

POLICY OBJECTIVES – PREVENTION & EARLY DETECTION

The objective of the Belgian Cancer Inventory, is to provide Belgian decision-makers with the information needed to monitor the implementation and possible impact of various policies related to cancer in Belgium as well as progress towards reaching EU level policy objectives (as outlined in Europe's Beating Cancer Plan). It is for this reason, that each of the indicators has been matched to a policy area.

In this document, we present the policies from the thematic prevention and early detection. These policy objectives are based on current EBCP priorities and Belgian policies. The policy objectives have also been formulated from the gap and needs analyses conducted by the Belgian EBCP Mirror Groups in 2023, and which resulted in 8 policy briefs¹.

NOTE: These indicators will be used in the monitoring and evaluation framework. This framework is not an assessment of needs and priorities across the cancer care continuum in Belgium, and as such the monitoring framework itself cannot be considered a Cancer Plan.

Socioeconomic and sociodemographic dimensions will be integrated, across different Belgian Cancer Inventory themes, via disaggregation of the indicators into subgroups to monitor and reduce inequality in cancer care and control.

Policy Objective
Eliminating human papillomaviruses (HPV) as a major health problem, which includes the EBCP flagship on vaccinating 90% of girls, and a significant amount of boys, and is in line with the Belgian regional vaccination plans for HPV for boys and girls.
Linkage of comprehensive data on cancer mortality, incidence, screening and vaccination (HPV/HB) for monitoring the process and impact of all screening and vaccination programmes for cancers.
Improve health literacy on cancer and its associated risks, as outlined in the action on health literacy of the EBCP.
The development of a tobacco free generation, as outlined in the policies in the Inter-federal Plan Against Smoking, and the EBCP flagship "Creation of a Tobacco Free Generation".
Reducing harmful alcohol consumption as outlined also in the Belgian Inter-Federal Plan to Combat Harmful Alcohol Consumption.
HealthyLifeStyle4All campaign at the EU level, in line with the EBCP action to address unhealthy diets, obesity and physical inactivity by reducing carcinogenic contaminants in food; addressing childhood obesity and reviewing the EU school fruit, vegetables and milk scheme, and Belgian regional plans on increasing fitness and healthy lifestyles.
Ensure a healthy environment, by reducing environmental pollution and exposure to hazardous substances and radiation, as in line with the EBCP and Belgium regions' mobility and environmental plans.
Ensure that, as in line with the EBCP flagship and Belgian regions' organised screening programs, 90% of the target population is offered breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screening.
Investments in research to understand relevance of new screening techniques and monitor the technologies for early detection and screening for a broad range of cancers, including prostate and lung cancer.
Developing new guidelines and quality assurance schemes for screening for colorectal and cervical cancer.

¹ The gaps identified through the policy brief exercise can be consulted in the document '*NeedsGaps_PolicyBrief*', that accompanied this document.