



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

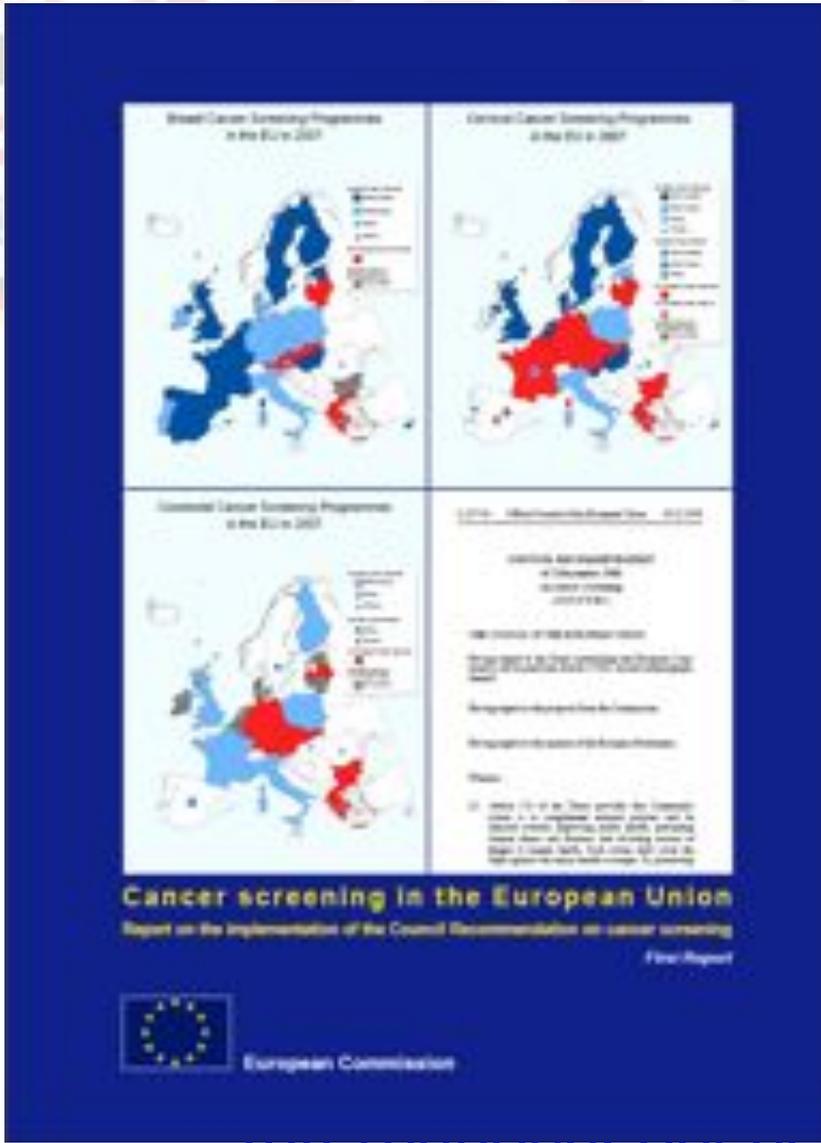
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# Cancer Screening in the European Union

## 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



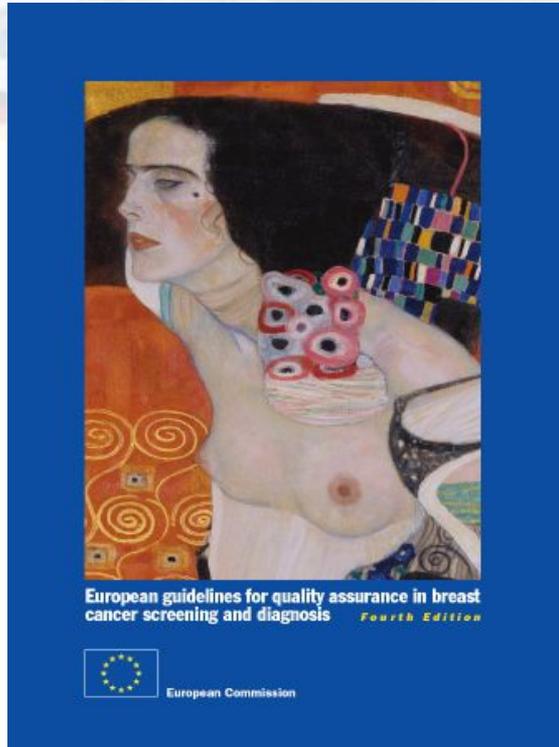
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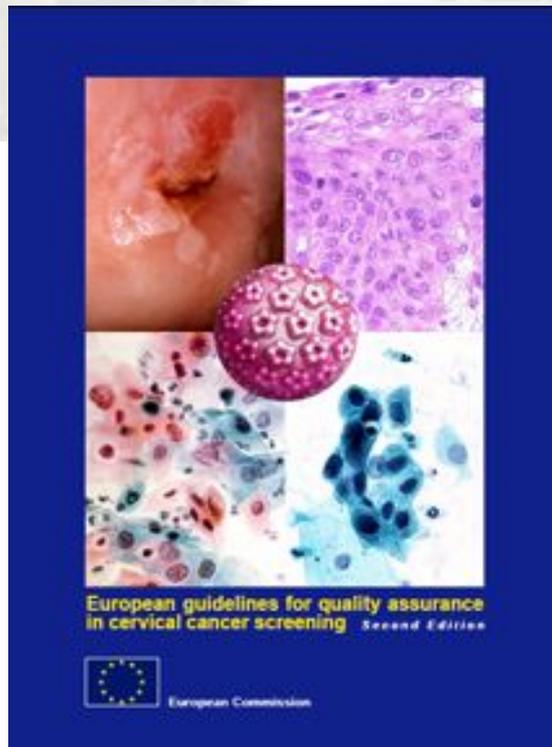


# EU Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Breast, Cervical and Colorectal Cancer Screening



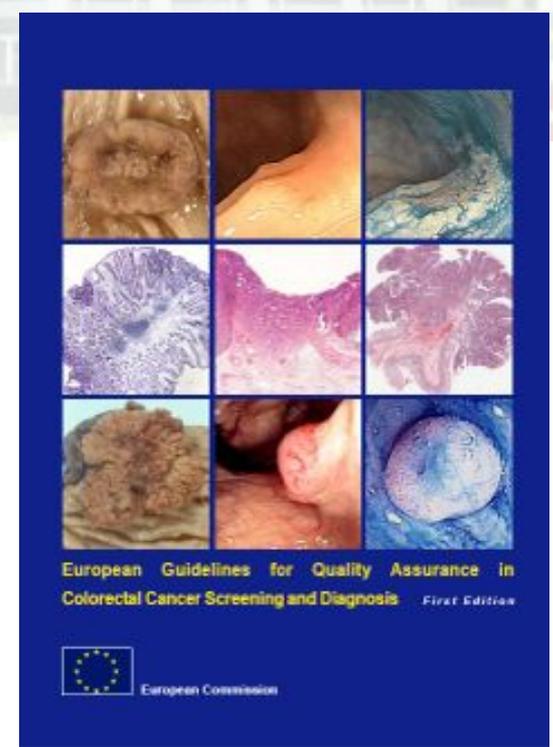
**4<sup>th</sup> Edition**

**2006<sup>a)</sup>**



**2<sup>nd</sup> Edition**

**2008<sup>a)</sup>**



**1<sup>st</sup> Edition**

**2010<sup>a), b)</sup>**

International Agency for Research on Cancer

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<sup>a)</sup>EU Health Programme,

<sup>b)</sup>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)

# Opportunistic vs population-based invitation

- Population-based screening \*
- Tools for increasing compliance with screening protocol (invitations & reminders)
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(linkage studies, performance audit)
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(randomized public health policy)

# Conclusions

- A population-based 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

International Agency for Research on Cancer

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