

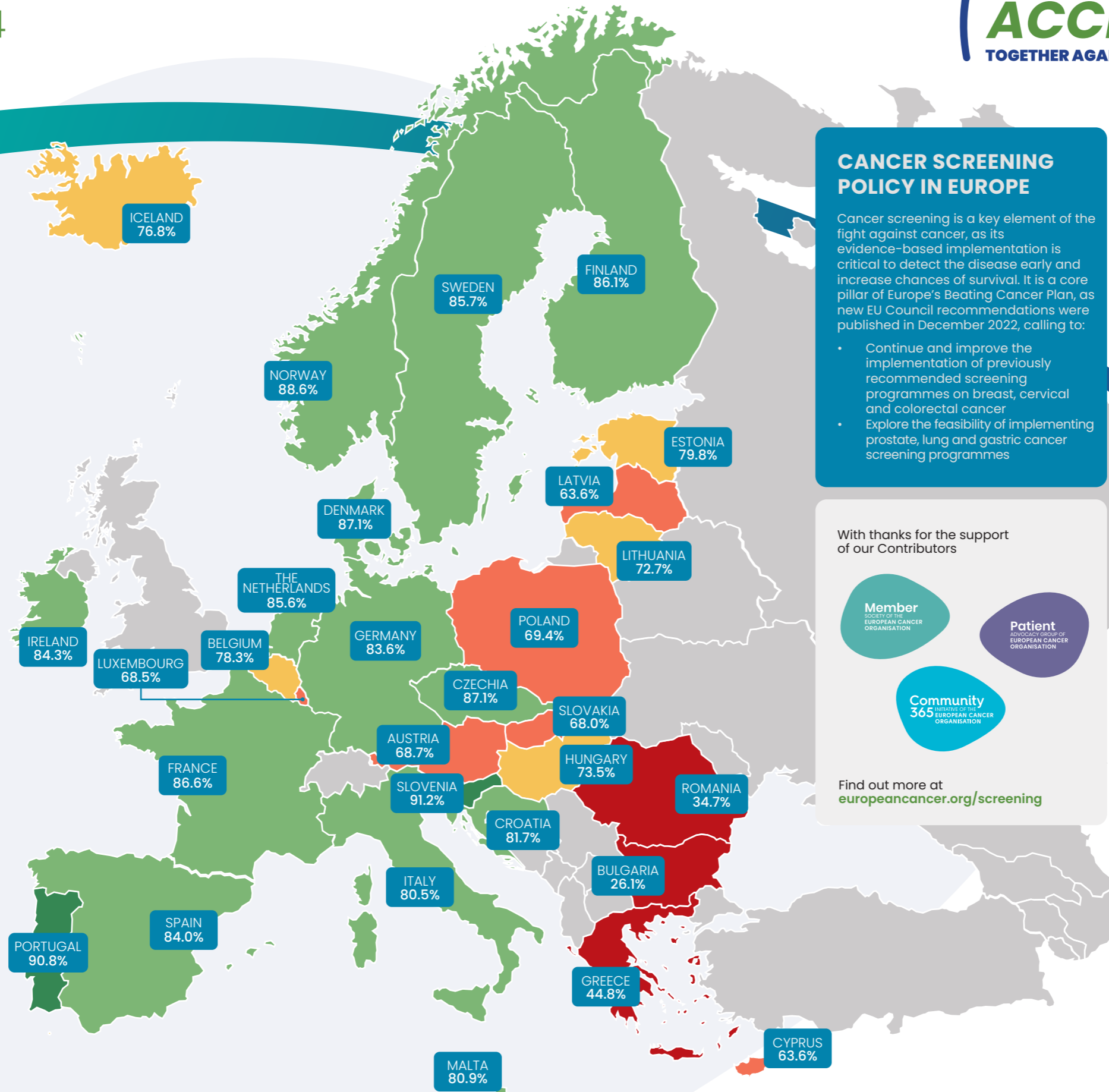
EUROPEAN CANCER SCREENING POLICY INDEX

November 2024



RANKING SCALE

Slovenia	91.2 %
Portugal	90.8 %
Norway	88.6 %
Denmark	87.1 %
Czechia	87.1 %
France	86.6 %
Finland	86.1 %
Sweden	85.7 %
The Netherlands	85.6 %
Ireland	84.3 %
Spain	84.0 %
Germany	83.6 %
Croatia	81.7 %
Malta	80.9 %
Italy	80.5 %
Estonia	79.8 %
Belgium	78.3 %
Iceland	76.8 %
Hungary	73.5 %
Lithuania	72.7 %
Poland	69.4 %
Austria	68.7 %
Luxembourg	68.5 %
Slovakia	68.0 %
Latvia	63.6 %
Cyprus	63.6 %
Greece	44.8 %
Romania	34.7 %
Bulgaria	26.1 %



CANCER SCREENING POLICY IN EUROPE

Cancer screening is a key element of the fight against cancer, as its evidence-based implementation is critical to detect the disease early and increase chances of survival. It is a core pillar of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, as new EU Council recommendations were published in December 2022, calling to:

- Continue and improve the implementation of previously recommended screening programmes on breast, cervical and colorectal cancer
- Explore the feasibility of implementing prostate, lung and gastric cancer screening programmes

With thanks for the support of our Contributors



Find out more at europeancancer.org/screening

TIME TO ACCELERATE FOR CANCER SCREENING CAMPAIGN

The Time To Accelerate for Cancer Screening campaign is an initiative of the European Cancer Organisation aiming to help ensure that all EU Member States play their role in delivering the shared commitments represented by the Council Recommendations on cancer screening, and that all EU citizens benefit from the best policies for early detection of cancer. The campaign works to:

- Use cancer screening data to inform cancer screening policy
- Foster cross-country best practice sharing and learn from testimonies about the reality of cancer screening programmes
- Develop and publicise policy recommendations on the topic

THE EUROPEAN CANCER SCREENING POLICY INDEX

The European Cancer Screening Policy Index is a new policy tool of the Time To Accelerate for Cancer Screening campaign. Based on existing data from leading initiatives in the field and on a selection of key cancer screening policy indicators by leading experts, the Index aims to:

- Capture the current state of cancer screening policies across European countries
- Provide a single measurement benchmarking countries' advancement in cancer screening policy
- Highlight actionable policy insights to assist decision-makers

The European Cancer Screening Policy Index will be a living tool, growing and evolving as new sources of data intelligence on cancer screening become available.

KEY FINDINGS

- Few European countries include all recommended cancer screening programmes in their National Cancer Plans although progress is ongoing in many cases
- Harmonised registration of cancer screening data remains a significant challenge across Europe
- Implementation of population-based cancer screening across European countries is still incomplete: three countries lack organised programmes screening for breast cancer, eight for cervical cancer, and six for colorectal cancer
- Social inequalities, including disparities according to income, education, and urbanisation, continue to hinder equal access to cancer screening
- Overall performance scores reveal that Slovenia, Portugal, and Norway demonstrate the best alignment with the latest EU recommendations

0-50% 50-60% 60-70% 70-80% 80-90% 90-100%

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Country	OVERALL SCORE	OVERARCHING			PREVIOUSLY RECOMMENDED SCREENING PROGRAMMES																		NEWLY RECOMMENDED SCREENING PROGRAMMES		SOCIAL INEQUALITIES												
		Cancer Screening Policy	Cancer Screening Registration	Performance Score	Breast Cancer								Cervical Cancer						Colorectal Cancer						Prostate Cancer		Education	Income	Urbanisation	Performance Score							
					Coverage	Type of organisation	Coverage rate (%)	Target age group	Screening Interval	Type of test provided	Invitation strategy	Performance Score	Coverage	Type of organisation	Coverage rate (%)	Target age group	Screening Interval	Type of test provided	Invitation strategy	Self-sampling availability	Performance Score	Coverage	Type of organisation	Coverage rate (%)	Target age group	Screening Interval					Type of test provided	Invitation strategy	Self-sampling availability	Performance Score	Existence of recommendation	Implementation pilot	
AUSTRIA	68.7%	Aligned	No	25%	National	Population-based	40%	45-69 years	2 years	Digital mammography	One communication channel	84.4%	NA	Non-population-based	85%*	≥20 years	1 year 3 years	Cytology HPV test	NA	No	70.3%	National	Non-population-based	64%*	45-75 years	2 years 10 years	FIT Colonoscopy	NA	NA	71.8%	NA	NA	6.9%	8.4%	9.1% ^A	91.9%	
BELGIUM	78.3%	Aligned	Yes	75%	Regional	Population-based	57%	50-69 years	2 years	Digital mammography	One communication channel	87.3%	Regional	Flanders: Population-based, Wallonia and Brussels: Non-population-based	46%	25-64 years	Flanders: 3 years	Cytology	NA	No	54.9%	Regional	Population-based	52%*	50-74 years	2 years	FIT	One communication channel	Yes	92.0%	NA	NA	16.7%	24.9%	11.4%	82.3%	
BULGARIA	26.1%	Optimal	No	50%	NA	Non-population-based	21%	50-69 years	2 years	Mammography	NA	39.6%	NA	Non-population-based	57%*	30-40 years	NA	Cytology	One communication channel	No	20.6%	NA	Non-population-based	4%*	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.7%	NA	NA	86.2%	92.4%	63.0%	19.5%	
CROATIA	81.7%	Optimal	Yes	100%	National	Population-based	56%	50-69 years	2 years	Mammography	One communication channel	78.8%	NA	Population-based	78%*	25-64 years	3 years	Cytology	NA	No	75.6%	National	Population-based	25%	50-74 years	2 years	gFOBT	One communication channel	NA	76.4%	NA	Under discussion	21.2%	22.4% ^A	23.1%	77.8%	
CYPRUS	63.6%	Aligned	Yes	75%	National	Population-based	25%	50-69 years	2 years	Digital mammography	One communication channel	81.9%	NA	Non-population-based	68%*	NA	NA	NA	NA	No	11.5%	National	Population-based	3%*	50-74 years	2 years	FIT	One communication channel	Yes	83.8%	NA	NA	27.5%	25.8%	49.7%	65.6%	
CZECHIA	87.1%	Aligned	Yes	75%	National	Population-based	58%	>45 years	2 years	Digital mammography	One communication channel	93.0%	National	Population-based	75%	25-70 years	One year	Cytology, HPV co-test	One communication channel	No	90.3%	National	Population-based	27%	≥50 years	2 years 10 years	FIT Colonoscopy	One communication channel	NA	82.3%	NA	Under discussion	7.5%	3.2% ^A	3.9% ^A	95.1%	
DENMARK	87.1%	Aligned	Yes	75%	Regional	Population-based	83%	50-69 years	2 years	Digital mammography	One communication channel	91.6%	National	Population-based	59%	23-64 years	3 years 5 years	Cytology HPV test	One communication channel	Yes - partially	87.6%	Regional	Population-based	61%	50-74 years	2 years	FIT	One communication channel	Yes	93.5%	NA	NA	13.1% ^A	13.5%	9.6% ^A	87.9%	
ESTONIA	79.8%	Aligned	Yes	75%	National	Population-based	59%	50-68 years	2 years	Mammography	One communication channel	82.1%	National	Population-based	51%	30-65 years	5 years	HPV test	One communication channel	No	86.3%	National	Population-based	48%	60-68 years	2 years	FIT	Multiple communication channels	Yes	80.0%	NA	Under discussion	20.4%	33.6%	19.7%	75.4%	
FINLAND	86.1%	Aligned	Yes	75%	National	Population-based	82%	50-69 years	2 years	Digital mammography	One communication channel	91.4%	National	Population-based	72%	30-65 years	5 years	HPV test	One communication channel	Yes - partially	95.3%	National	Population-based	79%	60-68 years	2 years	FIT	One communication channel	NA	79.8%	Recommendation against	Under discussion	12.5% ^A	10.6% ^A	10.3% ^A	88.9%	
FRANCE	86.6%	Aligned	Yes	75%	National	Population-based	47%	50-74 years	2 years	Mammography	One communication channel	85.6%	National	Population-based	59%	25-65 years	3 years 5 years	Cytology HPV test	One communication channel	Yes - partially	93.2%	National	Population-based	35%	50-74 years	2 years	FIT	One communication channel	Yes	89.2%	Recommendation against	NA	4.8% ^A	21.6%	3.6% ^A	90.0%	
GERMANY	83.6%	Aligned	Yes	75%	National	Population-based	48%	50-69 years	2 years	Mammography	One communication channel	85.8%	National	Population-based	45%	20-65 years	1 year 3 years	Cytology HPV test	One communication channel	Yes - for all	90.8%	National	Population-based	15%	50-65 years	1 or 2 years NA	FIT Colonoscopy	One communication channel	NA	74.7%	Recommendation against	Pilot for risk-adapted screening	3.6% ^A	14.2%	7.5% ^A	91.6%	
GREECE	44.8%	Aligned	No	25%	National	Population-based	66%*	50-69 years	1 year	Digital mammography	One communication channel	80.0%	NA	Non-population-based	73%*	NA	NA	Cytology	NA	No	5.9%	NA	Non-population-based	28%*	50-70 years	2 years 5 years	gFOBT Colonoscopy	NA	NA	43.6%	NA	NA	20.3% ^A	22.4%	49.5% ^A	69.3%	
HUNGARY	73.5%	Aligned	Yes	75%	National	Population-based	30%	45-65 years	2 years	Digital mammography	One communication channel	82.8%	National	Population-based	26%	25-65 years	3 years	Cytology	One communication channel	No	76.6%	National	Population-based	3%	50-70 years	NA	FIT Colonoscopy	One communication channel	Yes	61.6%	NA	NA	33.0%	34.3%	18.7%	71.3%	
ICELAND	76.8%	Aligned	Yes	75%	National	Population-based	54%	40-74 years	2 or 3 years	Digital mammography	One communication channel	92.0%	National	Population-based	65%	23-64 years	3 years 5 years	Cytology HPV test	One communication channel	No	83.1%	NA	Population-based	6%*	≥50 years	2 years NA	FIT Colonoscopy	NA	NA	62.1%	NA	NA	24.9% ^A	38.7% ^A	21.6% ^A	71.6%	
IRELAND	84.3%	Aligned	Yes	75%	National	Population-based	62%	50-69 years	2 years	Mammography	Multiple communication channels	88.0%	National	Population-based	73%	25-65 years	3 or 5 years	HPV test	One communication channel	No	89.9%	National	Population-based	50%	59-69 years	2 years	FIT	One communication channel	Yes	80.6%	NA	Under discussion	15.7% ^A	10.3% ^A	9.7% ^A	88.1%	
ITALY	80.5%	Aligned	Yes	75%	Regional	Population-based	56%	50-69 years	2 years	Digital mammography	One communication channel	87.0%	National	Population-based	39%	25-64 years	3 years	Cytology	One communication channel	No	73.2%	Regional	Population-based	39%	50-69 years	2 years NA	FIT Rectosigmoidoscopy	One communication channel	Yes	84.3%	NA	NA	13.7%	31.5%	6.2% ^A	82.9%	
LATVIA	63.6%	Aligned	No	25%	National	Population-based	31%	50-69 years	2 years	Mammography	One communication channel	82.9%	National	Population-based	35%	25-70 years	3 years	Cytology or HPV test	Multiple communication channels	No	89.2%	NA	Non-population-based	19%	50-74 years	2 years	FIT	One communication channel	No	47.6%	NA	NA	24.7%	15.4% ^A	39.7%	73.4%	
LITHUANIA	72.7%	Aligned	Yes	75%	National	Non-population-based	46%	50-69 years	2 years	Digital mammography	One communication channel	68.8%	National	Non-population-based	53%	25-59 years	3 years 5 years	Cytology HPV test	One communication channel	No	69.9%	National	Non-population-based	48%	50-74 years	2 years	FIT	One communication channel	No	69.1%	Yes, mainly opportunistic	Ongoing	15.3%	23.8%	18.2%	80.9%	
LUXEMBOURG	68.5%	Aligned	Yes	75%	National	Population-based	54%	50-69 years	2 years	Mammography	One communication channel	86.8%	NA	Non-population-based	61%	NA	NA	Cytology	One communication channel	No	5.2%	National	Population-based	48%*	55-74 years	2 years	FIT	One communication channel	Yes	85.9%	NA	NA	9.6% ^A	14.0% ^A	7.5% ^A	89.6%	
MALTA	80.9%	Aligned	Yes	75%	National	Population-based	78%	50-69 years	2 years	Mammography	One communication channel	90.8%	National	Population-based	24%	25-43 years	3 years	Cytology	One communication channel	No	65.1%	National	Population-based	52%	57-74 years	2 years	FIT	One communication channel	Yes	86.4%	NA	Under discussion	8.3%	12.3%	17.6% ^A	87.3%	
THE NETHERLANDS	85.6%	Aligned	Yes	75%	National	Population-based	73%	50-75 years	2 years	Mammography	One communication channel	89.9%	National	Population-based	55%	30-60 years	5 years	HPV test	One communication channel	Yes - for all	86.9%	National	Population-based	71%	55-75 years	2 years	FIT	One communication channel	Yes	89.6%	Recommendation against	Not planned yet	8.2% ^A	21.4%	11.1% ^A	86.4%	
NORWAY	88.6%	Optimal	Yes	100%	National	Population-based	66%	50-69 years	2 years	Digital mammography	One communication channel	88.8%	National	Population-based	78%	25-69 years	5 years	HPV test	One communication channel	Yes	96.3%	National	Population-based	8%*	55-65 years	2 years	FIT	One communication channel	Yes	73.6%	NA	NA	12.1%	26.0% ^A	9.6% ^A	84.1%	
POLAND	69.4%	Aligned	Yes	75%	National	Population-based	33%	50-69 years	2 years	Mammography	One communication channel	83.3%	National	Population-based	12%	25-59 years	3 years	Cytology	NA	No	68.7%	National	Population-based	8%*	50-64 years	1 time	Colonoscopy	One communication channel	NA	51.3%	NA	Ongoing	39.6%	17.0%	37.6%	68.6%	
PORTUGAL	90.8%	Optimal	Yes	100%	National	Population-based	80%*	50-69 years	2 years	Digital mammography	One communication channel	91.0%	National	Population-based	66%*	25-60 years	5 years	HPV test	NA	Yes - partially	88.8%	National	Population-based	41%*	50-74 years	2 years	FIT	One communication channel	NA	85.0%	NA	NA	9.1% ^A	10.0% ^A	12.9% ^A	89.3%	
ROMANIA	34.7%	Insufficient	No	0%	National	Non-population-based	9%*	NA	NA	Mammography	NA	35.0%	National	Non-population-based	39%*	25-64 years	5 years	Cytology	NA	No	56.5%	National	Non-population-based	3%*	50-74 years	2 years	FIT	NA	NA	61.6%	NA	Under discussion	77.8%	65.9%	94.9%	20.5%	
SLOVAKIA	68.0%	Aligned	No	25%	National	Population-based	26%	50-69 years	2 years	Digital mammography	One communication channel	73.8%	National	Population-based	44%	23-65 years	1 or 3 years	Cytology	One communication channel	No	79.6%	National	Population-based	39%*	50-75 years	2 years 10 years	gFOBT Colonoscopy	One communication channel	Yes	84.3%	NA	NA	23.9%	24.9%	18.8%	77.5%	
SLOVENIA	91.2%	Optimal	Yes	100%	National	Population-based	77%	50-69 years	2 years	Mammography	One communication channel	90.6%	National	Population-based	72%	20-64 years	3 years	Cytology	One communication channel	No	78.7%	National	Population-based	59%*	50-74 years	2 years	FIT	One communication channel	Yes	93.2%	NA	NA	6.8%	7.4%	4.8% ^A	93.7%	
SPAIN	84.0%	Aligned	Yes	75%	National	Population-based	74%*	50-69 years	2 years	Mammography	One communication channel	90.0%	Regional	Population-based	68%*	25-65 years	3-5 years	Cytology HPV test	One communication channel	Yes	94.7%	Regional	Population-based	32%*	50-69 years	2 years	FIT	NA	NA	77.6%	No	Ongoing	12.8%	28.5%	10.0% ^A	82.9%	
SWEDEN	85.7%	Aligned	Yes	75%	Regional	Population-based	80%*	40-74 years	1.5 to 2 years	Digital mammography	One communication	96.7%	Regional	Population-based	79%*	23-70 years	5-7 years	HPV test	NA	Yes - partially	96.5%	Regional	Population-based	26%*	60-74 years	2 years	FIT	One communication channel	Yes	76.6%	NA	Under discussion	5.4% ^A	18.6% ^A	25.4% ^A	83.6%	

*Cancer screening coverage rates derived from survey data; other values are from programme data.

**These columns contain inequality scores according to three social determinants, as an average of values calculated for breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screening. Low values reflect low inequality in access to cancer screening, while high values indicate high inequality. By contrast, for all performance scores, low values reflect poor performance while high values reflect good performance.

^AThese inequality scores include values where inequalities are in favour of disadvantaged groups, i.e. cases where access was higher for people with low education, low income, or living in rural areas.