



Europe's Beating Cancer Plan Supporting actions to reduce inequalities

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#EUCancerPlan #HealthUnion

While some EU countries have been able to reduce cancer mortality by up to 18% between 2011 and 2019, others have not been able to reduce it at all. There are also wide disparities in cancer mortality between men and women.

Variations between countries can be explained by **different exposure to risk factors** for cancer as well as the **different capacity of health systems** to provide timely and free access to early diagnosis, high quality of cancer care and treatment. Europe's Beating Cancer Plan is helping EU countries to address this through its ten flagship initiatives and dozens of supporting actions.



PREVENTION

Smoking, harmful alcohol consumption, obesity, physical inactivity and exposure to air pollution are all important risk factors for cancer.

The forthcoming actions on **smoke-free environments** and **vaccine preventable cancers** will reduce exposure to risk factors and help strengthen access to prevention services.

An 'EU Mobile App for Cancer Prevention', funded under the EU4Health programme, will offer individuals practical information on ways to reduce their cancer risk.



Overweight and obesity (adults)



Exposure to air pollution



Smoking (adults)



Harmful alcohol consumption (adults)



HPV vaccination (women)

In Sweden less than 7% of the population smoke daily, but in Bulgaria the share of smokers is more than four times as high (28.7%).

Sweden



Bulgaria



EARLY DETECTION

The 2022 Council Recommendation on cancer screening seeks to offer breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screening to 90% of eligible people living in the EU.

Uptake of screening programmes differs widely across countries: from **6 to 90% for breast cancer** and from around **25 to 80% for cervical cancer**.

There are large inequalities in disfavour of certain population groups. For example, participation in cervical cancer screening varies almost two-fold between education groups.



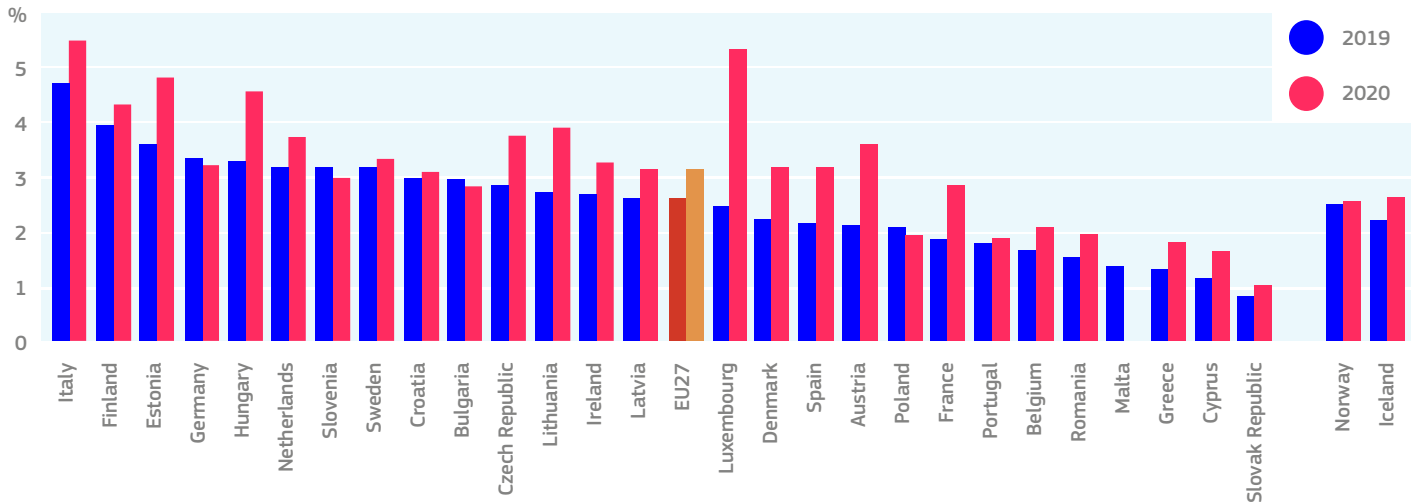
DIAGNOSIS, TREATMENT AND CARE

In 2018, EU countries spent in total €165.5 billion on cancer care → 326€ annually per capita (PPP-adjusted).

Spending on prevention increased over the past year. This ranges from more than 5% to around 1%.



Total spending varies widely, not only depending on the size of the country.

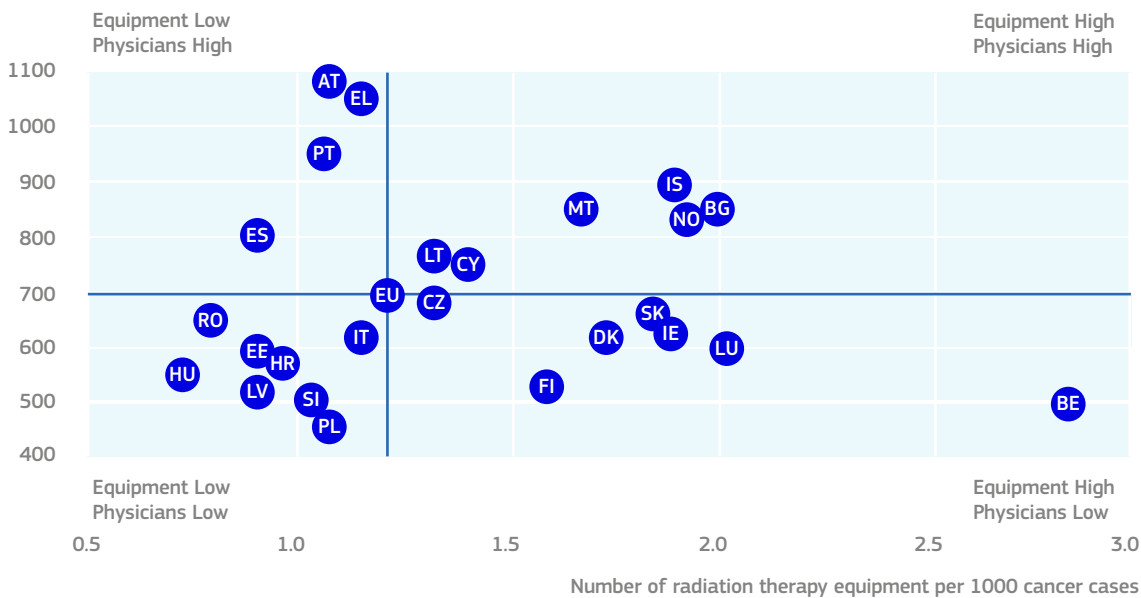


Countries do not have the same technological capacity to meet people's needs and access to oncology medicines remains unequal across EU countries.

There is a three-fold difference in the availability of radiotherapy across the EU.



Some EU countries face workforce shortages.



The **EU Network of Comprehensive Cancer Centres** will facilitate the uptake of quality-assured diagnosis and treatment, including training, research and clinical trials across the EU.

The **European Cancer Imaging Initiative** supports the development of new computer-aided tools based on AI technologies to improve personalised medicine and innovative solutions in cancer care.

Data: European Cancer Inequalities Registry, 2023

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