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## European Cancer Observatory Launch

The International Agency for Research on Cancer and the [European Network of Cancer Registries](#) announce the launch of the [European Cancer Observatory](#) (ECO) web site today. The ECO web site is a one-stop shop that permits unique, easy access to data on cancer incidence, prevalence, mortality and survival in 40 European countries. ECO will be a valuable tool for policy-makers, medical and research professionals as well as civil society. ECO was developed as part of the ERA-NET project [EUROCOURSE](#), funded by the Directorate General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission in the [Seventh Framework Programme](#) and the 17 partners and subcontractors of the project.

The ECO web site allows accessing, analysing and downloading European cancer data from its three component platforms: EUCAN, EUREG and EUROCIM.

[EUCAN](#) provides national estimates of cancer incidence, mortality and prevalence in 2008 in 40 European countries for 26 major cancer sites. A series of factsheets are available at the cancer and country level for offline use, printing or export for presentations or publications. An estimated 3.2 million new cancer cases and 1.7 million cancer deaths occurred in Europe in 2008, and 8.5 million cancer patients diagnosed over the period 2004–2008 were alive at the end of 2008. The age-adjusted incidence rates for both sexes combined vary from 226 per 100,000 (Bosnia and Herzegovina) to 457 per 100,000 (Denmark). Cancers of the prostate, lung and colorectum are the most common cancers in men, and cancers of the breast, colorectum and lung are the most frequent in women. According to EUCAN, the mortality rates are highest for the very same cancer sites, along with stomach cancer in men, whereas the 5-year cancer prevalence (the number of patients diagnosed with cancer and still alive 5 years after the diagnosis) is highest for breast, prostate and colorectal cancers for both sexes combined. EUCAN will soon be updated with estimates for 2012.

[EUREG](#) allows access to incidence, mortality and survival data from more than 100 population-based cancer registries for 40 cancer entities by period, sex and age group. Survival figures were extracted from EUROCARE publications. The results can be presented as interactive high-quality graphics and tables that are easily exported for presentation or further analysis. EUREG is fed from a database that enables fast updates with newly submitted data. EUREG shows, for example, that over the 55 years of national cancer registration in Finland, the number of cancer cases in men increased by about 2% per year, which represents an increase of 231% over the whole period. The age-adjusted rates, increasing by 0.4% per year (25% overall), indicate that most of the observed increase is attributable to the demographic effects of population growth and population ageing. Over the same period, the adjusted mortality rate decreased by about 44% (1% per year).

[EUROCIM](#) will enable downloads of available registry data (individual records or finely aggregated data) by registered users, according to the permissions granted by the data providers using a specifically designed automated procedure. EUROCIM is expected to launch in 2013.

The ECO web site was built at IARC in collaboration with the National Cancer Registry of Ireland and the [European Network of Cancer Registries](#) (ENCR), which has more than 150 member registries.