

## **Answers for Belgium, provided by FOD VVVL Belgium**

### **Which are the NCCP priorities with regards to rare cancers?**

There is a specific action in the Belgian Cancer plan dedicated to rare cancers (Action 13). One of the primary objectives of this action was to determine the definition and threshold for rare cancers, and to develop recommendations for the National Health System with respect to rare cancers. A study was conducted by the Belgian Health Care Knowledge Centre, with recommendations for the organization of the healthcare system (<http://kce.fgov.be/publication/report/organisation-of-care-for-adults-with-rare-cancers-and-cancers-with-complex-diagno>).

The implementation of these recommendations is in preparation.

### **Where are rare cancer patients treated in Belgium?**

Belgium has a legal framework for oncology care programs in hospital (set of rules/criteria which must be fulfilled by the hospital to qualify for a recognition as an oncology care program).

### **How have these hospitals been identified? Did you use any criteria?**

The hospitals are identified according to general criteria for cancer care in oncology care programs.

Rare cancer patients are currently referred and treated according to the clinical and diagnostic assessment of medical doctors. The recommendations in the Belgian Health Care Knowledge Centre report will be examined and methods for implementation will be explored.