



# Roadmap on Carcinogens 2.0

## Strategy 2020-2024

- as agreed, on 30.06.2020 by the partners -  
- signed 9 November 2020 -

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**European Chemicals Agency  
(ECHA)  
Finland.**

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**Autoridade para as  
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Portugal.**

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**Ministry of Labour, Family,  
Social Affairs and Equal  
opportunities,  
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**Ministère du Travail,  
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**FPS Employment, Labour  
and Social Dialogue DG  
Humanisation of Work  
Belgium.**

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**Federal Ministry for Labour  
and Social Affairs, Germany.  
Also on behalf of the  
partners of the Roadmap  
from Amsterdam to Helsinki**

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The recently (end of November 2019) prolonged Roadmap on Carcinogens (RoC 2.0) needs a refreshed strategy to fulfil new ambitions. RoC 1.0 was focused on raising awareness and on providing solutions to companies. The current partners feel the need to further build on this successful start and decided to move on with refreshed goals and activities. This strategy paper defines that new strategy with a flexible structure to be able to adapt to new circumstances.

## 1. Roadmap scope and goals

The partners have been developing the new strategy based on the following drivers:

- The Roadmap on Carcinogens is a voluntary and action driven joint programme;
- We focus on preventing exposure to cancer causing agents at work;
- We create awareness about negative health effects due to exposure to carcinogens and the urgent need to take appropriate measures;
- The Roadmap on Carcinogens supports the development of EU-wide limit values and helps business and workers to take action to comply with 'new' exposure limits;
- We mobilise stakeholders such as member states, social partners, employers and workers, sectoral organisations and knowledge and research organisations in order to give an impulse for prevention in (SME) businesses;
- We will specifically keep the needs of micro- and small businesses in mind when we develop solutions to either manage dangerous substances or describe effective technical measures.

The core drivers of RoC 1.0 from 2016-2019 provide a profound and confirmed basis for the next period of the roadmap from 2020-2024 establishing the following four goals:

- **Creating awareness** through Europe among businesses and workers on the risks of exposure to carcinogenic substances and the need for preventive actions.
- **Providing help** to businesses and workers in preventing exposure to carcinogens on the work floor and minimize its effect on the workforce.
- **Mobilising stakeholders** and increasing the involvement of relevant parties to multiply our efforts throughout Europe.
- **Targeting innovation** to bridge the gap between research findings and businesses' needs.

## 2. Roadmap on Carcinogens 2.0 structure

The new strategy builds upon the core RoC 1.0 goals and activities. From there it will expand either in depth or in width, making it scalable and therefore manageable. Depending on joint views, its flexibility means it will easily be possible to reprioritise ‘pillars’ (width) or ‘challenges’ (depth) depending on how ambitious the partners would like to be (see visual fig. 1). This setup is also prepared to introduce changes over time when (future) partners provide considerable input.

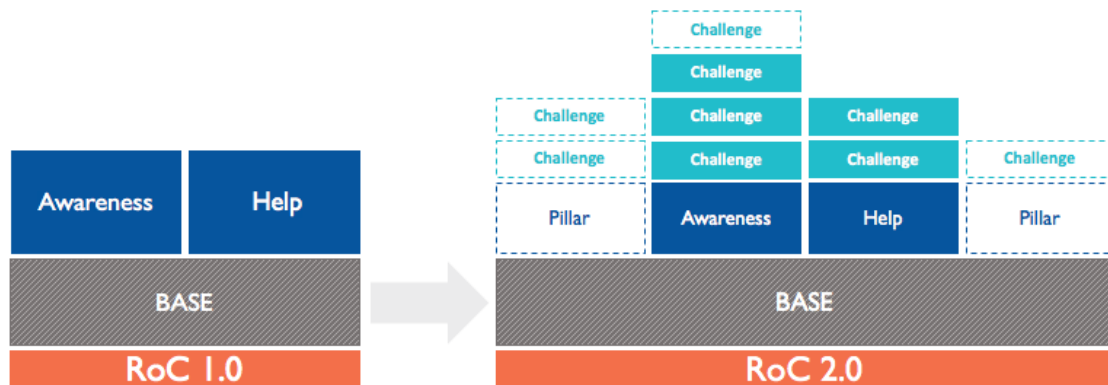


Figure 1: RoC 1.0 & RoC 2.0 structure

The new RoC 2.0-structure consists of the following elements:

- A ‘Base’ that functions as the engine of the Roadmap. The activities within the base are RoC-management, communication and base pillar activities. These together will ensure a steady progression and development of the Roadmap goals and will keep the Roadmap on the move until the end of 2024;
- Four ‘Pillars’ that lead to the fulfilment of the four goals of the roadmap;
- A number of ‘Challenges’ within the pillars. Each successfully performed challenge will add additional, beneficial impact in the prevention of occupational cancer.

The general setup of the new strategy is visualised in figure 2.

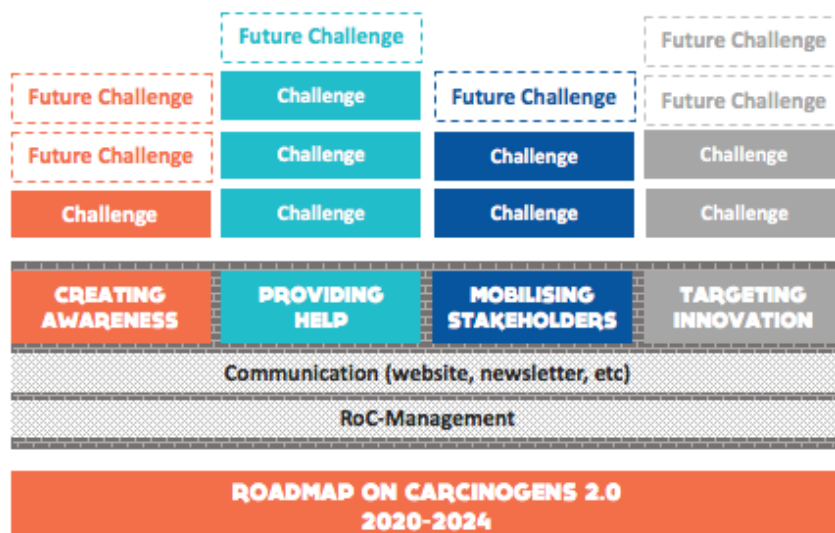


Figure 2: RoC 2.0 structure

### 3. Roadmap on Carcinogens 2.0 base activities

The base functions as the engine of the Roadmap. The activities within the base are RoC-management and communication, and base pillar activities by the partners. These will ensure a steady progression and development of the Roadmap goals and will keep the Roadmap on the move until the end of 2024. The generic communication activities within the base can be described as the maintenance of the website <http://roadmaponcarcinogens.eu>, publishing news, newsletters and social media posts, animations and corporate communication about the Roadmap itself. Further, the base includes management of the Roadmap strategy and prolongation, the 'Challenges'-implementation and accepting deliverables and the organisation of RoC-partner meetings. The RoC-management also includes a steady coordination ensuring that the partners are reliably consulted, coordinated and informed. Germany, with the support of the coordinator by TNO accept the responsibility of the RoC 2.0 management for the duration of this strategy period until 2024. The four pillars 'creating awareness', 'providing help', 'mobilising stakeholders', and 'targeting innovation' have typical base activities as well and these are, non-exhaustively, defined in more detail in paragraph 5.

### 4. Challenges to accelerate implementation and boost impact

The 'challenges' are the more dynamic and flexible elements of the new Roadmap strategy. These challenges are typically short(er) term projects within a pillar that will enhance the basic achievement and lead to higher and/or quicker impact. Acting as accelerators, they should be organised and fulfilled (and in some cases financed) by a (group of) partner(s). The challenge might for instance connect to the Council Presidency plan of a Member State or a Work Programme of the partner organisation in such a way that it serves both needs. The partner responsible defines and fulfils the tasks of the challenge according to the partner's other priorities, needs and resources within the timeframe of RoC 2.0.

Challenges should be treated as regular projects, meaning each challenge has a start and ending date, a responsible person, a project team, tasks and activities, deliverables, and planning. Some of the challenges might also need a budget (and financier). A first set of 12 challenges has been derived from earlier discussions and comments, in particular of the Roadmap Partner Meetings 31<sup>st</sup> March and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020. Figure 3 finalises the overview of the current proposed strategy of RoC 2.0.

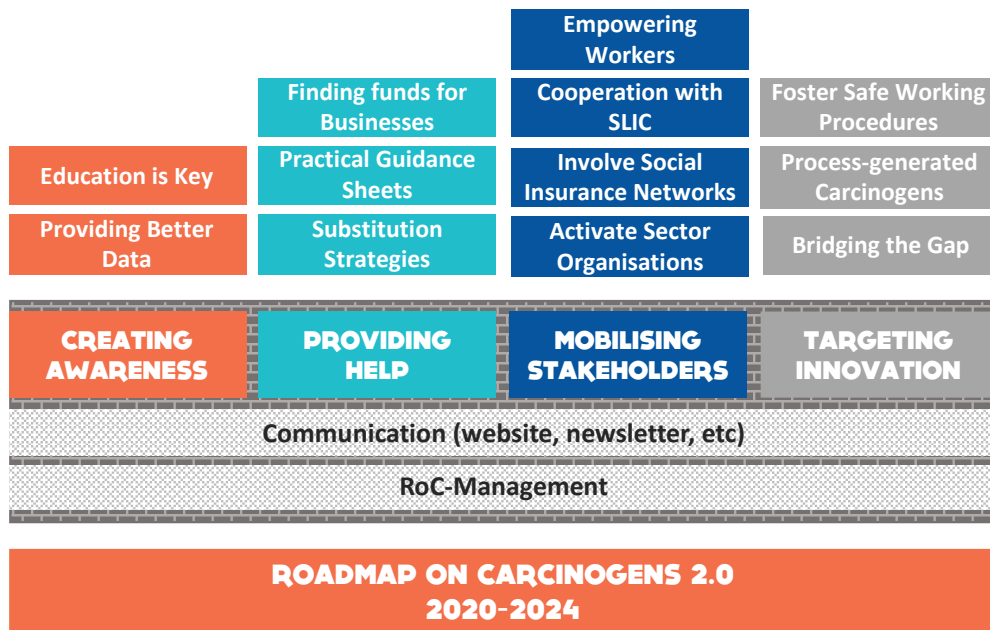


Figure 3: The Roadmap on Carcinogens 2.0 – overview with selected challenges

## 5. RoC2.0: pillars, activities and challenges in more detail

As described above, pillars include base activities and challenges. In the following, all pillars are described, and each challenge is briefly introduced. As the strategy takes into account possible changing national or European circumstances, the challenges and responsible partners are regarded as a working plan:

### PILLAR 1: CREATING AWARENESS

**Description:** A first step in prevention of occupational cancer is raising awareness about the risks caused by carcinogenic substances within the concerned stakeholder community. From our awareness activities, we know that it sometime lacks good data on, for instance, national or sectoral level. Awareness strongly relies on reliable data (**Ch1.1**). Another aspect that helps is to focus on the education of future employers and employees about risks, mandatory protection and solutions (**Ch1.2**).

#### Base activities:

- Organising events with the Roadmap-theme included, publishing event proceedings and deliver presentations on suitable occasions by all partners;
- Identify (target) groups that need awareness raising and collect data to provide facts and figures to illustrate that action is necessary;
- Strengthening Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan. Preventing occupational cancer will support the new beating cancer initiative and therefore both initiatives should be connected to strengthen their respective goals.

#### Challenge 1.1: Providing Better Data

**Brief profile:** Reliable exposure data is essential, on for instance national or sectoral level. How can we provide better and perhaps more detailed data than the current estimates? Will it be possible to notice results from measures taken by companies? Are we able to discover declining trends in the use of cancer causing agents on the work floor and will preventive measures mean less exposure? Combining data from EU-OSHA’s exposure survey with data from ECHA on the use of chemicals can provide answers. And making available the EC-studies



supporting the impact assessments for CMD substances as well. Ideally, a kind of a 'carcinogens dashboard' can be developed with trends over time in presence, use and exposure of cancer causing agents in different countries or industries and sectors. Alternatively, it could be explored adding carcinogens-items into the new [OSH Barometer](#).

**Run by:** Finland (lead), European Commission, Belgium

### Challenge 1.2: Education is key

**Brief profile:** True to the motto 'You can't teach an old dog new tricks' it is necessary to start with awareness raising activities in primary schools (for example, Slovenia successfully teaches children in kindergartens about the basics of chemical safety). Strategies to train young people during vocational educational training (VET) to be aware of the risks originating from carcinogenic agents and to behave accordingly need to be developed and implemented.

**Run by:** Slovenia, Belgium

## PILLAR 2: PROVIDING HELP

**Description:** Minimisation of risks caused by carcinogenic agents is supported by guidance helping to decide on substitution ([Ch. 2.1](#)) and the implementation of adequate risk reduction measures ([Ch. 2.2](#)) and depends on financial support to either directly install technical solutions or to bridge investment cycles ([Ch. 2.3](#)).

### Base activities:

- Collecting and publishing more solutions (ongoing);
- Maintenance of the factsheets, including language versions;
- Exploring possibilities ('EU Translation services for SME's'; 'DeepL' with 'proof-reading' by partners) to translate the solutions.

### Challenge 2.1: Identifying and implementing (suitable) substitution strategies

**Brief profile:** Complying to (new) limit values is important in reducing exposure. This alone will not ban cancer effectively: therefore, one should aim at substitution. Substitution is the first measure within the hierarchy of controls and identification and evaluation of alternative solutions needs constant pushing. In case suitable alternatives are not available due to technological reasons yet, handling with minimised risks needs to be guaranteed. Cooperation with organisations such as Chemsec could be explored.

**Run by:** Belgium, ETUI

### Challenge 2.2: Providing practical guidance sheets

**Brief profile:** Provide general guidance to risk management (substitution (S), e.g. local exhaust ventilation (T), training material (O), respiratory protective equipment (P) (including video content)). Industrial organisations and national institutions have already developed examples that need to be explored and brought together in a first step.

**Run by:** Portugal, Germany

### Challenge 2.3: Finding funds for businesses

**Brief Profile:** Changing work procedures (either change of substance or change of equipment) is associated with investment costs on the one hand and often hampered by market (client) demands and delay due to testing new products for functionality on the other hand. Member States, Industries, Social Security Organisations and others already might have funds or specific fiscal measures in place that stimulate businesses to invest. The Roadmap could lead businesses the way to those possibilities.



**Run by:** RoC-assistance (lead), BusinessEurope

### **PILLAR 3: MOBILISING STAKEHOLDERS**

**Description:** There are many organisations having a role in the prevention of exposure to cancer causing agents. The roadmap wants to seek cooperation and to mobilise and activate those important stakeholders, if needed. Cross-industry and sectoral organisations play a significant role to their members in raising awareness, in assisting businesses as well as in developing specific practical guidance (**Ch. 3.1**). Enforcing bodies need to assess compliance (**Ch. 3.2, Ch 3.3**) and workers need to be aware of risks and accordingly adjust their behaviour (**Ch. 3.4**).

#### **Base activities:**

- Stakeholder organisations promote the Roadmap to enlarge the community of partners;
- Regularly informing the Advisory Committee (ACSH), EU-OSHA's executive board and other relevant bodies, and constant search and open mind to find new partners that can contribute;
- Collaborate with and strengthen similar campaigns.

#### **Challenge 3.1: Activating cross-industry and sectoral organisations**

**Brief profile:** The more industrial and sectoral organisations (both European and national level) can be mobilised to join the Roadmap the more sectors will benefit from the solutions provided and the more the Roadmap might activate the sectors to develop and provide own solutions to the Roadmap.

**Run by:** BusinessEurope (lead), RoC-assistance

#### **Challenge 3.2: Involving Social Insurance Networks/Organisations**

**Brief profile:** Social insurance associations are involved with companies and demand safe(r) handling of carcinogenic agents when insuring their client with compensation in case of accidents or occupational diseases. They support with sector specific guidance and tools to assist companies to self-assess their compliance with legal provisions and sufficient risk reduction measurements.

**Run by:** Germany, France

#### **Challenge 3.3: Cooperation with SLIC**

**Brief profile:** Enforcement is an important tool to ensure regulatory compliance at companies' level. Promoting national enforcement campaigns to coordinate campaigns throughout the EU will enable the implementation of harmonised standards for all employees within the community. SLIC is the competent body to inform and to activate such joint initiatives and member states could check whether SLIC Plenaries or Thematic Days focussing on carcinogens during their presidency are possible.

**Run by:** Austria, European Commission, Belgium

#### **Challenge 3.4: Empowering workers**

**Brief profile:** Workers need to be aware of their rights and obligations under the Carcinogens & Mutagens Directive in order to contribute to the risk assessment and put in place the adequate prevention measures to eliminate or reduce exposure to carcinogens. A small guide targeted to workers could be drafted in different languages with the aim of helping workers to become actors of their health and safety at work.



**Run by:** ETUI (lead)

#### **PILLAR 4: TARGETING INNOVATION**

**Description:** Innovations need to be targeted to meet workplace demands. To support substitution strategies, material innovations (to replace a carcinogen) and technological developments (to promote safe handling and use) need to be adapted to the conditions of the workplaces and be safe(r) by design (Ch. 4.1). A better understanding of how and where process-generated carcinogens are generated (Ch. 4.2) and to come up with practical solutions is another important project to undertake (Ch. 4.3).

#### **Base activities:**

- Encourage member states governments to initiate exchange between their respective departments responsible for workers' safety and research to close the gap;
- Deliver the Roadmap's findings, ideas and solutions to innovators/researchers in a target-group appropriate language and invite innovators/researcher to the Roadmap's events to sensitise them;
- Connect to the research community to discuss common goals and activities and find ways to collaborate.

#### **Challenge 4.1:** Bridging the gap between science and workplace practice

**Brief Profile:** The often existing gap between what is needed at workplace level (i.e. substitution of carcinogens or, if this is not technically feasible, exposure minimisation) and what innovation provides, can be bridged by bringing together producers (equipment), researchers, sectors, and other relevant stakeholders and discuss collaboration and bridging solutions.

**Run by:** Finland

#### **Challenge 4.2:** Minimise exposure to process-generated carcinogens

**Brief profile:** To prevent exposure originating from process-generated carcinogens, like cutting of wood, quarrying and cutting of silica containing materials, grinding and welding of metals etc., it is important to better understand how and where such carcinogens are generated and to propose solutions to minimise the risk. Ideally, this minimisation is achieved by eliminating exposure, or, where this is not possible, to provide guidance on effective exposure control strategies. Possibly cooperation with PEROSH and/or research institutes could be setup.

**Run by:** Austria, Netherlands

#### **Challenge 4.3:** Foster 'safe working procedures'

**Brief profile:** Safe working procedures can come in place as an accepted alternative where substitution is not yet possible and it is somehow difficult to comply with exposure levels. Already in a couple of Member States, we notice positive effects for businesses to comply, using these procedures. These technical guidance's to safely work with carcinogens in a specific situation defines the state of the art, work-scientific knowledge and measurements. For businesses, they are practical and clear. The Roadmap could gather results, bring together stakeholders and promote the development of safe working procedures.

**Run by:** Netherlands (lead)