

Risk-based strategy for cervical cancer (RISCC) screening



RISCC project results will provide evidence for policy makers to take decisions on cervical cancer screening in the EU Member States. The RISCC consortium has established close connection with patient organizations and policy makers. The project will gather evidence on risk factors of cervical pre-cancer and on the use of testing with self-sampling kits. This will help to reduce the volume of redundant screening. The main impact will be implementation of state-of-the-art and cost-efficient cervical cancer screening.



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1. Describe your project through three key words / key phrases that identify it.

Cervical cancer screening with human papillomavirus (HPV) testing; Self-sampling to lower the barriers for screening; Integration of vaccination and screening programmes.

2. In terms of impact, what are the most concrete results your project has or will achieve?

The RISCC consortium has close connection with patient organizations and policy makers. The project results will provide evidence for policy makers to take decisions on cervical cancer screening in individual Member States. The project will gather evidence on risk factors of cervical pre-cancer and on the use of HPV testing with self-sampling kits. Optimal integration of vaccination and new evidence-based screening programs will help to reduce the volume of redundant screening and to direct resources to those most at risk. As part of the project, a pilot programme will be launched in Sweden where women will be offered risk-based HPV screening. The project continues to promote risk-based approaches in an increasing number of EU countries.

3. Please describe your project overall impact at the European level

Project RISCC is already the third framework program project on cervical cancer screening coordinated by Prof. Johannes Berkhof. The RISCC project is a follow-

on from previous projects, with the first framework program financed project during FP7 which was then nominated for the EU Horizon Impact Award. All three projects have been exploring the same important topic of how to improve prevention against cervical cancer by using different innovative approaches and their combinations in Europe. Also, advice on how screening programs can be optimally combined with HPV vaccination programs will be provided. If the cervical cancer screening policy will not be updated, there will remain an unnecessarily high level of redundant screening, and the RISCC project generates evidence to make screening cost-effective with better real-life health impact.

4. As an applicant, what advice would you have wanted in the Horizon project design process? What support did you receive from National Contact point (NCP) and your organisation, and what improvement of support would you benefit from?

The coordinator represents Amsterdam UMC, location VUMC (*Stichting VUMC*) which has well organised professional support that provides Financial and Administrative management services. For the future grant applications, Prof. Berkhof as coordinator would be considering NCP assistance with Ethics, GDPR and Clinical Studies Template related questions. Also, transfer of data has become more complex and NCP advice would be appreciated specifically also on this topic.

