HUNGARY

Overview: National Cancer Control Programme (NCPP)

Hungary’s cancer mortality statistics have been dramatically elevated for a long time. At present, there are about 300,000 cancer patients and in 2003, 33,530 people died of malignant neoplastic diseases. Cancer is the second most frequent cause of death following cardiovascular diseases. They occur so frequently that the prevention, up-to-date treatment, and control of cancer have become public health issues.

The first National Cancer Control Programme (NCPP) was set up in 1993 (and presented at the WHO meeting in Canada). The Hungarian data on cancer patterns and trends provided the basis for evaluating priorities for cancer control. These priorities determined also the priorities of our NCCP.

These priorities include:

1. Primary prevention - Health Education, Oncology related programmes on TV, Development of new education programmes for the medical and paramedical staff.
2. Secondary prevention - Improvement of the screening system of breast, colorectal, cervix and head and neck tumours, Promotion of research (related to early detection)
3. Treatment - Establishment of treatment protocols
4. Establishment of a National Cancer Registries (fulfilled)
5. Rehabilitation

Additional information on the National Cancer Control Programme can be accessed at: http://www.eum.hu/index.php?akt_menu=2652&archiv=1
The following information was provided in a questionnaire (March 2006) by:

Dr Miklós Kásler
Head of the National Cancer Plan and National Institute of Oncology
Budapest
Email: m.kasler@oncol.hu

1. **Is it a new plan or is it an updated one? When was the previous plan published and who did it?**

This is an updated plan. The first one was made by an expert panel coordinated by NIO in 1993.

**THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS REFER TO THE PRESENT PLAN:**

2. **When did you start the planning process? Who decided to do the plan and why?**

The existing plan was continually updated. The present version was prepared upon the Health Minister’s request. Cancer Control is a public health priority in the policy of the Government.

3. **What steps did you take to do the plan and how long did each step take?**

The task was to actualize the old plan. It took three to four years.

4. **Who were the persons involved in each step of the process?**

The professional apparatus of the Ministry of Health and, the prominent representatives of National institute of Oncology (NIO) and the discipline of oncology (primarily of the National Board of Oncologists).

5. **How was the plan done, what resources were used in each step, and what were the results?**

We took the earlier plan as the starting point of the present Cancer Control plan. The achievements and the shortcomings were identified in order to determine the priorities of steps to be taken for its full realization.

6. **When the plan was officially launched? Who and how was the plan disseminated?**

The new Cancer Control Program was officially launched by the Prime Minister on 3 February 2006 when he released the “White Book”.

7. **What problems were encountered in the planning process? How were they dealt with?**

The major problem was how to manage the various unrealistic proposals and opinions of non professionals encountered in the wide scope consultations.
8. **What were the lessons learned from the planning process?**

Only experts with the highest level of professional knowledge are suitable to prepare such a plan.

9. **What are the priorities, main goals, and objectives of the plan?**

Our priorities correspond to the expectations of the WHO: further development of Cancer Registry, primary and secondary prevention, translation diagnostics, complex oncotherapy, rehabilitation, establishment of the structure of hospice care.

Objectives of the old plan accomplished in the field of screening: breast cancer screening introduced and colorectal cancer screening is being installed; in the field of therapy: comprehensive chemotherapy, development of radiotherapy. The Protocol for Oncotherapy and the first university textbook “Oncology” have been published.

10. **Is monitoring and evaluation included in the plan? Briefly describe**

Yes. From professional point of view a nation wide, comprehensive, differential and integrated system of informatics is to be built. Joining the EUROCHIP project.

11. **What are the resources allocated to carry out the implementation of the plan?**

It is the competence of the Government. Financing is from central budget. Numerically established data are not available.

12. **Has the plan been implemented? If NO, Why not?**

It has just started (03.02.2006).

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