

EUROPEAN COUNTRIES CONSULTATION:

Anchoring EUCCC Certification
in National Realities

WP5 – Inclusion, Certification and
Adherence to EUCCC Certification

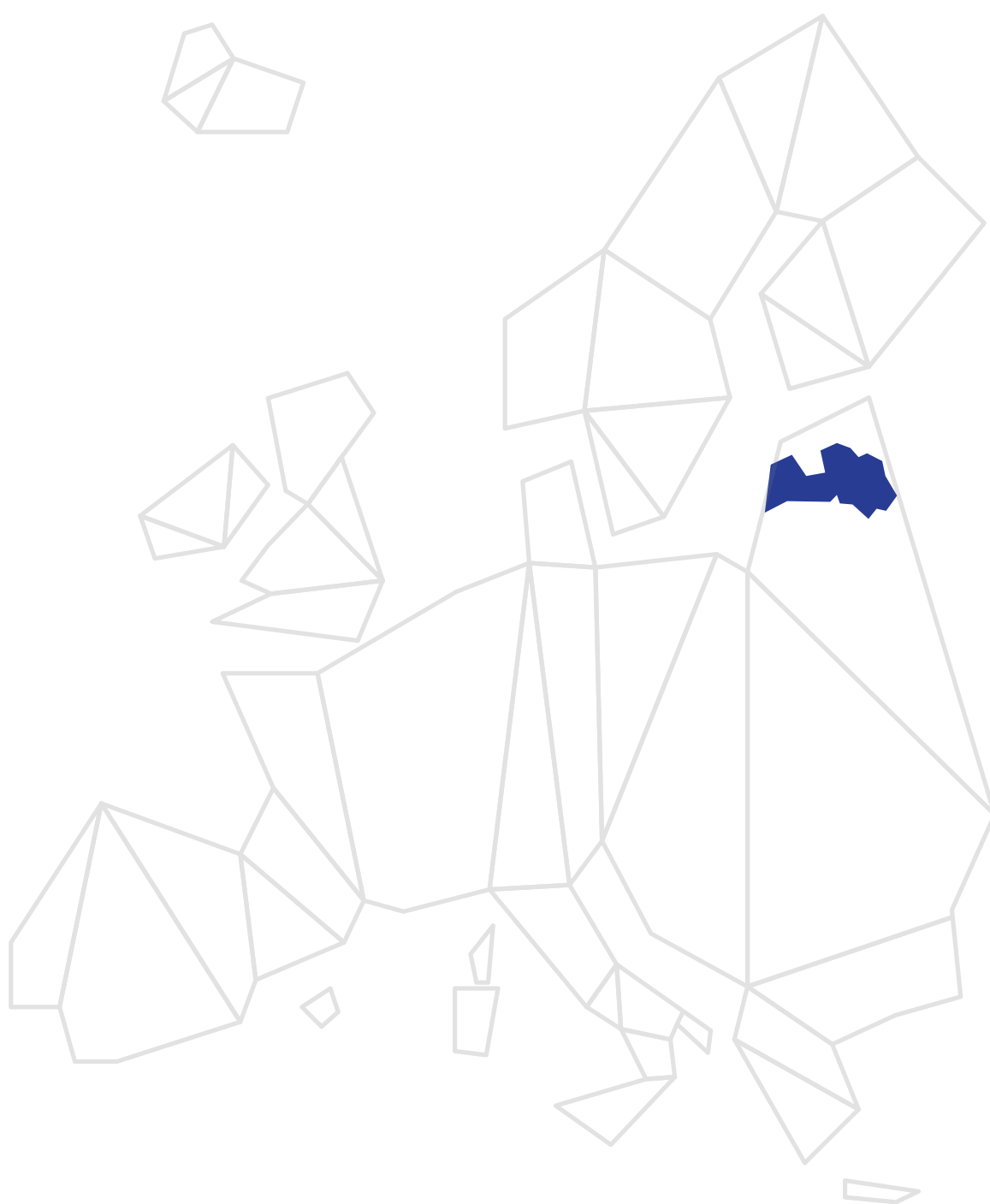
LATVIA COUNTRY PROFILE



Co-funded by
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THE EUROPEAN COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTRE NETWORK



Context: existing certification systems and organization of cancer care

Since 2009, certification of healthcare providers is no longer mandatory

According to the law, all health service providers, regardless of their type and legal status, must meet compulsory requirements determined by the Cabinet Regulation Regarding Mandatory Requirements for Medical Treatment Institutions and Their Structural (No. 60; Cabinet of Ministers, 2009). These regulations determine structural (size, equipment, etc.) and staffing requirements (number and type of specialists) for the provision of specific services, as well as quality of services and patient safety standards and requirements.

However, since 2009, accreditation of health care institutions according to these requirements is no longer mandatory. Instead, conformity with the standards is based on self-reporting as well as planned and random audits carried out by the Health Inspectorate (HI)¹.

Organization of cancer care²

Most cancer care is centralised in 3 university hospitals (2 for adults and 1 paediatric). Latvia has centralised cancer care delivery by concentrating resources and expertise in specialised institutions. About 85–90% of new cancer cases for adult patients are treated at the Riga East University Hospital and Paul Stradins Clinical University Hospital in Riga. For certain medical acts, it is necessary to respect volume thresholds in order to be reimbursed by the public payer.

Some cancer care is also provided at two regional hospitals in the southeastern city of Daugavpils and the city of Liepaja in the west.

All four hospitals provide chemotherapy and radiation therapy; radiation therapy is also available in the stereotactic radiosurgery center, which is the first center to provide cyber knife technology treatment in the Baltic region.

None of the hospitals in Latvia is currently internationally accredited, but the Riga East University hospital is currently undergoing CC certification from OECI.

The 2025–2027 national cancer plan is currently still awaiting approval from the government.

Identified barriers against the implementation of EUCCC certification in Latvia

- While the national cancer control plan, set for two years, has ambitious goals, the funding necessary to achieve them does not follow, **with the Ministry of Health not getting the most favourable outcomes from budgetary trade-off decisions.**
- **Riga East University hospital has experienced a significant budget reduction** due to recent budgetary decisions.

This chronic underfunding has dire consequences: lack of staff (both medical and administrative), lack of resources and time dedicated to research. Indeed, due to staffing issues all available time is dedicated to treating the patients.

- The Riga East University hospital is currently undergoing CC certification by OECI. Given the current level of hospitals, **it appears that no hospital would be able to obtain Comprehensive Cancer Center certification.**

Identified enablers towards the implementation of EUCCC certification in Latvia

- **Certification is perceived as a mean to improve practices** and provide better care for the patients: Riga East University Hospital is currently undergoing the OECI CC certification (another hospital will also probably undertake the CC certification).
- The CC certification process has been a driver of improvement of patient care, with **the emergence of new projects³.**
- **Possible access to basic research** and commercial clinical trials.

Conditions for successful EUCCC certification implementation in Latvia

- **Consider financial limitations of less endowed countries for the certification admission criteria** (percentages rather than absolute sums for the research budget criterion for example)

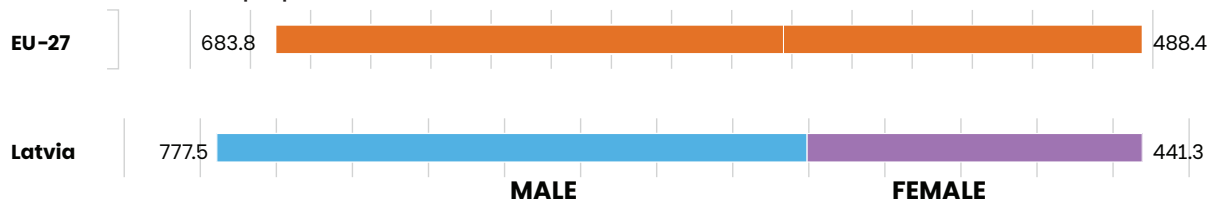
Number of OEIC-certified CCCs: 0

Number of EUCCC pilot centers: 1

Epidemiology: incidence, mortality and survival rates

Incidence rate:

Estimated incidence, both sexes, all sites but non-melanoma skin, 2022 (per 100 000 population)



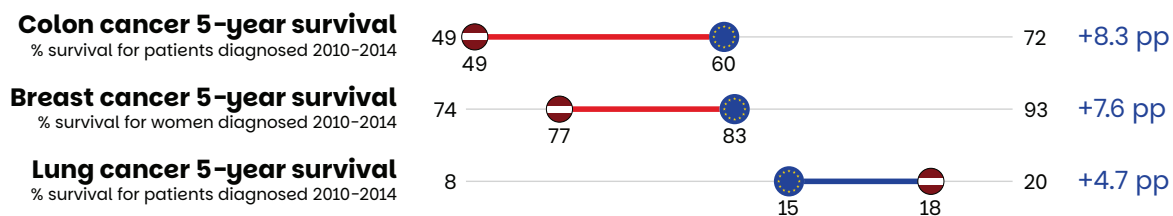
Mortality rate:

Cancer mortality
ASMR per 100 000 population

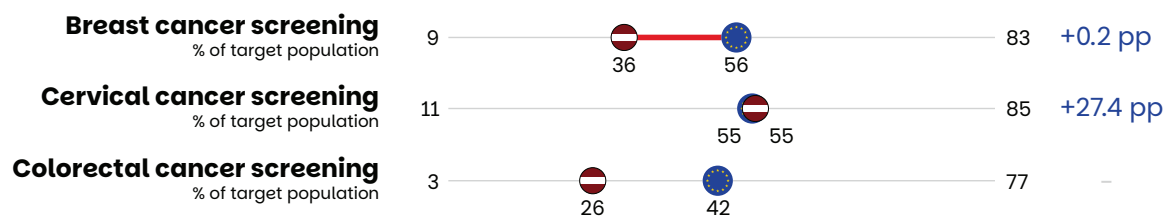


Survival rates:

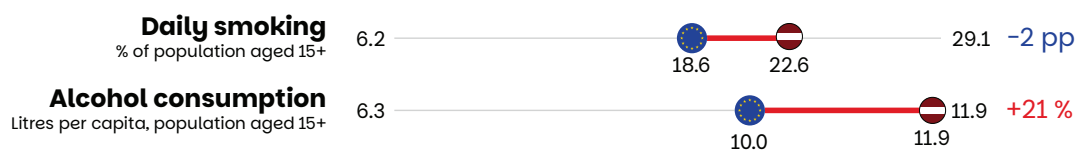
For the selection of cancers:



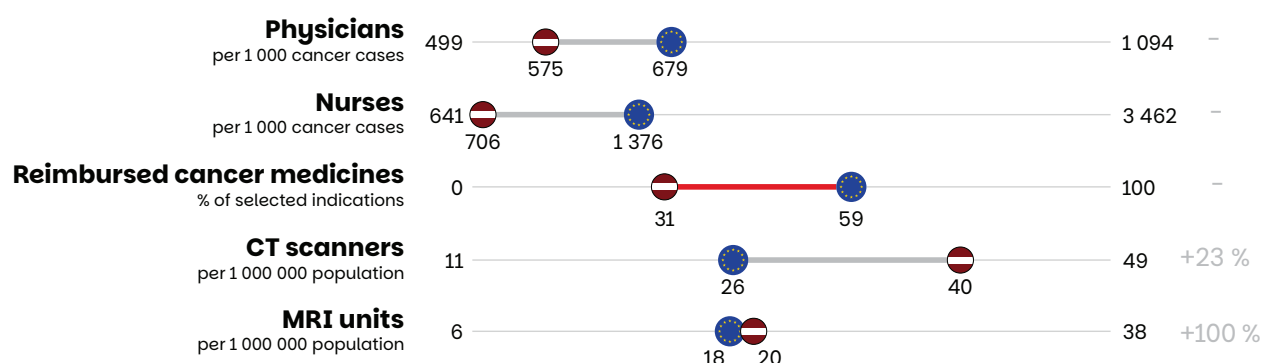
Screening performance



Risk factors



Human resources and infrastructure



Number of clinical trials: 84

Endnotes

1. 'Latvia: Health System Review 2019'. <https://eurohealthobservatory.who.int/publications/i/latvia-health-system-review-2019>.
2. EU Country Cancer Profile: Latvia 2025 | OECD
3. <https://aslimnica.lv/jaunumi/zinas/nacionala-veza-centra-akreditacijas-gaita-austrumu-slimnica-saks-pilotprojekts-nokomplektetas-pacientu-atbalsta-komandas>



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