

EONS Cancer Nursing Index 2020©

National profile: France

Introduction

In the [RECaN project](#) EONS highlighted important differences in cancer nursing across Europe. The EONS Cancer Nursing Index 2020 (ECNI) was developed by the [EONS Advocacy Working Group](#) to illustrate the development and status of this profession in Europe. The index (with scores from 0-100) includes 22 items covering the following dimensions: Education and Career Development, Patient and Occupational Safety, Recognition, Working Conditions and Impact and Workforce statistics.

The Index is based on data from the following sources:

1. EONS Survey on Patient and Occupational Safety (anonymous survey, available in 9 languages) which at the time of this analysis, included over 650 responses from cancer nurses in 38 countries)
2. Interviews with leading cancer nursing experts. Nurses from 38 of 42 invited countries participated
3. Work force statistics (obtained from ec.europe.eu/Eurostat and OECD)

A scoring system was developed by the EONS Advocacy Working Group to reflect the level of development for the different Index dimensions/items. For items with a variety of responses from the same country, the most frequently reported response was used. The purpose of the Index is primarily not to rank some countries as better than others, moreover to illustrate cancer nursing profiles, differences and areas in need of development. The Index could be used to aid the development of cancer nursing in each country as well as for general European progress.

| Dimension/item | Maximum score | Mean score (min-max) | France | Comment |
|--|---------------|----------------------|-----------|--|
| Overall score | 100 | 48 (16 -78) | 63 | |
| Education and career development (5 items presented below) | 23 | 9 (0-18) | 11 | |
| Specialist education on university level | 5 | | 5 | |
| EONS Framework recognized/supported by Ministry of Education/Health | 5 | | 0 | |
| Master programs in cancer nursing | 4 | | 4 | |
| Advanced cancer nursing roles established | 4 | | 2 | 'Partly implemented' To obtain the highest score (4) for this item, advanced cancer nursing roles need to be fully implemented and recognized at a national level. |
| Professors in cancer nursing | 4 | | 0 | |
| Patient and occupational safety (8 items presented below) | 36 | 18 (3-36) | 25 | |
| Safety guidelines (cytotoxic drugs) available | 5 | | 5 | |
| Guidelines during pregnancy (cytotoxic drugs) | 5 | | 5 | |
| Pregnant and /or breastfeeding women assigned other tasks that don't involve direct contact with cytotoxic/radioactive drugs | 5 | | 5 | |
| Systematic testing for occupational exposure (surface swipes) | 3 | | 0 | Surface swipes were not reported by the French nurses. To receive highest possible scores (3) for this item, testing should be systematically implemented at all workplaces. |
| Speak-up or whistle blower policy implemented for all members of staff | 3 | | 0 | To obtain the highest score (3) for this item, all nurses should have reported that policies were in place. |
| Access to cytotoxic spillage kit and PPE | 5 | | 5 | |

| | | | | |
|---|-----------|------------------|-----------|--|
| Formal training before administering cytotoxic drugs | 5 | | 0 | To obtain the highest score (5) for this item, formal education should be obligatory before managing cytotoxic drugs at all workplaces. |
| Nurses not preparing cytotoxic drugs | 5 | | 5 | |
| Working conditions and the Impact on cancer care (4 items presented below) | 20 | 15 (3-19) | 18 | |
| Level of adherence to European Working Time Directive (EWTD) | 5 | | 4 | 'Most of the time' To obtain the highest score (5) for this item the EWTD should be reported as always followed. |
| Risk of negative consequences if asking for alternative duties pregnancy/breast feeding | 5 | | 5 | |
| To what extent hospital beds are closed due to cancer nursing shortages | 5 | | 4 | 'It happens very rarely' To obtain the highest score (5) for this item, the responding nurses should have reported that it never happens. |
| To what extent cancer treatment delayed due to cancer nursing | 5 | | 5 | |
| Recognition (4 items presented below) | 18 | 8 (0-15) | 11 | |
| Does the country have a cancer nursing society? | 5 | | 5 | |
| Does the country have a national cancer plan that includes nursing care? | 3 | | 3 | |
| Does cancer centers in the country have Board positions dedicated for cancer nursing? | 5 | | 1 | 'Some centers' To obtain the highest score (5) for this item, the responding nurses should have reported that this is always the case. |
| To what extent is nurse-led cancer care implemented in the country? | 5 | | 2 | 'Partly implemented' To obtain the highest score (5) for this item, nurse-led care should be fully implemented and recognized on a national level |
| Work force statistics (1 item) | 3 | 1 (0-3) | 3 | |
| Number of practicing nurses/1000 citizens (www.europe.eu/Eurostat and OECD) | 3 | | 3 | |

Strengths and recommendations for improvements

The total score for France (score 63) were clearly above the total mean score (score 48) in the Cancer Nursing Index 2020. Other countries with the similar total score were Iceland and Cyprus (both with total score 64) and Switzerland (total score 66).

France scored relatively high in the dimension Patient and Occupational Safety. However, the scores in this dimension should have been even higher if both whistle blower/speaking up policies and systematic testing for occupational exposure were implemented and also if education for nurses administering cytotoxic drugs was mandatory. France received a maximum score in Workforce statistics.

France could improve their scores for the next revision of the Index in 2022 if advanced cancer nursing roles and nurse-led cancer care were fully implemented and recognized on a national level and also the French Minister of Health/Education would support EONS Cancer Nursing Education Framework.

Finally, if all centers had a dedicated board nursing position and if, the scores would also be higher.

EONS Advocacy Working Group, October 2020