

# IARC's role in gastric cancer prevention in Europe

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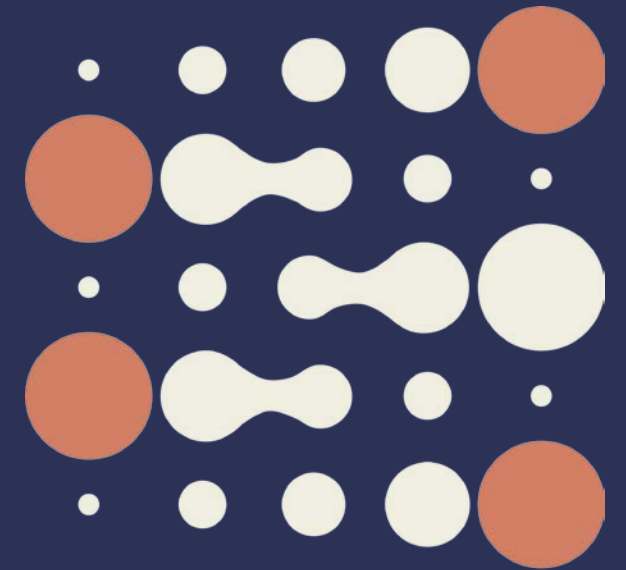
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International Agency  
for Research on Cancer



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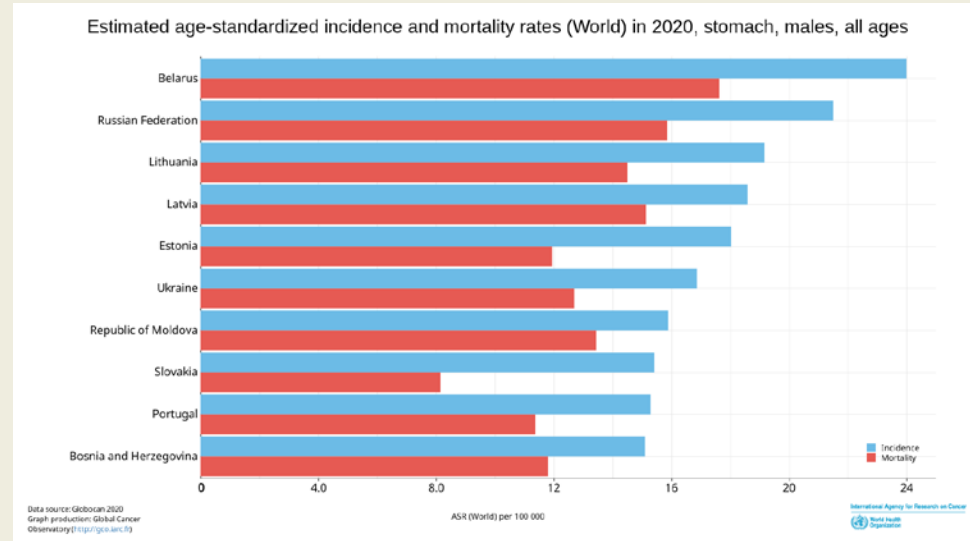


# Background

Gastric cancer remains an important public health problem in Europe

- Significant geographical variation in gastric cancer burden with extremely poor survival
- Large knowledge gap on the effect and implementability of gastric cancer prevention programmes in Europe

Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and EU's new recommendations provide a unique opportunity to tackle gastric cancer burden



## A NEW APPROACH TO CANCER SCREENING

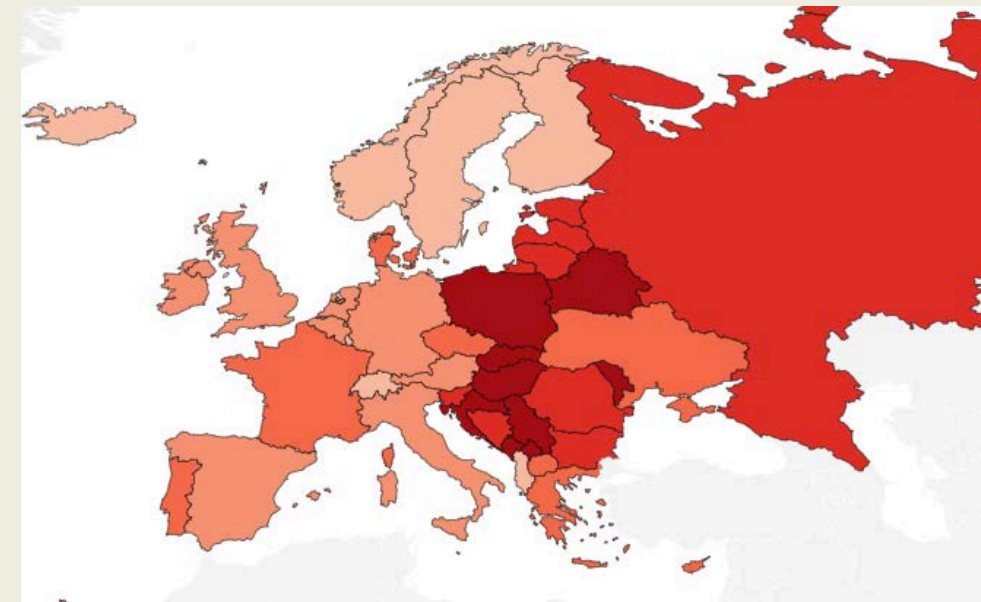
**Extended targeting** | **Gradual introduction**

Updated proposal to the EU Council recommendation as part of the EU cancer screening scheme.

#EUCancerPlan  
#HealthUnion



In places with high GASTRIC CANCER incidence and death rates, screening for *Helicobacter pylori* and surveillance of precancerous stomach lesions



# EUROHELICAN

Accelerating gastric cancer reduction in Europe through *Helicobacter pylori* eradication



International Agency for Research on Cancer



UNIVERSITY OF LATVIA  
INSTITUTE OF CLINICAL  
AND PREVENTIVE  
MEDICINE





EUROHELICAN kick-off meeting, 18 Nov 2022, Ljubljana

# Partners



National Institute  
of Public Health



UNIVERSITY  
OF LATVIA



CENTRE HOSPITALIER  
UNIVERSITAIRE DE NANTES

International Agency for Research on Cancer



World Health  
Organization

# EUROHELICAN

WP 1  
COORDINATION,  
NIJZ

WP 2  
DISSEMINATION,  
NIJZ

WP 3  
EVALUATION,  
NANTES

WP 4  
Gastric cancer prevention  
through *H. pylori* test and  
treat strategy in Slovenia,  
NIJZ

WP 5  
Long-term evaluation of the  
potential adverse effects of  
test and treat strategy in  
Latvia,  
LU

WP 6  
Development of IARC Working Group Report on the  
implementation and evaluation of population-based *H. pylori*  
test- and treat strategy through an expert Working Group  
Meeting, IARC

EUROHELICAN

Accelerating gastric cancer reduction in Europe  
through *Helicobacter pylori* eradication



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the European Union



# TOGAS- Towards gastric cancer screening implementation in the European Union

- CR-g-22-09.01/02/03 Call for proposals to monitor and strengthen the implementation of innovative approaches to prostate, lung and gastric cancer screening at Union level

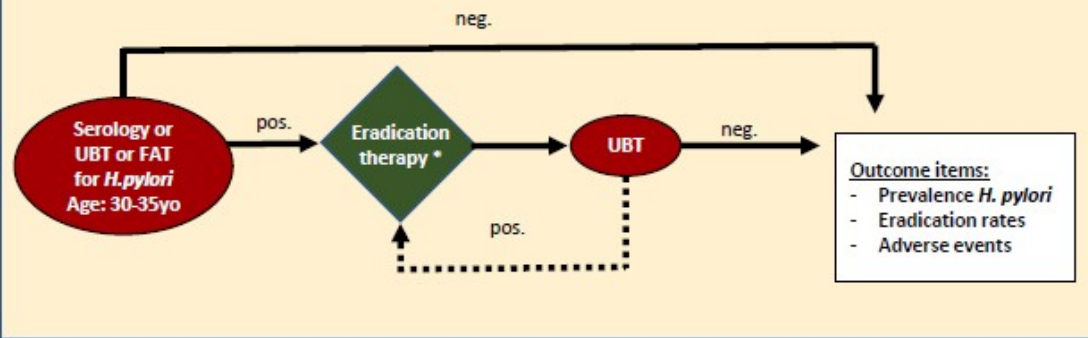


TOWARDS GASTRIC CANCER SCREENING  
IMPLEMENTATION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION



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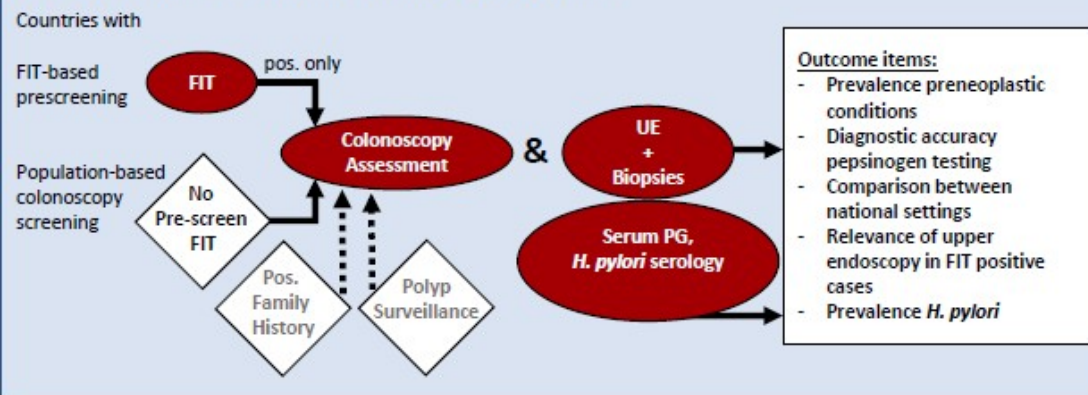
PILOT 1: Screen and Treat for *H. pylori*



## General aim

To provide the missing evidence-based knowledge needed for recommending appropriate implementation of gastric cancer screening across the EU.

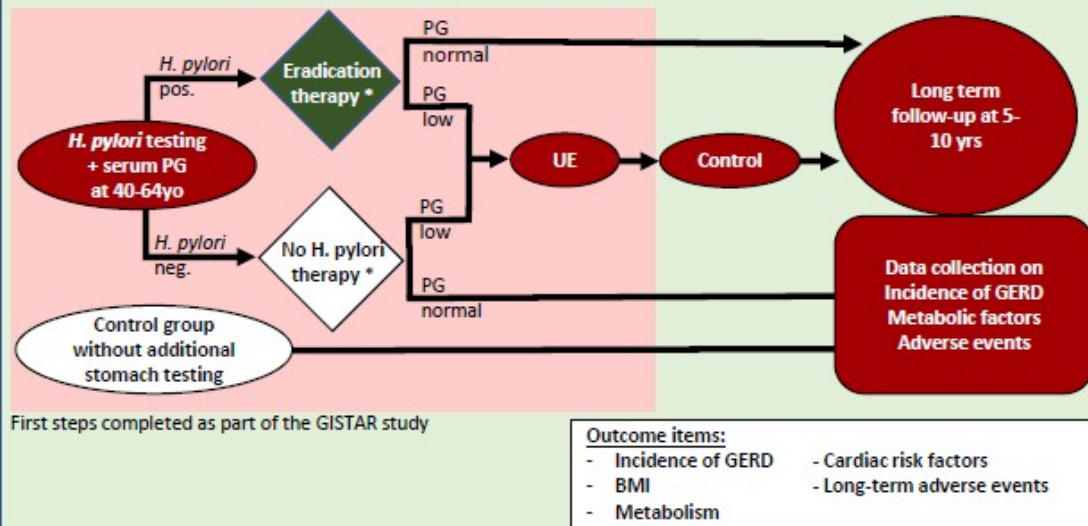
PILOT 2: Combined Colon and Stomach Assessment



## Objectives

1. Assessment of state of play as well as the needs of Member States and target populations in gastric cancer prevention
2. Assessment of the appropriateness of various gastric cancer screening modalities for the use in the EU
3. Assuring the sustainability of the results by an effective dissemination strategy and coordination of the methodology with the approaches used within the EU, including with the European Guidelines and Quality Assurance Schemes.

PILOT 3: Combined Pepsinogen and *H. pylori* screening



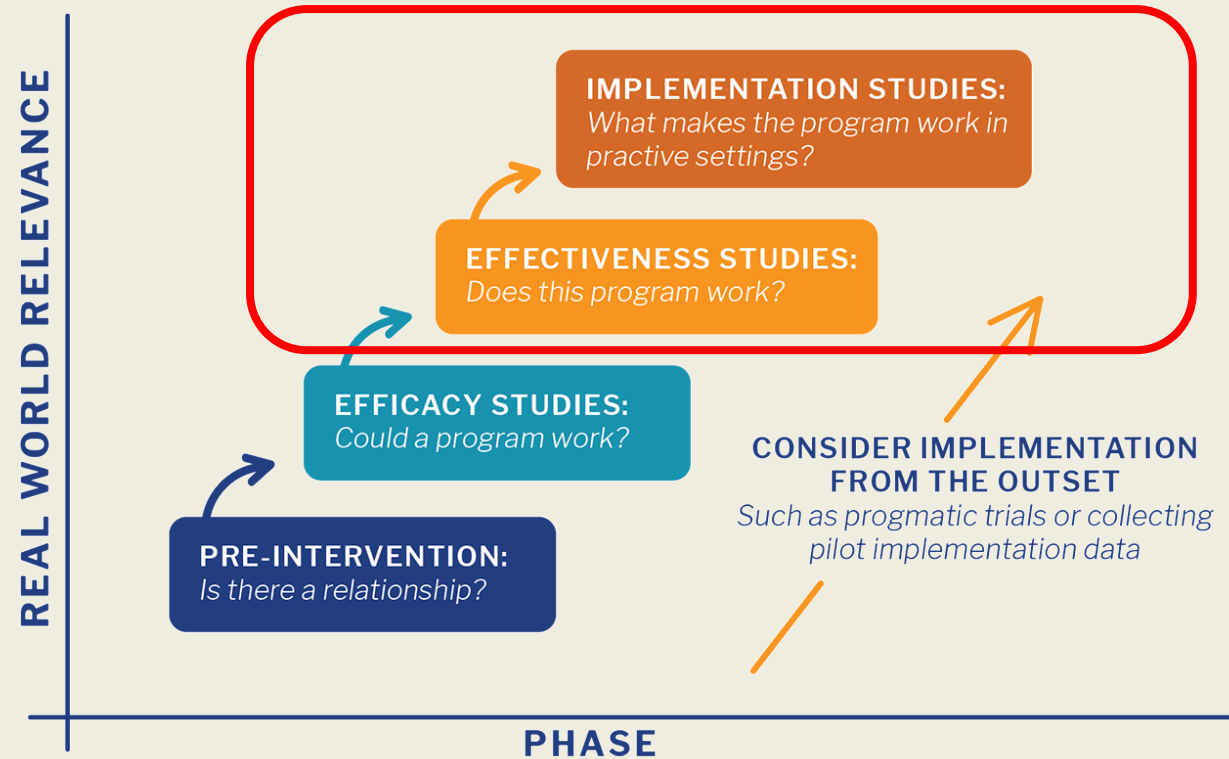
TOWARDS GASTRIC CANCER SCREENING IMPLEMENTATION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION



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# Discussion and Conclusions

- To date, limited progress has been made in gastric cancer prevention due to lack of evidence on feasibility, acceptability and long-term effects of different preventive strategies in Europe, contributing to the disconnect between the available **evidence-based interventions** and **their implementation** in prevention programmes.
- The outcomes from EUROHELICAN and TOGAS are important for **Europe and elsewhere** with high gastric cancer risk profiles and varied resource availability
- IARC's role in the EU4HEALTH projects ensures that the new evidence generated within EUROHELICAN and TOGAS is integrated into **guidance instruments** for stakeholders worldwide and when developing **new European guidelines and quality assurance schemes** for gastric cancer prevention, screening, and care



- Source: <https://catalyst.harvard.edu/community-engagement/implementation-science>



# Key take-home messages

- IARC and partners launched two major EU-funded projects for gastric cancer prevention in Europe.
- EUROHELICAN and TOGAS will assess the needs of EU Member States and identify target populations for gastric cancer prevention while evaluating implementation outcomes of various preventive strategies.
- These initiatives are expected to provide much needed data for the implementation of appropriate risk-based and resource-appropriate preventive strategies in areas with high burden of gastric cancer in Europe and development of European guidelines for gastric cancer prevention.



Implementation of strategies for gastric cancer prevention and screening in EU

Assess the implementability of population-based *H. pylori* test-and-treat programs for gastric cancer prevention in Europe

Outcome: IARC Working Group Report

Provide the missing evidence-based knowledge needed for recommending an appropriate implementation of gastric cancer screening across the EU