



European Cancer
Patient Coalition

Addressing Challenges Related to Occupational Cancers at the EU Level

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Patient Story





Non-melanoma Skin Cancer (NMSC)

- It's by far the **most common cancer** diagnosed in westernized countries
- one of the few almost **preventable** cancers if detected and treated early (90% of NMSC may be attributed to excessive exposure to UVR)
- It's **the most rapidly increasing cancer** in fair-skinned populations worldwide
- Increasing incidence: **2–3 million** people are diagnosed worldwide **annually**
- Average yearly **increase of 3–8%** in white populations in the last 30 years
- **outdoor workers are at double risk** of acquiring the disease compared to the general population.



Non-melanoma Skin Cancer (NMSC)

- An **occupational disease** is any disease caused by exposure to risk factors at work
- In June 2018 **NMSC** was recognised as an occupational skin cancer (WHO ICD) due to excessive exposure to the sun.
- When acquired, NMSC develops to a **life-long chronic disease**
- **UVR** is classified as Group 1 carcinogen alongside substances such as plutonium and asbestos by IARC
- NMSC is one of the few **curable, easily detectable** and **preventable** types of cancer.
- Characterised by **lack of reporting** and accurate data on disease burden



The Hidden Impacts of NMSC

- **Outdoor workers** exposed to 2-3 times higher UVR levels than indoor workers
- EU: **14.5 million workers** spending 2/3 of working life outdoors
- **80% of cases occur in people aged 60 and above** so the disease remains invisible until retirement age
- Skin cancer **cost** from 3.6 bil \$ in 2002-2006 to 8.1 bil \$ in 2007-2011 in US
- Treatment is far more costly than **prevention** (screening can save 30/50k\$ per survival year)
- As Europeans live longer lives the **financial burden** on healthcare systems and national economies will only **increase** unless action is taken
- Hard to measure effects such as **decreased self-esteem**



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Actions to Address NMSC

Multi-Stakeholder Summit on Skin Cancer Paris, 26th April 2019



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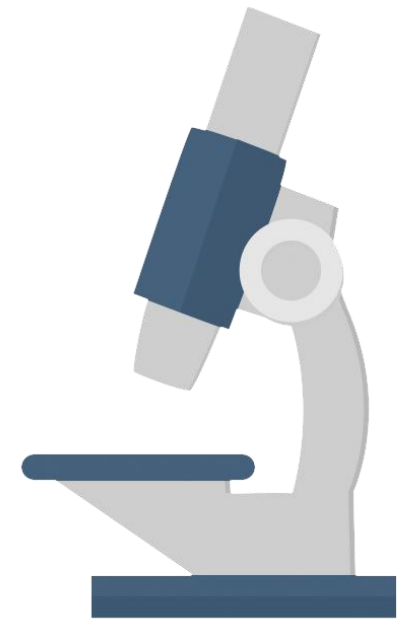
A coalition of stakeholders including ECPC met to bring occupational skin cancer out of the shadows and established the need for:

- **Prevention** through public information campaigns, protection and cancer screening
- **Assessment** of the actual societal impact by accurately reporting cases of NMSC across Member States
- **Regulation** at EU and national level that ensures workers are adequately protected in accordance with the European Pillar of Social Rights



White paper: Improved Protection of Outdoor Workers from Solar Ultraviolet Radiation

- Strengthen **legislation** to protect outdoor workers and build accessibility for regular **screenings** and **earlier treatments**
- Increase cooperation to ensure **standardised registration** of NMSC
- Develop tools to **monitor** solar UVR exposure at work
- Improve the **reporting** of occupational NMSC
- Enhance **collaboration** between patient advocacy groups, doctors and other health professionals as well as employers





Global Call to Action to End the Non-Melanoma Skin Cancer Epidemic in Outdoor Workers

1. In EU, NMSC should be **officially recognized as an occupational disease** in the next legislative period
2. HPs & policy makers should work together to ensure **standardised EU-wide registration of NMSC**
3. Employers need to implement **preventive and protective measures**
4. HPs should improve **reporting of occupational NMSC**
5. Patient advocacy groups, doctors and other HPs as well as employers should collaborate to **promote skin cancer prevention and sun-safe working practices**, and to address the unmet needs of retired outdoor workers with persisting NMSC.

We urge policy makers, doctors and other health professionals, employers, workers and patient advocacy groups to take five actions to address the unmet needs of NMSC patients:



Policy makers should improve the legislative framework to protect outdoor workers more effectively, and build accessibility for regular screenings and earlier, better treatments. In the European Union, NMSC should be officially recognized as an occupational disease within the next legislative period;



Doctors, other health professionals and policy makers should work together to ensure standardised EU-wide registration of NMSC;



Employers should use tools to quantify exposure levels to UVR in the workplace. They shall also implement cost-effective techniques for sun-safe behaviour and ensure regular skin cancer screenings for outdoor workers;



Doctors and other health professionals should improve reporting of occupational NMSC (including actinic keratosis);



Patient advocacy groups, doctors and other health professionals as well as employers should collaborate to promote skin cancer prevention and sun-safe working practices, and to address the unmet needs of retired outdoor workers with persisting NMSC.



ECPC Actions in 2019

- Developed a **Briefing Document on Occupational Skin Cancer**
- Contributed to a joint **White Paper on ‘Improved Protection of Outdoor Workers from Solar Ultraviolet Radiation’** setting forth clear policy directions, preliminary estimates of costs and targeted solutions.
- The **launch of the first global Non-Melanoma Skin Cancer Awareness Day** at the European Parliament on the 13th of June to drive policy action that formally recognises NMSC as an occupational disease around the world.



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Taking Action in Brussels

June 13th Global Non-Melanoma Skin Cancer Awareness Day

The Call to Action and a White Paper outlining the latest evidence on the global disease burden of NMSC will be presented at a panel discussion organized by the ECPC and hosted by MEP Lieve Wierinck at the European Parliament on June 13th



GLOBAL
NON-MELANOMA
SKIN CANCER
AWARENESS DAY

June 13, 2019

#FacingTheSun



We need to **shed light** on this **hidden occupational disease** to better **protect outdoor workers** and ensure **improved access to care**.



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Join the Global Debate on June 13th

Share the following documents with your colleagues:

- ✓ Briefing Document on Occupational Skin Cancer (and related infographic)
- ✓ 'Global Call to Action to End the Non-Melanoma Skin Cancer Epidemic in Outdoor Workers'
- ✓ White Paper on 'Improved Protection of Outdoor Workers from Solar Ultraviolet Radiation'

Translate the documents into your local language

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hashtag **#FacingtheSun**, retweet **@cancereu** to make sure our message is resounding and share our content on other social media such as Facebook





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Thank you

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Nothing about us, without us!