



# The Belgian Cancer Inventory: co-creating a framework for monitoring the implementation of cancer policies and associated inequalities

Robbe Saesen<sup>1\*</sup> • Gabrielle Schittecatte<sup>1\*</sup> • Jinane Ghattas<sup>1</sup> • Marie Delnord<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Belgian Cancer Centre, Scientific Directorate of Epidemiology and Public Health, Sciensano, Brussels, Belgium

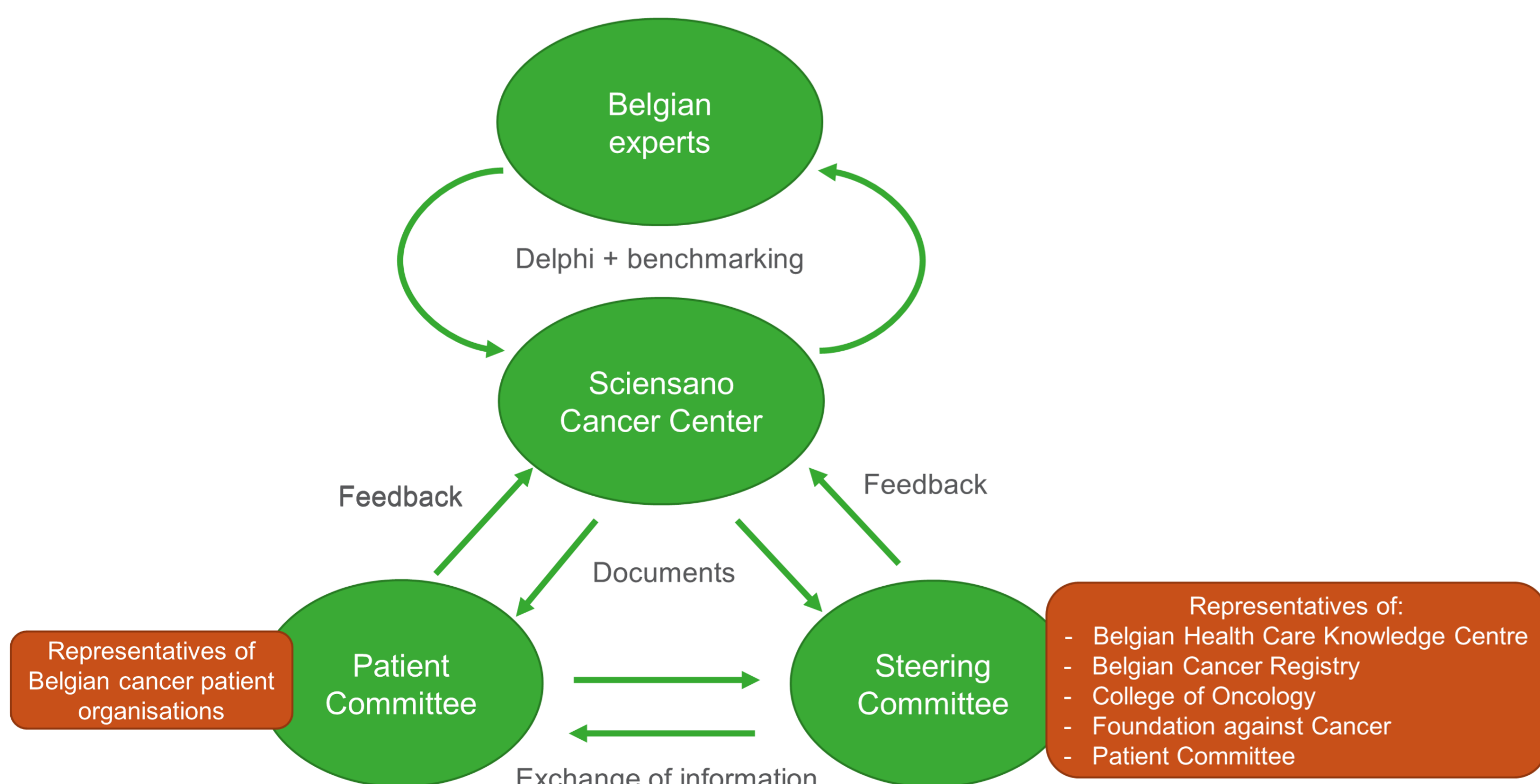
\*Shared first authors

## Introduction

- Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and the Mission on Cancer provide opportunities to reduce cancer burden through **targeted actions** in Member States of the European Union
- Uptake of these actions is **not systematically monitored** in every Member State
- There is currently **no national cancer plan in Belgium**, but cancer care and control policy objectives are nevertheless being pursued
- At the request of the federal cabinet, a **monitoring and evaluation framework for cancer care and control policies** is being developed, i.e. the **Belgian Cancer Inventory**
- **Aim: to enable the routine monitoring of Belgium's progress towards reaching specific cancer care and control policy objectives and of associated inequalities**, across five thematic areas:
  - Prevention and early detection
  - Diagnosis
  - Treatment and care organisation
  - Quality of life and survivorship
  - Children, adolescents and young adults

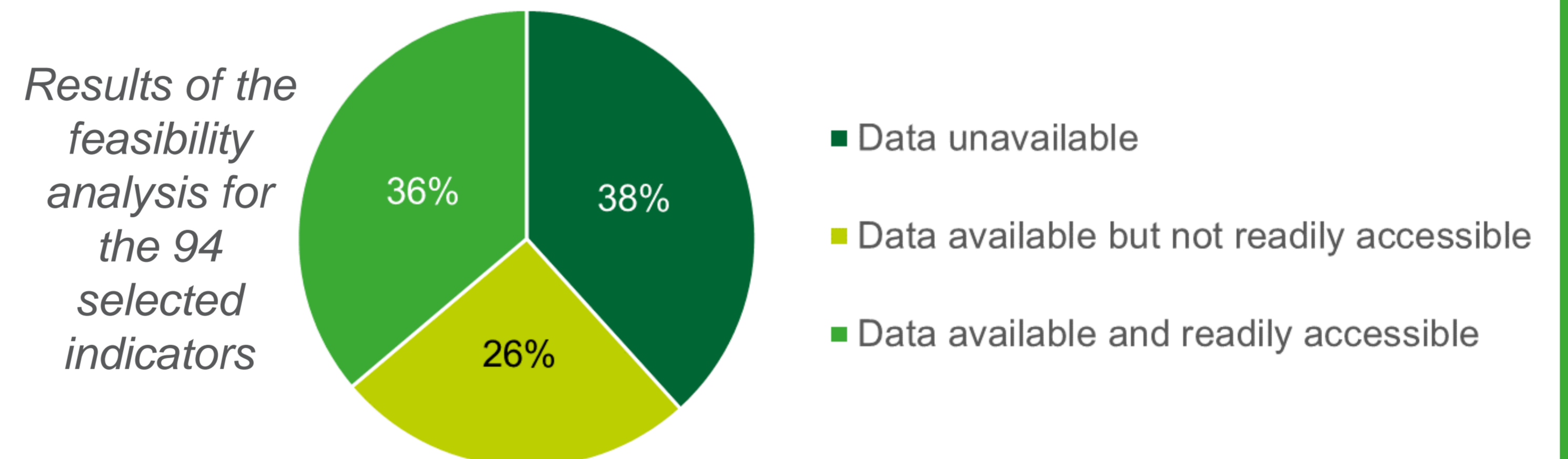
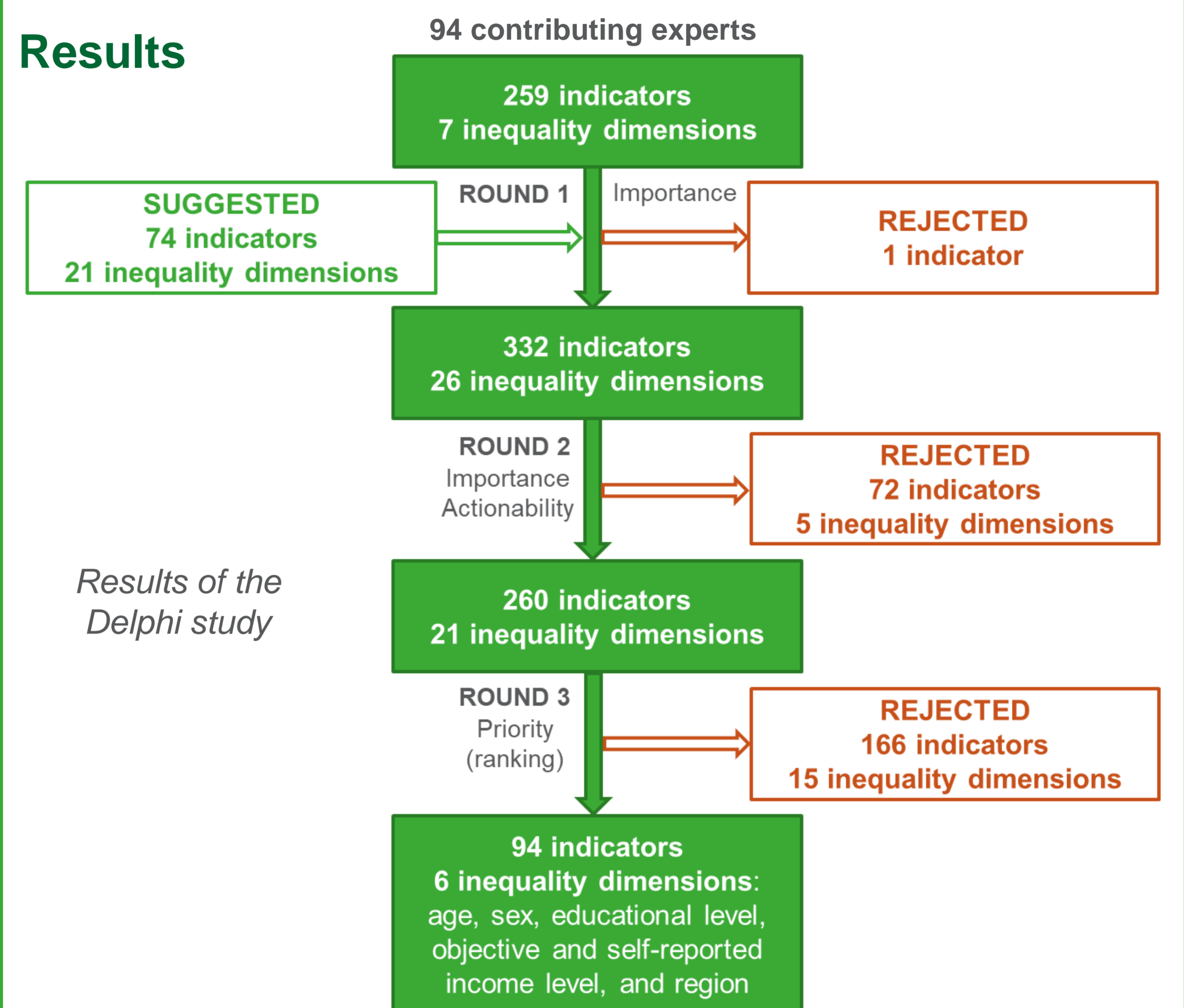
## Methods

- **Literature review** to identify indicators and dimensions
  - Peer-reviewed literature
  - National cancer control plans from other countries
  - International frameworks (e.g. OECD Country Cancer Profiles)
  - Outputs of European projects (e.g. Joint Action CanCon)
- **Delphi study** to let experts in the field select indicators and dimensions
  - Three rounds per thematic area
  - Three surveys and one focus group discussion per round
  - Regional and professional balance in participation
- **Feasibility analysis** to evaluate availability and accessibility of data needed for indicators
  - Interviews with data hosts (e.g. Belgian Cancer Registry, Intermutualistic Agency, National Institute for Health and Disability Insurance, etc.)
- **Benchmarking exercise** to set targets for indicators
  - Review of international guidelines
  - Survey of experts



Governance of the Belgian Cancer Inventory, illustrating the co-creation method used

## Results



## Conclusion

By applying a co-creation method, an initial framework was developed for monitoring and evaluating the uptake of cancer care and control policies in Belgium. Next, where relevant and applicable, benchmarks will be proposed for the indicators included in this framework with the input from Belgian experts.

## REFERENCES

- European Commission. Europe's Beating Cancer Plan – Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council (2021).
- European Commission. Mission on Cancer Implementation Plan (2021).
- European Commission. European Cancer Inequalities Registry – Country Cancer Profiles (2023).

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors would like to thank all of the experts who participated in the Delphi exercise, as well as the members of the Steering Committee and Patient Committee for their invaluable contributions to this work.

This research was funded by the National Institute for Health and Disability Insurance (NIHDI/RIZIV/INAMI) in Belgium.