

**Question for written answer E-004380/2017  
to the Commission**

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Subject: Disparities in cancer indicators between Member States

According to the Report on the implementation of the Council Recommendation on cancer screening (May 2017), cancer is a major public health burden on the Member States, causing more than a million deaths every year. However, there are disparities among EU countries in the incidence of and mortality rates for cervical and breast cancer, in essence because of varying access to quality-assured screening programmes for these types of cancer. Romania does not have a national screening program for breast cancer. Bulgaria, Greece and Slovakia only have non-population-based programmes. Some of the longest running population-based cervical cancer screening programmes in the world are in EU countries (Finland and Sweden). Romania has the lowest values in terms of the indicators related to cancer survival (56 % for cervical cancer and 63.9 % for breast cancer), as well as high mortality and incidence ratios, due to poor health infrastructure, a lack of integrated medical services, difficulties in accessing new treatments and poor health education programmes.

What strategy is the Commission pursuing in order to reduce these substantial disparities between the Member States?

Could the Commission apply additional/specific recommendations, monitor the essential parameters and provide financial support for the health systems in countries with the lowest values in terms of cancer indicators?