

Time is running out for Europe's scanners

European Coordination Committee of the Radiological, Electromedical and Healthcare IT Industry
Nicole Denjoy, Secretary General, COCIR; Contact: denjoy@cocir.org

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Age Profile - The COCIR 'Golden Rules'

1) At least 60% of the installed equipment base should not be older than 5 years

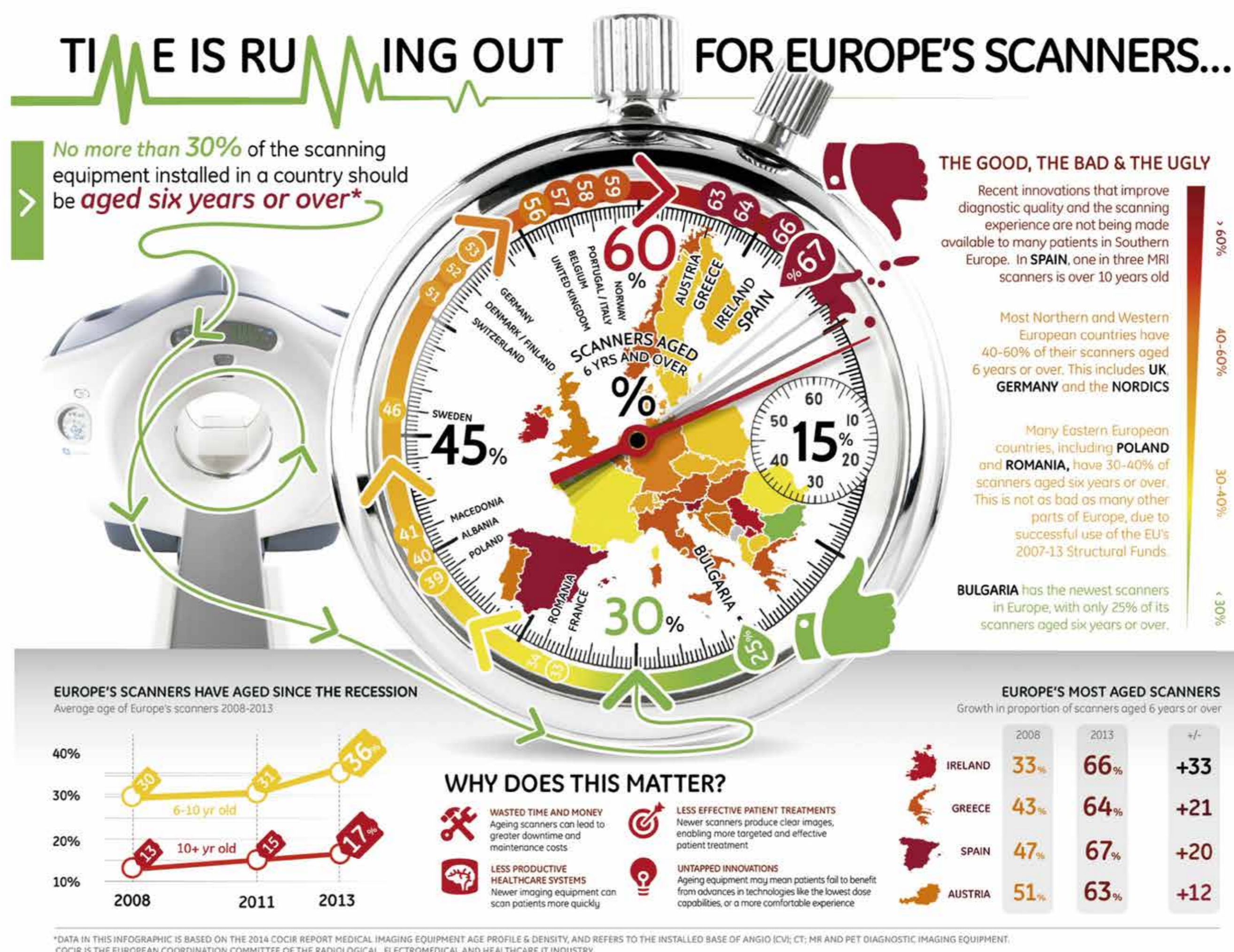
Medical technology life-cycle averages suggest equipment that is up to 5 years old adequately reflects the current state of technology and offers opportunities for economically reasonable upgrade measures

2) Not more than 30% should be between 6 - 10 years old

Medical technology which is between 6 - 10 years old is still fit for use, but already requires replacement strategies to be developed in order for systems to benefit from efficiency gains afforded by current technologies

3) Not more than 10% of the age profile should be older than 10 years

Medical technology older than 10 years is outdated, difficult to maintain and repair, and may be considered obsolete and inadequate for conducting some procedures when compared with current medical guidelines and best practices; replacement is essential



COCIR Installed-base figures reveal

- » Dramatic inequality in access to healthcare across Europe
- » Oldest recorded installed-base in many countries
- » Growth in use of technologies more than 10 years old
- » Overall slowing in uptake of technologies that enable better access & quality
- » Some countries still not addressing lack of MR and PET

Age Profile: COCIR Recommendations

- » COCIR urges healthcare stakeholders to put greater emphasis on a sustainable age profile of medical imaging equipment.
- » The installed base within some countries is the oldest ever recorded, and in a number of cases COCIR is concerned that equipment is in danger of becoming technically obsolete with consequences on hospital efficiency and costs, plus clinical effectiveness and in some instances patient safety.
- » More attention should be given to early and consistent investment strategies.
- » COCIR calls on EU institutions and Member States to further support a comprehensive, coherent and sustained investment and deployment strategy for all medical imaging equipment modalities and related healthcare ICT equipment and services, through an effective use of cohesion policy funding.
- » If the current trend is not addressed, European healthcare systems will continue to struggle to meet the challenges generated by the ageing of its populations and workforces.

