

MALTA

1. Country Representative/Delegate

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2. Other Participants/Collaborators

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3. Participation in EUROCHIP Meeting

NAME	PLACE	DATE	PARTICIPANTS
Panel of Experts	Ragusa (Italy)	24-25/09/2004	Miriam Dalmas
Multinational Info Meeting	Milan (Italy)	19/09/2005	Roderick Bosuttil, Albert Cilia Vincenti
Panel of Experts	Maiori (Italy)	15-16/06/2006	Miriam Dalmas, Roderick Bosuttil

4. Area of the action

Information: screening coverage indicators

5. Aim and description of the work (for details see Annex 13)

To determine the amount of cancer screening activity happening on the Islands for breast and cervical cancers in the absence of national organised screening programmes

6. Results of the work (for details see Annex 13)

- Cervical cancer: On average about 30,000 smears are performed annually. Organised cervical cytology screening programmes usually cater for women aged between 20 and 69 years of age. The number of women in this age group in the mid-2004 population estimates amounted to 132,473. Invitations for cytological screening are often delivered to entitled women every 3 years. Therefore, the volume of annual smears that would be expected to be performed if an organised cervical screening programme is implemented, assuming a 100% response rate, would amount to about 44,000 smears for women in the 20-69 year age group. Currently, with the opportunistic screening scenario prevalent in Malta about 29,000 of the women in this age group are being screened annually
- Breast cancer: In 2007, the declaration of the Government of Malta commitment to roll out the initial phase of an organised population-based screening programme during 2008 will be addressing the need that has been felt for a long time for such a service. The opportunistic mammographic screening activity currently prevalent in Malta is currently a major income generator to private healthcare facilities and the proposed organised screening programme may be viewed as a threat by these business concerns. Because of this, the under-signed researches strongly believe that if they continued with there plans to contact private imaging centres with the planned requests on their past activity, they could have jeopardised government's efforts to successfully organise and launch the organised programme.

7. Added Value of the work (for details see Annex 13)

For cervical cancer, a consensus building exercise should be initiated to promote a more uniform and appropriate collection of information on laboratory procedures. Laboratories will benefit from the assistance provided during this initiative to develop database capabilities that will primarily facilitate their own internal audit. Subsequently, a more consistent national approach of data collection will benefit the whole population of the Islands because it will enable the collection of more complete, timely and reliable information.

8. Publications related to EUROCHIP

- Busuttil R, Dalmas M, Vincenti AC. Effectiveness of opportunistic screening for cancer of the cervix uteri. Malta Medical Journal 18 (3): 15-20, 2006