

EUROPEAN COUNTRIES CONSULTATION:

Anchoring EUCCC Certification
in National Realities

WP5 – Inclusion, Certification and
Adherence to EUCCC Certification

LITHUANIA COUNTRY PROFILE

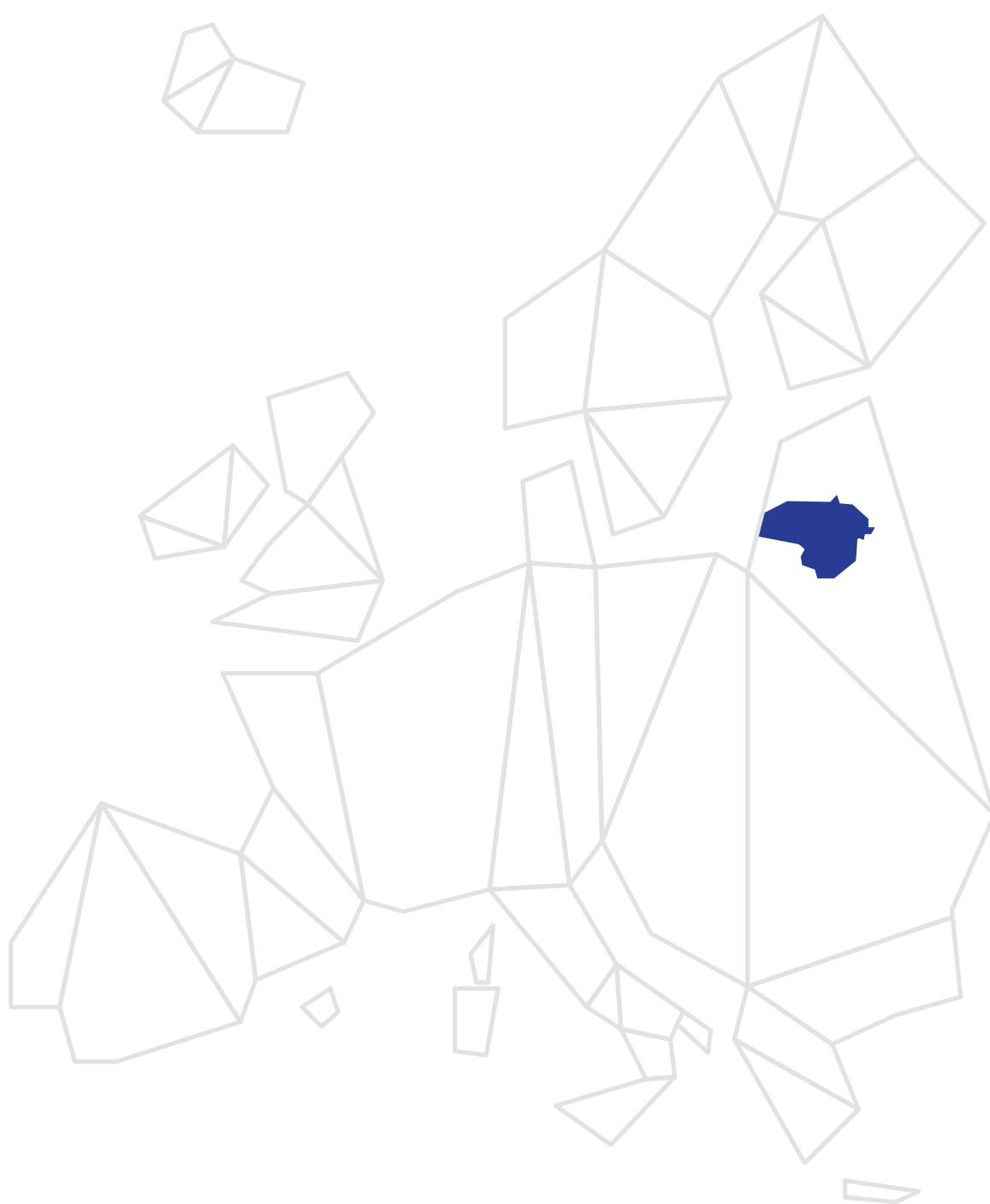


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THE EUROPEAN COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTRE NETWORK





Context: existing certification systems and organization of cancer care

Licensing of healthcare institutions and healthcare providers is mandatory at the national level. However, there are no requirements for mandatory accreditation.

The State Health Care Accreditation Agency under the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania is responsible for licensing both healthcare professionals and institutions, in accordance with the mandatory requirements established by national legislation (orders by the Ministry of Health, and resolutions of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania). However, accreditation of medical professionals and health care facilities **remains a voluntary procedure**.

The mandatory process of licensing professionals and institutions includes minimum requirements for the provision of health care services and compliance with established standards (for the institution, equipment, team, service organization). The quality and effectiveness of services are evaluated according to established service delivery indicators. **All licensed health care institutions are required to have a valid contract for participation in electronic health services and must be integrated with the infrastructure** of the national health information system.

Additionally, the **National Accreditation Bureau** is responsible for accrediting entities such as laboratories, ensuring their compliance with international standards and promoting high-quality service delivery.

Private entities are invited to obtain accreditation based on international standards for services based on the implementation of quality management and compliance with international standards.

International accreditations found in Lithuania include:

- Joint Commission International (JCI): several Lithuanian healthcare institutions hold this accreditation.
- “Treatment abroad”, An accredited UK-based NGO.

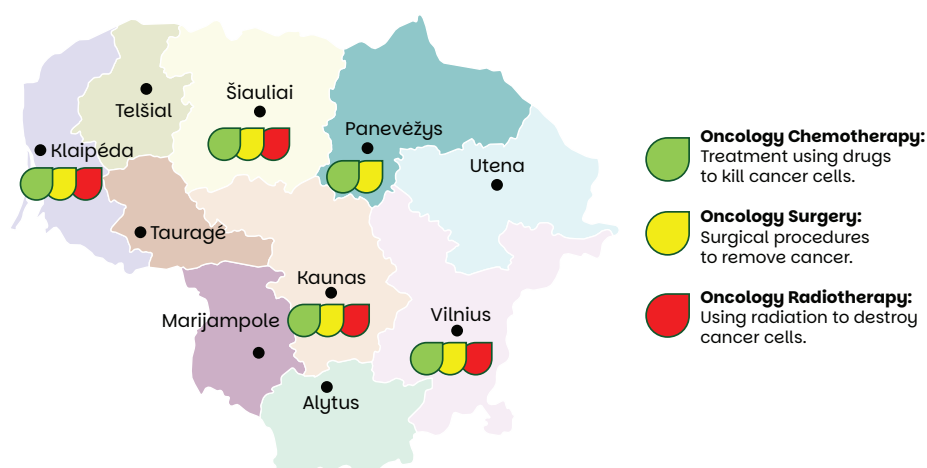
Process	Implementing authority	Components/Requirements	Standards
Accreditation (voluntary)	Government Authority (VASPVT)	Improving processes in accordance with published standards and assessing their compliance	Set at the maximum achievable level to encourage continuous improvement
Licensing (mandatory)	Government Authority (VASPVT)	Rules to ensure minimum standards, on-the-spot control	Set at the a minimum level to ensure an environment of minimal risk to health and safety
Certification (voluntary)	Authorised body, governmental or non-governmental	Quantitative indicators and compliance of processes with standards	Pvz. ISO 9000 Quality Management System Standards

Organization of cancer care

Comprehensive Cancer Centers were established on 17th February 2017 by order of Ministry of Health No. V-156 (updated by order No. V-551 on 10 May 2023) and their main task is to ensure timely, comprehensive, and high-quality integrated diagnosis and treatment services for cancer patients. There are 6 specialised health care hospitals which provide comprehensive cancer care. Cancer centers are established in Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipėda, Šiauliai and Panevėžys.

The national cancer network (oncology cluster) includes five national cancer care centers – Vilnius University Hospital Santaros Klinikos and National Cancer Center (branch of Santaros Klinikos), Hospital of Lithuanian University of Health Sciences Kaunas Clinics, Klaipėda University Hospital, Republican Šiauliai Hospital and Republican Panevėžys Hospital.

The radiotherapy service is not available at Republican Panevėžys Hospital, and brachytherapy is available only at Vilnius University Hospital Santaros Klinikos. These centers offer comprehensive specialised cancer services, including surgery, radiotherapy, chemotherapy, CT, MRI, PET, genetic services (RNA and DNA sequencing and other tests), CAR T therapy, Gamma Knife treatment, etc.



The National Cancer Control Programme for 2014–2025 was established by order of Ministry of Health. Actions plans are prepared every three years.

The National Council for Monitoring the Implementation of the Cancer Control Programme was established in 2014 to improve the management and coordination of oncology care. The monitoring board is composed of:

- The Ministry of Health
- National Cancer Centers (5 hospitals)
- The State Insurance Fund
- Institute of Hygiene
- Patients representative organizations
- Research Council of Lithuania

In the updated version of the Programme for the new period (2025–2035), one of the key aims is for three university hospitals in Lithuania – Vilnius University Hospital Santaros Klinikos, Hospital of Lithuanian University of Health Sciences Kaunas Clinics and Klaipėda University Hospital – to become full members of the EUnetCCC Comprehensive Cancer Care Network.

Additionally, comprehensive cancer care services are planned to be strengthened in Šiauliai and Panevėžys Republican Hospitals as well, and that is why these hospitals are encouraged to pursue the status of Associate Member or Observer within the EUnetCCC framework. The status of Associate Member or Observer within EUnetCCC will support to harmonise the cancer care service quality standards, alignment of medical qualifications, and expanded opportunities for involvement in scientific research and innovation in the Šiauliai and Panevėžys Republican Hospitals. Target to reach for 90 percent of population to get services in EUnetCCC framework will be achieved.

Identified barriers towards the implementation of EUCCC certification in Lithuania

- Dedicated resources are required to monitor quality

The organization of data managers, quality managers and auditors in order to show and monitor quality. Also, the quality of the data and data systems remains a significant barrier. The organization and availability of data managers, quality managers, and auditors is essential to demonstrate and monitor quality. However, limitations in the quality of data and the data systems themselves remain a significant barrier.

- Organization of clinical research requires mobilisation of medical staff.

Mobilising medical staff for clinical research purposes remains challenging. The effective organization of clinical research requires significant engagement and mobilisation of medical professionals, which can be difficult to achieve in practice.

Identified enablers towards the implementation of EUCCC certification in Lithuania

- Alignment with European standards, thereby raising national benchmarks and improving the service quality, ensuring more equal access to modern treatments.
- Support for the training of doctors and nurses.
- Despite being a small country, positioning Lithuania as an attractive location for clinical trials.
- A new national programme including an objective for national cancer centers to become participants in the European Network of Comprehensive Cancer Centers (EUnetCCC).

Conditions for successful EUCCC certification implementation in Lithuania

- **The Ministry supports involvement in the EUnetCCC.** There is political support for aligning the national legal framework with EUnetCCC requirements.
- **There is a new cancer plan underway,** containing structure, process and outcome indicators that could be embedded in a future EUCCC certification system.
- Comprehensive Cancer Care services are financed by the National Health Insurance Fund. Necessary health care services are provided, and innovations are supported.
- A **sustainability plan to fund the certification process** in order to become CCCs is needed.
- **Collaborations with other hospitals** on Molecular Tumour Boards is required.

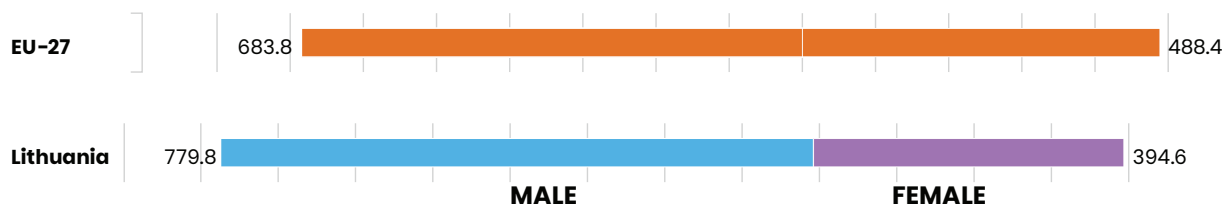
Number of OEI-certified CCCs: 0

Number of EUCCC pilot centers: 2

Epidemiology: incidence, mortality and survival rates

Incidence rate:

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



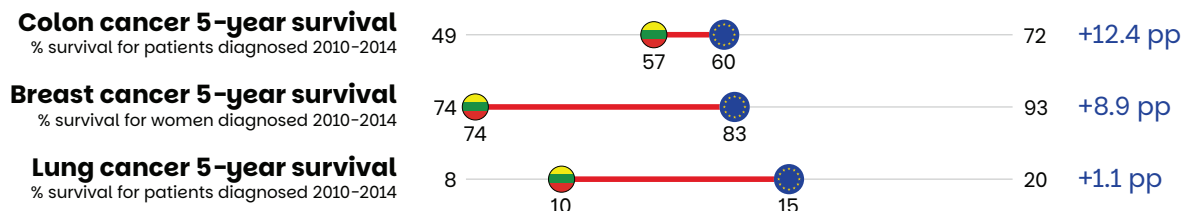
Mortality rate:

Cancer mortality
ASMR per 100 000 population

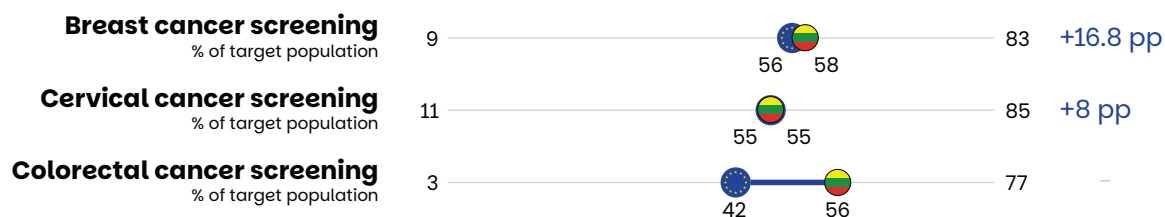


Survival rates:

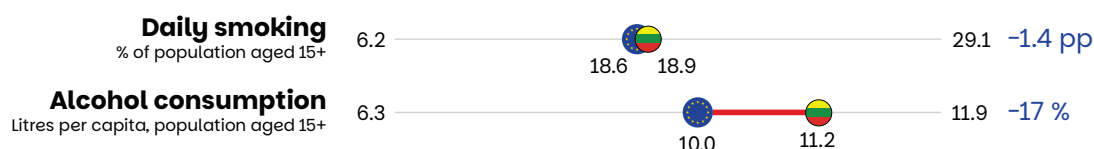
For the selection of cancers:



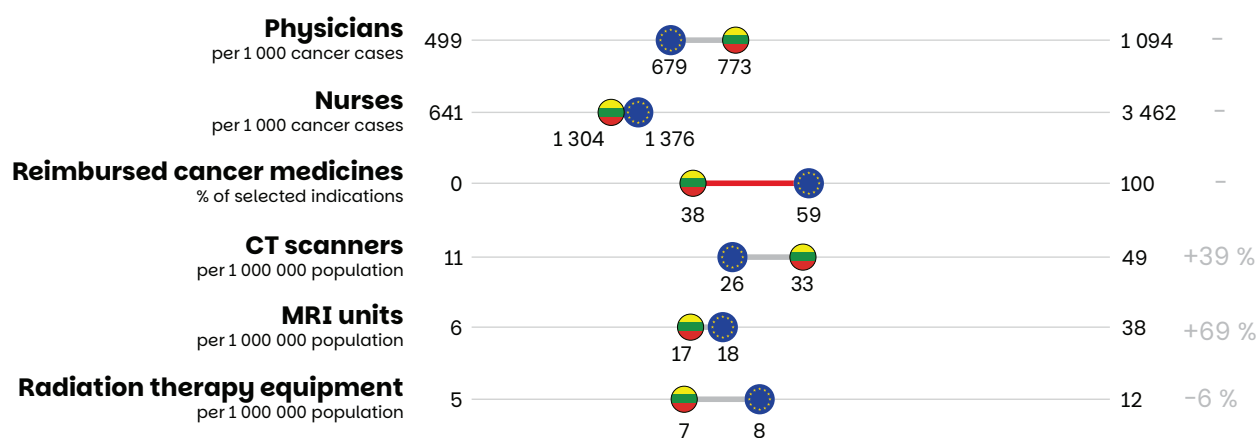
Screening performance



Risk factors



Human resources and infrastructure



Number of clinical trials: 110



**For more information,
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