



International Agency for Research on Cancer



**European Partnership for Action Against Cancer**

**European School of Screening Management**

## **Announcement**

**Two-week intensive training**

### **Principles, organization, evaluation, planning and management of cancer screening programmes**

**First module to be held in Lyon, France,  
19-23 November 2012  
at the International Agency for Research on Cancer**

**Second module to be held optionally at another place in the EU  
11-15 March 2013**

#### **Objective and description**

The course aims to improve implementation of cancer screening as currently recommended by the European Union, by introducing a comprehensive curriculum to interested staff of national or regional cancer screening management and evaluation units. Any other staff or professionals currently collaborating with established units or currently planning or interested in implementing cancer screening programmes are also eligible to participate.

The multidisciplinary training will cover topics essential to planning and coordination of population-based programmes of Cervical, Breast and Colorectal Cancer Screening (week 1), and practical solutions to current problems presented by the participants will be developed (week 2). During the course the participants are expected to expand and deepen their knowledge in key issues of management, evaluation, quality assurance and accreditation. The course will provide an opportunity to establish future exchanges between staff of recently established programmes and faculty from more experienced programmes, such as through bilateral organization of fellowship applications or secondments at established screening programmes.

Successful participation in the course should enable participants to demonstrate an understanding of programme implementation and current management, information systems and reporting, as well as linkage with cancer registry and other relevant data in the evaluation of Screening Programmes. A comprehensive overview of screening assessment indicators and guidelines, ethics and research in cancer screening will also be provided. Attendees will become acquainted with implementation of quality assurance in all stages of the screening programmes.

EPAAC WP 6 Screening and Early Detection  
European School of Screening Management  
Two-week intensive training course

The course is organised in two modules (one week each) with lectures, case studies and exercises in each module. In the second week, participants will present for discussion the results and reports of individual assignments given to each participant during the first module. The reports will deal with state-of-the-art planning, piloting, rolling out and/or improving cancer screening programmes. Participants attending the first week are expected to participate in the second week; attendance at the second week only is not permitted.

Applications to participate in the course will be reviewed by the secretariat. Selection criteria include demonstrated participation in planning, setting up, operating or evaluating screening programmes in an applicant's home country or region in the EU or neighbouring countries. All participants should be open-minded and eager to share the approaches presented and discussed in the course. Priority will be given to applicants with a demonstrated mandate from their screening programme and whose application describes practical issues or problems for discussion as well as readiness for the problem solving. An appropriate variation in background, skills, disciplines and organisational and geographic locations will also be sought to foster a multidisciplinary and diverse discussion. The maximum number of participants will be limited to approximately 25.

Co-funding for the development of the course has been provided by the European Commission and the Finnish Cancer Society. The technical and scientific secretariat has been provided by IARC. The course is being developed in collaboration with several recognized centres of competence in organization, management and research in cancer screening in Europe. The course is also open to applicants from Mediterranean countries who participate in the Euromed project on cancer screening.

Interested applicants are requested to initially send an expression of interest with full contact information by e-mail to Maria Fernan at the International Agency for Research on Cancer, Lyon (e-mail: [fernannm@iarc.fr](mailto:fernannm@iarc.fr)). More detailed information (application instructions) will be sent to applicants by mid July 2012.

**A project of the European Partnership for Action Against Cancer (EPAAC)  
Work Package on Screening and Early Diagnosis**

**Work Package Leader:**

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**Scientific and Technical Support:**

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**Organizing Committee:**

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Dr. Larry von Karsa, Quality Assurance Group, Section of Early Detection and Prevention, International Agency for Research on Cancer, Lyon, France

## **Provisional Content of the course**

### **1st module**

#### **Section 1: Parameters of occurrence and current situation of breast, cervical and colorectal cancer in European and Mediterranean countries:**

- incidence, mortality, prevalence, survival
- stage distribution
- treatment

#### **Section 2: Principles of screening:**

- natural history of cancer, time window and type of testing
- lead time, length bias, test interval cases
- evidence of efficacy
- overdiagnosis
- overtreatment
- balance between benefits and harms
- ethics of screening

#### **Section 3: Screening organization:**

- opportunistic versus organised screening
- removing financial barriers
- necessary legal frameworks
- prerequisites of organised screening
- invitational aspects and how to reach optimal attendance
- delivering information about screening
- role of family physicians
- integration with health care system
- diagnostic and treatment centres
- pilot phase and rollout
- target population and inclusion/exclusion criteria
- screening protocol
- surveillance protocol
- fail safe mechanism I
- software for screening management

#### **Section 4: Screening evaluation:**

- designs of implementation and evaluation
- data items necessary for evaluation: information matrix and time axis
- performance indicators
- coverage and participation
- positive test
- assessment compliance rate
- detection rates and positive predictive values
- side effects and impacts on quality of life
- time interval between tests
- long term impact indicators
- interval cancers
- rates of advanced stage diseases
- cancer registries and screening evaluation

#### **Section 5: Communication**

- balanced and effective communication
- stake holders involvement
- decision-making aspects
- social, cultural and economic barriers.

**Section 6: Guidelines on quality assurance for cancer screening - the European experience:**

- principles and scope of EU Guidelines
- key standards and recommendation in breast screening guidelines
- key standards and recommendation in cervical screening guidelines
- key standards and recommendation in colorectal screening guidelines
- quality-assured process of programme implementation I
- towards systematic accreditation of the population-based programmes

**Section 7: Quality assurance system and training:**

- fail safe mechanism II
- achieving and monitoring quality assurance standards
- professional training
- quality-assured process of programme implementation II

**2nd module**

**Section 8: Reports presented by course attendees**

**Section 9: Research on efficacy of new screenings and relative effectiveness of new technologies in cancer screening:**

- evidence on new screenings:
  - prostate cancer screening
  - lung cancer screening
  - others
- comparative research on new technologies and screening protocols:
  - HPV testing
  - tomosynthesis
  - genetic tests
  - flexible sigmoidoscopy, virtual colonoscopy
  - high risk group, prospects for individualised screening
  - others

**Section 10: screening programmes and research:**

- impact of service screening programmes on incidence and mortality
- interaction between screening and treatment: quality and treatment, advancement in cancer screening
- treatment monitoring

**Section 11: HTA, costs and screening modelling:**

- modelling and cancer screening programmes impact
- HTA for cancer screening.

**Section 12: Synopsis on Programme Management:**

- Role of programme management
- Issues in problem solving
- Multidisciplinary group work