

European Cancer Screening Policy Index

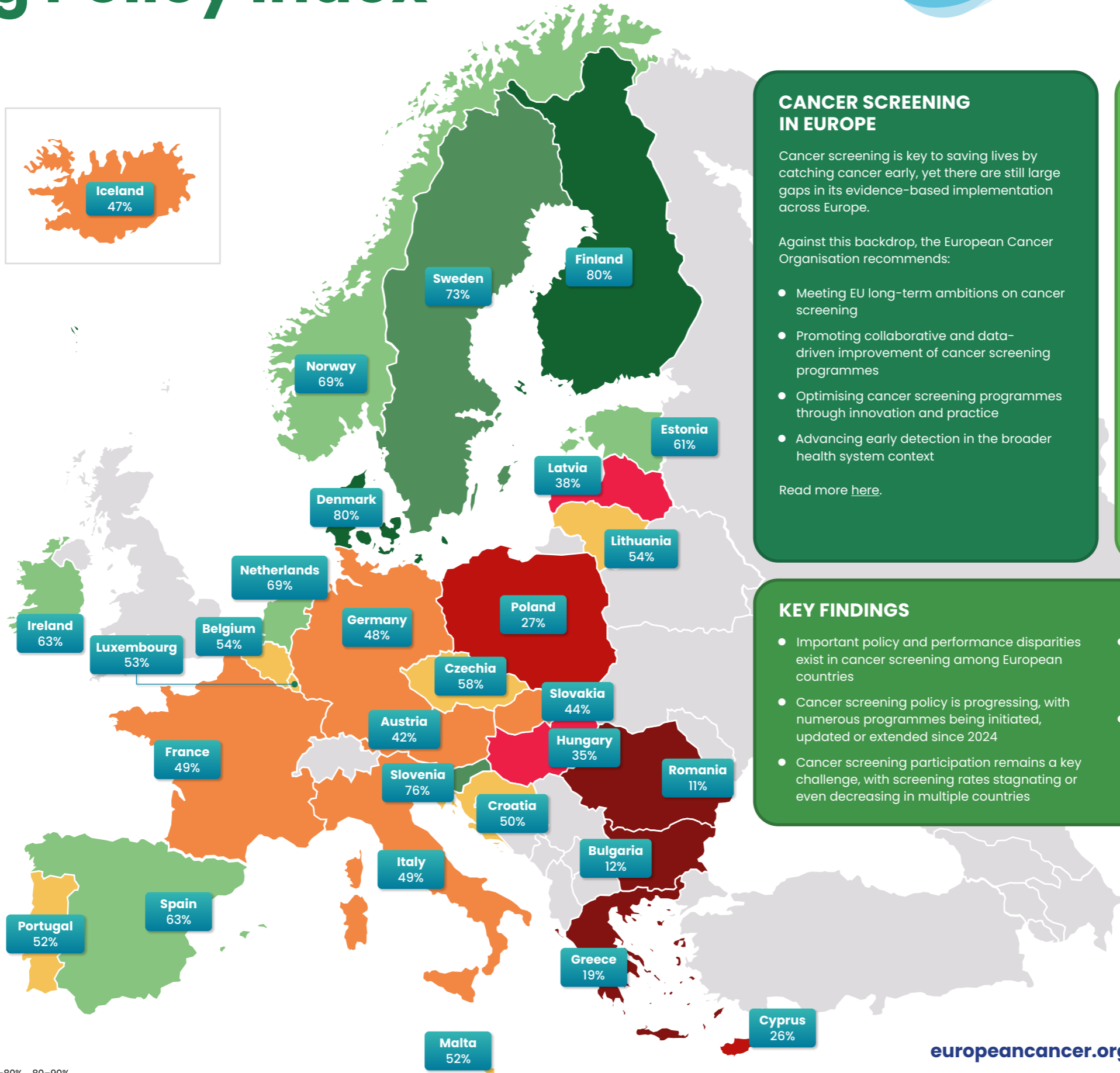
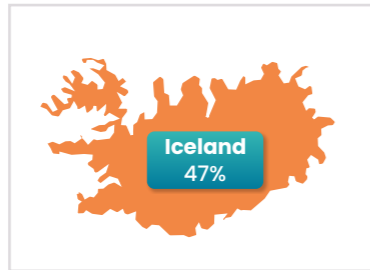
May 2026



European Cancer Pulse
TRACKING INEQUALITIES IN CANCER

Ranking Scale

Denmark	80 %
Finland	80 %
Slovenia	76 %
Sweden	73 %
Norway	69 %
Netherlands	69 %
Ireland	63 %
Spain	63 %
Estonia	61 %
Czechia	58 %
Belgium	54 %
Lithuania	54 %
Luxembourg	53 %
Malta	52 %
Portugal	52 %
Croatia	50 %
France	49 %
Italy	49 %
Germany	48 %
Iceland	47 %
Slovakia	44 %
Austria	42 %
Latvia	38 %
Hungary	35 %
Poland	27 %
Cyprus	26 %
Greece	19 %
Bulgaria	12 %
Romania	11 %



CANCER SCREENING IN EUROPE

Cancer screening is key to saving lives by catching cancer early, yet there are still large gaps in its evidence-based implementation across Europe.

Against this backdrop, the European Cancer Organisation recommends:

- Meeting EU long-term ambitions on cancer screening
- Promoting collaborative and data-driven improvement of cancer screening programmes
- Optimising cancer screening programmes through innovation and practice
- Advancing early detection in the broader health system context

Read more [here](#).

THE EUROPEAN CANCER SCREENING POLICY INDEX

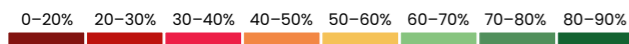
Launched in 2024, the European Cancer Screening Policy Index has been a leading tool to benchmark national progress in implementing cancer screening policies. Made of composite scores combining policy status and performance indicators selected with leading experts and based on existing data intelligence, the Index:

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

The 2026 version of the European Cancer Screening Policy Index includes national policy updates since 2024 and an upgraded methodology to best inform further policy progress.

KEY FINDINGS

- Important policy and performance disparities exist in cancer screening among European countries
- Cancer screening policy is progressing, with numerous programmes being initiated, updated or extended since 2024
- Cancer screening participation remains a key challenge, with screening rates stagnating or even decreasing in multiple countries
- Equity is key to a country's success in implementing cancer screening, and unorganised screening activity drives greater social inequalities
- The European Union plays a key role in providing recommendations and supporting pilot projects as the basis for organised programmes, especially for lung, prostate and gastric cancer screening



europeancancer.org/screeningindex



