

REVOLUTIONISING THE MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTICS THE SITUATION IN BELGIUM

In Belgium, NGS testing is available, supported by adequate infrastructure. Reimbursement and cost are major issues they are facing. The EU has to invest in the health care system so that they can offer comprehensive testing to all cancer patients.

CORE PILLARS	Well Implemented	Implemented	Not Implemented	Clear Information Not Available
Infrastructure and tools	●	○	○	○
Molecular tumour boards and expertise	○	●	○	○
Reimbursement for NGS and liquid biopsy	○	○	●	○
Education/training /awareness	●	○	○	○
Governance	○	●	○	○
Healthcare workforce	○	○	●	○
Data sharing and linking	○	●	○	○

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TOOLS

CORRELATION AMONG DEPENDENT AND INDEPENDANT VARIABLE

INFRASTRUCTURE Funding	NGS centre	Equipments	Routine Utilization
BELGIUM	●	●	●
Italy	●	●	●
France	●	●	○
Germany	●	●	●

- 1-0,8 - Very High Positive
- 0,79-0,6 - High Positive Correlation
- 0,59-0,4 - Medium Positive Correlation

- 0,39-0,2 - Low Positive Correlation
- 0,19-0 - Very Low Positive Correlation

BELGIUM

Available

Not Available

NGS centre



Equipments



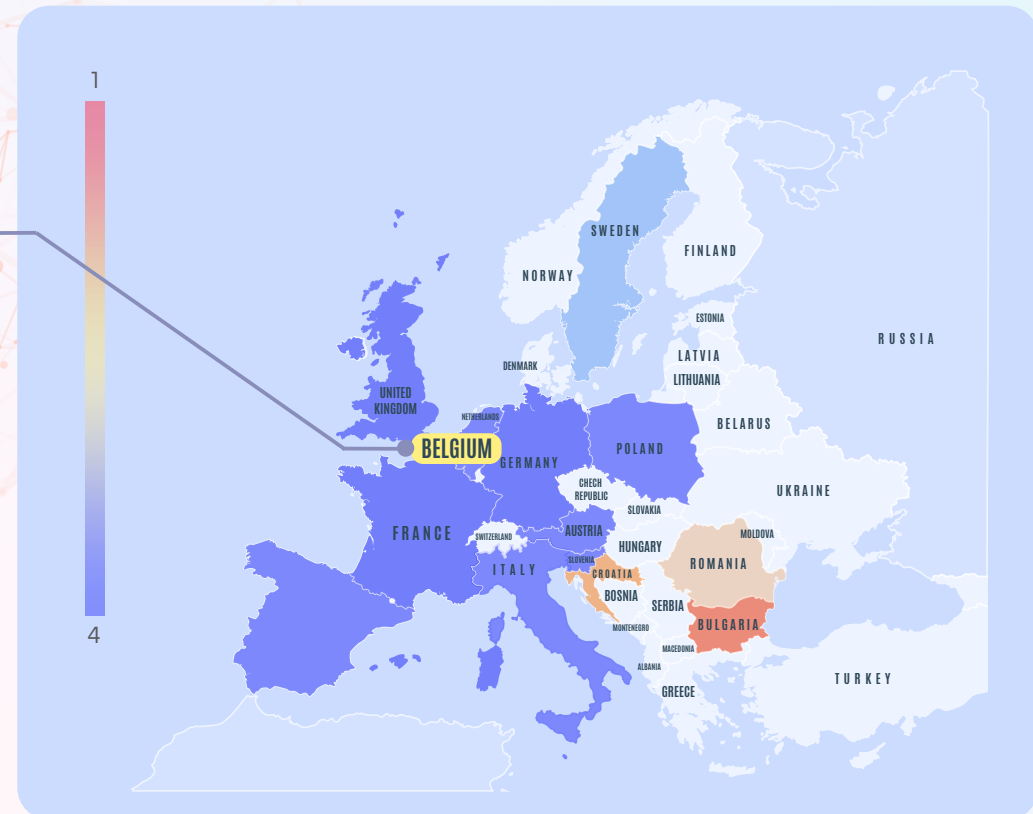
Funding



Routine utilization



In Belgium, NGS testing is available, supported by adequate infrastructure, funded appropriately, and routinely used which indicates a positive environment for the implementation and utilization of NGS technology in various aspects of healthcare and research within the country.



MOLECULAR TUMOUR BOARDS AND EXPERTISE

The analysis highlights the importance of access to a comprehensive cancer panel for accurate diagnosis and treatment planning in Belgium. The recurring consultation meetings demonstrate a commitment to addressing cancer-related issues, and the testing and discussion at mediocre levels help assess the healthcare system's capacity in managing cancer cases.

	MTB Panel	Consultation frequency	Testing/ Discussion
BELGIUM	●	●	●
Croatia	●	●	○
Spain	●	●	○
Italy	●	●	●
France	●	●	●
Germany	●	●	●
United Kindgom	○	○	○
Ireland	○	○	○
Slovenia	●	●	●
Poland	○	●	●
Sweden	○	●	○

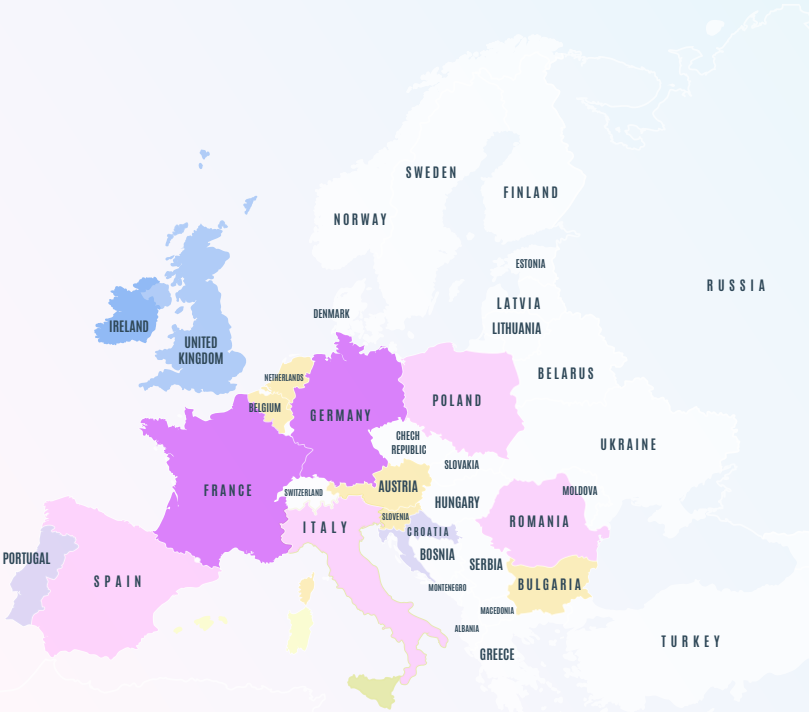
● Available
 ○ Not Available

● Very High
 ● High
 ● Medium
 ● Low
 ● Very Low

● High
 ● Medium
 ○ Low

MOLECULAR TUMOR MTB Panelboard	Consultation	Testing/Discussion
BELGIUM	●	●
Italy	●	●
France	●	●
Germany	●	●

- 1-0,8 - Very High Positive
 ● 0,79-0,6 - High Positive Correlation
 ● 0,59-0,4 - Medium Positive Correlation
- 0,39-0,2 - Low Positive Correlation
 ● 0,19-0 - Very Low Positive Correlation



REIMBURSEMENT FOR NGS AND LIQUID BIOPSY

Reimbursement and cost are major issues they are facing at the country level. Some cancer centers, in Belgium, do not have reimbursement issues. The EU has to invest in the health care system so that they can offer comprehensive testing to all cancer patients

CENTRES' CORRELATION	INDEPENDENT VARIABLE
DEPENDENT VARIABLE	Funding
Reimbursement for NGS	Very High Positive Correlation
Reimbursement for Liquid Biopsy	Very High Positive Correlation

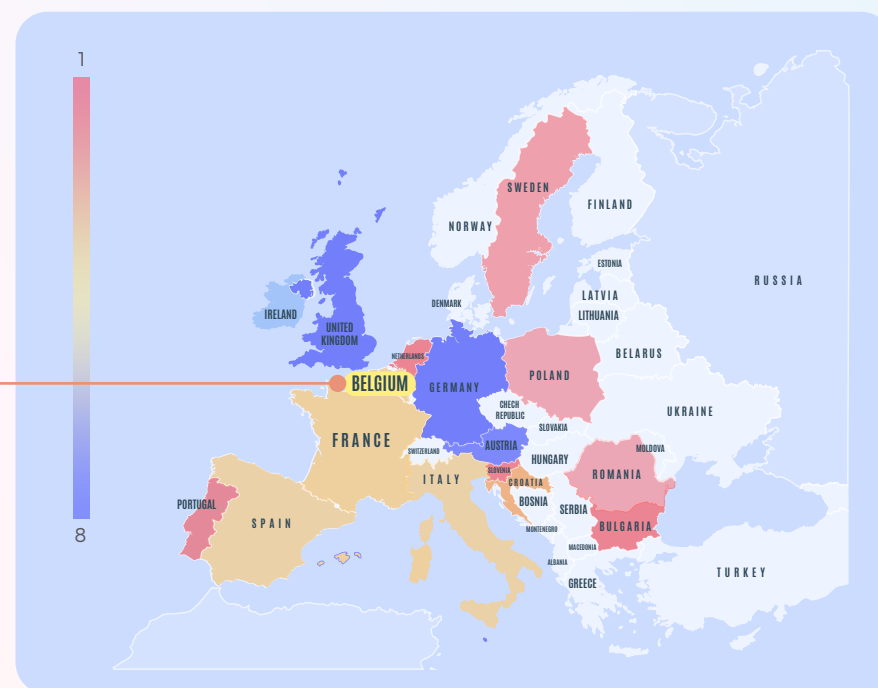


EDUCATION/TRAINING/AWARENESS

Belgium may face challenges related to the availability of a sufficient trained workforce or personnel in the field of cancer. However, there is a high level of understanding and awareness regarding NGS testing and its applications. The country also offers educational programmes and workshops to increase awareness and provide proper training for healthcare professionals and researchers in the field of cancer. These initiatives contribute to enhancing knowledge, skills, and ultimately the quality of cancer care in Belgium.

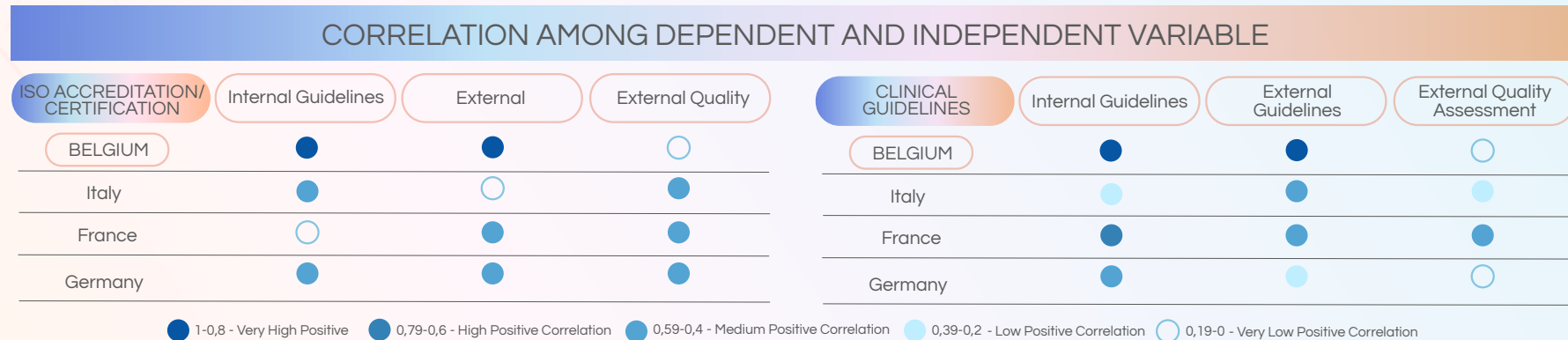
CORRELATION AMONG DEPENDENT AND INDEPENDENT VARIABLE				
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR PROPER TRAINING	BELGIUM	Italy	France	Germany
Trained Personnels	0,19-0 - Very Low Positive Correlation	0,59-0,4 - Medium Positive Correlation	0,79-0,6 - High Positive Correlation	0,59-0,4 - Medium Positive Correlation
Awarness/ Understanding	0,39-0,2 - Low Positive Correlation	0,59-0,4 - Medium Positive Correlation	0,79-0,6 - High Positive Correlation	0,39-0,2 - Low Positive Correlation
Educational Programmes/Workshops To Increase Awarness	0,79-0,6 - High Positive Correlation	0,79-0,6 - High Positive Correlation	0,79-0,6 - High Positive Correlation	0,79-0,6 - High Positive Correlation

- 1-0,8 - Very High Positive
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- 0,19-0 - Very Low Positive Correlation



GOVERNANCE

In Belgium, labs and institutions offering Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS) services can obtain ISO accreditation or certification, indicating compliance with international standards. Additionally, clinical guidelines for NGS are regularly updated to ensure healthcare professionals have access to the latest evidence-based recommendations. Both internal and external guidelines are used to guide NGS practices. However, the availability of external quality assessment specifically for NGS services is not mentioned, implying that there may be a lack of external mechanisms to assess the quality of NGS testing in Belgium.



	ISO Accreditation/ Certification	Clinical Guidelines	Internal Guidelines	External Guidelines	External Quality Assessment
BELGIUM	●	●	●	●	●
Croatia	●	●	●	●	●
Spain	●	●	●	●	●
Italy	●	●	●	●	●
France	●	●	●	●	●
Germany	●	●	●	●	●
United Kindgom	●	●	●	●	●
Ireland	●	●	●	●	●
Slovenia	●	●	●	●	●
Poland	●	●	●	●	●
Sweden	●	●	●	●	●

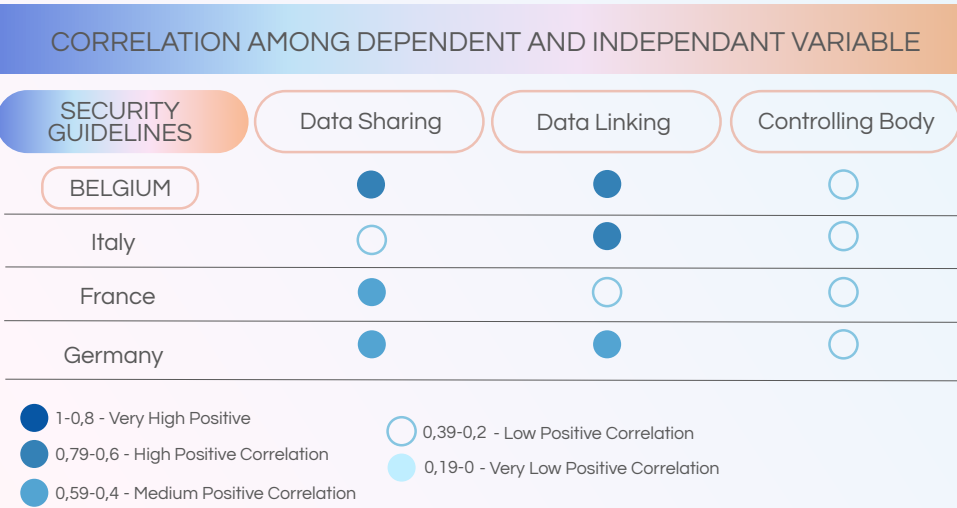
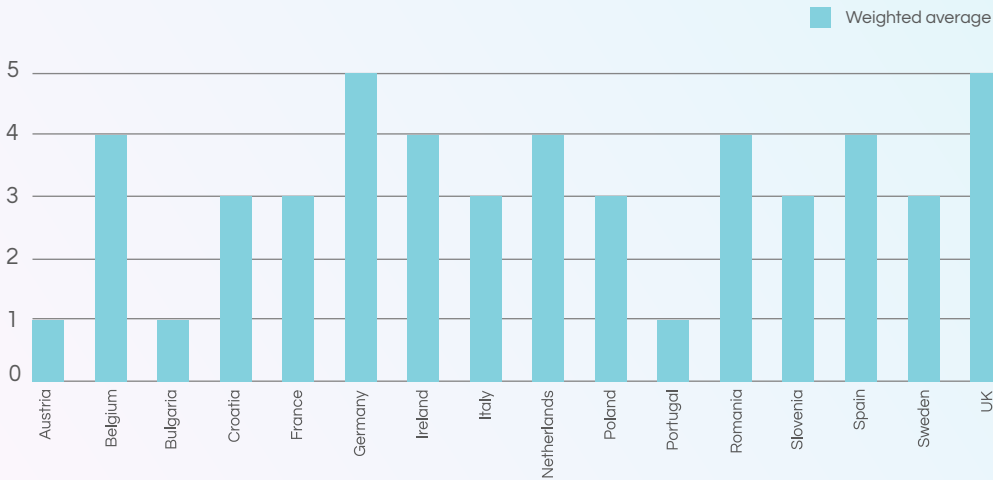
HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE

The data suggests that there may be a lack of availability of a sufficient healthcare workforce or personnel in Belgium. This implies that the country is facing challenges in terms of an inadequate number of healthcare professionals to meet the demands and needs of the healthcare system. The shortage of personnel can potentially impact the delivery of healthcare services, including cancer diagnosis, treatment, and management, and may require attention and strategies to address the workforce shortage and ensure adequate healthcare coverage for the population.



DATA SHARING AND LINKING

In Belgium, there is a supportive environment for data sharing, with routine sharing of data being available. The country has established mechanisms and policies to enable secure data sharing among stakeholders. Additionally, Belgium has a controlling body that oversees data sharing activities, ensuring compliance with privacy and security guidelines. However, data linking to Electronic Health Records may not be readily available or widely implemented.





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