+ descriptors**	**Final tool**

Research team: EUCanScreen T4.1 taskforce
Expert panel: 17 policymakers and screening experts from 16 European countries

Assessment structure

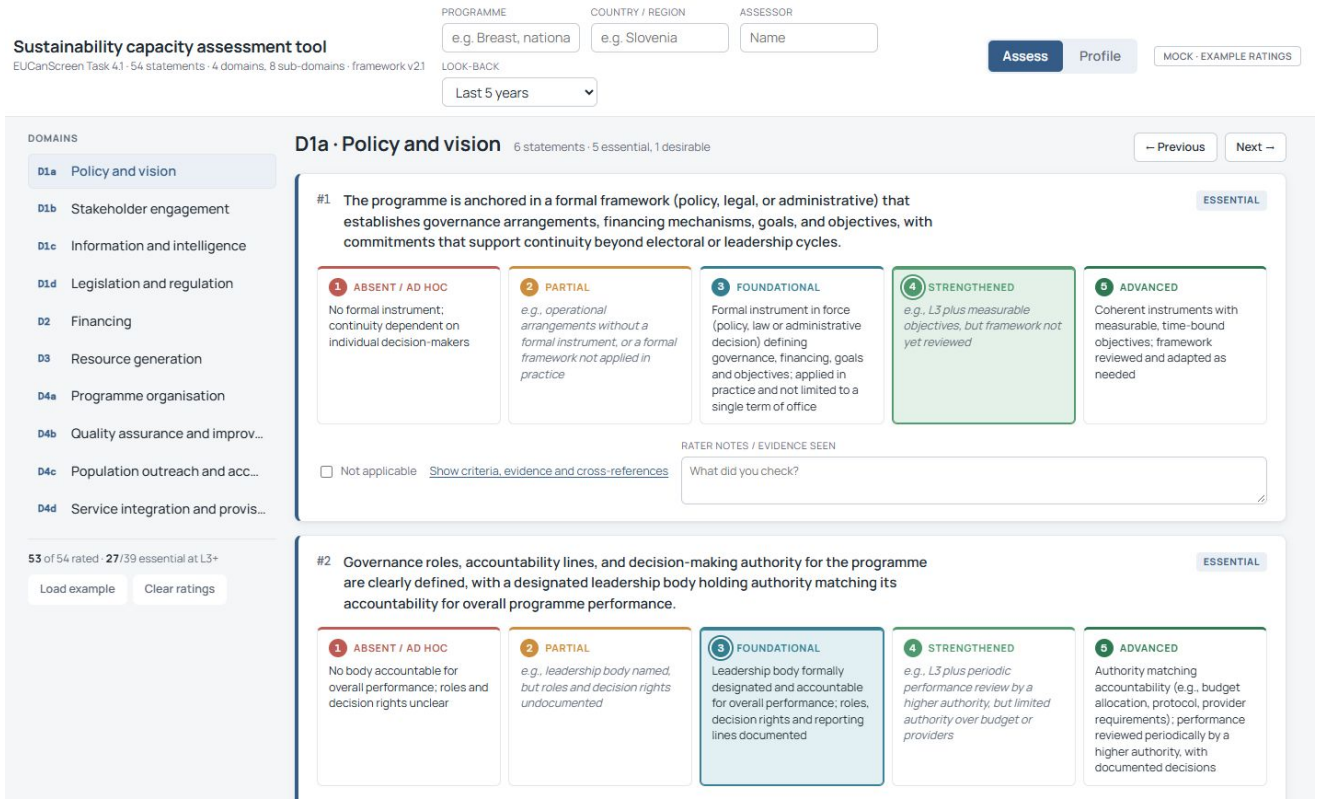


Domains informed by the HSPA Framework for UHC (WHO / European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies).

Making sustainability capacity visible

Sustainability capacity assessment tool for organised cancer screening programmes

Aims to make sustainability capacities visible and actionable:





Assess: rate each statement against five maturity levels

Profile: maturity by domain

Under development

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Thank you!



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