



Prague Prostaforum 2022 declaration for improving prostate cancer early detection in Europe

Prague, 24 November 2022

During their Meeting in Prague in September 2022, the Ministers of Health expressed their support for the Call to Action on Oncology, which was the main output from the presidency Expert Conference on Oncology: "Modern Cancer Control: Saving Lives through smart solutions", which took place on 13–14 July 2022 in Brno, Czech Republic, and which called on all stakeholders to consider support of EU-wide accessibility of quality cancer screening programmes [1].

Prostate cancer is in many European countries the most frequently occurring cancer in men and one of the most common causes of cancer death in men. Estimated prostate cancer incidence rates vary twofold and mortality rates threefold in 2020 across EU-27 [2]. Detecting prostate cancer at an early stage, when treatment is less invasive and more likely to be effective, could significantly reduce mortality and incidence of advanced prostate cancer with serious impacts on quality of life among European men. According to the Evidence Review Report produced within the Science Advice for Policy by European Academies for the European commission [3], there is good evidence that prostate cancer screening with PSA testing can reduce deaths from prostate cancer. While overdiagnosis and overtreatment are major harms in prostate cancer screening, the use of an upper age limit, including risk stratification after base-line PSA, high-quality MRI scanning and other complementary tests will reduce overdiagnosis and improve the harm-to-benefit ratio.

[1] <https://www.mzcr.cz/modern-cancer-control-saving-lives-through-smart-solutions-output-document/>

[2] <https://ecis.jrc.ec.europa.eu/factsheets.php>

[3] <https://sapea.info/topic/cancer-screening/>



Taking the above-mentioned considerations into account, we call on all stakeholders to consider and support the following specifically for prostate cancer control through early detection:

- Adopt and timely and ambitiously implement the new Council Recommendation on cancer screening, to promote EU-wide state-of-the-art provision of evidence-based cancer screening.
- Make available in a timely manner new technologies for early detection of prostate cancer.
- Investigate these new technologies in screening algorithms applied on population-based screening programmes.
- The European Commission should promote the development and the implementation of European Guidelines and Quality Assurance Schemes for prostate cancer screening through a European Initiative on Prostate Cancer, so that countries can adhere to the best evidence-based recommendations, while at the same time recognising their local circumstances, resource constraints, etc.
- The European Commission should consider the possibility of supporting collaborative efforts to implement actions to support prostate cancer early detection at the national level, including health literacy and awareness raising.
- The European Commission together with Member States, with respect to national contexts, should make every effort to decrease striking differences between EU countries in burden of prostate cancer.
- Structured sharing of good practices in prostate cancer screening and early detection among EU countries, including timely sharing data on agreed quality assurance indicators and the results of implementation/pilot studies, should be further strengthened.
- Support all stages of research (preclinical → clinical → implementation → outcomes) that aim at improving prostate cancer screening and early detection as measures to decrease the striking differences in prostate cancer mortality between EU member states.

Support the Prague Prostaforum 2022 declaration at
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