

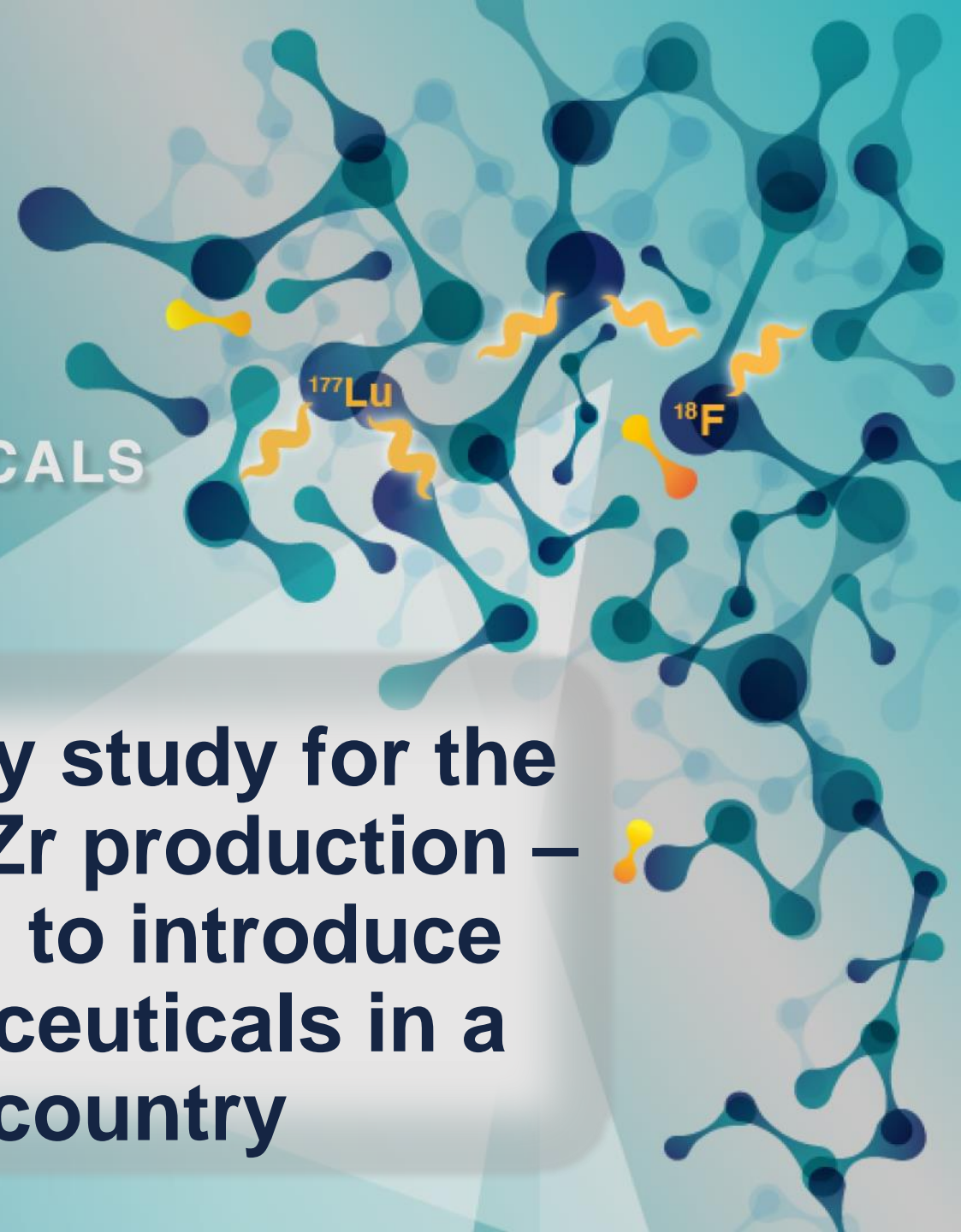
# INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON TRENDS IN RADIOPHARMACEUTICALS

#ISTR2023

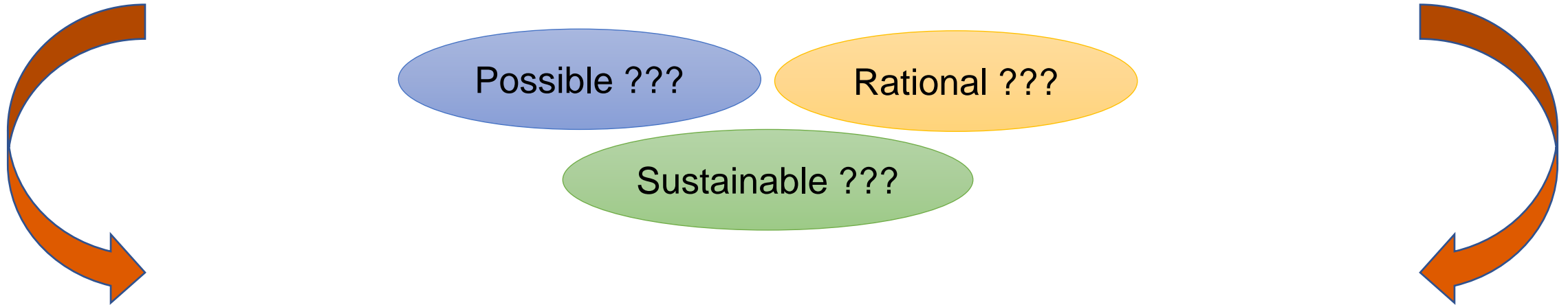
IAEA Headquarters, Austria

17 – 21 April 2023

**Design of feasibility study for the  
establishment of  $^{89}\text{Zr}$  production –  
tailored approach to introduce  
new radiopharmaceuticals in a  
developing country**



Establishing radiopharmaceutical production in a developing country is challenging, mainly in the economical aspect.



***A feasibility study*** provides an objective insight into many aspects of the feasibility of the idea of introducing new radiopharmaceutical.



## North Macedonia



- Developing country in Southeastern Europe
- Centralized production – 1 facility for the production of PET radioisotopes and radiopharmaceuticals (University Institute of PET)

**Feasibility study for the establishment of production of zirconium-89 radioisotope and implementation of  $^{89}\text{Zr}$ -radiopharmaceuticals in clinical practice**

- Ongoing study

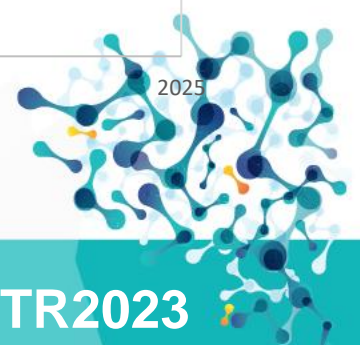
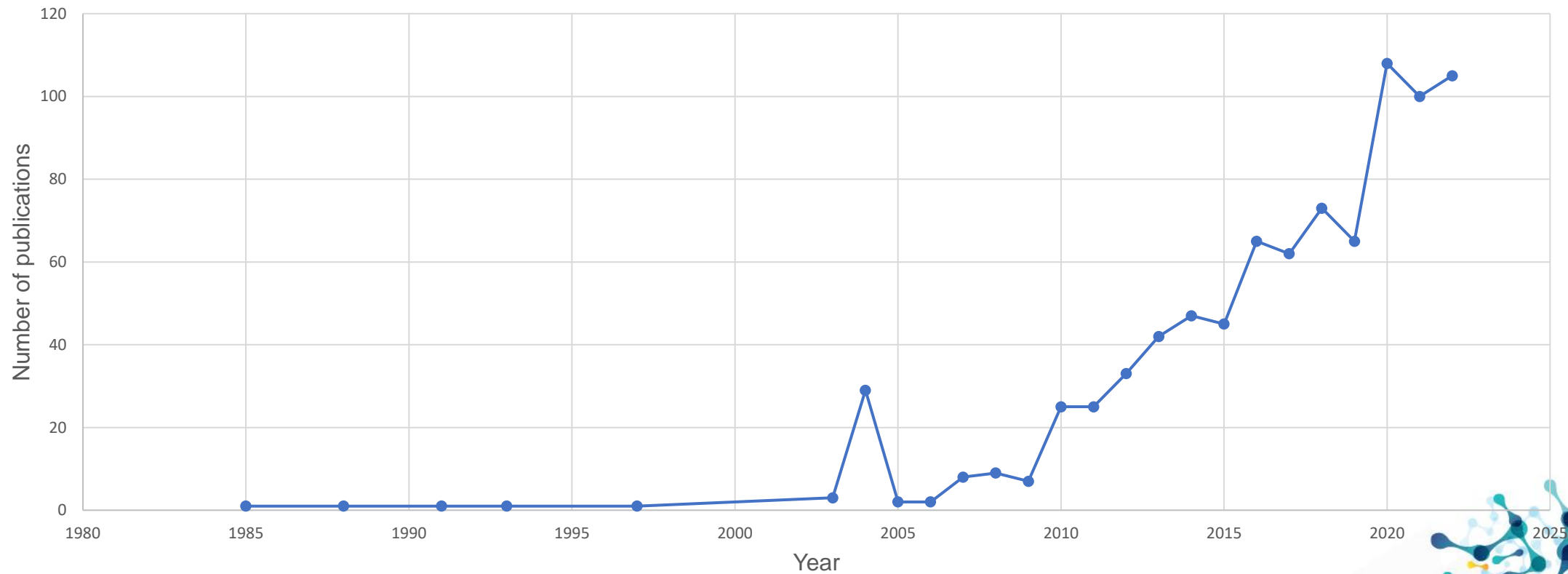


# ZIRCONIUM-89

## – EMERGING PET RADIOMETAL

Search:  $^{89}\text{Zr}$

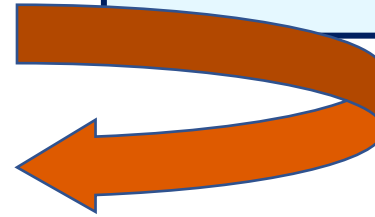
Publications in *PubMed* per year



# Zirconium-89

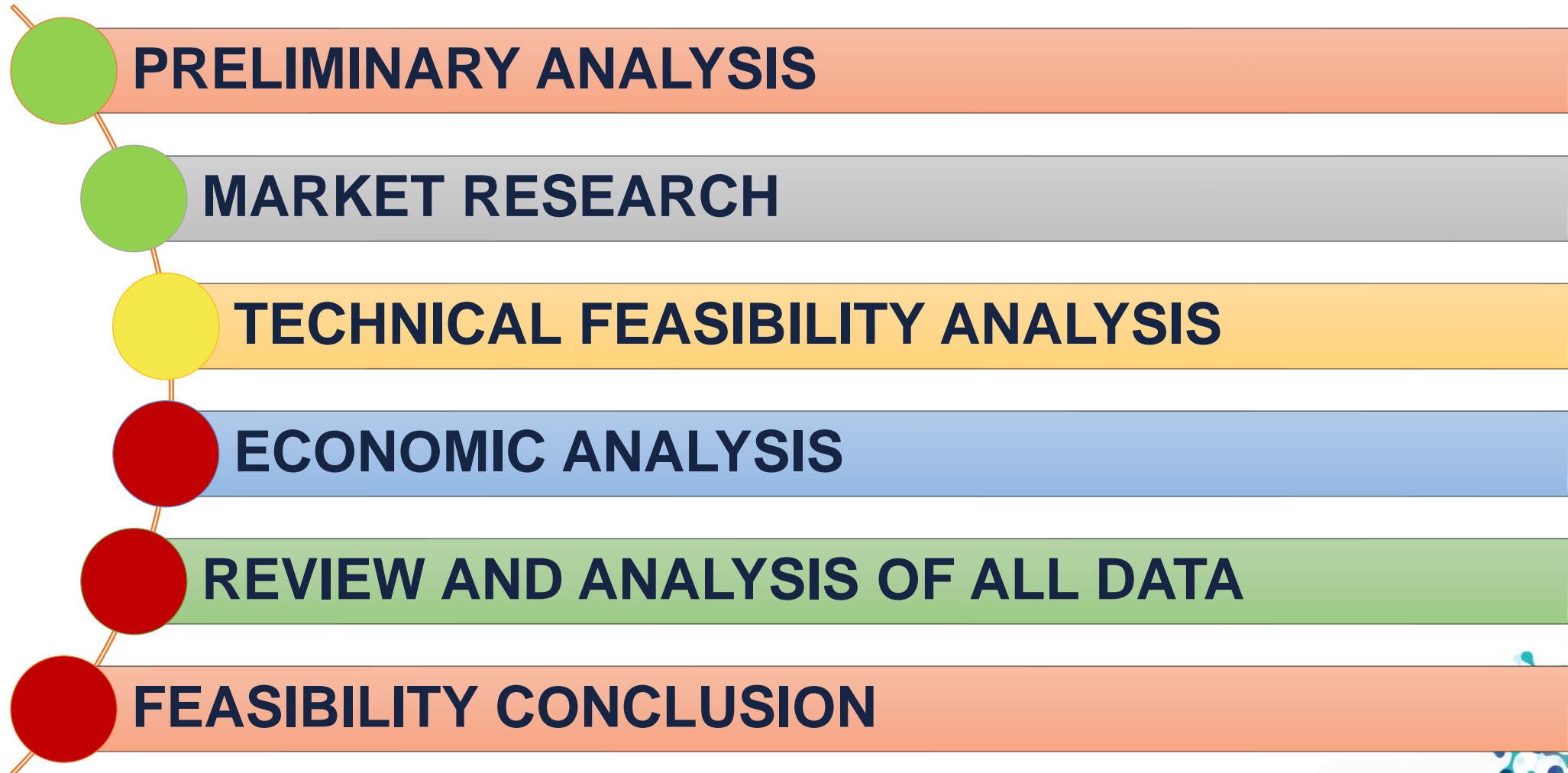
- Half-life 78.4 h
- Immuno-PET radionuclide
- Labelling of antibodies, nanoparticles, proteins, peptides, and cells

Zirconium-89 half-life of 78.4 h corresponds to the biological half-life of monoclonal antibodies.





# DESIGN OF FEASIBILITY STUDY



1

# PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS

**Objective:** To assess whether the clinical application of  $^{89}\text{Zr}$ -radiopharmaceuticals in the country is possible and justified.

1-1

Review of statistical data regarding malignant diseases in North Macedonia (frequency and mortality)

- Reference databases: international (Global Cancer Observatory) and domestic (Mortality Register and Cancer Register of Institute of Public Health)

1-2

Review of clinical applications data of  $^{89}\text{Zr}$ -radiopharmaceuticals

- Reference database for clinical trials (ClinicalTrials.gov)



Neoplasms (C00-D48) are the ***second leading cause of death*** in Macedonia, after circulatory system diseases.

Deaths in 2020 due to malignant diseases	
1 – 64 years	> 64 years
24.25 %	12.68 %

*Mortality Register, Institute of Public Health, 2021*

2011-2020  
The most common cause of death  
from malignant neoplasms:

average mortality rate in both sexes  
180 per 100,000 population

**Males: bronchi and lungs cancer**

average mortality rate 63.9 per 100,000 men

**Females: breast cancer**

average mortality rate 29.07 per 100,000 women

*Cancer Register, Institute of Public Health, 2021*





# 10 most common primary cancer sites (N.Macedonia), 2011 - 2020

Total

Males

Females

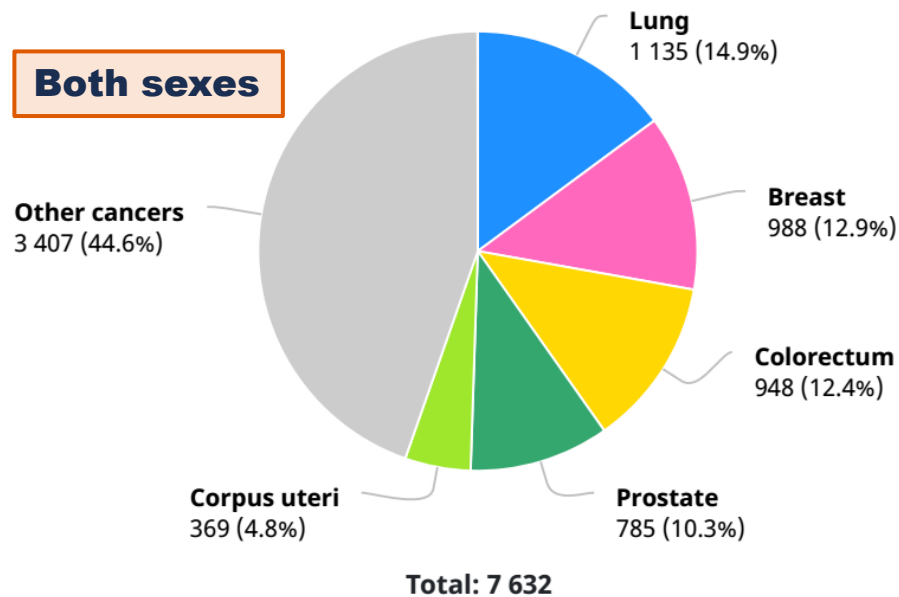
Code	Primary sites	%	Code	Primary sites	%	Code	Primary sites	%
C34	Bronchus and lung	13.12	C34	Bronchus and lung	18.80	C50	Breast	25.29
C50	Breast	11.59	C61	Prostate	9.77	C44	Other of skin	7.38
C44	Other of skin	8.22	C44	Other of skin	8.90	C54	Corpus uteri	7.30
C18	Colon	6.10	C16	Stomach	7.50	C34	Bronchus and lung	6.16
C16	Stomach	6.06	C18	Colon	6.50	C18	Colon	5.61
C61	Prostate	5.38	C67	Bladder	5.67	C53	Cervix uteri	5.16
C22	Liver and intrahepatic bile ducts	4.20	C22	Liver and intrahepatic bile ducts	5.08	C16	Stomach	4.30
C20	Rectum	4.00	C20	Rectum	4.38	C56	Ovary	3.83
C67	Bladder	3.93	C32	Larynx	3.85	C20	Rectum	3.53
C54	Corpus uteri	3.28	C25	Pancreas	3.10	C22	Liver and intrahepatic bile ducts	3.11
	Other	34.13		Other	26.44		Other	28.33



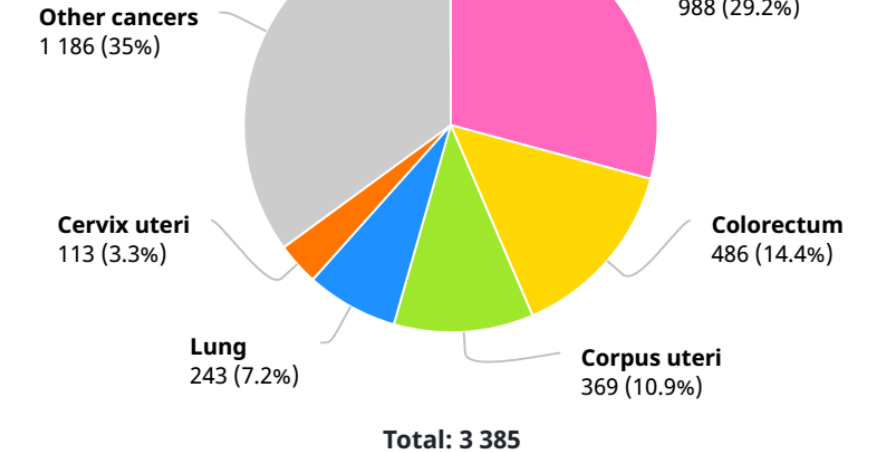
## Number of new cases in 2020

Global Cancer Observatory, 2021

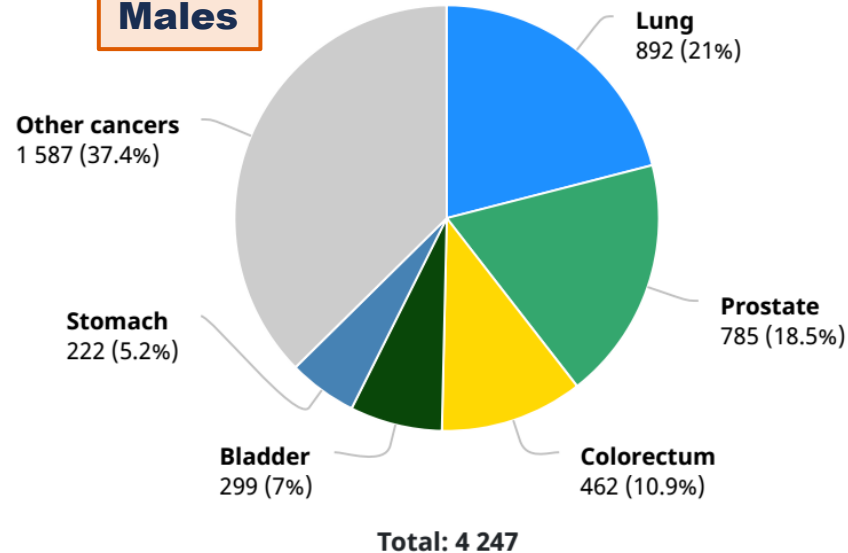
### Both sexes



### Females



### Males



- **Clinical trials in total** (until 09.05.2021): 93
- **Status - completed, terminated, unknown:** 48
- **Countries:** Netherlands – 28, USA – 16, Belgium – 2, China – 2, Australia – 1, Sweden – 1, Denmark – 1, Korea – 1, France – 1, Spain – 1
- **Radiopharmaceuticals:**  $^{89}\text{Zr}$ -bevacizumab (9),  $^{89}\text{Zr}$ -trastuzumab (6),  $^{89}\text{Zr}$ -Df-IAB2M (3),  $^{89}\text{Zr}$ -Cetuximab (3),  $^{89}\text{Zr}$ -Pembrolizumab (2),  $^{89}\text{Zr}$ -J591 (2),  $^{89}\text{Zr}$ -panitumumab (2),  $^{89}\text{Zr}$ -Girentuximab (2),  $^{89}\text{Zr}$ -DFO-pertuzumab (2),  $^{89}\text{Zr}$ -Df-IAB22M2C,  $^{89}\text{Zr}$ -KN035,  $^{89}\text{Zr}$ -MMOT0530A,  $^{89}\text{Zr}$ -AMG211,  $^{89}\text{Zr}$ -ABT806,  $^{89}\text{Zr}$ -daratumumab,  $^{89}\text{Zr}$ -Cripec Docetaxel,  $^{89}\text{Zr}$ -GC1008,  $^{89}\text{Zr}$ -durvalumab,  $^{89}\text{Zr}$ -GSK3128349,  $^{89}\text{Zr}$ -GSK2849330,  $^{89}\text{Zr}$ -BI 754111,  $^{89}\text{Zr}$ -GSK2398852,  $^{89}\text{Zr}$ -RO5429083,  $^{89}\text{Zr}$ -TAK-164,  $^{89}\text{Zr}$ -nanocoll,  $^{89}\text{Zr}$ -DS-8895a,  $^{89}\text{Zr}$ -RO5479599



## 2

# MARKET RESEARCH

**Objective:** To define the geographical impact of the market.

2-1

Distribution of medical cyclotrons in Europe

IAEA Cyclotron Distribution Database

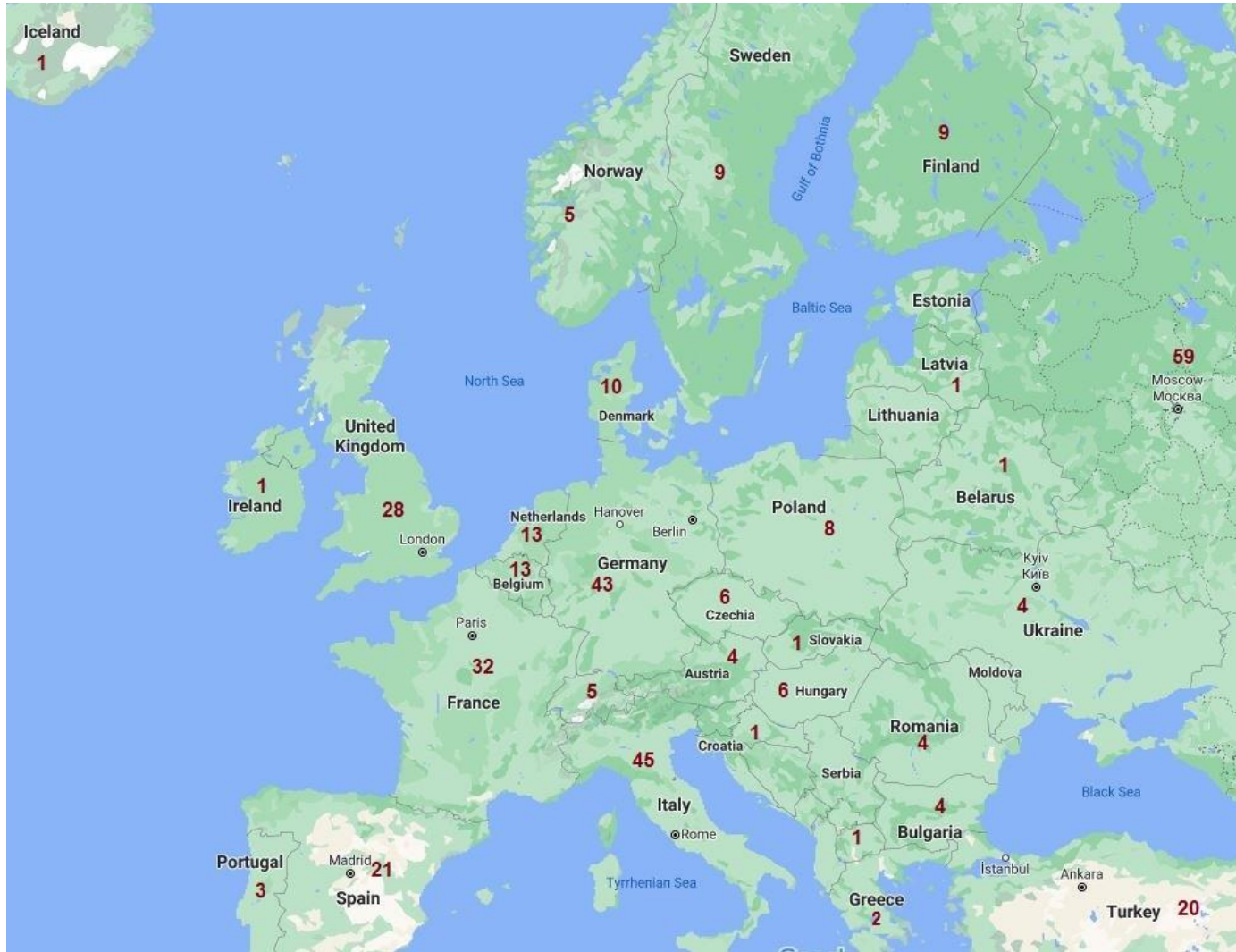
2-2

Zirconium-89 production sites in Europe

Literary search



# Distribution of medical cyclotrons in Europe



Worldwide:  
1266

Europe + Turkey +  
Russian Federation  
(including its Asian part):  
356

<https://nucleus.iaea.org/sites/accelerators/Pages/Cyclotron.aspx> (December 2022)





2-2

## Zirconium-89 production sites in Europe

Netherlands (GMP compliant production of  $^{89}\text{Zr}$  for the research community)

Germany

France

Turkey

Italy

Romania

United Kingdom

Belgium

Poland

Portugal

Russia

No zirconium-89 production on the Balkan Peninsula





## 3

## TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY ANALYSIS

↳ Ongoing

– Analysis of the technical capacities of the production site (University Institute of Positron Emission Tomography) in terms of space and equipment necessary for the realisation of the production of zirconium-89 radioisotope and  $^{89}\text{Zr}$ -radiopharmaceuticals.

**Objective:** To determine what type of additional equipment/apparatus is required.



# 3

## TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY ANALYSIS

### Zirconium-89 radioisotope

Production mode: cyclotron



*UI PET technical capacities:*

→ 3 production and 2 QC laboratories

Cyclotron PETtrace 860  
- Beam energy 16.5 MeV  
- Maximum current 100 uA on dual beam  
- Possibility for the additional embedding of solid targets



3

# TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY ANALYSIS

## Zirconium-89 radioisotope

Production mode: cyclotron



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## 4

## ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

### Economic feasibility assessment

1. *Financial analysis*

2. *Pharmacoeconomic analysis*

## 4-1

## FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

*Methodology:* Defining and calculating the costs (direct and indirect)  
- data from literature search and from UI PET (production process simulation).

**Objective:** To determine the initial investment for the establishment of zirconium-89 radioisotope production; financial investments (costs) in the process of production of zirconium-89 radioisotope and  $^{89}\text{Zr}$ -radiopharmaceuticals as well as the price of the product (radioisotope and radiopharmaceutical products).



# 4

## ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

### 4-2

## PHARMACOECONOMIC ANALYSIS

*Methodology: **Cost-effectiveness analysis***

**Objective:** To assess the justification for the implementation of  $^{89}\text{Zr}$ -radiopharmaceuticals in clinical practice.

Subject of the pharmacoeconomic analysis –  **$^{89}\text{Zr}$ -trastuzumab.**

Selection on the basis of the results of ***the preliminary analysis***:

→  $^{89}\text{Zr}$ -trastuzumab is one of the most common  $^{89}\text{Zr}$ -radiopharmaceuticals in clinical trials;

→ on the national level, breast cancer is the most common malignancy and the most common cause of death from cancers in the female population.





4

## ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

4-2

### PHARMACOECONOMIC ANALYSIS

#### <sup>89</sup>Zr-trastuzumab

Visualisation and quantification of HER2 status



An individualised approach to breast cancer management





5

## REVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF ALL DATA

*Evaluation of data*



Factors

Circumstances

Opportunities

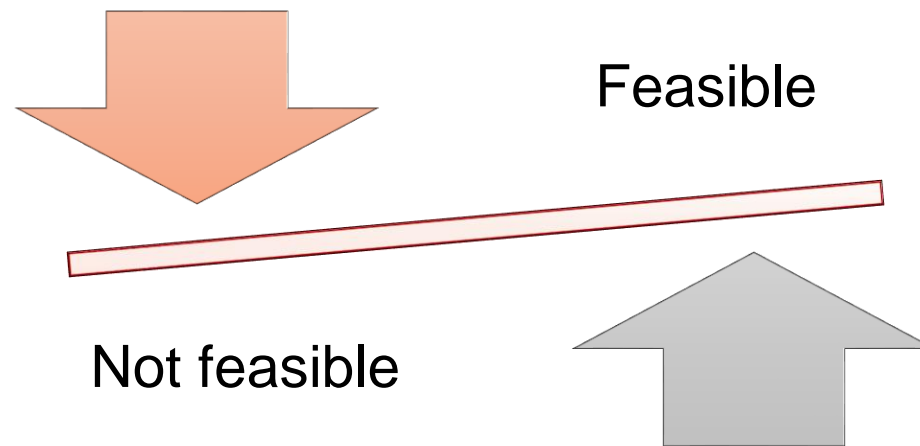
Limitations

Risks

Benefits



**Decision** on whether the process of establishing the production of zirconium-89 radioisotope and  $^{89}\text{Zr}$ -radiopharmaceuticals at the University Institute of Positron Emission Tomography is feasible.



# Imperative - to expand the possibilities in terms of cancer management and research development in North Macedonia

“Invention is the most important product of man's creative brain. The ultimate purpose is the complete mastery of mind over the material world, the harnessing of human nature to human needs.”

*Nikola Tesla*

“Regardless of the beauty of the science involved in the development of the radiotracer, the ultimate goal is not the science, but the ability to improve the quality of life.”

*Prof. Susan Z. Lever*



# THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

**University Institute of PET  
Skopje, North Macedonia**



**Design of feasibility study for the establishment of  $^{89}\text{Zr}$  production – tailored approach to introduce new radiopharmaceuticals in a developing country**

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