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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(3.2.2026)

The European Cancer Inequalities Registry is a flagship of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, supporting the monitoring of inequalities across the cancer care pathway, including regional data on mortality. By providing data through a data tool¹, Country Cancer Profiles² and EU analytical reports³, the Registry highlights gaps and potential targeted areas, to help national and regional governments to direct investments and interventions. Where possible, the Profiles also analyse regional inequalities in access to care, distribution of workforce and medical resources.

The Commission is taking measures to support Member States and stakeholders in addressing these inequalities, including through EU4Health Programme funding. In screening, the Joint Action EUCanScreen⁴ set up a work package to coordinate and support activities reducing inequalities in access to and quality of breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screening and care services. Recent calls for proposals on lung, prostate and gastric cancer screening⁵ provide for the mandatory inclusion of an equity perspective. In treatment, the Joint Action 'European network of Comprehensive Cancer Centres' (EUnetCCC)⁶ has a strong equality focus with its goal of 90% of eligible patients having access to high-quality care in a Comprehensive Cancer Centre, regardless of where they live.

Concerning procurement, the EU public procurement rules (namely the procurement Directives when the procurement is launched at the national level like in Valencia's case) govern the procedure for the award of public contracts and concession contracts. In contrast, the performance of these contracts, in particular regarding the fulfilment of a contractor's obligations, is a matter for the National Contracting Authority.

¹ <https://cancer-inequalities.jrc.ec.europa.eu/data-tool-by-country?ind=ALLMORT&ft=TOTAL&geo=NUTS1>.

² <https://cancer-inequalities.jrc.ec.europa.eu/country-cancer-profiles>.

³ <https://cancer-inequalities.jrc.ec.europa.eu/focus-on-prevention-detection>.

⁴ https://health.ec.europa.eu/non-communicable-diseases/cancer/europes-beating-cancer-plan-eu4health-financed-projects/projects/eucanscreen_en.

⁵ https://hadea.ec.europa.eu/news/new-eu4health-calls-proposals-under-2025-work-programme-2025-09-23_en.

⁶ https://health.ec.europa.eu/non-communicable-diseases/cancer/europes-beating-cancer-plan-eu4health-financed-projects/projects/eunetccc_en.