

EN

E-004694/2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto
on behalf of the European Commission
(28.1.2026)

1. Under Cohesion policy rules, Member States are primarily responsible for preventing, detecting, and correcting irregularities, and for having effective and proportionate management and control systems, including appropriate audit coverage of all programmes through representative samples of operations and system audits. The Commission carries out controls and audits to obtain assurance on the functioning of Member States' systems. Each year, the Commission services draw up a rolling two-year audit plan based on a detailed risk assessment. It considers all available information and prioritises for audit the areas presenting the highest risks. The plan will be updated mid-2026.

2. Commission Regulation (EU) 2022/2294¹ requires that Member States provide the Commission with a set of reference metadata and quality reports on a defined array of health data, including on cancer screening programmes. The 2022 Council Recommendation on cancer screening² recommends Member States to report to the Commission on the implementation of this Recommendation. These data will be compiled in the third EU cancer screening monitoring report, which is under preparation. The performance indicators have been defined through the EU4Health-funded project CanScreen-ECIS³, including invitation coverage, participation and detection rates.

3. According to Article 168(7) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, Member States are responsible for defining their health policy and for organising and delivering health services and medical care, including organisation of breast screening programmes. All investments supported by the EU funds must, however, comply with the applicable Regulations, notably the transparency and verifiability requirements for selected operations.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2294/oj/eng>.

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/non-communicable-diseases/cancer/europes-beating-cancer-plan-eu4health-financed-projects/projects/canscreen-ecis_en.