

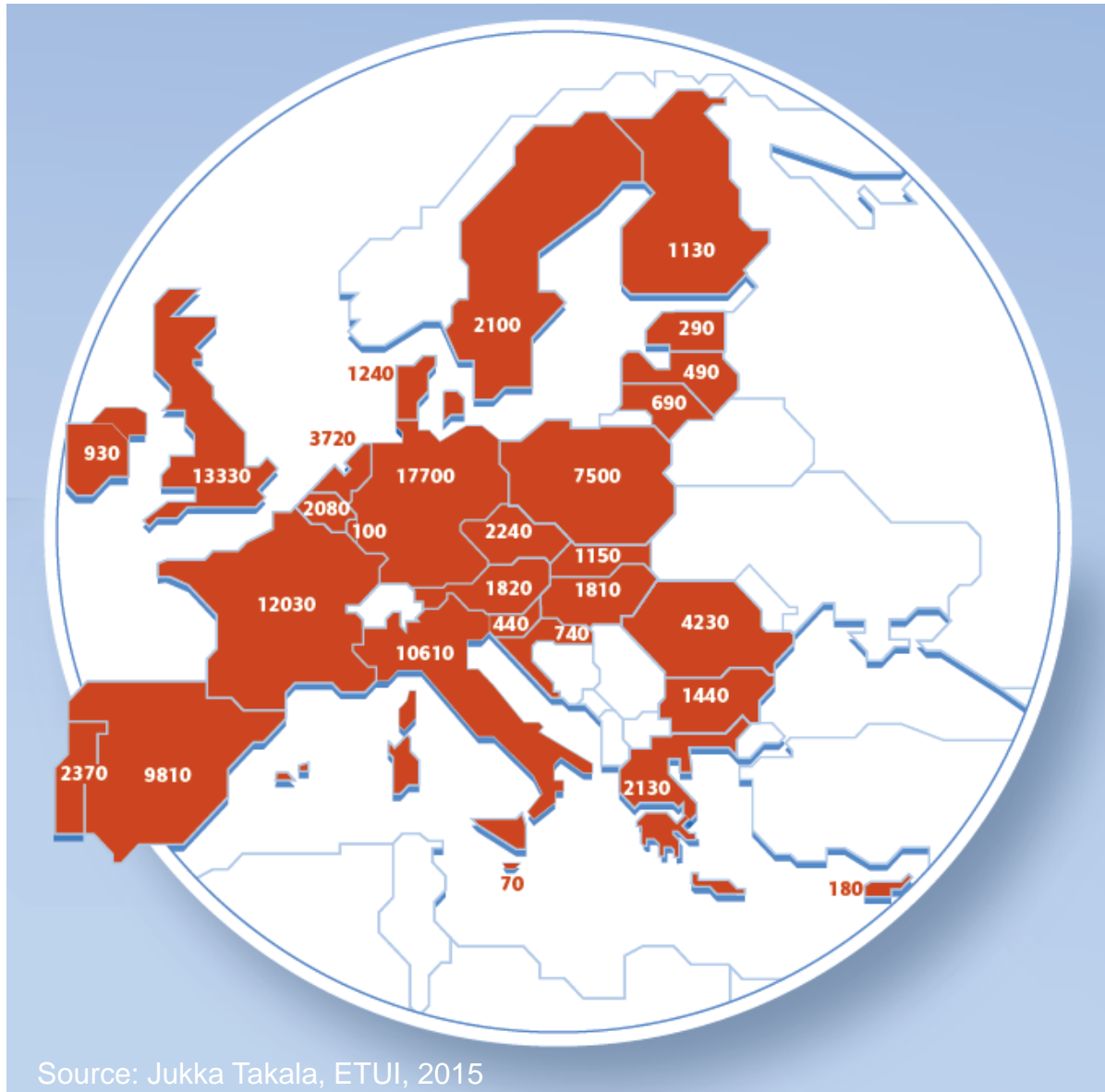
# 10 facts you should know about occupational cancers

Tony Musu, European Trade Union Institute  
Work & Cancer conference  
Brussels, 14-15 November 2017

Cancer is the first cause of death at work in the EU

over 100 000 deaths/year !

# Distribution of occupational cancer deaths/year in the EU-28



Source: Jukka Takala, ETUI, 2015

Occupational cancers  
are invisible

Women's occupational  
cancers are even more  
invisible

# Work-related cancers cause social inequalities in health

Workers are more exposed to carcinogens  
than white-collar workers !

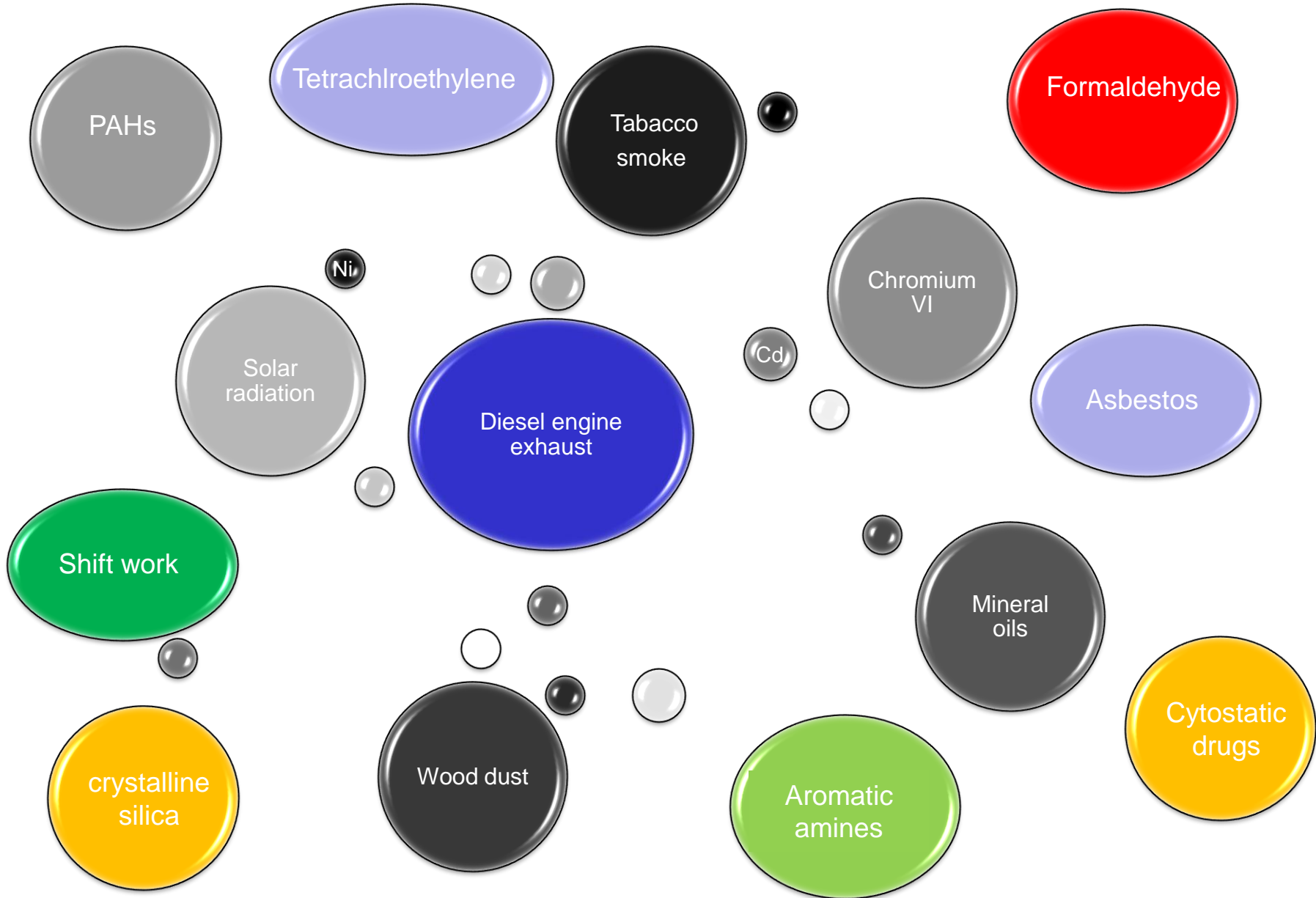
The societal cost of work-related cancers is tremendous

1,8% - 4,1% of the EU-28 GDP !

For many carcinogens  
we knew and we acted  
too late



Over 80% of exposure  
are caused by 50  
carcinogenic agents



We have EU and national legislations to tackle work-related cancers....

....but they need to be continuously improved

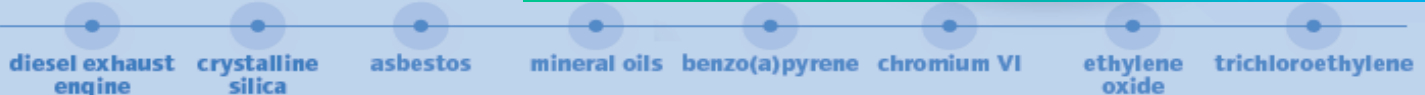
## Stop cancer at work

**53%** of all work-related deaths are caused by occupational cancer.



**THESE DEATHS ARE PREVENTABLE**

Some of the main carcinogens causing work cancers



**50** carcinogens account for more than **80%** of all exposure at work.

**5** The current number of binding occupational exposure limit values (OELs) adopted at EU level.



OELs are minimum levels of protection against hazardous substances in the workplace.

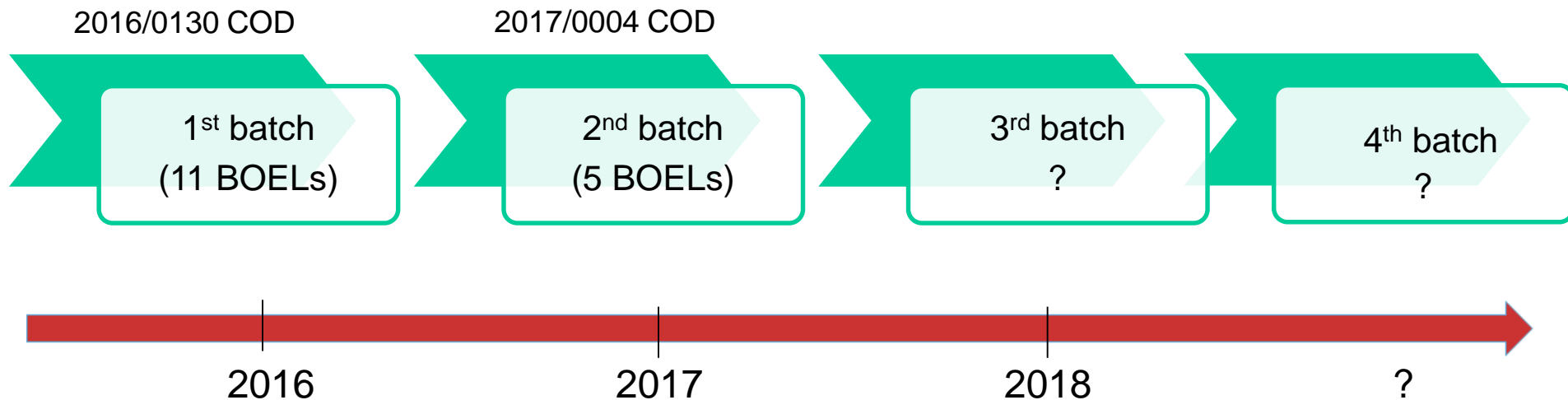
There are large differences in the level of protection of workers across the EU. Every country has its own number of OELs, and often different levels for the same substance.

Binding OELs are one of the essential tools for minimizing the exposure levels.

The ETUC calls on the EU to urgently update the Carcinogens and mutagens directive and adopt binding OELs for at least 50 priority carcinogens

# Revision of the Carcinogens & Mutagens Directive

- ❑ Since the adoption of the CMD in 1990 only 3 carcinogens with Binding Occupational Exposure Limits (BOELs)



- ❑ Commissioner Thyssen commitment: 50 carcinogens in total with BOELs in CMD Annex III by 2020

There is no agreed methodology to derive Occupational Exposure Limit Values (OELs) for carcinogens at EU level

Occupational cancers  
are preventable !



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# ACROSS EUROPE, ORGANISATIONS JOIN FORCES TO MAKE A CHANGE

Annually more than 100.000 people die because of work-related cancer. Let's join forces to find and share smart solutions to reduce exposure to carcinogens across European workplaces.

THE FACTS

JOIN IN!



## More information

### ❑ Infographic stop cancer at work

<https://www.etui.org/Topics/Health-Safety/Occupational-cancers/Infographic-Stop-cancer-at-work>

### ❑ Eliminating occupational cancer in Europe and globally

<http://www.etui.org/en/Publications2/Working-Papers/Eliminating-occupational-cancer-in-Europe-and-globally>

### ❑ Cancer risks in the workplace, better regulation, stronger protection

<http://www.etui.org/fr/Publications2/Working-Papers/Cancer-risks-in-the-workplace-better-regulation-stronger-protection>

### ❑ Carcinogens that should be subject to binding limits on workers exposure

<http://www.etui.org/fr/Publications2/Rapports/Carcinogens-that-should-be-subject-to-binding-limits-on-workers-exposure>