

EXPERIENCE WITH SCREENING IN CROATIA

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With special acknowledgement to other members of National lung cancer screening task force: Prof. Miroslav Samarzija, Prof. Marko Jakopovic, Kristina Krpina, Ivana Kuhtic, Zagreb, Croatia

The nationwide lung cancer screening programme in Croatia has started on the 1st of October 2020. That is the first such programme at nationwide level in Europe.

Since there was no one to copy in lung cancer screening programme (LCS) implementation, we had been looking for a cookbook and found a publication from Fintelmann and colleagues from 2015 defining 10 pillars needed to organize lung cancer screening programme. We gave our best to fulfil all the requirements and build up all the pillars to support successful LCS.

We understood LCS as an opportunistic screening which should be incorporated into existing healthcare network through integrated care centred around the GP. The new application for LCS purpose has been developed and embedded into existing national healthcare ID platform, acting as the central register as well. The whole workflow is virtual and paperless. The GP should detect the eligible person, do the motivational interview and put a referral to radiology and pulmonology sites through the system. The communication between GP, radiologist and pulmonologist is virtual via structured reports with clear recommendations on further action, standardised at the level of the country to be easily understood and followed.

Up to date we have all the scanning centres up and running, tested all the processes and scanned more than 400 persons.