

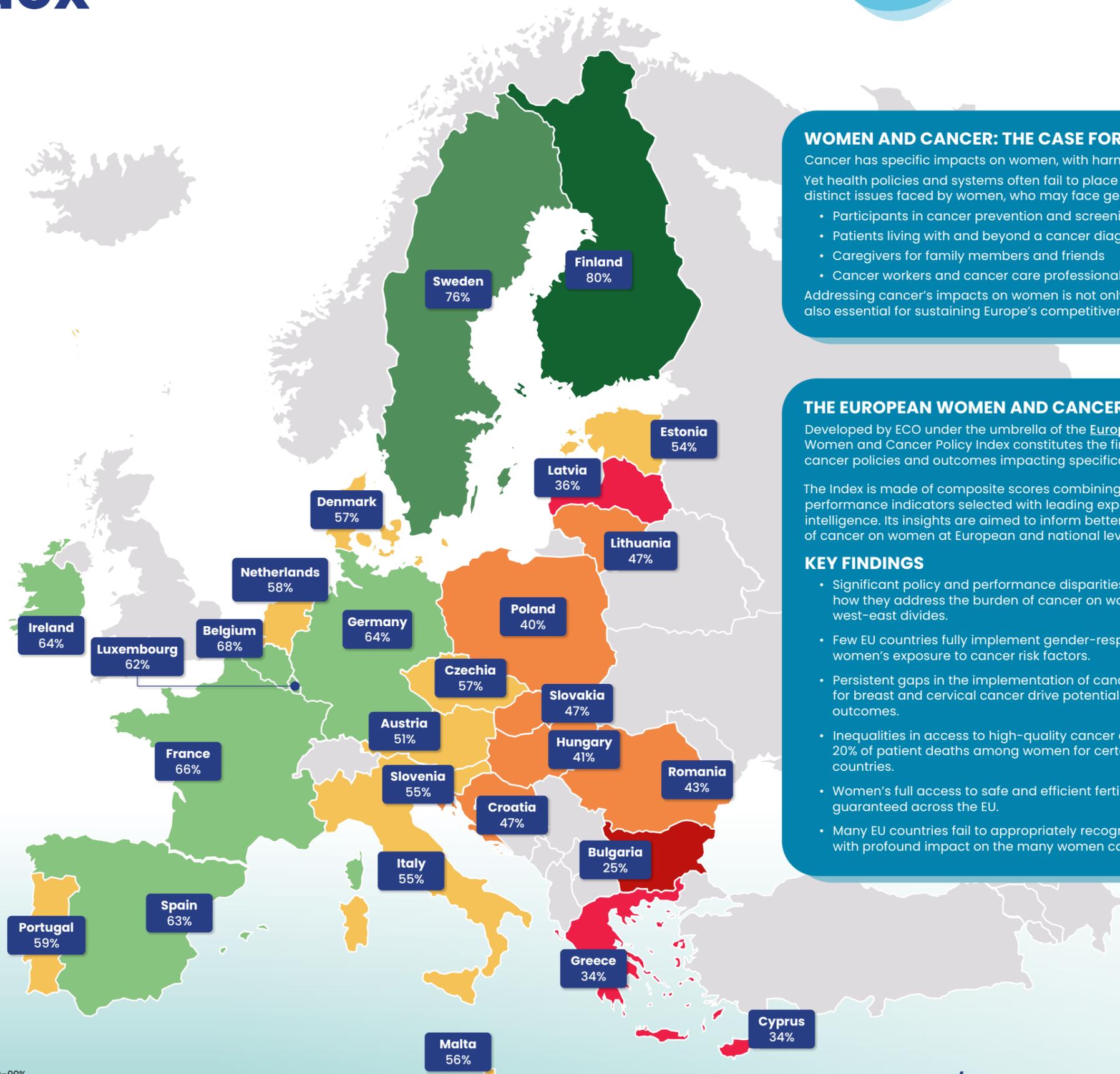
Women and Cancer Policy Index

March 2026



Ranking Scale

Finland	80 %
Sweden	76 %
Belgium	68 %
France	66 %
Ireland	64 %
Germany	64 %
Spain	63 %
Luxembourg	62 %
Portugal	59 %
Netherlands	58 %
Denmark	57 %
Czechia	57 %
Malta	56 %
Italy	55 %
Slovenia	55 %
Estonia	54 %
Austria	51 %
Lithuania	47 %
Croatia	47 %
Slovakia	47 %
Romania	43 %
Hungary	41 %
Poland	40 %
Latvia	36 %
Cyprus	34 %
Greece	34 %
Bulgaria	25 %



WOMEN AND CANCER: THE CASE FOR ACTION

Cancer has specific impacts on women, with harmful consequences for society. Yet health policies and systems often fail to place adequate emphasis on the distinct issues faced by women, who may face gender bias as:

- Participants in cancer prevention and screening
- Patients living with and beyond a cancer diagnosis
- Caregivers for family members and friends
- Cancer workers and cancer care professionals

Addressing cancer's impacts on women is not only a public health imperative but also essential for sustaining Europe's competitiveness and societal resilience.

THE EUROPEAN WOMEN AND CANCER POLICY INDEX

Developed by ECO under the umbrella of the European Cancer Pulse, the European Women and Cancer Policy Index constitutes the first systematic assessment of cancer policies and outcomes impacting specifically women in European countries.

The Index is made of composite scores combining a range of policy status and performance indicators selected with leading experts based on existing data intelligence. Its insights are aimed to inform better policy addressing of the burden of cancer on women at European and national level.

KEY FINDINGS

- Significant policy and performance disparities exist between EU countries in how they address the burden of cancer on women, with clear north-south and west-east divides.
- Few EU countries fully implement gender-responsive approaches to reducing women's exposure to cancer risk factors.
- Persistent gaps in the implementation of cancer screening programmes for breast and cervical cancer drive potential later detection and poorer outcomes.
- Inequalities in access to high-quality cancer care are responsible for up to 20% of patient deaths among women for certain cancers in some European countries.
- Women's full access to safe and efficient fertility treatment is still not guaranteed across the EU.
- Many EU countries fail to appropriately recognise and support informal carers, with profound impact on the many women caring for cancer patients.

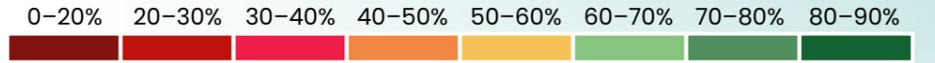


europeancancer.org/womenandcancerpolicyindex



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Country	Overall performance score	PRIMARY PREVENTION								SCREENING					QUALITY OF CARE AND QUALITY OF LIFE							INFORMAL CARERS					Country Flag		
		Tobacco		Alcohol		Overweight		HPV	Performance score	Breast cancer screening		Cervical cancer screening		Performance score	Women's cancers survival						Mortality-to-incidence score in women's cancers	Fertility preservation	Performance score	Legal definition or identification	Support to informal carers	Financial compensation and social protection		Women providing informal care	Performance score
		Gender-responsive tobacco control measures	Tobacco consumption by women	Gender-responsive alcohol control policies	Alcohol consumption by women	Gender-responsive overweight policies	Overweight rates among women	HPV vaccination policy score (girls)		Breast cancer screening implementation	Breast cancer screening rate	Cervical cancer screening implementation	Cervical cancer screening rate		Breast cancer	Uterine cancer	Thyroid cancer	Ovarian cancer	Cervical cancer	Vulvar and vaginal cancer									
AUSTRIA	51%	89%	24%	25%	5.5L	25%	33%	78%	59%	100%	41%	16%	85%*	40%	82%	78%	93%	41%	66%	56%	34%	56%	56%	No	High	Partially	18%	50%	
BELGIUM	68%	100%	21%	25%	4.7L	25%	47%	88%	66%	95%	58%	76%	56%	55%	83%	79%	83%	42%	66%	61%	60%	90%	64%	Yes	Medium	Yes	15%	89%	
BULGARIA	25%	100%	37%	25%	4.9L	0%	42%	70%	42%	25%	36%*	8%	57%*	9%	72%	70%	78%	33%	51%	47%	22%	57%	25%	No	Low	Partially	15%	28%	
CROATIA	47%	33%	34%	25%	2.7L	0%	56%	60%	37%	95%	62%	14%	78%*	56%	76%	75%	95%	39%	65%	56%	66%	67%	54%	No	Medium	Partially	29%	39%	
CYPRUS	34%	11%	19%	25%	3.4L	0%	46%	81%	38%	100%	30%	12%	69%*	29%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	49%	34%	48%	No	Medium	No	10%	22%	
CZECHIA	57%	56%	25%	25%	5.8L	0%	50%	86%	47%	100%	60%	86%	75%	61%	78%	77%	89%	36%	63%	49%	57%	51%	50%	Yes	Medium	Partially	15%	72%	
DENMARK	57%	33%	15%	25%	4.3L	25%	36%	99%	51%	95%	83%	90%	61%	78%	82%	78%	80%	35%	65%	61%	62%	76%	59%	Partially	Medium	No	31%	39%	
ESTONIA	54%	78%	21%	50%	5.1L	0%	48%	88%	60%	98%	65%	100%	64%	64%	72%	70%	91%	34%	64%	53%	44%	74%	38%	No	Medium	Yes	14%	56%	
FINLAND	80%	100%	17%	50%	4.1L	25%	50%	88%	74%	95%	82%	98%	73%	77%	86%	83%	88%	43%	67%	55%	68%	75%	72%	Yes	High	Yes	22%	100%	
FRANCE	66%	78%	31%	75%	5.1L	25%	29%	65%	54%	98%	47%	93%	56%	46%	86%	73%	93%	40%	61%	51%	59%	86%	68%	Yes	High	Yes	27%	100%	
GERMANY	64%	78%	20%	25%	5.5L	25%	45%	88%	60%	98%	52%	91%	47%	50%	84%	81%	90%	40%	64%	62%	50%	66%	63%	Yes	High	Partially	24%	83%	
GREECE	34%	33%	26%	25%	3.1L	0%	55%	70%	41%	93%	15%	88%	73%*	15%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	55%	58%	55%	No	Medium	No	16%	22%	
HUNGARY	41%	44%	29%	25%	4.7L	0%	53%	79%	42%	98%	49%	85%	36%	47%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	44%	67%	46%	No	Low	Partially	15%	28%	
IRELAND	64%	78%	15%	25%	5.6L	25%	61%	79%	62%	95%	69%	97%	74%	66%	79%	74%	77%	30%	59%	63%	50%	67%	47%	Yes	High	Partially	14%	83%	
ITALY	55%	100%	19%	25%	3.5L	25%	42%	88%	69%	95%	55%	89%	42%	52%	85%	76%	92%	38%	68%	59%	59%	43%	64%	Yes	None	No	19%	33%	
LATVIA	36%	33%	22%	50%	6L	25%	50%	70%	44%	95%	38%	88%	57%	40%	69%	70%	86%	34%	51%	44%	39%	45%	26%	No	High	No	18%	33%	
LITHUANIA	47%	0%	21%	75%	5.4L	0%	49%	88%	40%	100%	60%	86%	60%	59%	67%	73%	90%	32%	56%	49%	44%	44%	28%	Yes	Low	Partially	16%	61%	
LUXEMBOURG	62%	67%	24%	0%	5.4L	25%	43%	80%	51%	100%	55%	11%	62%	53%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	58%	62%	58%	Yes	Medium	Yes	16%	89%	
MALTA	56%	56%	23%	25%	3.8L	0%	57%	99%	51%	95%	51%	84%	15%	48%	81%	80%	81%	39%	N/A	55%	56%	65%	56%	Yes	Medium	Partially	18%	72%	
NETHERLANDS	58%	44%	18%	25%	4.2L	25%	40%	88%	52%	98%	70%	96%	50%	67%	84%	78%	79%	40%	66%	65%	53%	89%	66%	Partially	Low	Partially	19%	44%	
POLAND	40%	67%	18%	50%	5.2L	0%	51%	68%	57%	100%	34%	84%	10%	32%	72%	71%	88%	34%	54%	47%	33%	62%	31%	No	Medium	Partially	16%	39%	
PORTUGAL	59%	89%	23%	25%	4.8L	0%	49%	99%	60%	95%	56%	98%	55%	53%	83%	72%	92%	41%	61%	55%	54%	72%	60%	Yes	Low	Partially	15%	61%	
ROMANIA	43%	33%	21%	25%	7.5L	0%	56%	70%	40%	30%	9%*	20%	39%*	6%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	46%	59%	47%	Yes	High	Partially	9%	83%	
SLOVAKIA	47%	11%	26%	25%	4.6L	0%	49%	69%	35%	95%	43%	82%	67%	43%	74%	71%	87%	34%	60%	41%	42%	28%	34%	Yes	Low	Yes	16%	78%	
SLOVENIA	55%	100%	21%	25%	4.7L	0%	43%	78%	64%	95%	78%	87%	73%	73%	79%	79%	86%	38%	68%	60%	45%	60%	52%	No	Low	Partially	16%	28%	
SPAIN	63%	89%	26%	25%	4.9L	25%	40%	99%	58%	95%	69%	100%	68%*	65%	83%	74%	87%	37%	64%	54%	63%	65%	59%	Yes	Medium	Partially	13%	72%	
SWEDEN	76%	78%	15%	50%	4.2L	100%	41%	99%	81%	93%	83%	96%	78%	77%	86%	85%	87%	44%	67%	58%	66%	69%	72%	Yes	Medium	Partially	12%	72%	

*Cancer screening coverage obtained from survey data. While programme data are collected from national/regional cancer databases/registries, survey data are obtained from international surveys, limiting the international comparability.