

# Cancer Strategies in Austria

Oncology Advisory Board,  
Austrian Cancer Framework Programme,  
Screening Committee

Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and  
Consumer Protection, Dept. VI/A/1  
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## Challenges in the Austrian healthcare system

- Overall high life expectancy, but number of healthy life years below comparable countries
- High level of fragmentation between Austrian „Länder“, between levels of care, and between healthcare sectors (health promotion, disease prevention, diagnosis, cure, care, rehabilitation, funding mechanisms)
- Strong orientation towards curative services – other healthcare aspects even more fragmented
- Few integrated care schemes
- Numerous challenges in relation to primary and secondary prevention and to disease management

## Oncology Advisory Board – since 2009

- multi-professional and interdisciplinary expert panel advises the Minister of Health on all issues related to cancer
- 27 members from the whole spectrum of all issues relating to oncology, public health and health technology assessment.
- Health in all policies approach
- consensual recommendations on cancer prevention, cancer care, the strategic further development of evidence-based patient care and promotion of implementation of the Austrian Cancer Framework Program.
- Focus on benefits for patients and the population

## Austrian Cancer Framework Program (since 2014) – Strategic goals



- Reduced cancer incidence of & mortality, longer survival and better quality of life through
- health promotion & prevention
- evidence-based and timely early detection, diagnosis and treatment
- Improvement / maintenance of a high quality of life in all phases of the disease for patients and caring others
- Equal access to care, innovation and progress
- Evidence-based information for citizens, patients, health care providers and policy-makers
- Promoting cancer research in all areas

## **Program Screening (since 2014) & National Screening Committee for Oncological Diseases (since 2021)**

- Breast cancer screening program as first program screening established in 2014
- Implementation of an independent expert panel screening committee in 2021
- 9 members – representing public health, epidemiology, oncology, pathology, health economics, jurisdiction, ethics, patient perspective.
- Structured decision-making process for development, implementation and improvement of national, evidence-based and quality-assured program screening for cancer
- Sounding Board – stakeholders, who contribute an economic point of view and take feasibility into account from the beginning of the discussions
- First topic currently in discussion: colon cancer screening

# Thank you for your attention!