EU CanScreen
European Joint Action on Cancer Screening

European Collaboration, Capacity Building & Equity in Cancer Screening

Norbert TRAITEUR
European Cancer Organisation

Joint Stakeholder Conference
28-29 October 2026
Rome

Co-funded by the European Union

Cancer screening: a story of EU cancer policy success

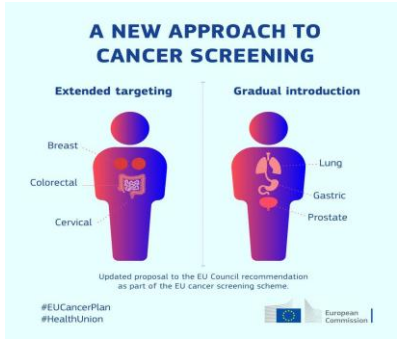


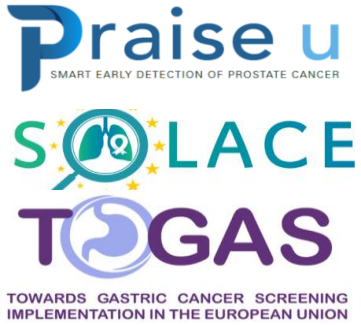
EUROPE'S BEATING CANCER PLAN GOALS ON SCREENING:

1. support Member States in ensuring that 90% of the EU population who qualify for breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screenings are offered such screening by 2025

2. expands population-based organised cancer screening to include lung, prostate and, under certain circumstances, gastric cancers.

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The 2022 new EU Council Recommendation expanded screenings to lung, prostate and gastric, serving as a basis for new projects (PRAISE-U, SOLACE, TOGAS, EUCanScreen)



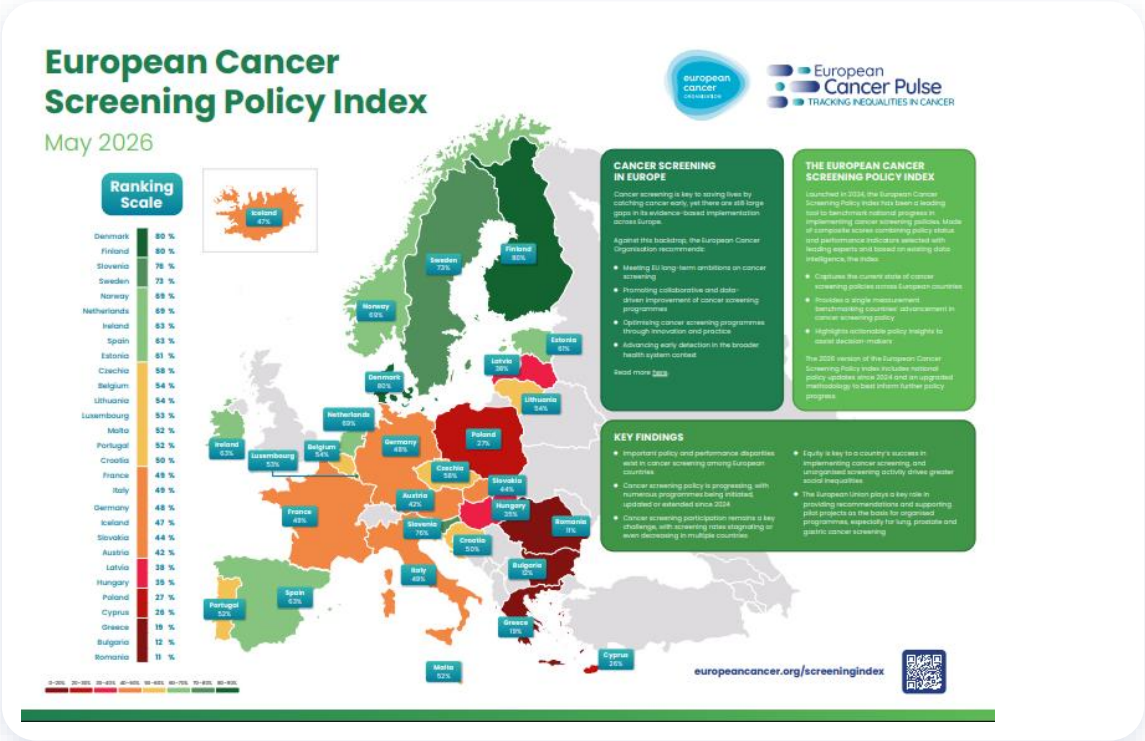
5th Edition of **European Code Against Cancer** includes lung cancer screening



European Commission initiatives on **lung, prostate and gastric cancer**: developing guidelines and quality assurance schemes for the new programmes

Cancer screening inequalities persist across Europe

European Cancer Screening Policy Index: Europe's leading policy benchmarking tool on national cancer screening policies



Second version published in May 2026

- Breast cancer screening
- Cervical cancer screening
- Colorectal cancer screening
- Lung cancer screening
- Prostate cancer screening
- Gastric cancer screening

Cancer screening inequalities persist across Europe

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How to read the Index:
Composite country scores combining two types of indicators

Policy status

Alignment of national cancer screening policies with EU recommendations

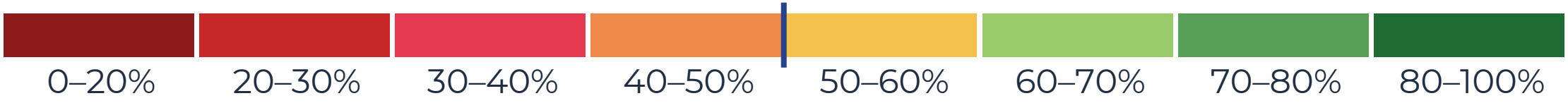
i.e. level/type of organisation, screening interval, target age, test offered

Performance

Reach of cancer screening programmes

i.e. overall target population coverage and equity in participation (education, income and rural/urban differences)

Scores are centred around 50%: below 50% means a lower-than-average ranking



An example: cancer screening in Italy

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49%

Overall score

18th of 29

Top: Denmark 80%

Category	Score	Rank
 Breast cancer screening	49%	18th / 29
 Cervical cancer screening	47%	20th / 29
 Colorectal cancer screening	50%	14th / 29

An example: cancer screening in Italy

	Italy	Denmark	Spain	Austria
Breast cancer screening implementation*	**98%**	98%	98%	100%
Breast cancer screening coverage	**55%**	83%	69%	41%
Breast cancer screening equity**	**81%**	95%	90%	92%
Colorectal cancer screening implementation*	**97%**	100%	97%	54%
Colorectal cancer screening coverage	**35%**	60%	43%	64%***
Colorectal cancer screening equity**	**81%**	92%	81%	86%

**Policy score: alignment with EU-level recommendations on programme organisation*
***Equity score: based on Concentration Index values measuring differences in self-reported participation rates according to education, income and urbanisation levels*
****Survey data, less comparable – all other coverage rates are from programme data*

Conclusion

The way forward for cancer screening in Europe:

- **Collaboration**: to improve cancer screening quality and access via innovations
- **Capacity-building**: transferring cancer screening knowledge across borders
- **Equity**: so that early detection benefits everyone

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Thank you for your attention

www.europeancancer.org

norbert.traiteur@europeancancer.org

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