

# Estimating the occupational cancer burden

Where we are, where we want to go  
and what we need  
and yes we can do it

# First

- We need a clear definition of our aims
  - Do we want to prioritize agents, industries, jobs for risk management measures
  - Do we want to get precise estimates of the cancer burden due to occupational exposure to carcinogens
  - Do we want a picture of the (vulnerable) groups at risk (migrant workers, outsourcing, forgotten exposures and forgotten exposed individuals)

# Second

- The tools for estimating the burden have been developed in Europe and can be utilized at EU level
  - e.g. UK, France and Finland
- Input data is around but hard to collate
  - e.g. getting detailed labour statistics out of EUROSTAT is almost impossible
  - Exposure measurement data is abundant for most important carcinogens (except maybe for solar radiation and shift work) who btw predominantly are not covered by REACH
  - Getting figures for prevalence of exposure will be the hardest part

# Third

- CAREX is outdated (1990-1993) and not detailed enough
- CAREX II is clearly needed
  - New features (other than prevalence of exposure by industry)
  - Prevalence broken down by exposure intensity
  - Prevalence by gender
  - Information on temporal trends in exposure intensity and prevalence

# Fourth

- General population surveys (among cancer cases or in general) are needed to validate the CAREX II estimates of prevalence of exposures
- But more importantly to get a picture of the forgotten workers and exposures (e.g. the populations never studied but performing the outsourced hazardous tasks)

# Fifth

- We will need more (better) epidemiological studies providing quantitative exposure-response curves (with better resolution at the lower exposure side)

# Six

- We're ready to do it
- We just need a detailed plan with well defined aims
- And funding (of course)