

CANCER PREVENTION

in Friuli Venezia Giulia

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**Cancer prevention is the action
taken to lower the risk of
developing cancer.**

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STRENGTHS

- free screenings
- hospital “Burlo”: special section for cancer
- strong public and private hospital/clinical buildings presence in the region, e.g. CRO
- research institutions
- initiatives at national level aimed at spreading awareness and raising funds for cancer cure and prevention
- commitment of the civil society
- special statute → autonomy
- research funds through the 2021-2027 European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) program
- incoming mobility of foreign researchers and lecturers
- open semester at University
- high average educational level

WEAKNESSES

- region with highest incidence of melanoma in Italy
- cancer research dependent on donations by non profit organizations
- in FVG the average annual quantity of casualties from cancer did not decrease significantly from 2010-2019
- in 2024, 22% of adults between 18 and 69 years in FVG smoked regularly
- 73% of the adults consume alcohol
- in European ranking, FVG universities do not achieve any of the 100 ranking positions
- lack of “medici di base” → patients left with fewer possibilities
- lack of clinics in the Region, putting pressure on hospitals
- regional Court of Auditors reported that key pillars of FVG medicine are not fully implemented yet
- 10% of population gives up medical treatment due to waiting times → delays in early diagnosis and low screening participation
- preventive initiatives often depend on regional policy choice

OPPORTUNITIES

- opportunities of university studies and Master programs
- Slovenians and Croatians making use of the free Italian healthcare system
- importance of the Region's Life Sciences sector
- European cancer prevention funds
- port of Trieste for the distribution of new technologies
- FVG region began to replace Pap tests with HPV-DNA testing that is free of charge
- Friuli Venezia Giulia ranked 3rd for 'colorectal cancer screening participation'
- "Fondazione Italiana Fegato Onlus" based in Area Science Park, Basovizza (TS), received funding for two innovative projects
- cooperation of CRO and MD Anderson Cancer center of Houston (Texas, US)
- in 2025, FVG has launched a series educational meetings

THREATS

- relatively low net salary of specializing medical workers
- workforce goes to other countries
- no resources for Master programs
- best countries in cancer research and care are the US, Germany, Japan, Switzerland and S. Korea.
- ageing population in Italy - focus of public spendings
- privatization of the healthcare sector
- persistent low national commitment to research and innovation
- stakeholders against “cheap” strategies of prevention and cure
- not achieving expected effects without public education/information
- economies of “cancerogenic” products → wine production
- limited psychological free assistance



THANK YOU

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