

Session: Working in Partnership for Cancer  
UICC World Cancer Congress, 2012

**Collaborating for the identification and  
dissemination of good practice in  
healthcare**



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WP7 Health Care  
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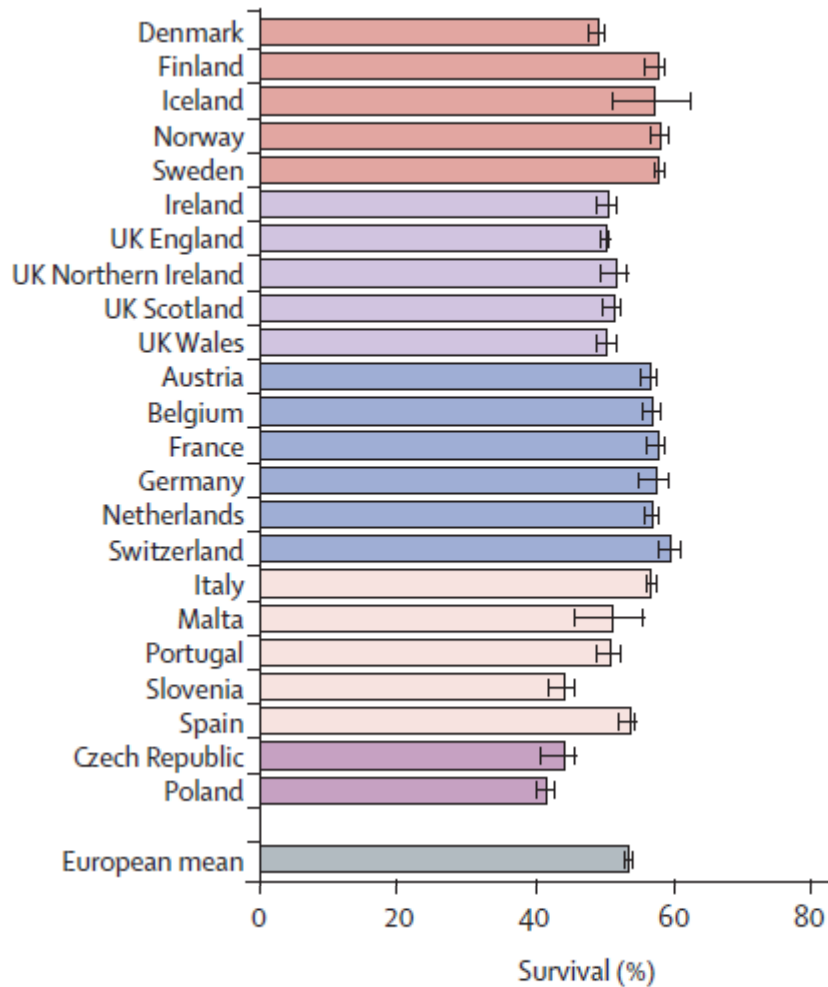
# HEALTH CARE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Variations in cancer service delivery among and within countries, with consequences for the quality of cancer care given to individual

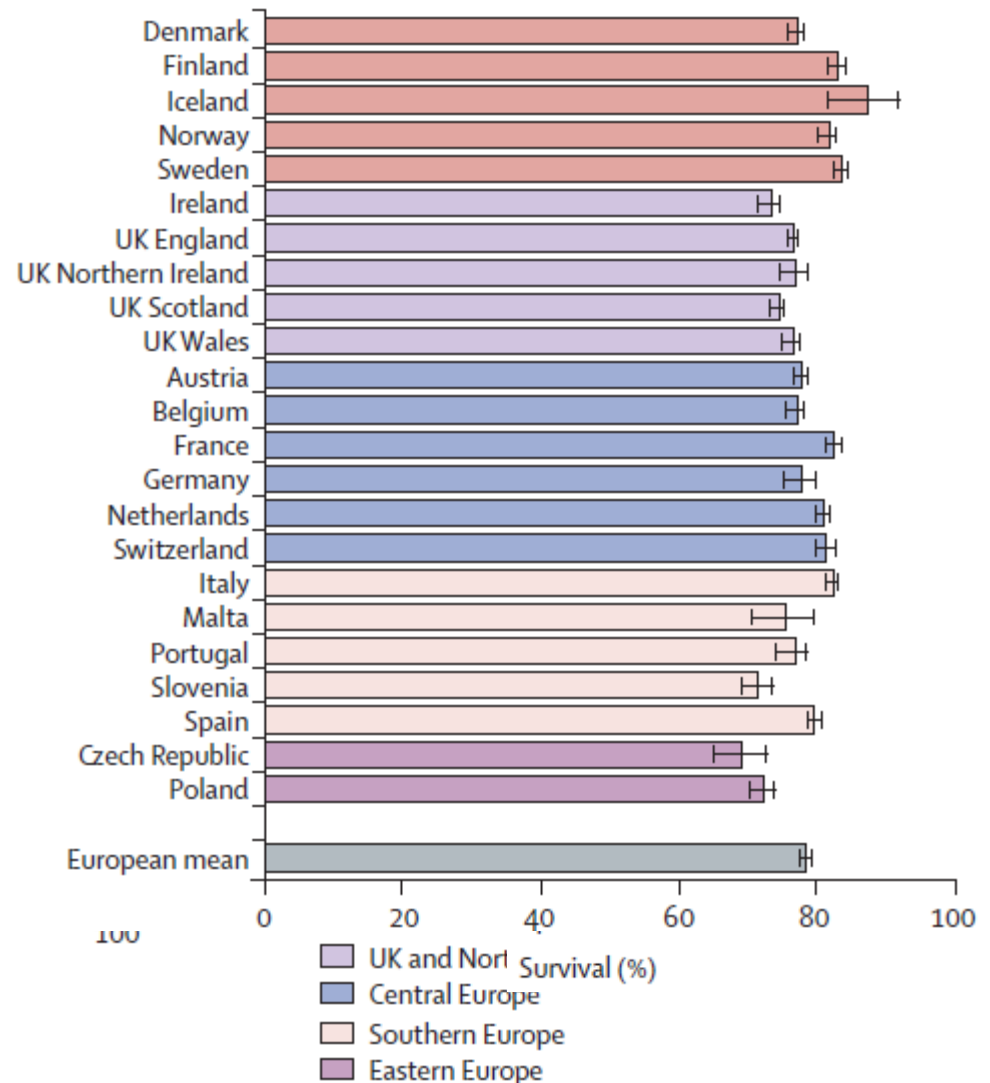
- Outcomes such as survival vary among EU countries
- Evidence available in order to improve the process and outcomes of cancer care

# European Differences in survival: Breast and Colorectal cancer

Colorectal



Breast



## The basis for action: an integrated cancer plan

- Rapid access to diagnosis and multidisciplinary care
- Focus on patient needs and inclusion of their preferences in their management
- Coordination of cancer care throughout the process of care
- Concentration of diagnostic and therapeutic procedures of low frequency or high complexity in services with adequate case load
- Adequate management of patients' quality of life and provision of psychosocial care services
- Use of existing treatment guidelines
- Involvement of cancer patient organizations in strategic development and evaluation of the plan
- Evaluation of cancer outcomes
- Ensure support for research and training of health care professionals

# Why is a partnership in EU cancer care relevant?

Health Europe provides health organization and competency



Strong resistance of MS to losing control over health care organization and catalogue of services financed through



Two relevant changes in this perspective:

- Cross border health directive

Burden of cancer care statement from European Parliament and Commission

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## The 3 Aims of this Directive to be implemented in 2013



1. Help patients to exercise their rights to reimbursement for healthcare received in another EU country
2. Provide assurance about the **safety and quality** of cross-border healthcare
3. Establish **formal cooperation** between health systems

# Context and main Goals European Reference Networks

**cooperation of Member States** in the area of European reference networks (ERN).



**and treatment** of certain diseases and  
Main goal is to **facilitate improvements in the diagnosis**  
the EU: conditions across

- By the **delivery of high-quality**, accessible and cost-effective healthcare
  - for patients suffering **medical conditions** which could require a  
**particular concentration of expertise or resources**,  
particularly in medical domains where expertise is rare.

**Target:** Setting up EU reference networks for rare conditions

## WP7 HEALTH CARE PERSPECTIVE

*Cancer outcomes could be improved in most EU countries if the entire range of activities and services for cancer were performed near the levels achieved by the better health systems*

- ❑ *Outcomes could be improved if we applied what we know is effective, combining organizational changes aimed at improving multidisciplinary care with evidence-based therapy.*

***“Cancer care as a problem of the organization of health care system: all parts of the process of care should be logically organized, communicate effectively and care coordinated.”***

*Haward, 2007*




# WP 7

## *Objectives*



## WP 7 Objective 1

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- To identify and assess **best cancer care practices** across European health services, promoting the exchange of experiences focusing on innovative organizational approaches, including patients' perspective

### *Key areas*

- Multidisciplinary care and national / regional networks
  - Standardization of treatment, symptom assessment and follow-up of palliative care
  - Standards of care for children with cancer
- Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM): evidence and utilization in Europe

# European Standards of Care for Children with Cancer

## True consensus document

- First time multidisciplinary, multiprofessional care team came together - pediatric oncologists, nurses, pathologists, psychologists, lawyers, survivors, parents, patients, lobbyists, interest groups - from at least 14 European countries (EU and non-EU)
- Infrastructure for medical diagnostics as well as common work practices through multidisciplinary multiprofessional care team within a specialized unit

### *Includes:*

- Centres of Excellence, reflecting local population and geography
- Provision of both postgraduate training and consistent, continuous professional development for all staff concerned
- Psychological support, planned social and educational care as well as post-treatment assistance to ensure a child's reintegration into society

## WP 7 Objective 2

 To develop, review and harmonize **Clinical Guidelines** (CG)

### *Key areas*

- Nutritional care guidelines
- Harmonization of CG on rare cancers
- Health inequalities in CG implementation
- Effective implementation and self-assessment tool for health care organizations

## WP 7 Objective 3



To implement a training strategy to improve **psychosocial care** and **communication skills** among health care providers

### *Key areas*

- Mapping psychosocial needs in EU countries
- Pilot training workshops

## ***WP 7 Associated partners***

- National Coordination for Oncological Diseases, High Commissariat of Health, Ministry of Health, Portugal
- Polish Ministry of Health, PMH
- Catalan Institute of Oncology, ICO
- French National Cancer Institute, INCa
- European Health Management Association, EHMA
- European Society for Paediatric Oncology, SIOPE
- European Hospital and Healthcare Federation, HOPE
- European Society for Clinical Nutrition and Metabolism, ESPEN
- European Oncology Nursing Society, EONS
- Norwegian Directorate of Health, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, NTNU
- European School of Oncology, ESO
- Regione Toscana, Italy, RTI
- Belgium Ministry of Health, BMH
- Institute of Public Health, Ljubljana, Slovenia, IPH

## ***WP 7 Collaborating partners***

- European Coordination Committee of the radiological, Electromedical and Healthcare IT industry, COCIR (Brussels, Belgium)
- International Agency of Research in Cancer, IARC (Lyon, France)
- European Society of Radiology, ESR (Vienna, Austria)
- Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori. Surveillance of Rare Cancers in Europe, RARECARE Project (Milan, Italy)
- International Psycho-oncology Society, IPOS (London, UK)
- European Cancer Patient Coalition, ECPC (Riemerling, Germany)
- European Cancer Organization, ECCO (Brussels, Belgium)
- Europa Donna - The European Breast Cancer Coalition (Milan, Italy)
- European Institute of Women's Health (Dublin, Ireland)
- European Society for Medical Oncology, ESMO (Lugano, Switzerland)
- European Association for Palliative Care, EAPC (Milan, Italy)
- Regione Lombardia (Milan, Italy)
- Cancer Policy Unit, Department of Health and Children (Dublin, Ireland)
- European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies (Brussels, Belgium)
- European Union of General Practitioners, UEMO (Brussels, Belgium)
- European Society Therapeutic Radiation Oncology, ESTRO (Brussels, Belgium)
- Belgian Cancer Centre (Brussels, Belgium)

# Objectives of WP7

- Health care improvements in cancer patients are a key target of the partnership: high level of involvement of cancer plans, scientific societies, industry and patients' groups
- Focus on organizational approaches in the delivery of cancer care (multidisciplinary care, networks,...) as well as implementation strategies in areas such as psychosocial care or clinical guidelines
- Diversity of methodological approaches: case studies, evidence review, experiences, development of implementation tools
- Expected outcome might involve adapting the objectives of country cancer plans as well as the priorities of scientific societies and patients' groups



# Concluding remarks

- Feasibility of the partnership concept measured by the exchange of information and mutual learning process
- Interaction with the European Centres of Reference Network:
  - Defining cancer conditions as target for pilot programs
  - Assessing the feasibility of harmonization of rare cancer guidelines
  - Possibility of opting out for countries that do not want to be involved in the networks
- Impact on cancer plan objectives
- Building a Community of Practice