EUROPEAN COUNTRIES CONSULTATION:

Anchoring EUCCC Certification in National Realities

WP5 – Inclusion, Certification and Adherence to EUCCC Certification

ICELAND COUNTRY PROFILE

EU net CCC

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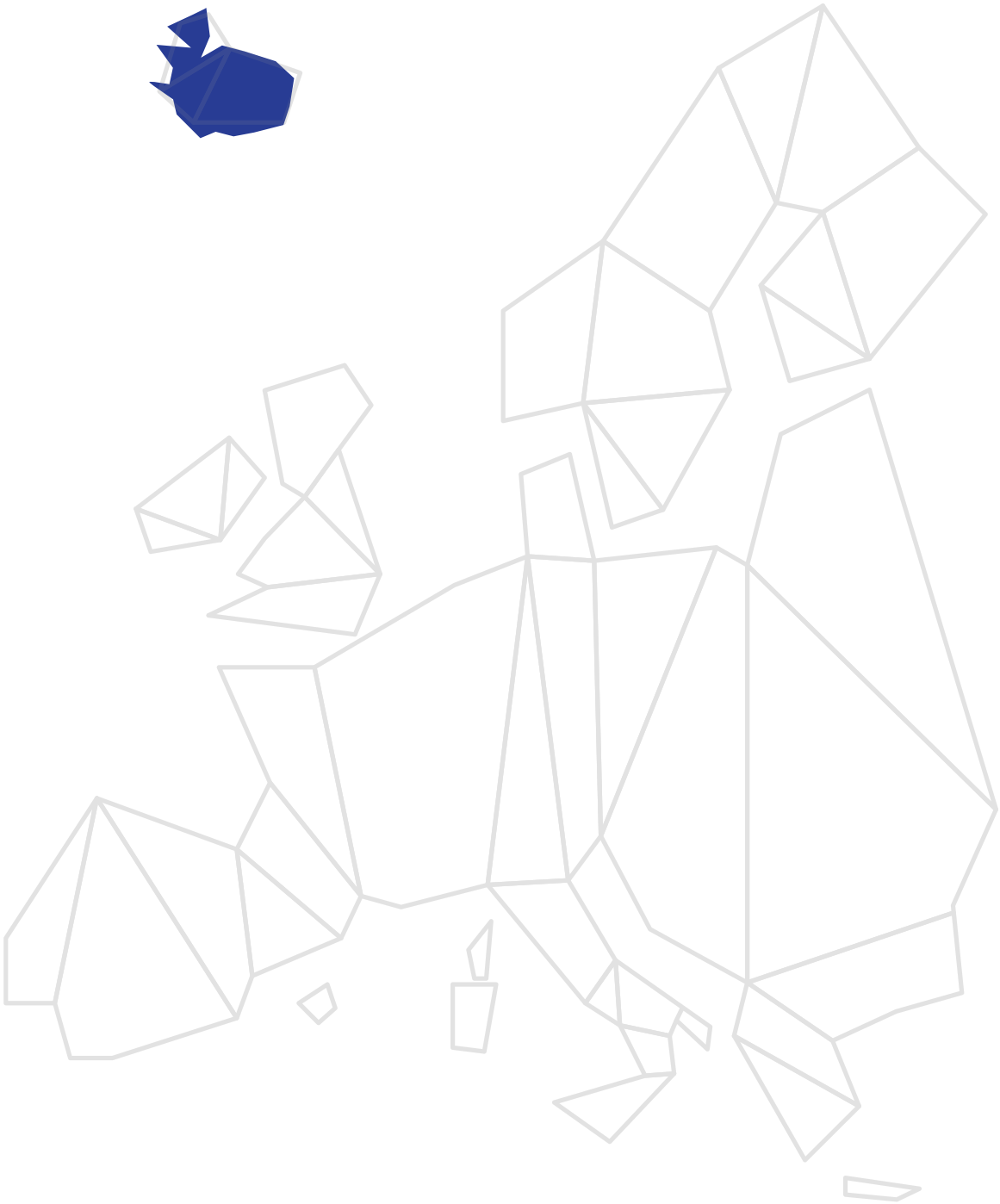
THE EUROPEAN COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTRE NETWORK

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Context: existing certification systems and organization of cancer care

Certification systems

There are no mandatory certifications required by law in Iceland. The safety and quality of healthcare services including hospitals is monitored by the Directorate of Health, which does not have a certification system in place. However, some departments have obtained international certifications for their field (ISO, JACIE, etc.).

Landspitali University Hospital in Reykjavik has just started the process of OECI CC certification. Indeed, this is one of the targets specified in the updated cancer control 5-year action plan.

Organization of cancer care

Most of the specialised cancer care – including most surgery and all radiation therapy – is provided at Landspitali University Hospital in Reykjavik, but regional hospitals in Akureyri and Selfoss provide oncology services. Furthermore, outpatient chemotherapy can be administered in smaller hospitals in Ísafjörður, Neskaupsstaður and Vestmannaeyjar, under supervision of oncologists in Landspitali and Selfoss.[1].

Iceland collaborates with hospitals in Nordic countries to ensure access to certain cancer care which is not available domestically. This strong international collaboration represents their main opportunity to increase the number of clinical trials conducted.

There is also collaboration with other countries for specific pathways, mostly for rare cancers and paediatric cases, bone marrow transplants and CAR-T therapies.

Regarding research, Landspitali maintains strong collaborations with academic institutions and companies, particularly the University of Iceland.

Specialised training for oncologists is exclusively done abroad, mainly in Sweden, Norway, United States and other countries. Specialized oncology nurse training is available at the University in Iceland.

To tackle the burden of cancer, Iceland developed its first National Cancer Plan in 2016, based on input from providers, including various health professionals and hospitals and the Icelandic Cancer Society – a nationwide non-profit umbrella organization. This Plan, voted by Parliament, is being implemented during 2019-30.

Identified barriers towards the implementation of EUCCC certification in Iceland

- Iceland's small population size makes it difficult to meet quantitative thresholds (e.g. minimum volumes) required for CCC certification under OECI and potentially EUCCC.
- Since most cancer care is concentrated in one hospital, aligning the governance structure for the cancer department with the governance of the hospital is crucial
- Insufficiently funded research
- Insufficient infrastructure
- Staff deficit

Identified enablers towards the implementation of EUCCC certification in Iceland

- Integration of research and care can attract qualified medical professionals and support at the university level.
- Small size of the country is also an enabler, as it is also easy to reach people when necessary and put all stakeholders around the table.

Conditions for successful EUCCC certification implementation in Iceland

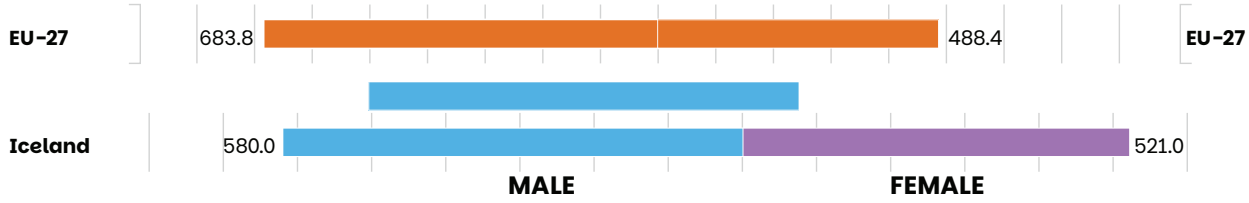
- Certification is perceived as a means to improve quality of care and provide external benchmarking to make improvements. It also provides more structure towards achieving this goal.
- Achieving EUCCC certification is important to show patients that the care provided by their hospital is comparable to that provided in other centers in Europe.
- Access to the network: being part of conversation on the European level and opportunities for networking.
- Establishing clear guidelines and clinical pathways.
- The requirement for research component of the certification could help better organise the existing collaboration between the university hospital and the university of Iceland which is currently lacking joint infrastructure and would allow a targeted collaboration for cancer research.
- Certification could be a lever to obtain more public funding (for research, infrastructure)

Number of certified CCCs: 0
Number of EUCCC pilot centers: 1

Epidemiology: incidence, mortality and survival rates

Incidence rate:

Estimated incidence, both sexes, all sites but non-melanoma skin, 2022 (per 100 000 population)

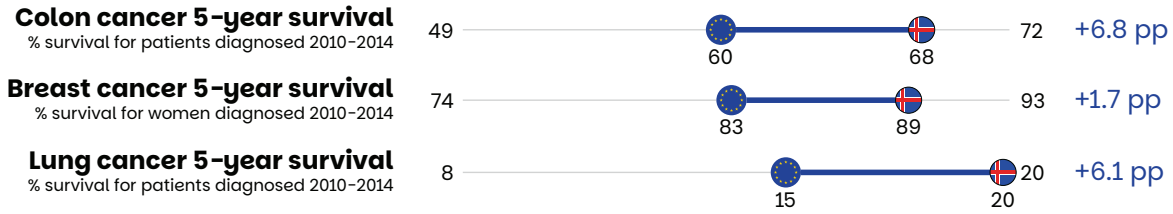


Mortality rate:

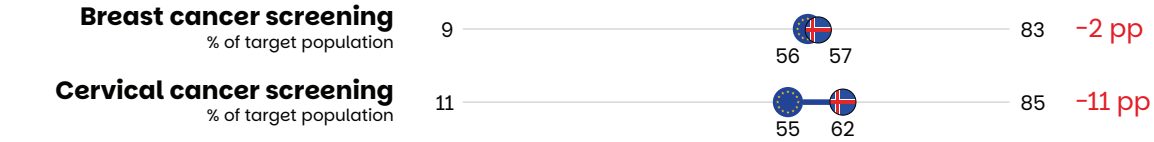


Survival rates:

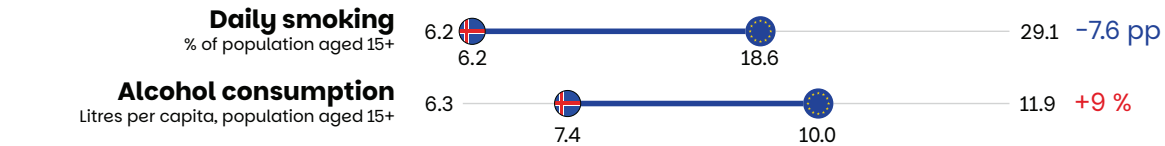
For the selection of cancers:



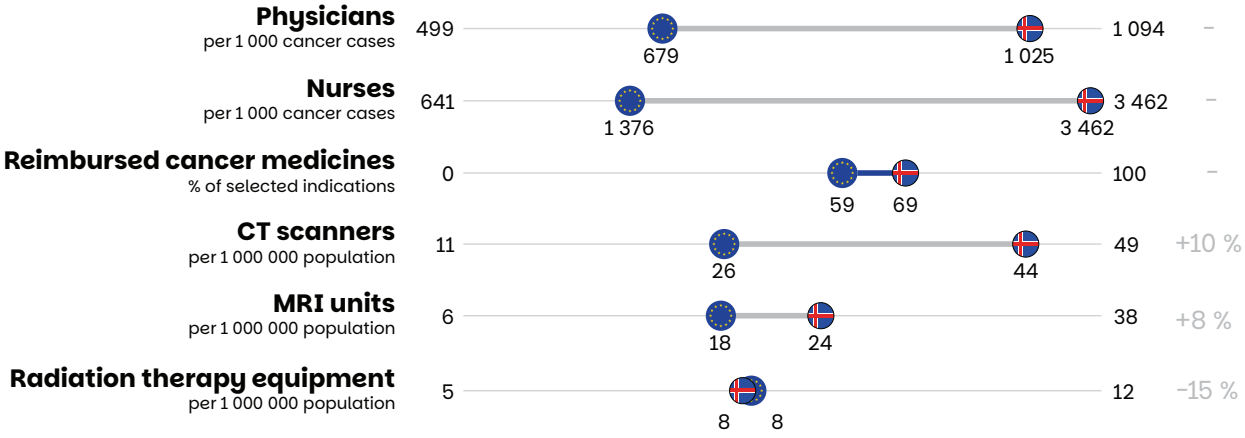
Screening performance



Risk factors



Human resources and infrastructure



Number of clinical trials: 15

Endnotes

1. EU Country Cancer Profile: Iceland 2025 | OECD

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