

EONS Cancer Nursing Index 2020©

National profile: Slovenia

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 40 countries)
2. Interviews with leading cancer nursing experts. Nurses from 40 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)	Slovenia	Comment
Overall score	100	48 (16 -78)	62	
Education and career development (5 items presented below)	23	9 (0-18)	1	
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	
Patient and occupational safety (8 items presented below)	36	18 (3-36)	30	
Safety guidelines (cytotoxic drugs) available	5		5	
Guidelines during pregnancy (cytotoxic drugs)	5		2	
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	
Speak-up or whistle blower policy implemented for all members of staff	3		3	
Access to cytotoxic spillage kit and PPE	5		5	
Formal training before administering cytotoxic drugs	5		5	
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)	10	
Does the country have a cancer nursing society?	5		5	
Does the country have a national cancer plan that includes nursing care?	3		3	
Do cancer centers in the country have Board positions dedicated for cancer nursing?	5		1	'Some centers have' To obtain the highest score (5) for this item, the respondent nurses should have reported that this is always the case.
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 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 the Slovenia (score 62) was above the total mean score (score 48) in the EONS Cancer Nursing Index 2020. Other countries with the similar total score were Iceland and Cyprus (both with total score 64), France (total score 63) and Switzerland (total score 66).

Slovenia received particularly high scores in the dimension Patient and Occupational Safety. Congratulations! If systematic testing for occupational exposure were to be implemented at all workplaces the scores would have been even higher. Slovenia also received a maximum score in Workforce statistics.

An area of concern is Education and Career Development. The results indicate that major efforts are needed to improve access to education and academic development at all levels. Consequently, advanced level nursing roles and nurse-led care are not fully implemented.

Finally, if all cancer centers had a dedicated board nursing position, if the Slovenian Minister of Health/Education would support EONS Cancer Nursing Education Framework, the scores would also be higher.

EONS Advocacy Working Group, December 2020