

The EFNMS Health, Safety & Environmental Committee on carcinogens

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On May 10, the European Health, Safety & Environmental Committee (EHSEC) met in Paris for the semesterly proceedings regarding the promotion of HSE issues among its members. As of 2011, EFNMS is actively supporting the European Organization’s Occupational Health & Safety Administration (EU-OSHA) efforts by participating as a partner in the promotion of the biannual thematic Campaigns. The 2017-2019 Campaign was dedicated to the safe management of dangerous substances. At the same time, the stress was exercised on the issue of cancer an emerging risk throughout the developed countries hence in the EU as well. The country that was elected to head the Campaign was the Netherlands whose focal point is TNO the Netherlands Organization for applied scientific research.

Therefore, in the epicenter of this meeting was the way EHSEC could contribute in this effort. One of the distinguished guests that honored EHSEC with his participation was Jos de Lange, Senior Consultant and Focal Point Manager of the Organization. Mr De Lange addressed EFNMS’ members through EHSEC “AN INVITATION TO GET INVOLVED” in this pan European effort to face this serious emerging risk.

The facts are quite alarming: In Europe each year 100.000 people die because of work related cancer caused by carcinogenic substances

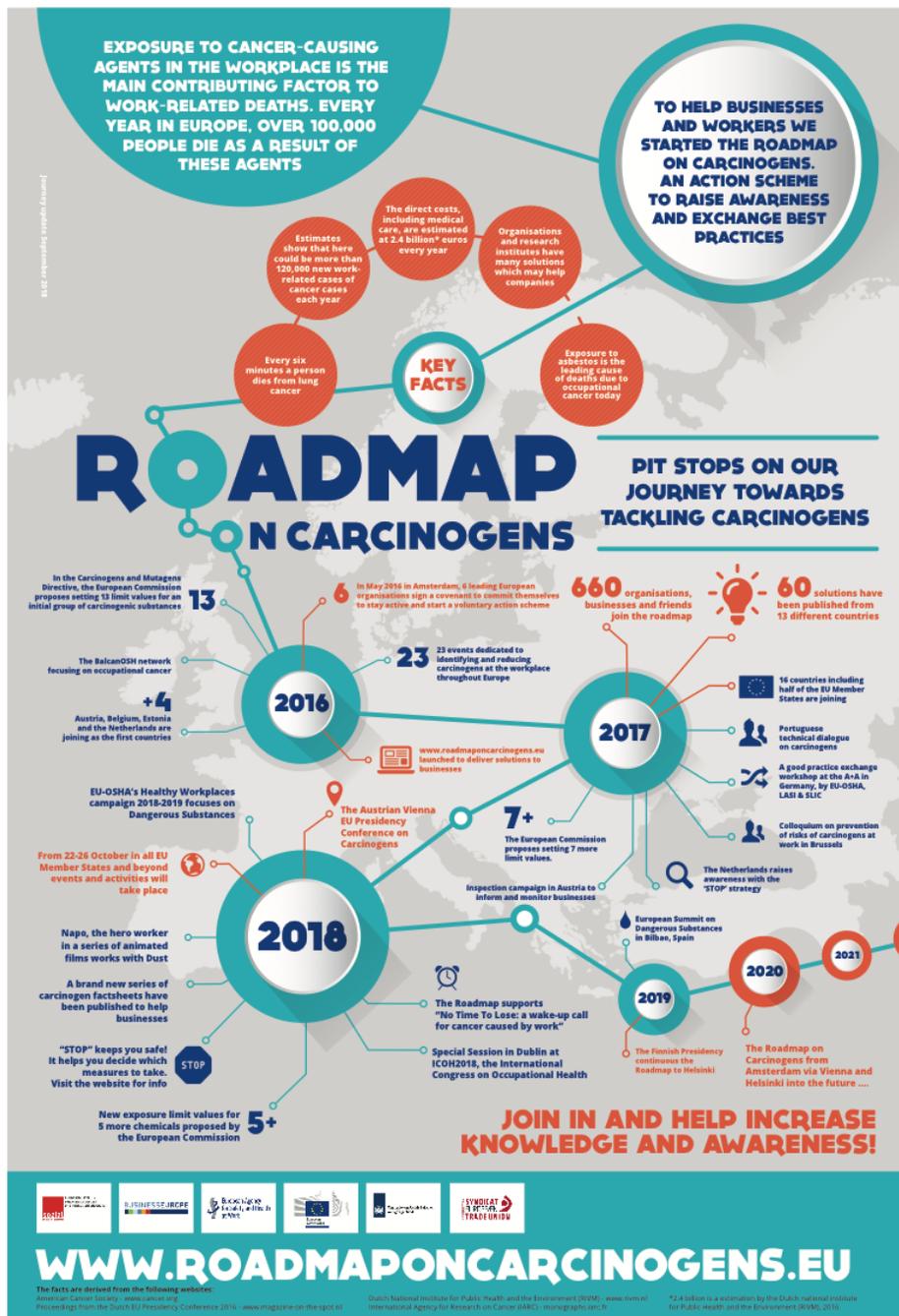
- 7-12 deaths every hour
- 10-12 new cases every hour

The latest (2017) ILO figures were presented adopted from a research by J.Takala as shown below:

Table 1 Rough division of occupational cancer by EU28 member states and subterritories within the EU in 2011 **And new ILO data released in 2017**

Country	Occupational cancer deaths	Country	Occupational cancer deaths	GB in
Andorra	17	Italy	11,057	10609
Austria	1896	Jersey	23	23
Belgium	2098	Latvia	510	491
Bulgaria	1481	Lithuania	710	694
Croatia	849	Luxembourg	110	98
Cyprus	183	Malta	80	75
Czech Republic	2326	Monaco	23	21
Denmark	1285	Netherlands	3879	3721
Estonia	303	Poland	7874	7501
Finland	1163	Portugal	2457	2371
France	12,623	Romania	4498	4233
Germany	18,180	San Marino	10	0
Gibraltar	5	Slovakia	1211	1150
Greece	1678	Slovenia	446	442
Greenland	13	Spain	10,248	9807
Guernsey	13	Sweden	2201	2103
Hungary	1860	United Kingdom	14,082	13330
Ireland	968			
Isle of Man	18			
		Total EU	106,307	102,517

Mr De Lange also presented the European strategy on facing this issue as it can be found at <https://roadmaponcarninogens.eu/>. In an episode of 'Real Economy', Euronews published the video 'Occupational cancer – how to minimise risks'. In this video, we discover the economical impact of work-related ill-health and injury. We see which measures are taken by a Croatian lumber factory and EU-OSHA director Christa Sedlatschek shares the measures taken by the EU as one can watch at <https://roadmaponcarninogens.eu/euronews-video-on-occupational-cancer-how-to-minimise-risks/>.



THE STRATEGY

The strategy is a journey through Europe towards tackling carcinogens by raising awareness and offering help to business and workers to comply by:

1. Building a community of friends
2. Engage stakeholders by organising and attending events
3. Delivering facts & figures
4. Collect and publish solutions

However, even the best strategy needs our help. How can the rest of us contribute to this effort? Well at first watch this promotional video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=37&v=wRul-HfRD4, and JOIN IN to participate! The site offers a variety of assistance in promoting knowledge like:

SOLUTIONS

A broad spectrum of:

- Solutions
- Good Practices
- Cases of ‘what’s been done’ to prevent exposure to carcinogens

To inspire others, to show that it is possible to act!

DUST FREE WORKING TOOLS

Currently 75 published (and more to come) – Date May 2019

- Fine particulate matter is harmful to health, particularly when it contains carcinogens like respirable crystalline silica (RCS), hardwood, chromium and nickel
- Almost 200 “dust free”-tools have been validated

RAISING AWARENESS TECHNIQUES

The roadmap also promotes the STOP hierarchy of controls principle which tells you in what order to take measures. Companies need to understand that just a mouth cap or a glove is completely inadequate. Companies need to take better measures to prevent and reduce exposure. STOP stands for:

- Substitution
- Technical measures
- Organisational measures
- Personal protection

Factsheets make briefly clear

- What the problem is,
- Where risks occur,
- How symptoms can affect you,

- What you can do

Up until now 18 factsheets were developed, for instance: acrylamide, benzene, chromiumVI, diesel engine exhaust, hardwood dust, silica dust and welding fumes ... Several language versions are available. If the factsheets is not yet available in your language please contact your national Focal Point.

10 more factsheets will be published mid-2019. These factsheets are focused on a general approach to manage carcinogens at the workplace, as an addition to the substance-focused factsheets.

THE CHALLENGE

To gain further results the Roadmap on Carcinogens needs

- Your innovative ideas,
- Your solutions,
- Your network!

So, let us all contribute in the common effort:

Join in: become friend of the roadmap, get connected and stay up to date

Get active: organize and add your events or activities and be inspired by others

Help each other: share your solutions or good practices

As the proverb attributed to Goethe has it:

“Instead of just cursing the dark, light a candle ...”