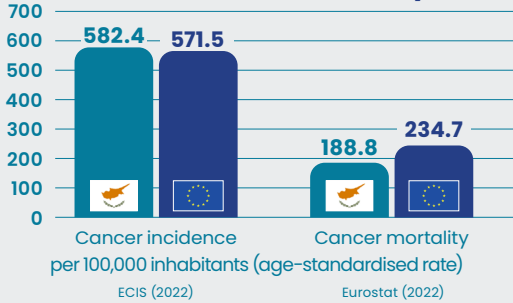




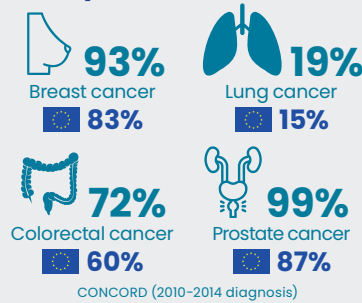
**BURDEN**

**2<sup>nd</sup> cause of deaths\***

**Incidence and mortality**

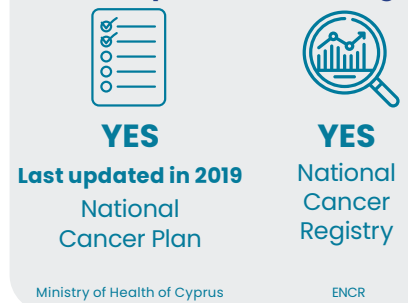


**5-year survival rate**

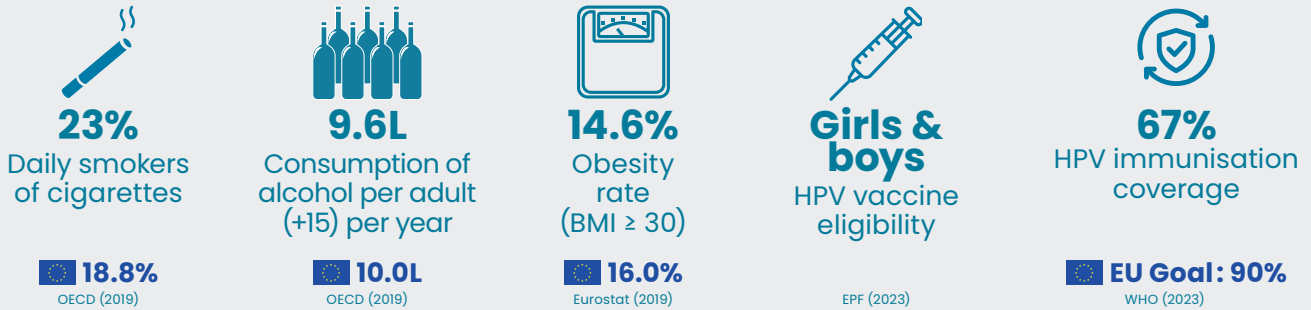


**NATIONAL INITIATIVES**

**Cancer plan Cancer registry**

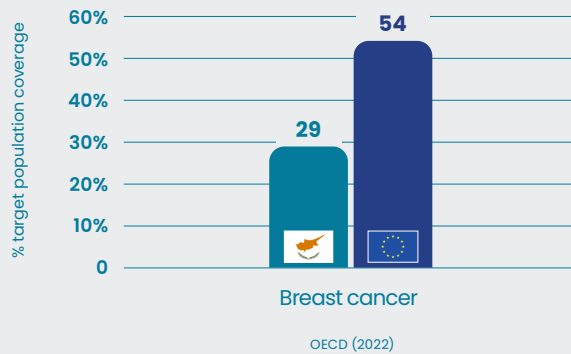


**PREVENTION**

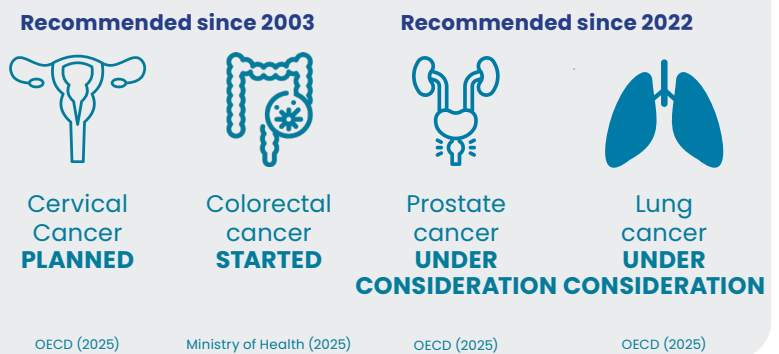


**SCREENING**

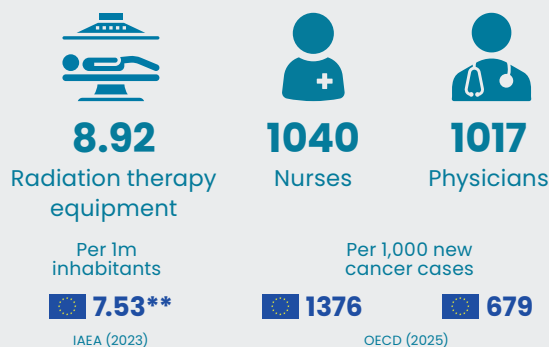
**SCREENING RATES**



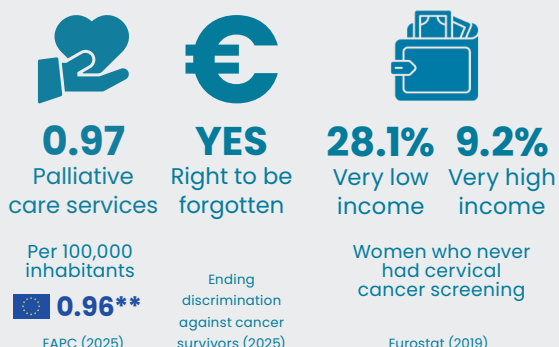
**ORGANISED SCREENING PROGRAMMES**



**TREATMENT AND WORKFORCE**



**QUALITY OF LIFE AND INEQUALITIES**



\*Global Burden of Disease Compare (2021) \*\*Overall/Average value for countries of the WHO Europe region with available data (i.e. not EU-only). EAPC: European Association for Palliative Care; ECIS: European Cancer Information System; EPF: European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights; IAEA: International Atomic Energy Agency; OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Special thanks to the team of the Cyprus Association of Cancer Patients and Friends (PASYKAF) for its contribution to the development of this report.

## Expert Commentary

### Charting the way forward for Cypriot cancer policy



**Nicolas Philippou**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
PASYKAF

We welcome the publication of this factsheet, which sheds light on persistent disparities affecting cancer outcomes in Cyprus. While cancer mortality in Cyprus remains low, access to innovative medicines within the Healthcare System (GeSY) remains inconsistent, paediatric palliative care is still unavailable, and psychosocial support is not equitably accessible. People with cancer also face challenges in the workplace and upon returning to work. The expansion of palliative care hospices and the evolving legislative framework are encouraging.

PASYKAF calls for targeted investment, especially in prevention, education and research on cancer, unified national cancer strategies in a fragmented landscape under Comprehensive Cancer Networks, acceleration of implementation of screening programs and patient-centred policies to ensure that every person with cancer can live with dignity, support, and access to equal care. Patients must remain at the centre, and our role as their voice is more vital than ever.

**Andreas Charalambous**

PAST-PRESIDENT  
EUROPEAN CANCER ORGANISATION



Cyprus, despite its small size, faces a growing cancer burden that mirrors broader global and European trends. In response to this pressing public health challenge, the country has established a National Cancer Plan and a National Cancer Registry. However, the existing plan requires updating to align with the latest European recommendations and to integrate relevant scientific evidence produced by the Cancer Research Institute and other national research hubs.

The EU Beating Cancer Plan presents a strategic opportunity for Cyprus to move toward the development of a Comprehensive Cancer Centre (CCC). While the country faces notable constraints, including limited infrastructure and relatively low system maturity, these challenges can be addressed through strengthened collaboration among healthcare providers.

By fostering coordinated efforts and leveraging European support, Cyprus can enhance its cancer care ecosystem and take significant steps toward establishing a CCC within its national context.



**Anastasia Constantinidou**

PRESIDENT  
CYPRUS ONCOLOGY SOCIETY

Cyprus demonstrates significant strengths in clinical treatment and patient outcomes with notably high 5-year survival rates in major cancer types. These achievements comprise a strong foundation upon which Cyprus can continue to build a more equitable and comprehensive cancer care strategy.

The anticipated launch of the National Cancer Institute in 2025 offers a vital opportunity to coordinate national efforts and address existing gaps. Cyprus' cancer policy must prioritise reducing risk factors such as tobacco use, investing in health workforce development, ensuring further improvement of prevention strategies and screening programmes and integrating education and research into patient-centred cancer care.

