

LIVER CANCER IN EUROPE:

A GROWING BUT PREVENTABLE CRISIS

50%

Liver cancer mortality
↑ +50% since 2000



Cases expected to keep
increasing without action



THE SCALE OF THE PROBLEM

69,000

deaths/year in 2023
(liver cancer)



~780

liver disease deaths/
day when combined
with cirrhosis



6th

leading cause of
cancer death in EU



~3%

all deaths in Europe
(liver disease)



WHY OUTCOMES ARE POOR

Liver cancer has low survival rates, as low as ~5–30%.



Silent
progression



Late-stage
diagnosis



Limited
treatment

Often asymptomatic

Too late diagnosis = too few options

Often combined with cirrhosis → complex care

Early detection systems and surveillance are currently
insufficient and under-implemented across Europe

INEQUALITY IN EUROPE



Access to care is uneven across
Europe. Policy and health
system heterogeneity across
Europe drives unequal outcomes



Huge variation across Europe of
incidence and mortality, up to 3x
difference between countries



Migrants and vulnerable
populations face major barriers
to screening, prevention and
treatment

ROOT CAUSES

Up to 3 in 5 cases could be prevented



Alcohol

major driver in Europe



Hepatitis

B, D & C



MASLD (FATTY LIVER DISEASE)

(fastest-growing cause)

Unhealthy diets and ultra-processed foods are key emerging drivers

But also: lack of physical activity, tobacco smoking

MISSED OPPORTUNITY

WE ALREADY KNOW HOW TO PREVENT IT

- ✓ Risk factors are **modifiable**
- ✓ Vaccination, screening, treatment and policy **already exist**

The gap is **implementation**.

What is missing is not evidence — but action.

ECONOMIC IMPACT



€55 billion

lost annually



0.3% GDP

loss across Europe

Productivity loss, premature death, workforce absence

SOLUTIONS

Behaviours are shaped by systems, not just individual choice

CO-DESIGN WITH CIVIL SOCIETY, COMMUNITIES, AND PEOPLE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE

Policy



- Regulate alcohol & food marketing
- Tax harmful products
- Mandatory health warnings on alcohol
- Restrict digital marketing targeting children and adolescents
- Align taxation with health and societal costs

Health system



- Early screening
- Shift to integrated, multidisciplinary care pathways
- Improve access to treatment
- Use non-invasive diagnostics and AI-driven risk stratification

Public health



- Expand Hepatitis testing
- Target vulnerable populations
- Vaccination against Hepatitis B
- Integrate liver disease into broader NCD strategies and cancer plans
- Reduce inequities

CALL TO ACTION

Make liver cancer a priority in Europe's health agenda.
Prevent it. Detect it early.