



‘What policy options could complement lung cancer screening?’



ERS

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1. Lung Cancer is a preventable disease as other NCDs

We need to prioritise **prevention** and address **health inequalities**

People still die, due to **preventable diseases** and the burden of non-communicable diseases such as cancer increases due to **health inequalities and social determinants**. Such as:

- Tobacco use
- Indoor & outdoor pollution
- Climate change/sustainability and increase in respiratory viruses (COVID-19)
- Occupational exposure
- Migration, poverty, gender inequalities.
- Need for better monitoring and surveillance of NCDs such as lung cancer at EU level
- No need for a new European agency. The **ECDC** even with just a slight increase in resources could have an important role here to improve comparable data across countries.

2. Reinforced tobacco control measures

- Revision of the Tobacco Taxation Directive
 - Harmonised minimum tax regarding e-cigarettes, heated tobacco products and other types of next-generation products
- Revision of the Tobacco Products Directive to reflect novel tobacco products including heated tobacco and e-cigarettes
- Encourage Member States to fully implement the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.
- Promote smoking cessation in order to support the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan objective to further reduce smoking prevalence



3. Strengthened occupational protection

- Continue to regularly revise and update the **Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive**
- We need *meaningful* occupational exposure limits
 - Hardwood dusts revision 2017
 - Chromium (VI) compounds revision 2017
 - Respirable crystalline silica dust revision 2017
 - Diesel engine exhaust emissions revision 2019



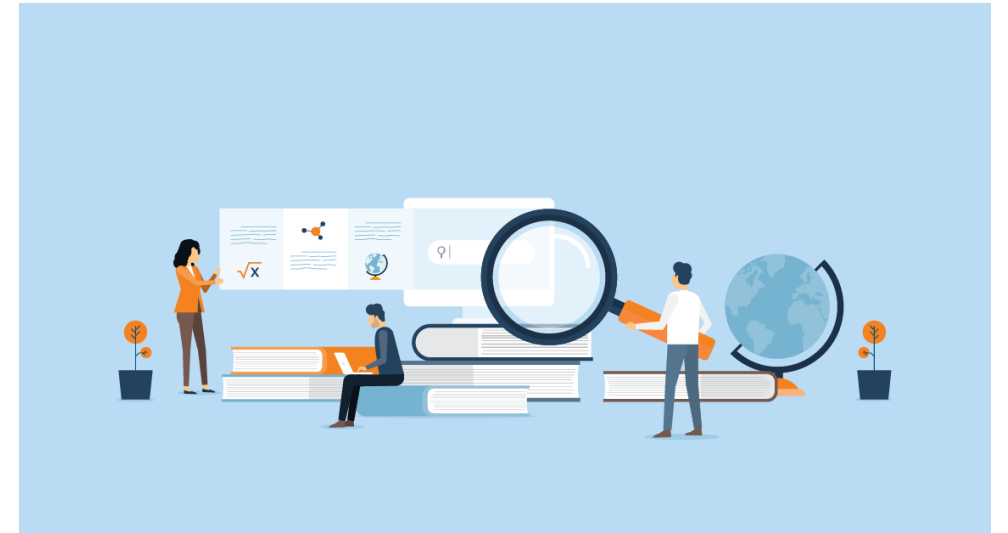
4. Improved air quality

- In 2012, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has classified diesel engine exhaust as carcinogenic to humans (Group 1).
- Other scientific evidence suggests that high levels of air pollution may cause lung cancer and it is well established that occupational exposure to asbestos, crystalline silica and hard metals cause lung cancer.
- WHO Air Quality Guideline Revision
- Revision of the EU air quality directives with a proposal in 2021 as outlined in the Green New Deal to reduce exposure to environmental thus reducing lung cancer risks.



5. Increased funding for research

- Lung cancer research shows positive perspectives for prevention, early detection and breakthrough treatments.
- Lung cancer is significantly under-researched and underfunded, receiving only 5.6% of overall cancer research funding worldwide.
- Funds for lung cancer research in EU (Horizon Europe, new IMI) and national research programmes should be increased.
 - Relevant pollutants mortality/lung: $PM_{2,5}$, NO_2 , ultrafine particles (UFPs), BC
 - Urban & rural health
 - Climate change (temperature)
 - Multiple pollutants/exposome (air pollution, chemicals, noise, green space, indoor pollution)
 - Physical activity & air pollution interaction





Thank you for your attention