

Title: “Raising funds for cancer registration: A proposal for and from Greece”	
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Abstract text (limit: 250 words): <p>During the last twenty years, cancer registration in Greece failed twice. As a result, data on incidence, prevalence and survival from cancer are not available. One of the main reasons of this failure was due to the limited financial support from the State. Since the development and operation of a modern Cancer Registry requires adequate resources, its financing should be ensured in advance.</p> <p>In Greece as well as in other countries of the European Union, tobacco excise taxation is rationalized on public health grounds but it is unknown how much of these huge revenues are invested in the public health sector.</p> <p>More than 40% of adult population are smokers in Greece whereas cigarette sales represented 35bn pieces in 2005 (about 1.75bn packs).</p> <p>On the other hand Tobacco Excise Tax Revenue totaled about €2.22bn a figure which corresponds to about 27% of General Government Expenditure on Health.</p> <p>Only €0.01 per cigarettes pack (i.e. €17.5m) might be more than enough to subsidize the Cancer Registry (rough annual estimate in current prices ~€6.0m required) as well as cancer research projects and other infrastructure investments in public health and health information sectors.</p> <p><u>Conclusion:</u> Earmarking tobacco tax revenues for cancer registration as well as for other actions to fight cancer is a fair and realistic approach to ensure the financial requirements for the development and operation of the Cancer Registry in Greece and might be a good idea to be implemented in other European countries as well.</p>	
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