

# EONS Cancer Nursing Index 2020-2022©

## National profile: Czech Republic

### Introduction

In the [RECaN project](#) EONS highlighted important differences in cancer nursing across Europe. The EONS Cancer Nursing Index (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) covers the following dimensions: Education and Career Development, Patient and Occupational Safety, Recognition, Working Conditions and Impact and Workforce statistics. The results from the ECNI 2020 have been used to highlight the importance and impact the recognition of European cancer nursing. More information on ECNI 2020 including national profiles for each country could be found [here](#)

The ECNI 2022 also include data on staffing levels and cancer nurses' experiences from the covid-19 pandemic. However, these data are not included in the national profiles since no comparison data from 2020 is available. These data will be presented separately.

The ECNI 2022 focuses more on the experiences from the responding cancer nurses' workplaces (rather than the national perspective), allowing for the great regional and local variety indicated in the ECNI 2020 data. The Index is based on data from the following sources:

1. EONS Survey on Patient and Occupational Safety (anonymous survey among cancer nurses, 2020 and 2022 respectively)
2. Work force statistics (obtained from ec.europe.eu/Eurostat and OECD in 2020). When the ECNI 2022 were completed, no updates had been published so both ECNI 2020 and 2022 include the same scores.

A scoring system was developed 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.

The ECNI offers a snapshot of the current status in cancer nursing across Europe, reported by the profession. The results largely depend on number of and profiles of responses from each country.

Dimension/item	Maximum score	Mean general score 2022 (min-max)	Score 2020	Score 2022	Comments
<b>OVERALL SCORES</b>	100	55 (19-84)	54	69	S
<b>EDUCATION AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT (5 items presented below)</b>	23	10 (0-23)	1	8	
Specialist education on university level	5		0	0	
EONS Cancer Nursing Framework recognized and supported	5		0	5	
Master programs in cancer nursing	4		0	0	
Advanced cancer nursing roles established	4		1	3	Responses for 2022 include both partly and fully implemented advanced nursing roles
Professors in cancer nursing	4		0	0	
<b>PATIENT AND OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY (8 items presented below)</b>	36	20 (0-33)	33	33	
Safety guidelines (hazardous drugs) available	5		5	5	
Guidelines during pregnancy (hazardous drugs)	5		5	2	Various responses for 2022 To obtain the highest scores (5) for this item all responding nurses should have reported that guidelines are in place at all workplaces.
Pregnant and /or breastfeeding women assigned other tasks that don't involve direct contact with cytotoxic/radioactive drugs	5		5	5	
Systematic testing for occupational exposure (surface swipes)	3		1	3	
Speak-up or whistle blower policy implemented for all members of staff	3		2	3	
Access to cytotoxic spillage kit and PPE	5		5	5	
Formal training before administering cytotoxic drugs	5		5	5	
Nurses not preparing cytotoxic drugs	5		5	5	
<b>WORKING CONDITIONS AND THE IMPACT ON CANCER CARE (4 items presented below)</b>	20	14 (9-17)	11	14	
Level of adherence to European Working Time Directive (EWTD)	5		4	4	
Risk of negative consequences if asking for alternative duties pregnancy/breast feeding	5		5	2	Various responses in 2022
To what extent hospital beds are closed due to cancer nursing shortages	5		0	3	Various responses for 2022 (it never happens, very rarely, it happens every month).
To what extent cancer treatments were delayed due to cancer nursing	5		2	5	
<b>RECOGNITION (4 items presented below)</b>	18	10 (0-15)	7	11	
Does the country have a cancer nursing society?	5		5	5	
Does the country have a national cancer plan that includes nursing care?	3		0	3	
Does your workplace/center have Board positions dedicated for cancer nursing?	5		0	1	Various responses in 2022
To what extent is nurse-led cancer care implemented in your workplace/center?	5		2	2	
<b>WORK FORCE STATISTICS (1 item)</b>	3	1 (0-3)	3	3	
Number of practicing nurses/1000 citizens (www.europe.eu/Eurostat and OECD)	3		3	3	

### Strengths and recommendations for improvements

The total score for the Czech Republic has increased from 54 to 69 (of maximum score 100), when comparing the ECNI results 2020 and 2022. The results indicate important and impressive improvements in the following dimensions: Education and career development, Working conditions and the impact on cancer care and Recognition. Congratulations! These results reflect ongoing initiatives to implement advanced cancer nursing

roles, which will improve the quality of cancer care as well as the career opportunities for cancer nurses. A specialist education program in cancer nursing have been developed, but at time for the survey not yet implemented and recognized on a national level.

The Czech Republic was one of the countries in the ECNI 2020 with the highest scores for the dimension Patient and Occupational Safety. The ECNI 2022 results indicates further improvements, as all nurses in the 2022 survey report that whistle blower/speaking up policies were in place as well as that testing for occupational exposure were performed at their workplaces.

However, we also found some concerns related to this dimension, since some nurses responded that guidelines for handling hazardous drugs during pregnancy where not in place at their workplace. Another concerning finding in the ECNI 2022 were that some nurses reported a risk of negative consequences, if asking for alternative duties during pregnancy/breast feeding.

*EONS Advocacy Working Group, March 2024*