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IARC launches joint project with European Commission to support cancer control in Slovakia

Experts to provide recommendations and a strategic plan to reduce cancer mortality

Lyon, France, 30 June 2022 – The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) today launched the second part of its project to support cancer control in eastern Europe.

The project, called Improving Cancer Care Coordination and Screening in Latvia and Slovakia (ICCCS), is a joint initiative with the European Commission and the ministries of health of Slovakia and Latvia to help reduce cancer mortality in these two countries.

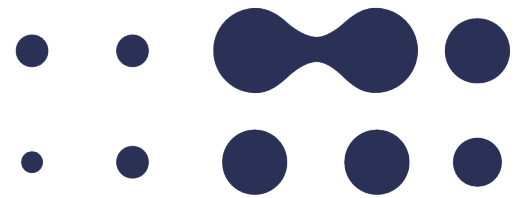
Strategic plans and roadmaps to reduce the cancer burden

The first part of the ICCCS project was launched in Latvia in March. In the second part of the project, experts from IARC have now met with their partners in Slovakia for discussions with representatives of the Ministry of Health, the State Secretary, the Department of Public Health, patient organizations, and other key stakeholders. The team from IARC has visited several sites in Slovakia, including the National Cancer Institute, St Elizabeth's Cancer Institute, and the National Health Information Centre. The visit helped the experts to review the existing health infrastructure in Slovakia and the capacity to improve screening programmes for breast cancer, cervical cancer, and colorectal cancer.

“Effective cancer screening programmes and high-quality cancer registration are two essential and complementary aspects of efficient cancer control policies, which this project will focus on,” says IARC scientist Dr Andre Carvalho, the coordinator of the ICCCS project. “Screening programmes help save lives by identifying tumours at an early stage. Data collection through high-quality cancer registration is also essential for effective cancer control policies and epidemiological research. These data form the basis of planning public health programmes to prevent cancer and improve patient care.”

Funded by the European Commission, the ICCCS project is a collaboration between national and international experts in an effort to develop strategic plans to improve participation and reduce inequalities in cancer screening.

The project in Slovakia will address some of the gaps and challenges identified by the Ministry of Health and other key stakeholders and will help reform health-care infrastructures and services, with a special focus on



improving the information system used to identify and invite the population eligible for screening, creating a framework for regular data collection to monitor cancer screening programmes. The project will also provide a strategy for a communication campaign to raise awareness of the importance of screening to prevent cancer.

Europe's Beating Cancer Plan

The ICCCS project is aligned with Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, which has set a goal for each country to ensure that more than 90% of the eligible populations have access to quality-assured screening for breast cancer, cervical cancer, and colorectal cancer. In addition, Europe's Beating Cancer Plan stresses that each country should strengthen cancer registration to enable the tracking of national cancer burdens and changing trends.

Note to the Editor

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), the specialized cancer agency of the World Health Organization (WHO), promotes international collaboration in cancer research for cancer prevention and control.

IARC supports countries across the globe and helps them develop and implement strategic plans in the field of cancer control.

Within this framework, IARC has launched the Improving Cancer Care Coordination and Screening in Latvia and Slovakia (ICCCS) project as part of a joint initiative with the European Commission and the respective national ministries of health to support cancer control in eastern Europe.

The objective of the ICCCS project is to develop strategic plans and roadmaps in collaboration with national partners to help reduce cancer mortality in Latvia and Slovakia.

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The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) is part of the World Health Organization. Its mission is to coordinate and conduct research on the causes of human cancer, the mechanisms of carcinogenesis, and to develop scientific strategies for cancer control. The Agency is involved in both epidemiological and laboratory research and disseminates scientific information through publications, meetings, courses, and fellowships. If you wish your name to be removed from our press release emailing list, please write to com@iarc.fr.