



European Partnership: Action against Cancer Future Challenges

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European Partnership: Action against Cancer

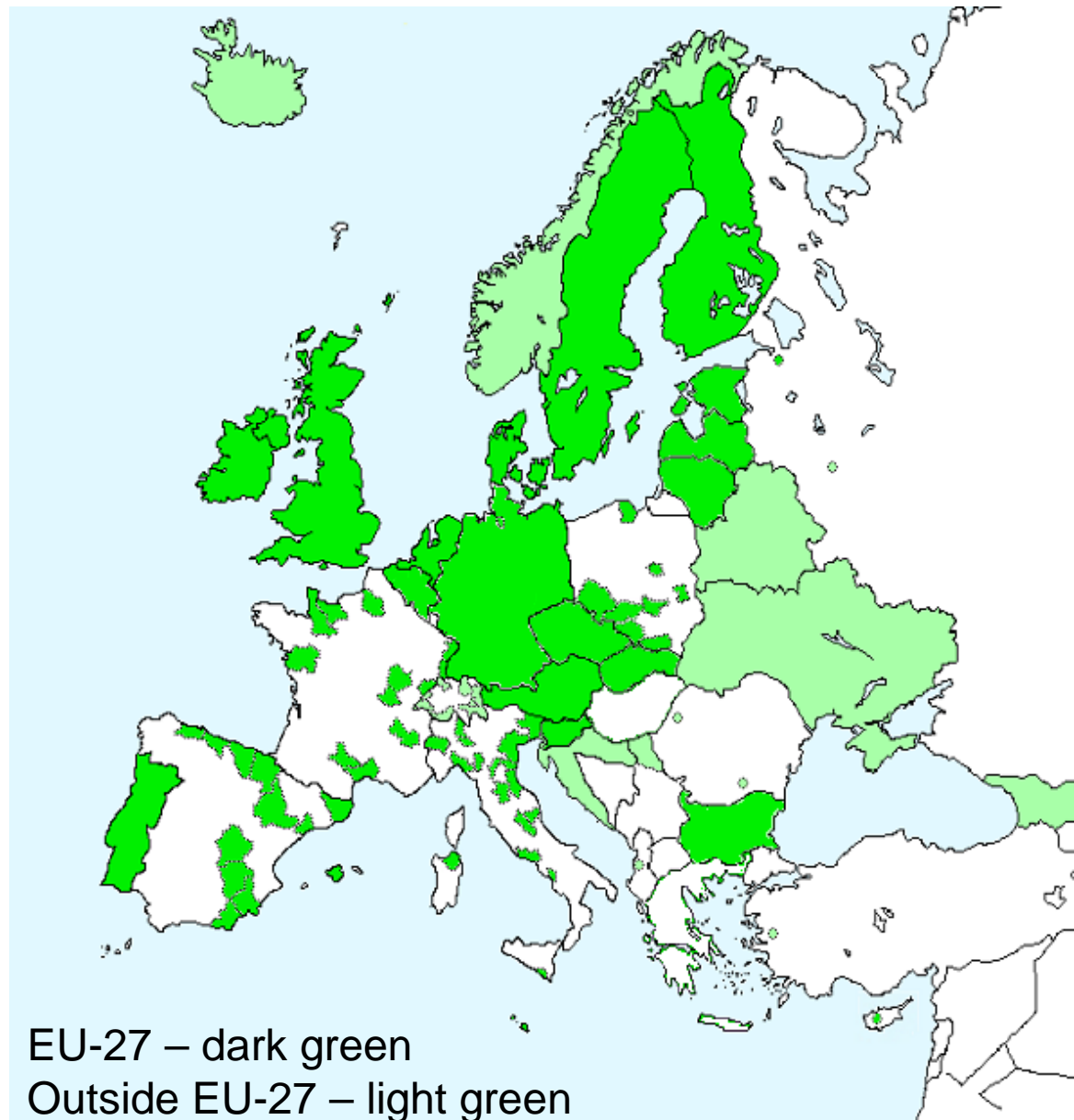
Future Challenges

1. Describe the scale of the cancer burden
2. Implement the known preventions
3. Identify the unknown causes
4. Create the necessary partnerships
5. The potential of IARC

1. Describe the scale of the cancer burden

- **Type** of data required
 - Incidence, Mortality, Survival, Prevalence
 - Time trends; Prediction
- **Coverage** of the data
- **Quality** of the data – European Network of Cancer Registries
- **Accessibility** of the data – GLOBOCAN; European Cancer Observatory (eu-cancer.iarc.org)*

Coverage of cancer registration in the European Union



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2. Implement the known preventions

Only prevention can deliver the targeted 15% decrease in “incidence”

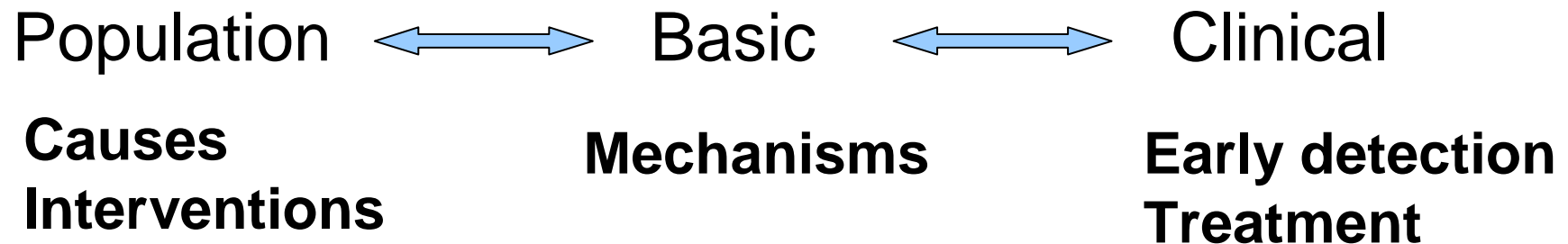
- European Code against Cancer (3rd revision)*
 - Primary and secondary prevention
- Revise the code where the evidence-base has changed
- Provide advice on implementation of the code
- Communicate the code

2. Implement the known preventions

- A comprehensive cancer approach should include all aspects of cancer research, ranging from prevention to translational and clinical research
- *Not only "include" but promote interdisciplinary work - advances in understanding mechanisms of carcinogenesis have benefits for prevention as well as for diagnosis and treatment*

2. Implement the known preventions

“Common soil” of mechanistic research



A plea for two-way translation

2. Implement the known preventions

Cancer screening

- Guidelines
 - updating, implementation
- Quality assurance
 - research into medium- to long-term impact
- Accreditation
 - identifying quality service
 - encouragement to improve; support to improve
- Beyond cervix, breast and colorectal?

3. Identify the unknown causes

- One third of cancers are preventable – the most cost-effective response..
- ..but 80-90% of cancers have an environmental cause, so the potential for prevention is much higher; *there remains much unknown*
- Increased research on causes of cancer
 - e.g. diet
- Better description of risk factor occurrence

Complementing the genome with an “exposome”: the outstanding challenge of environmental exposure measurement



- Wild CP (2005) Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers and Prevention, 14: 1847-1850.
- Wild CP (2009) Mutagenesis 24: 117-125.

Uca Pugnax, the male Fiddler Crab

4. Create the necessary partnerships

- Inter-disciplinary
 - Basic science
 - Clinical research
 - Epidemiology
 - Biostatistics
 - Bioinformatics
- Multi-professional
- Patients and populations

Citizen centred not patient focused

5. The potential of IARC

- Contribute to the better description of cancer burden - *in partnership with the European Network of Cancer Registries*
- Contribute to a better description of risk factors in the population *e.g. pan-European dietary surveys, viral infections*
- Collaborative research into the environmental and genetic causes of cancer – *multicentre, international studies to yield statistical power and avoid wasted resources*
- International “neutral” context for research coordination – *extensive track-record*
- Expert independent advice – coordination through expert working groups *e.g. screening guidelines*
- Provision of international comparisons

European Partnership: Action against Cancer Future Challenges

Harness the balance between the four areas
of action of the partnership



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