

# EONS Cancer Nursing Index 2020©

## National profile: Russian Federation

### 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)	Russian Federation	Comment
<b>Overall score</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>48 (16 -78)</b>	<b>38</b>	
<b>Education and career development (5 items presented below)</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>9 (0-18)</b>	<b>1</b>	
Specialist education on university level	5		0	
EONS Framework recognized/supported by Ministry of Education/Health	5		0	
Master programs in cancer nursing	4		0	
Advanced cancer nursing roles established	4		1	'Planned' 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	
<b>Patient and occupational safety (8 items presented below)</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>18 (3-36)</b>	<b>8</b>	
Safety guidelines (cytotoxic drugs) available	5		5	
Guidelines during pregnancy (cytotoxic drugs)	5		0	
Pregnant and /or breastfeeding women assigned other tasks that don't involve direct contact with cytotoxic/radioactive drugs	5		2	'Sometimes' To obtain the highest scores (5) for this item pregnant/breast feeding women should be forbidden to perform task with risks for exposure to cytotoxic/radioactive drugs at all workplaces.
Systematic testing for occupational exposure (surface swipes)	3		0	Surface swipes were not reported by the Russian 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		1	'Sometimes' To obtain the highest score (5) for this item, all responding nurses should have reported that PPE are always available.
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		0	
<b>Working conditions and the Impact on cancer care (4 items presented below)</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>15 (3-19)</b>	<b>17</b>	
Level of adherence to European Working Time Directive (EWTD)	5		5	
Risk of negative consequences if asking for alternative duties pregnancy/breast feeding	5		2	'Sometimes' To obtain the highest score (5) for this item all responding nurses should have reported that there is no risk for negative consequences.
To what extent hospital beds are closed due to cancer nursing shortages	5		5	
To what extent cancer treatment delayed due to cancer nursing	5		5	
<b>Recognition (4 items presented below)</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>8 (0-15)</b>	<b>9</b>	
Does the country have a cancer nursing society?	5		0	
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		5	
To what extent is nurse-led cancer care implemented in the country?	5		1	'Planned' To obtain the highest score (5) for this item, nurse-led care should be fully implemented and recognized at a national level
<b>Work force statistics (1 item)</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1 (0-3)</b>	<b>3</b>	
Number of practicing nurses/1000 citizens (www.europe.eu/Eurostat and OECD)	3		3	

### Strengths and recommendations for improvements

The total score for Russia (score 38) were under the total mean score (score 48) in the ECNI. Other countries with similar total scores were Hungary, Palestine and Albania (all with a total score of 35) and Bosnia (total score 36).

Russia could improve their scores in all five dimensions for the next revision of the Index in 2022. Patient and occupational safety could improve, if formal training for nurses before handling cytotoxic drugs and systematic swipec testing for occupational exposure were implemented, if speaking up/ whistle blower policies were implemented and also if (Personal Protection Equipment) PPE were always available. It should be noted that some Russian cancer nurses reported risks for negative consequences if asking for alternative duties (to reduce occupational exposure for cytotoxic drugs) during pregnancy/breast feeding. It was also reported that Russian nurses are frequently involved with the preparation of cytotoxic drugs. In most other countries these tasks are performed by pharmacy staff.

Russia could also improve their scores if advanced cancer nursing roles and nurse-led cancer care were fully implemented and recognized on a national level.

Finally, if Russia's Minister of Health/Education would support EONS Cancer Nursing Education Framework and if the number of practicing nurses increased, the scores would also be higher.

