

EN
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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(6.1.2025)

Europe's Beating Cancer Plan¹ puts forward the flagship initiative of a new EU Cancer Screening Scheme, spelled out through the 2022 Council Recommendation on cancer screening², to help Member States ensure that 90% of the eligible EU population are invited to breast, colorectal and cervical cancer screening. Data for this coverage will be collected as part of the monitoring conducted on the implementation of the Council Recommendation, namely the third EU Cancer Screening Monitoring Report, included in the EU4Health Work Programme 2024³.

The Council Recommendation encompasses recommendations for Member States on how to organise and run screening programmes; how to register, manage, monitor and report data; how to provide training; and on how to enhance participation. The technical annex recommends four specific screening tests and protocols for the three breast, colorectal, and cervical cancer sites and points out further research requirements to enable implementing lung, prostate, and gastric cancer screening.

To support Member States with implementing the Council Recommendation, the Commission is providing targeted funding to Member States and stakeholders. Most notably, the Joint Action EUCanScreen⁴ (Implementation of cancer screening programmes) was launched in June 2024, with EU co-funding of EUR 31 million. The Joint Action, uniting national authorities from 25 Member States and 4 associated countries, will address barriers and facilitators in cancer screening, conduct implementation research to improve existing programmes, facilitate the implementation of new programmes, and invest in capacity-building.

¹ https://health.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-02/eu_cancer-plan_en_0.pdf;
https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/promoting-our-european-way-life/european-health-union/cancer-plan-europe_en

² https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_2022.473.01.0001.01.ENG

³ https://health.ec.europa.eu/publications/2024-eu4health-work-programme_en

⁴ <https://www.dypede.gr/EUCANSCREEN>