

Childhood Cancer Country Profile

BULGARIA

1 – Epidemiology

NUMBER OF CASES: 169

In 2022, 169 patients aged 0 to 19 years were diagnosed with cancer: 69 girls and 100 boys.



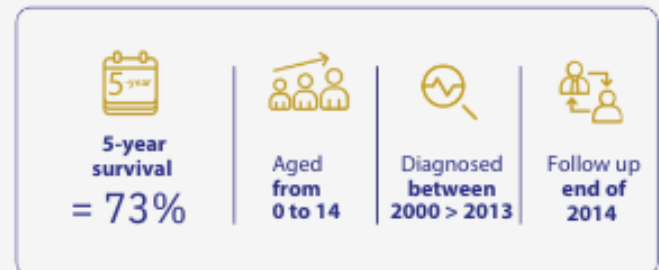
 13,800 new cases (6,241  –7,559 ).

Warning: These are estimates provided by the European Cancer Information system. There are no data available on the incidence of each pediatric malignancy. <https://ecis.jrc.ec.europa.eu>, accessed on 19/March/2024 © European Union, 2024

They may not match with data from population-based registration at the country level.

5 - YEAR OVERALL SURVIVAL: 73%

The probability of 5-year survival is 73.% in children from 0 to 14 years diagnosed between 2000 – 2013 and followed up to the end of 2014. According to the EUROCORE-61 population based study.



EUROCORE-6 pool survival estimate = 81.3%.














(1) Botta, L., Gatta, G., Capocaccia, R., Stiller, C., Cañete, A., Dal Maso, L., & EUROCORE Working Group. (2022). Long-term survival and cure fraction estimates for childhood cancer in Europe (EUROCORE-6): Results from a population-based study. *The Lancet Oncology*. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1470-2045\(22\)00637-4](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1470-2045(22)00637-4)

2 – Organisation of Care

This section focuses on the organization of care in Bulgaria. The country has 3 (three) institutions treating children and young people with Cancer. These institutions are categorized as "other centers", which include paediatric university hospitals, paediatric general hospitals, university hospitals with paediatric units, or general hospitals with paediatric units that also provide treatment for children with other diseases. None of these institutions is considered a Cancer Center².



TREATMENTS:

	Chemotherapy Inpatient	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Chemotherapy Outpatient	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Surgery Solid Tumours	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Surgery Central Nervous System	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Autologous SCT ³	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Allogeneic SCT ³	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Photon Radiation Therapy	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Proton Radiation Therapy	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Brachytherapy	<input type="checkbox"/>
	New Treatment (Phase I/II Trials)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Any Clinical Trials	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Survivorship Care Clinic	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Palliative Care	<input type="checkbox"/>

- Available in the country for children and young people with cancer
- Not available in the country for children and young people with cancer
- Missing information

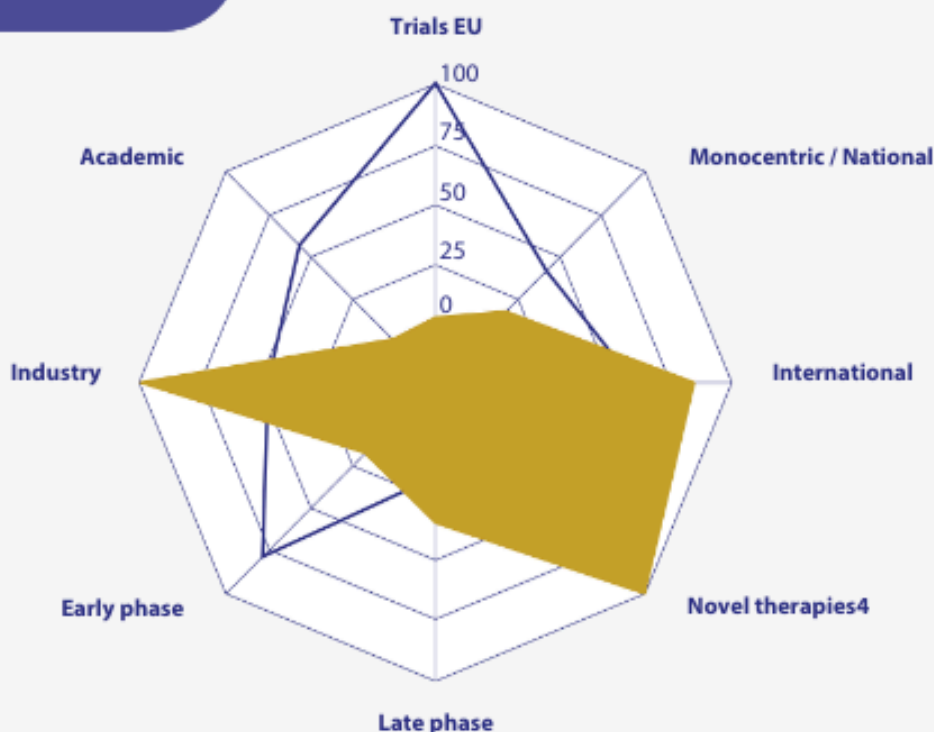
9 out of 13 infrastructural aspects and treatment modalities in the scope of the OCEAN project are available within the country.

(2) Cancer centres were defined as hospitals treating cancer patients only; this can be for children only or both adults and children.

(3) Stem Cell Transplant

3 – Research

CLINICAL RESEARCH PROFILE:



Bulgaria
(n=6)

All Europe
(n=436)

Bulgaria 1,85%

From 2010 to 2022, 436 clinical trials enrolled children and young people in Europe: **6 were running in Bulgaria**

Characteristics	Bulgaria		Europe	
› Number of available trials	6		436	
LOCATION TYPE				
› Monocentric / National	1	17%	181	42%
› International	5	83%	255	58%
› Use of novel therapies	6	100%	332	76%
PHASES				
› Early phase	1	17%	334	77%
› Late phase	2	33%	68	16%
SPONSOR				
› Academic	0	0%	239	55%
› Industry	6	100%	197	45%

(4) targeted, immune-, or cell therapies.

(5) The percentages of trials by phase do not sum up 100, as phase 4 and "other type" of trials such as feasibility trials are not included.

Disclaimer

The content of this document has undergone validation by the Bulgarian Country Operating Team (COT).

The following information was obtained within the framework of the OCEAN project, which sought to describe the organization of Care and Research for children and adolescents across Europe. It does not provide information on the access or quality of care for children and adolescents with cancer at a particular care center.

The OCEAN project does not include details on whether a center is certified or accredited.

Members of the Project Steering Committee were from the SIOPE and CCI-Europe boards.

This work was performed as part of the Coordination and Support Action (CSA) "4.UNCAN.eu."



Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them

Short Methodology

The OCEAN project studied 38 European countries, including all 27 EU member states plus 11 countries that are part of the SIOPE and/or CCI-E networks.

The epidemiological analysis on cancer incidence and mortality among children and adolescents aged 0-24 years old retrieved data from the Global Cancer Observatory (<https://gco.aws-csu.iarc.who.int/>). Criteria for analysis included cancer sites, demographics (both sexes, age groups 0-19), and inclusion of all cancer types.

For the organization of care, a cross-sectional questionnaire-based survey was conducted. Country Operating Teams (COT) were formed, including a senior paediatric oncologist, Chair of the National Paediatric Hemato Oncology Society, a Young SIOPE member (representing an early career paediatric oncologist), and a patient or parent advocate from CCI-Europe. The survey consists of 29 questions across six thematic sections. The survey covered topics such as organizational and national care levels, care delivery, active treatment, care for adolescents and young adults (AYA) with cancer, follow-up care, and patient representatives/parents.

For the Research part, the ClinicalTrials.gov database was searched to identify all European cancer clinical interventional studies that allowed inclusion of paediatric patients and adolescents (<18 years) and that started between 2010 and 2022. Only European trials (with open sites at ≥1 European countries) were included.

A quality review was performed by three investigators. The selected trials were subsequently reviewed by the SIOPE's European Clinical Trial Groups (ECTGs), which were asked to remove and/or propose additional trials if any were missing. All European results are published (details and link when available)

• References of the papers when available



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