



# ECIBC - European Commission Initiative on Breast Cancer

Joint Research Centre

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## ECIBC at a **Glance**

EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
INITIATIVE ON  
BREAST CANCER

# The Joint Research Centre (JRC)

- Belongs to the European Commission
- Supports European policies with scientific evidence:
  - At the service of policymakers and citizens
  - Independent from any economic interest
- 3000 staff > 75% scientists



# Rationale

- 2003 - Council Recommendation for national population-based screening programmes for breast, colorectal and cervical cancer in accordance with European Guidelines
- 2008 - European Parliament and Council ask the Commission to **develop new guidelines based on scientific evidence and quality assurance scheme** for screening and care
- Major discrepancies in the quality of care and access to care across EU

# Objective

## ECIBC aims to:

- Improve quality of care
- Reduce inequalities in accessing care

for breast cancer across Europe.

## Applies to:

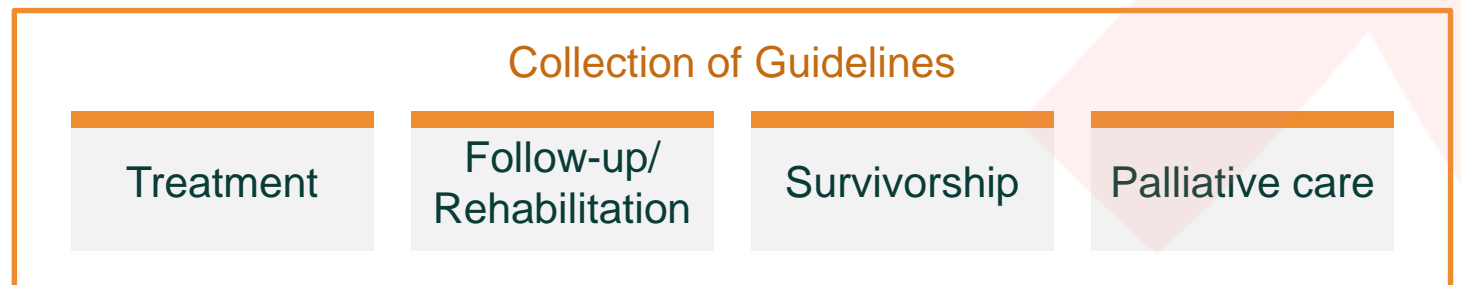
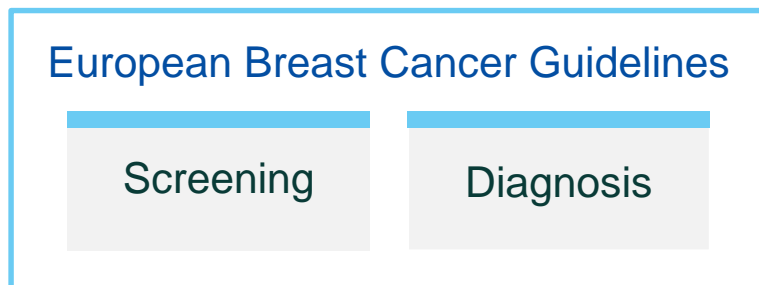
- Population based organised screening programmes



# Coverage

To improve the quality of breast cancer screening, diagnosis, and care and to contribute to reducing inequalities in accessing breast cancer services across Europe:

- European breast cancer guidelines on screening and diagnosis; and a
- Quality assurance scheme for breast cancer services covering the entire care pathway providing quality indicators and requirements



# Components

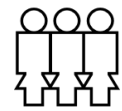
1. Guidelines for screening and diagnosis based on scientific evidence
2. Standards and requirements of quality for breast centres covering the entire pathway of care



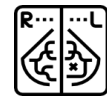
National contacts in 35 countries



**52 experts and patients representatives**  
in two working groups



113 million women potentially involved  
for screening between 45-74 years old



74 evidence-based recommendations  
- 86 requirements



Recommendations tailored for three user profiles:  
healthcare professionals, policymakers, women



A collection of international guidelines  
on treatment, follow-up and palliative care

# Key Features

- Applies to population-based screening programmes
- Guidelines and quality assurance scheme - regularly updated
- Scientific evidence based, transparent process, reproducible methodology
- Coverage of the entire care pathway with particular attention on women/patients' needs / women versions in lay language
- Voluntary application and step-wise approach
- Provision of supportive instruments to facilitate practical implementation
- Standardised auditing mechanism included



# Status

- ECIBC (first version) completed:
  - Publication of the QA Scheme Manuals (30 June 2021)
  - Guidelines - 2° updating round ongoing
- **Testing of individual Quality Assurance Scheme components (Feasibility exercise and Pilot run in 2021-2023)**
- QA Scheme update
- Ready for full implementation (expected for 2024)
- In 12 countries ECIBC products (guidelines or requirements) already in use and or /planned

# European Commission Initiatives on Cancer - population based screening: Outlook

- 2003 - Council Recommendation on national population-based screening programmes for **breast**, **colorectal** and **cervical** cancer in accordance with European Guidelines
- Upcoming amendment - ongoing:
  - considers the new EU Cancer Screening Scheme that shall help to ensure that 90% of the EU population who qualify for breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screenings are offered screening by 2025
  - shall include an extension to **gastric**, **lung** and **prostate** cancer

# ECIBC - visit us at:

## Breast cancer guidelines and quality assurance



### European guidelines on screening and diagnosis

Evidence-based breast cancer guidelines developed by the European Commission.



### International guidelines on breast cancer care

Catalogue of guidelines on treatment, rehabilitation, follow-up and palliative care.



### European quality assurance scheme

Quality assurance for breast cancer services covering the entire breast cancer pathway.

<https://healthcare-quality.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

# Thanks

**Any questions?**

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<https://healthcare-quality.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>



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