

EUROPEAN COUNTRIES CONSULTATION:

Anchoring EUCCC Certification
in National Realities

WP5 – Inclusion, Certification and
Adherence to EUCCC Certification

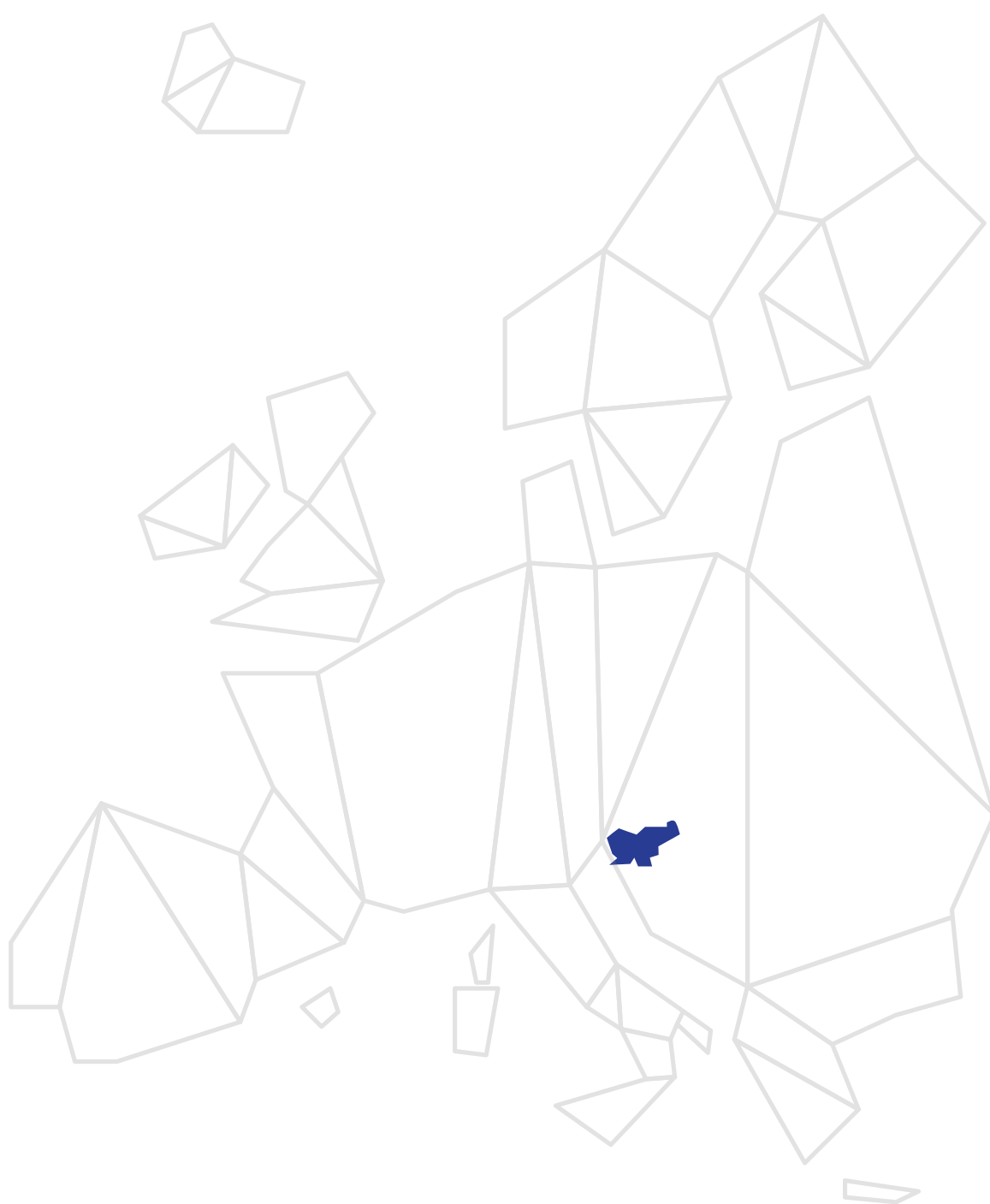
SLOVENIA COUNTRY PROFILE



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THE EUROPEAN COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTRE NETWORK



Context: existing certification systems and organization of cancer care

No official hospital certification system is in place

In Slovenia, there is no official hospital certification system organised by the authorities. However, a quality control mechanism exists, coordinated by the National Health Agency through a reporting system. This focuses on general quality and safety indicators, such as hospital-acquired infections and patient safety.

Organization of cancer care

In Slovenia, comprehensive and multidisciplinary cancer care is centralised at four tertiary-level healthcare centers (Institute of Oncology Ljubljana (IOL), University Medical Center Ljubljana, University Medical Center Maribor and University Clinic Golnik), two of which provide radiotherapy. Together, they provide more than 90 % of all primary systemic treatment, and more than 60 % of first-line surgery to people with cancer in Slovenia.

The Institute of Oncology Ljubljana is the single hospital in Slovenia dedicated exclusively to oncology, where 57% of all people with newly diagnosed cancer start their systemic therapy. Care of rare cancer types is centralised at the IOL, which is also actively involved in the European Reference Networks (ERNs). The IOL received the Organization of European Cancer Institute's Cancer Center accreditation for multidisciplinary integrated care and research on cancer in 2022.

Other secondary-level hospitals and some ambulatory providers also provide diagnostics or treatment for people with cancer, especially for the most common cancer types. Most secondary-level hospitals collaborate with the IOL via weekly online multidisciplinary tumour boards and consultations, at which patient cases are presented, and best treatment options agreed upon.

Slovenia is in the middle of the third period of its National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP), which has been set for 2022-26. In the NCCP 2022-26, Slovenia has set a strategic goal of establishing a national network of oncology providers at all levels of healthcare to achieve comprehensive, high-quality and cost-effective care for all.

The overall aim is to organise cancer care in a way that most treatments are dispensed in the Institute of Oncology in Ljubljana and 2 university hospitals, the development of screening programmes and quality control through clinical registry (for melanoma already in place, breast and colon cancer are under development with disease specific indicators), regional centers should develop activities linked to survivorship and support to cancer patients.

The NCCP is co-ordinated by the IOL where screening, diagnosis, treatment and follow-up for people with cancer are carried out at a national level.

Identified barriers towards the implementation of EUCCC certification in Slovenia

- Difficulty in convincing centers of the benefits of a reorganization. Indeed, organizations are worried about losing funding if certain treatments are moved to other facilities: it is necessary to redistribute – although some activities might be performed elsewhere, the facility will take upon itself another activity to compensate for the “loss” of activity.
- Funding for research is insufficient, and the number of patients involved in clinical trials is too low compared to larger countries.
- Lack of nursing staff

Identified enablers towards the implementation of EUCCC certification in Slovenia

The model of cancer organization currently being implemented, with a centralised approach through network could be an answer for improving research and increasing the number of patients included in clinical trials.

Conditions for successful EUCCC certification implementation in Slovenia

It is hoped that the introduction of EUCCC certification in Slovenia will:

- support national efforts, in particular in areas that need reinforcement (integration of research and care)
- improve compliance with international guidelines in Slovenian healthcare

The project is seen a structuring factor for the establishment of the cancer network with joint governance (2 university centers, 2 medical faculties, specialised clinic for lung cancer and public institution as well as cancer institute).

In short, introduction of EUCCC in Slovenia is a way to test and demonstrate the value of a sound model for the organization of cancer care. Once the value demonstrated, it is hoped that national Slovenian authorities will be convinced by the model and be ready to fund further activities and develop the model.

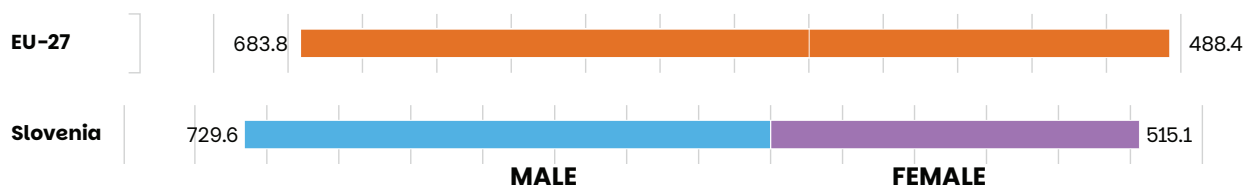
Number of OEIC-certified CCCs: 0

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)



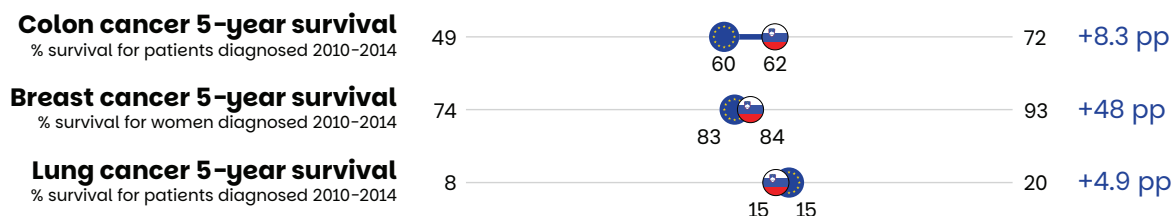
Mortality rate:

Cancer mortality
ASMR per 100 000 population

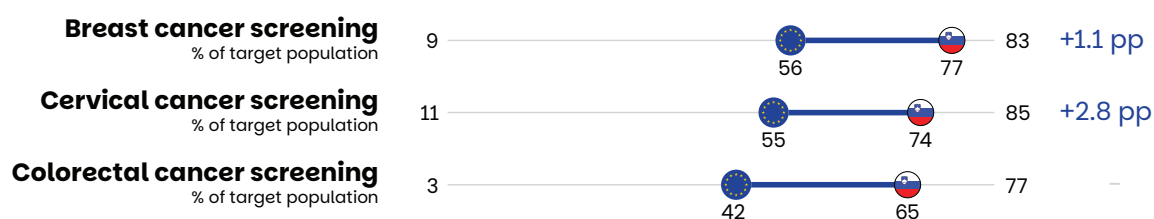


Survival rates:

For the selection of cancers:



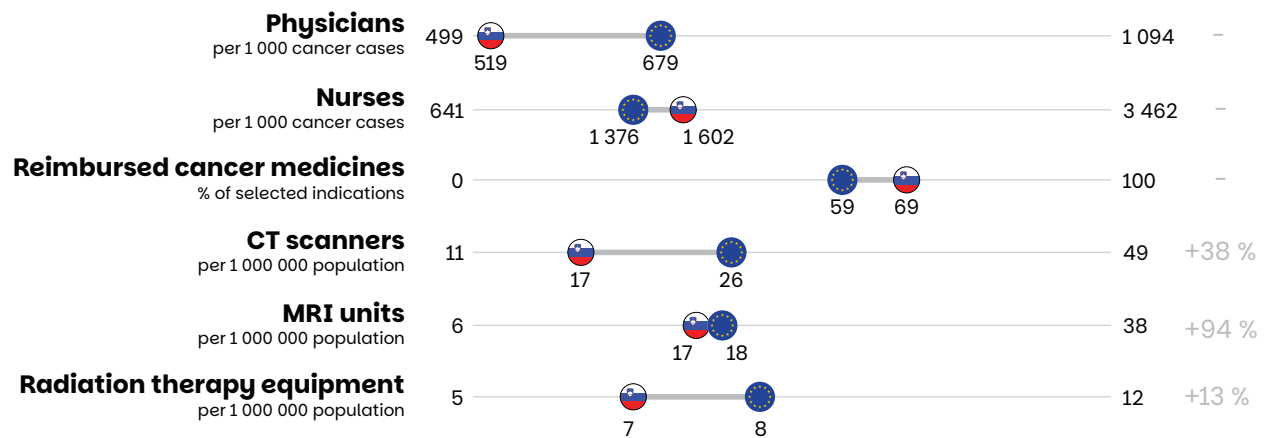
Screening performance



Risk factors



Human resources and infrastructure



Number of clinical trials: 104



**For more information,
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