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Virtual events in Latvia and Slovakia: highlighting ICCCS project outcomes

Lyon, France, 8 January 2024 – To mark the end of the Improving Cancer Care Coordination and Screening in Latvia and Slovakia (ICCCS) project, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and partners are co-organizing two virtual events to showcase the project outcomes. These events will specifically focus on Latvia and Slovakia and will bring together experts in cancer screening and cancer registration, oncologists, policy-makers, patient advocates, and researchers.

Presenting key recommendations

Experts will present recommendations for strengthening cancer control in the areas of cancer registration, cancer screening, comprehensive cancer-care networks, and communication for raising awareness about the importance of cancer screening.

“The recommendations are a valuable resource for authorities and stakeholders involved in cancer care, offering strategic insights to foster a more effective and coordinated approach towards cancer prevention and treatment”, says André Carvalho, scientist at IARC and principal investigator of the project.

These publicly accessible virtual events are scheduled for 10 January 2024 at 14:00 CET (15:00 Latvian time) in Latvia and on 11 January 2024 at 14:00 CET in Slovakia.

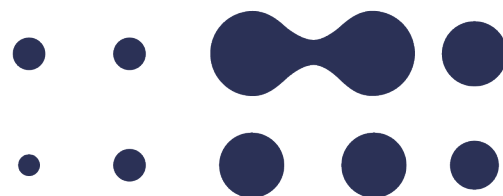
They will be streamed live on the IARC YouTube channel via the following links:

<https://www.youtube.com/@iarclearning5527/streams> (for Latvia)

<https://www.youtube.com/@iarclearning5527/streams> (for Slovakia)

Participant details and presentations

Details of the agenda and participating organizations are presented in the following table.



Time	Event	
	Latvia, 10 January 2024	Slovakia, 11 January 2024
14:00–14:20	Introduction and institutional greetings	
14:20–14:50	Cancer registration IARC National Health Service	Cancer registration IARC National Health Information Centre
14:50–15:20	Cancer screening IARC Centre for Disease Prevention and Control	Cancer screening IARC National Oncological Institute
15:20–15:50	Comprehensive cancer care infrastructure Organisation of European Cancer Institutes National Oncological Hospital	Communication for cancer screening IARC Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic
15:50–16:10	Conclusion and next steps	

IARC, International Agency for Research on Cancer

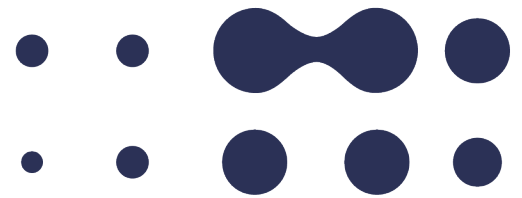
The ICCCS project

The ICCCS project is a unique partnership between IARC, the Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support of the European Commission, and the ministries of health of Latvia and Slovakia. The project is funded by the European Union via the Technical Support Instrument. Launched in 2022, the project is aligned with [Europe's Beating Cancer Plan](#)¹, with a focus on developing strategic plans and roadmaps in collaboration with national partners to help reduce cancer mortality in Latvia and Slovakia. The aim was to optimize existing screening programmes, develop comprehensive cancer-care infrastructure, and strengthen cancer registries by building capacity for population-based cancer registration and preparing an efficient communication plan.

Europe's Beating Cancer Plan

The goal of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan is for each country to ensure that more than 90% of eligible populations have access to quality-assured screening for cancers of the breast, cervix, and colorectum, and that more than 90% of patients with cancer have access to comprehensive cancer centres. In addition, Europe's Beating Cancer Plan stresses that each country should strengthen cancer registration to enable the tracking of trends and national cancer burdens.

¹ European Commission (2021). Europe's Beating Cancer Plan. Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council. Available from: https://health.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-02/eu_cancer-plan_en_0.pdf.



“In Latvia we are still facing substantial problems with cancer registration and cancer screening, and the major oncology hospital has just initiated the accreditation process of a Cancer Centre”, say Mārcis Leja and Rolands Lappuķe, local coordinators of the ICCCS project in Latvia, “However, this project has marked important changes to cancer care in the country. Internationally accepted criteria have been implementing to the process of re-designing cancer registration, a political decision has been made in respect to the screening organization, and the objective to proceed to a Comprehensive Cancer Centre accreditation has been included to the future strategy. We expect that the results of the project and communication between local and international partners that has been initiated during the project will help save many in Latvia.”

“Despite some progress, Slovakia continues to experience high burden of cancer, inequalities in access to cancer care, including cancer screenings and lack of reliable information about cancer prevention. Our participation in ICCCS project helps us address cancer screening coordination, communication and cancer registration, and take actions based on the recommendations we received”, explains Daniela Kállayová, Senior Public Health Officer at the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic.

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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.who.int.

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