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## Portugal joins IARC as a new Participating State, strengthening global collaboration in cancer research

**Lyon, France, 7 May 2025** – The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) is pleased to welcome Portugal as its latest Participating State. This partnership marks a significant step in IARC’s mission to advance global cancer research and control and further enhance international collaboration in the fight against cancer.

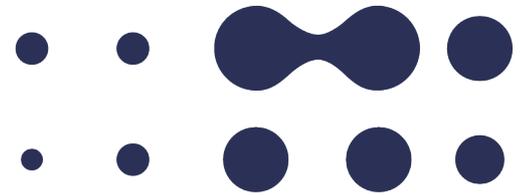
Cancer remains a significant public health challenge in Portugal, with an estimated 69 500 new cancer cases and approximately 33 700 cancer-related deaths in 2022, according to [IARC’s latest global database](#). In response, Portugal has developed a comprehensive national cancer control strategy – Estratégia Nacional de Luta Contra o Cancro, Horizonte 2030 – to guide its efforts in reducing cancer incidence and mortality. Approved in late 2023, the strategy emphasizes prevention, early detection, diagnosis, treatment, survivors, and palliative care. It is closely aligned with the European Union’s Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan. Portugal is also addressing the rising cancer burden through innovative initiatives such as lung cancer screening and gastric cancer prevention via *Helicobacter pylori* testing.

“We are thrilled to welcome Portugal as a Participating State,” says IARC Director Dr Elisabete Weiderpass. “Portugal’s commitment to implementing cutting-edge cancer control strategies, coupled with its strong research foundation, aligns perfectly with IARC’s global mission. Together, we will continue to advance research and interventions that aim to reduce the global cancer burden.”

Key areas of collaboration between Portugal and IARC include cancer registration, early detection, screening, research, and capacity-building, with a particular emphasis on evaluating cancer control programmes. Portuguese institutions are at the forefront of cancer research and are expected to play a crucial role in these efforts. Through this partnership, IARC and Portugal aim to optimize cancer screening, advance molecular research, and strengthen both national and international cancer control efforts.

In particular, Portugal’s ongoing work in lung cancer screening and gastric cancer prevention aligns with IARC’s focus on early detection, while the country’s research expertise in cancer biology and prevention is vital to advancing global knowledge. Portugal’s involvement in these areas will also support IARC’s broader goals, such as improving cancer registry systems and strengthening research capacity, both domestically and in Portuguese-speaking countries.

“Joining IARC as a Participating State is an exciting step forward for Portugal’s ongoing efforts to improve cancer care,” says Dr José Dinis, Director of the National Program for Oncological Diseases, Directorate-



General of Health, Lisbon. “This collaboration will enhance our research, optimize cancer screening programmes, and enable us to evaluate and refine cancer control strategies to benefit both Portugal and the broader global community.”

Through this collaboration, IARC and Portugal will further their shared commitment to improving cancer outcomes worldwide. The new partnership will leverage Portugal’s growing role in cancer research, particularly in its work with Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa, and contribute to IARC’s global cancer control initiatives.

**For more information, please contact**

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The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) is part of the World Health Organization. Its mission is to coordinate and conduct research on the causes of human cancer, the mechanisms of carcinogenesis, and to develop scientific strategies for cancer control. The Agency is involved in both epidemiological and laboratory research and disseminates scientific information through publications, meetings, courses, and fellowships. If you wish your name to be removed from our press release emailing list, please write to [com@iarc.who.int](mailto:com@iarc.who.int).