



The benefits of an organised screening approach in reaching the target population through population-based invitations, reminders and follow-up strategies

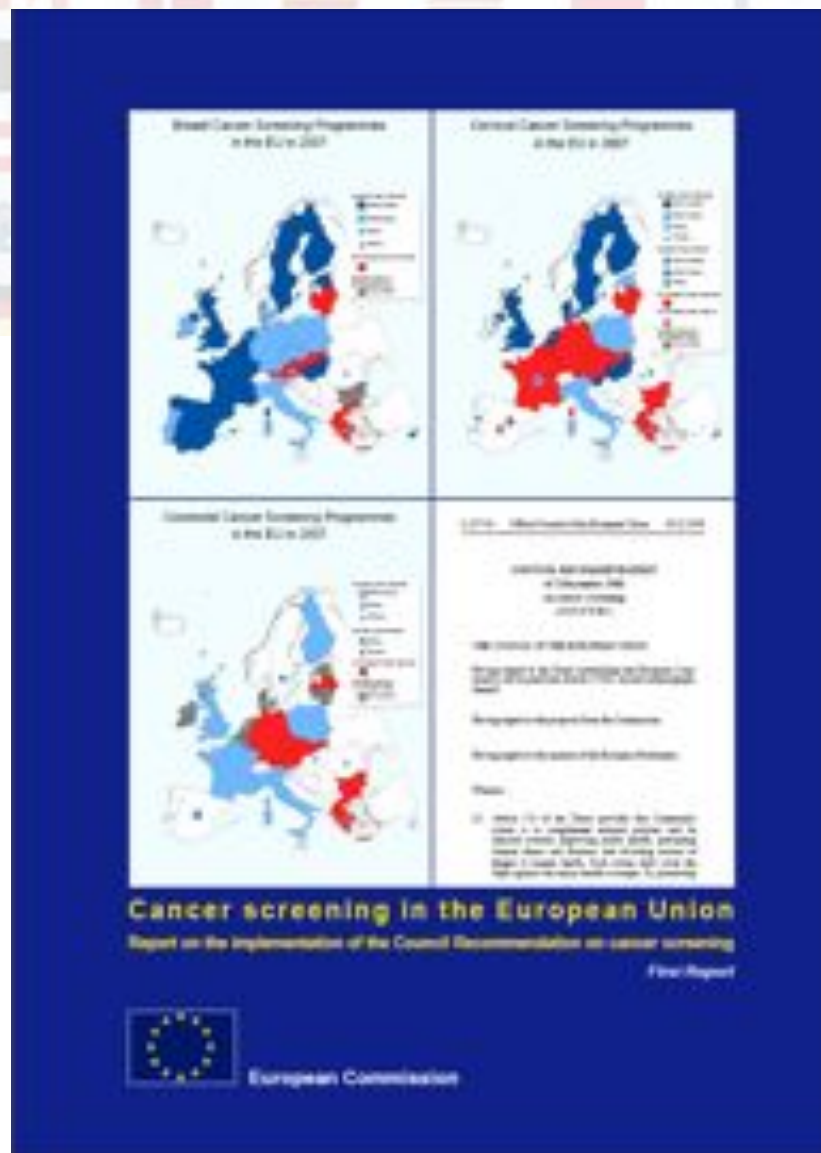
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Cancer Screening in the European Union

Report on the implementation of the Council Recommendation on cancer screening *First Report*

L v Karsa, A Anttila, G Ronco, A Ponti, N Malila, M Arbyn, N Segnan, M Castillo-Beltran, M Boniol, J Ferlay, C Hery, C Sauvaget, L Voti, P Autier



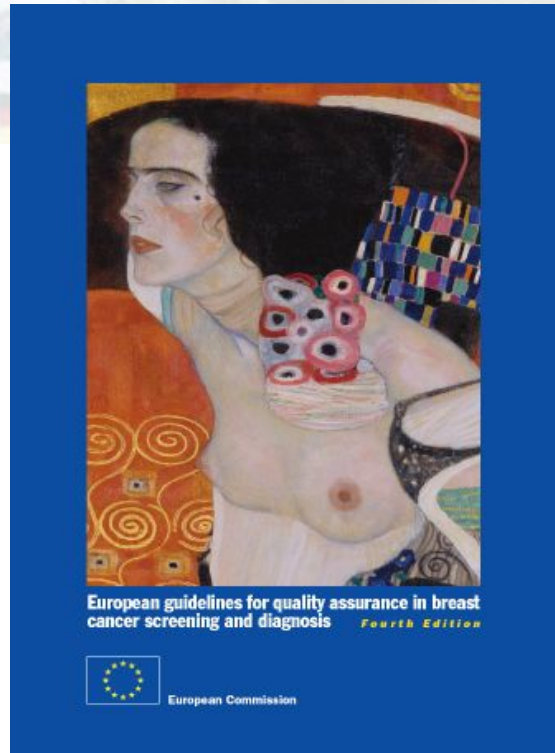
International Agency for Research on Cancer
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EU Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Breast, Cervical and Colorectal Cancer Screening



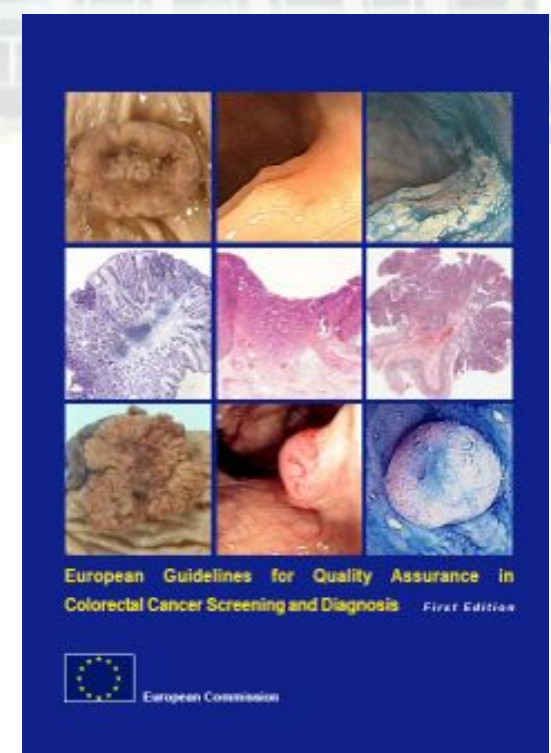
4th Edition

2006^{a)}



2nd Edition

2008^{a)}



1st Edition

2010^{a), b)}

International Agency for Research on Cancer

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^{a)}EU Health Programme,

^{b)}UEGF, ACS, CDC

➤ Programme screening requires: **public responsibility, coordination, supervision.**

The screening policy should at least:

- Be defined by law or **official** regulation, decision, directive or recommendation
- Specify **screening test**, examination interval, eligible group of persons
- Provide for **public financing** of participation in screening (apart from own contribution)

➤ Organised screening programmes

- **Responsible** national or regional **team** for implementation (coordinating service delivery, quality assurance, and reporting of performance and results)
- **Comprehensive** guidelines, **rules** and standard operating procedures
- **Quality assurance structure** with supervision and monitoring of the screening process
- **Ascertainment** of the population disease burden



Population-based screening

requires a high degree of organisation in order to

- **identify and invite each eligible person** in the target population (**promotes equity in access to health care**)
- **assure** that the invitational activities are **performed reliably and effectively** and are **adequately coordinated** with the subsequent steps in the screening process

Opportunistic vs population-based invitation

➤ Opportunistic screening *

- Attendance depends on the initiative of the individual or a health care professional
- Services tend to be less efficient and effective
 - Lower proportion of target population attends
 - Less success in reaching disadvantaged groups

For references: von Karsa et al. 2008,
Segnan et al. 2010

Opportunistic vs population-based invitation

➤ Population-based screening

- Tools for increasing compliance with screening protocol (invitations & reminders)
- Tools for monitoring and analyzing performance quality (testing, follow-up, clinical management)
(linkage studies, performance audit)
- Tools for piloting and evaluating improvements in the screening process
(randomized public health policy)

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Conclusions

- A population-based to invitation of the target population to cancer screening programmes provides an infrastructure that can be used to improve compliance and performance.
- However the approach itself does not guarantee success. Otherwise guidelines would not be needed for population-based programmes.

Thank you for your attention