

The cancer burden in the European Union and the European Region: the current situation and a way forward

Presented by

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Added value of the European Union (EU) in cancer control

The EU has experience in promoting joint initiatives; renewed leadership could give it the impulse needed really to make a difference in citizens' lives.



Epidemiological situation of cancer in Europe

■ Summary of main trends

- Cancer mortality accounts for nearly 20% of all deaths in the WHO European Region.
- After cardiovascular diseases (CVD), cancer is the second leading cause of death overall.
- Cancer is becoming the leading cause of premature death (before age 65) in many European countries (28 of the 53 in the Region).
- Although effective interventions exist, mortality from some forms of cancer is either increasing or remaining stable.

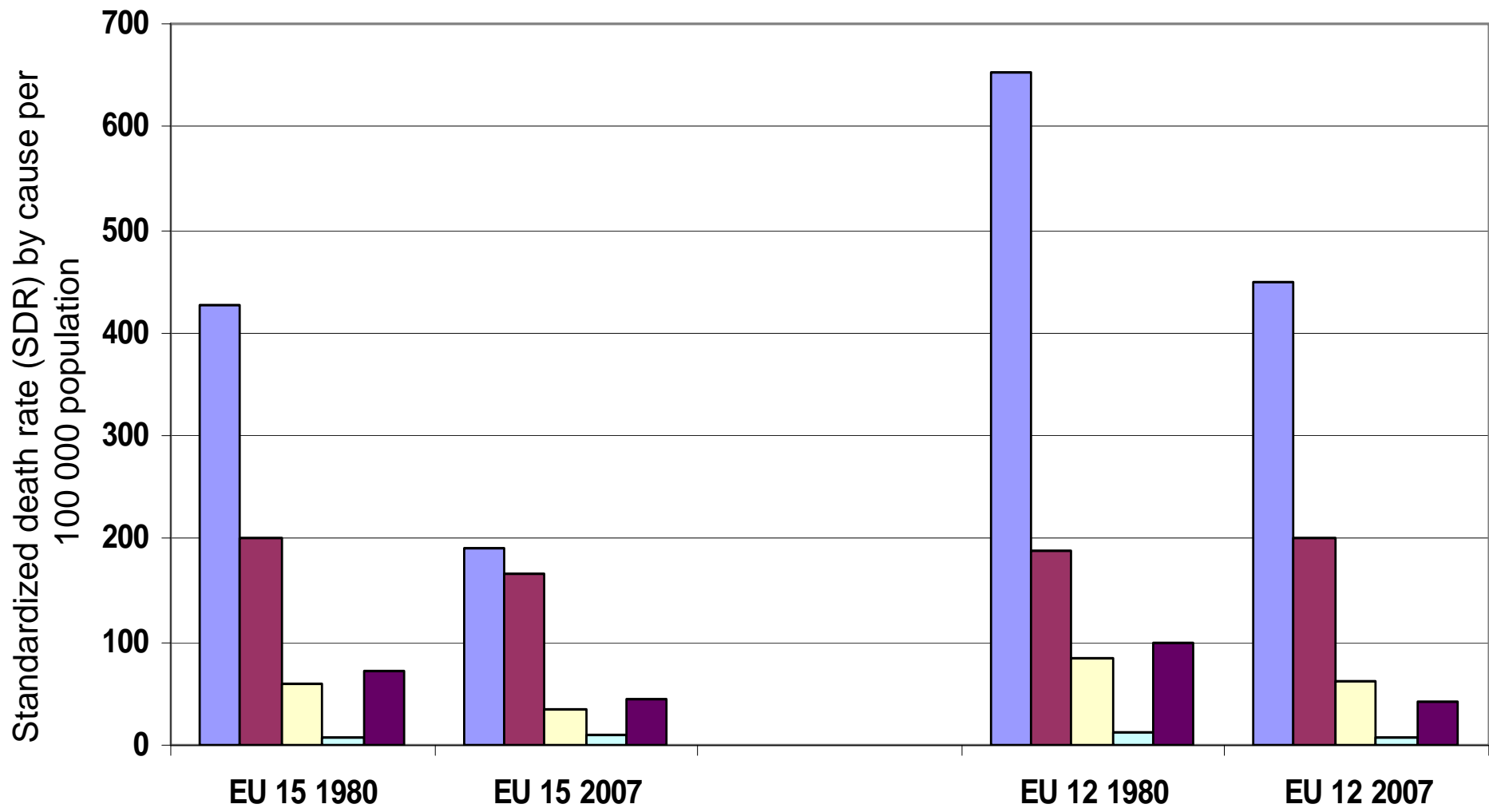
Epidemiological situation: lung cancer a special concern

- Lung cancer is the main cause of cancer deaths overall, followed by colon cancer, but breast cancer mortality is important among women.
- There is concern about rising trends in lung cancer mortality in EU-12 countries (those belonging to the EU before May 2004) and among women in the EU as a whole.
- Lung cancer mortality rates at regional level in the EU are higher in poorest areas (NUTS2 level – nomenclature of territorial units for statistics level 2).

Epidemiological situation of cancer in Europe: incidence and survival

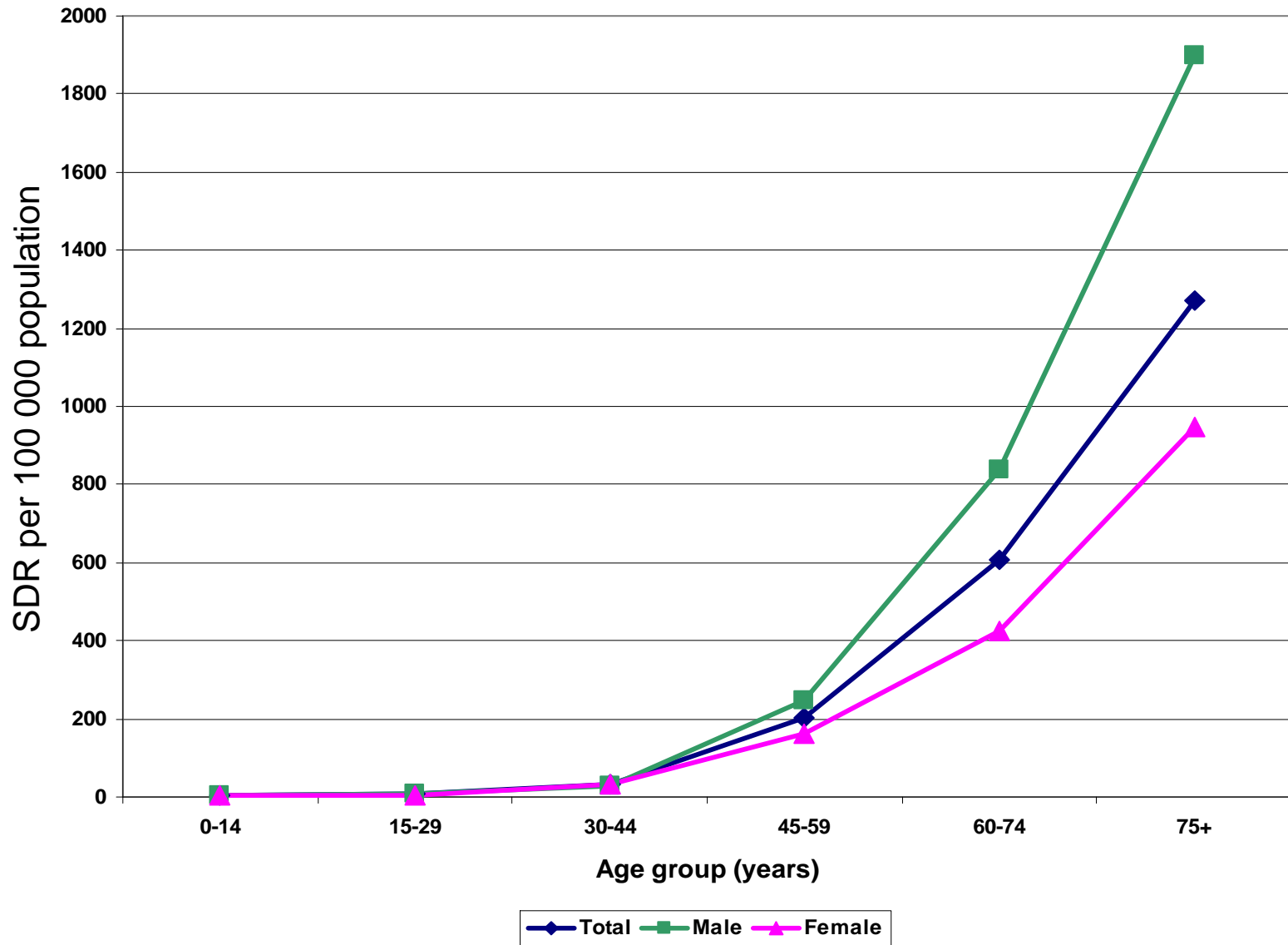
- An estimated 2.45 million new cancer cases occur in the EU every year.
- Incidence is increasing with ageing of the population.
- Increasing trends are particularly high in EU-12 countries, but data tend to be sparse.
- Five-year survival for breast, colon and cervical cancer is high (over 50%), and has improved, in contrast with that for lung cancer, which has remained low (around 10%).

Main causes of death in the EU

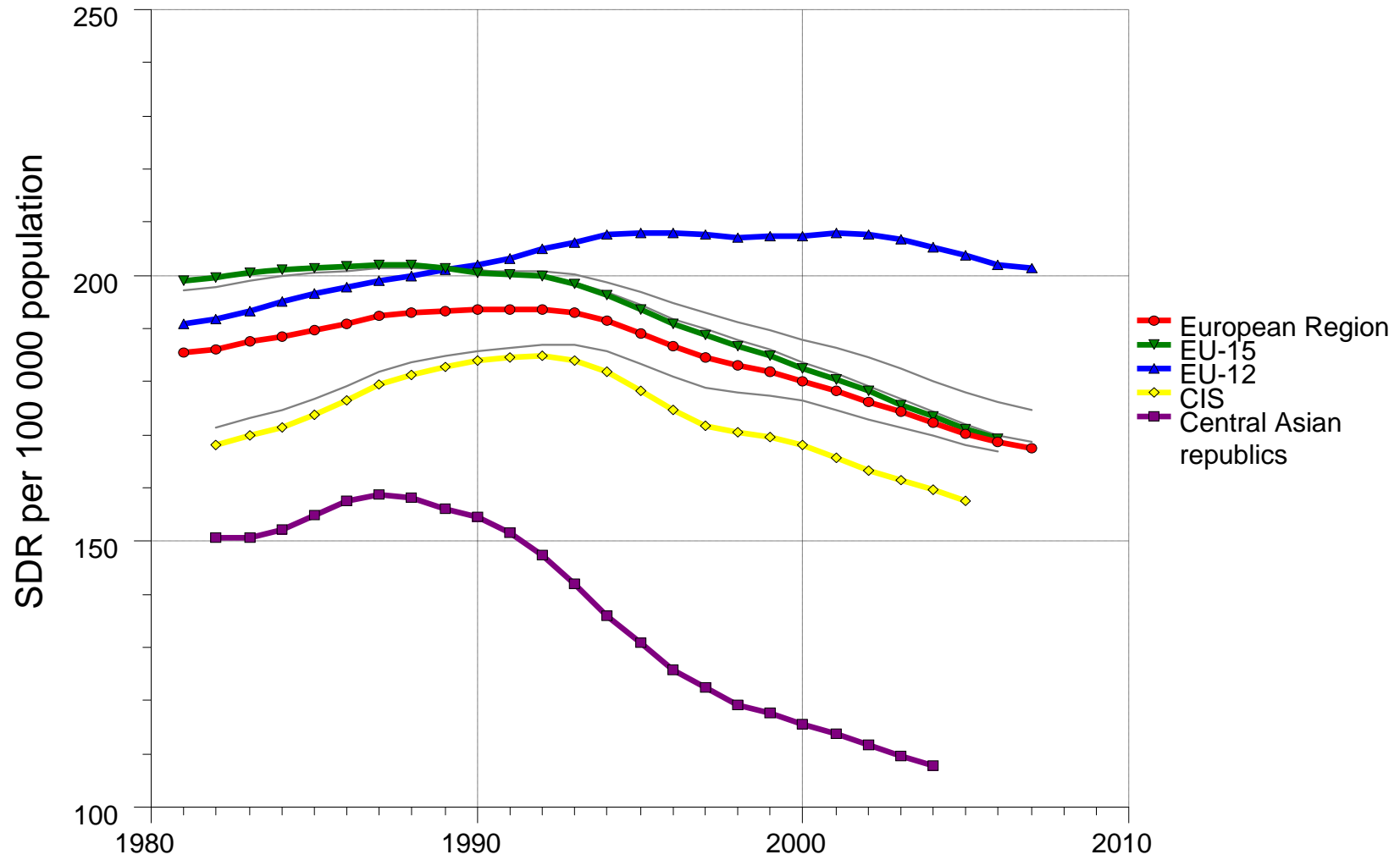


■ Cardiovascular ■ Cancers ■ External causes ■ Infectious disease ■ Respiratory system

Mortality from cancer by sex and age groups in the European Region, around 2007



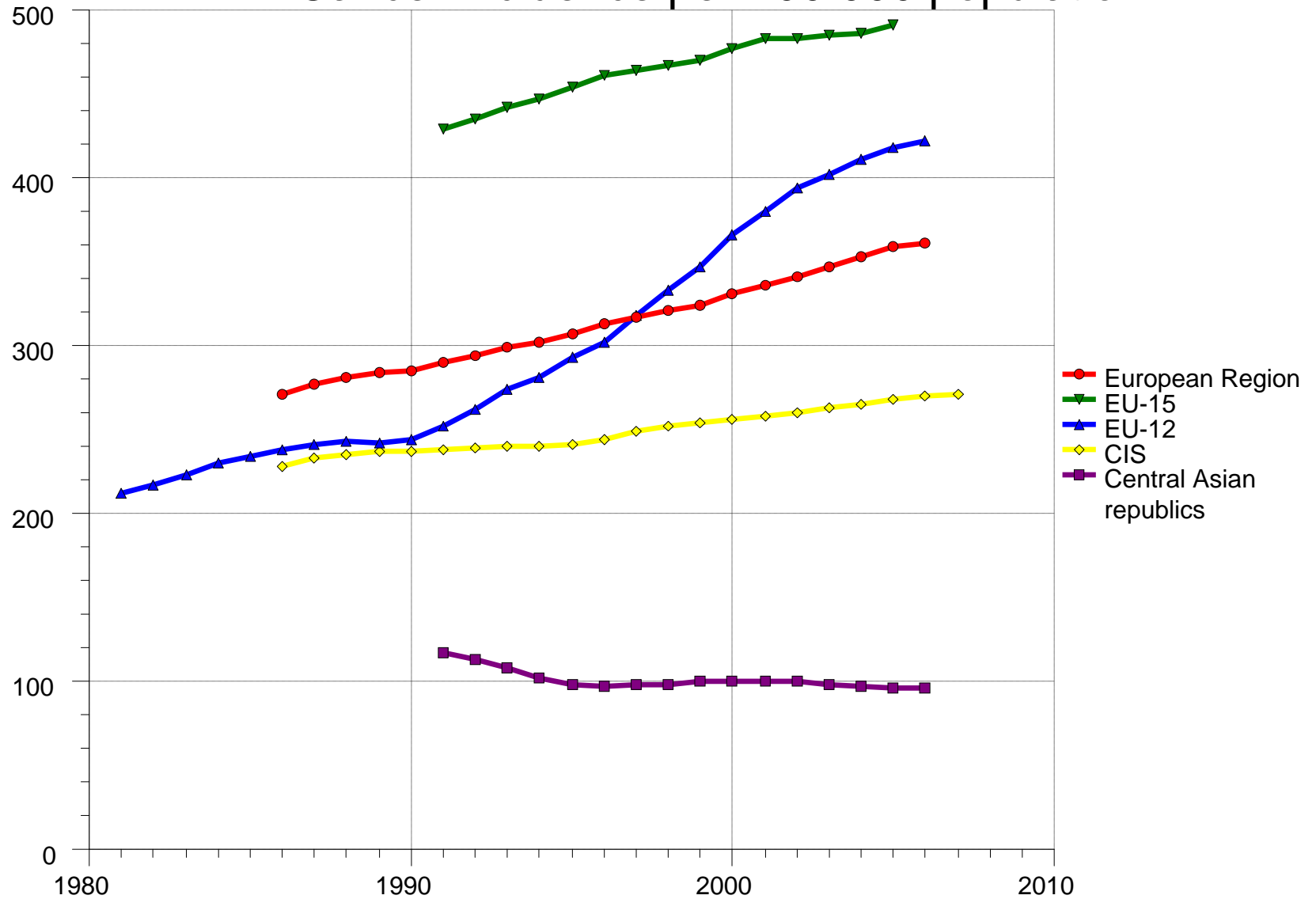
Trends in mortality from cancer in Europe, all forms, 1980-2007



Source: European Health for All database. WHO/Europe, 2010.

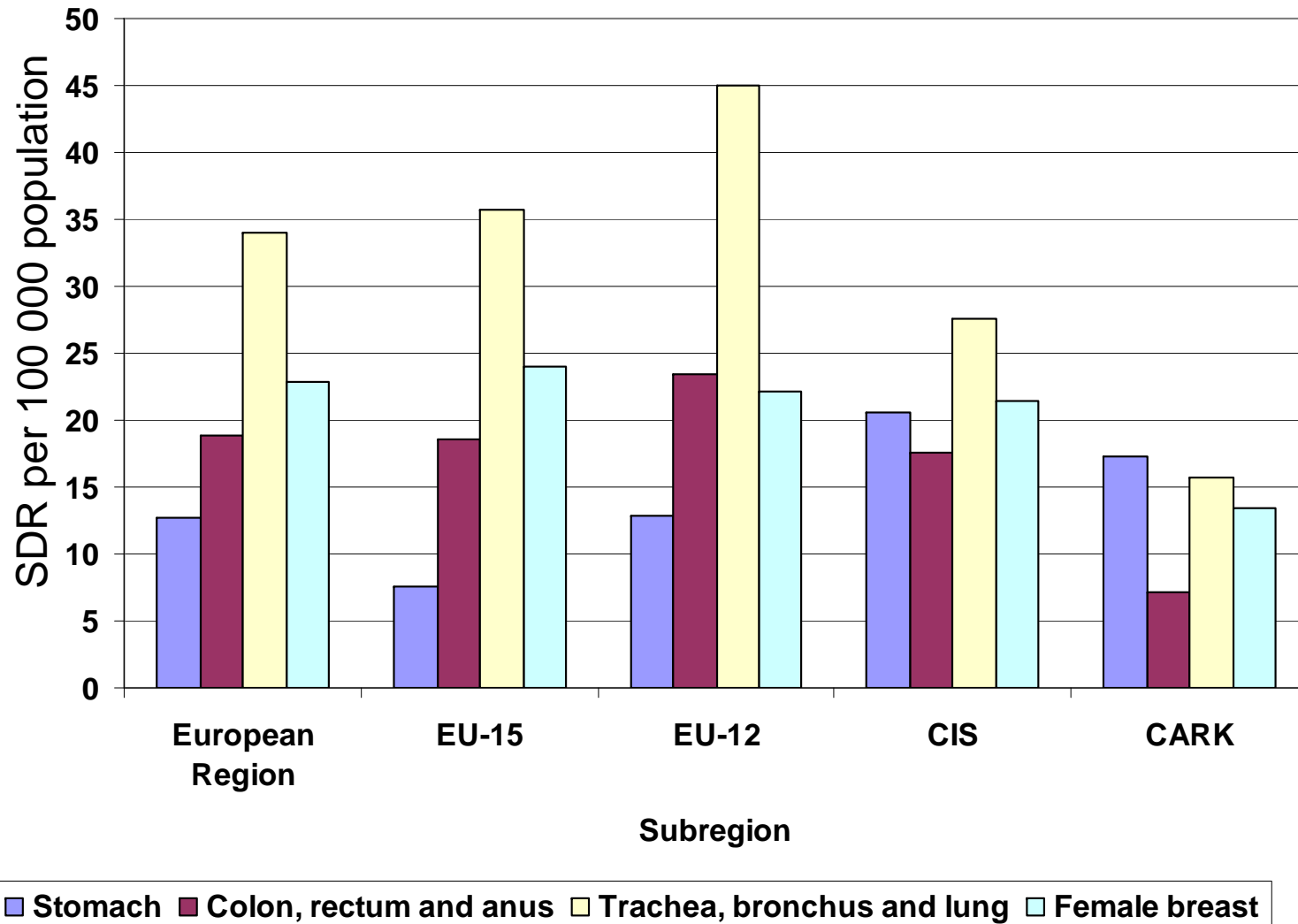
Note: CIS = Commonwealth of Independent States.

Cancer incidence per 100 000 population



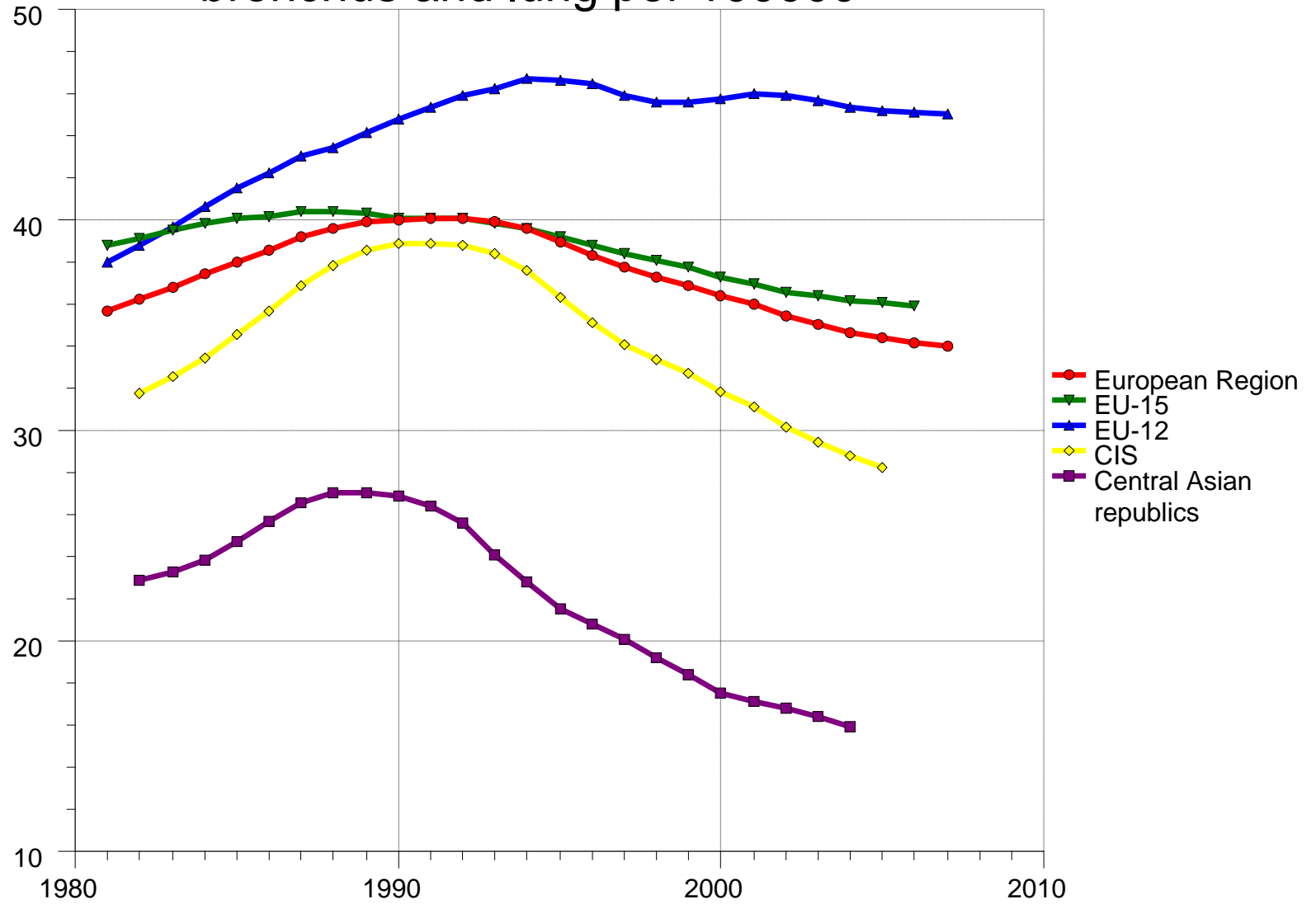
Source: European Health for All database. WHO/Europe, 2010.

Mortality from main types of cancer by European subregion, around 2007



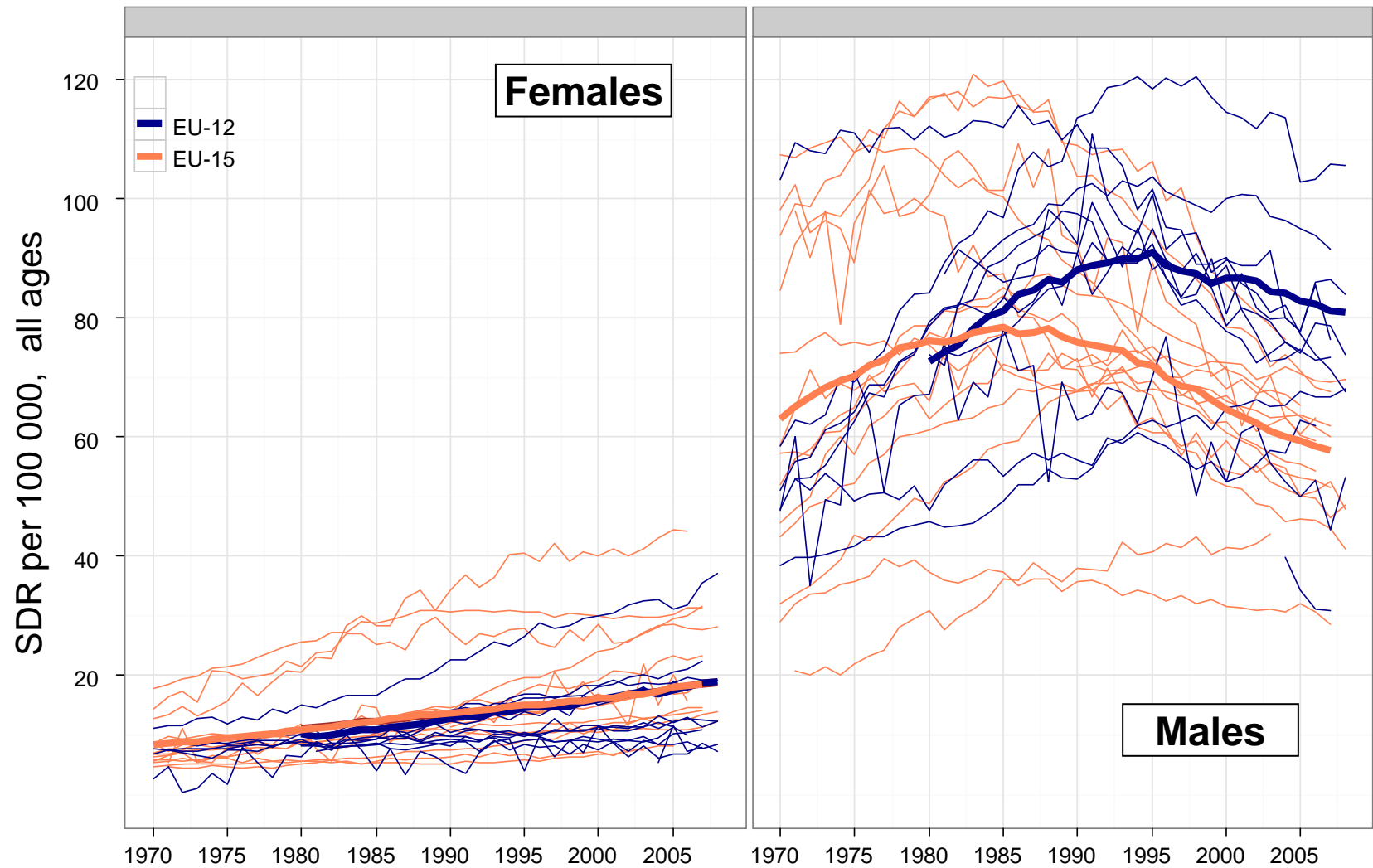
Source: European Health for All database. WHO/Europe, 2010.

SDR, malignant neoplasm of trachea, bronchus and lung per 100000



Source: European Health for All database. WHO/Europe, 2010.

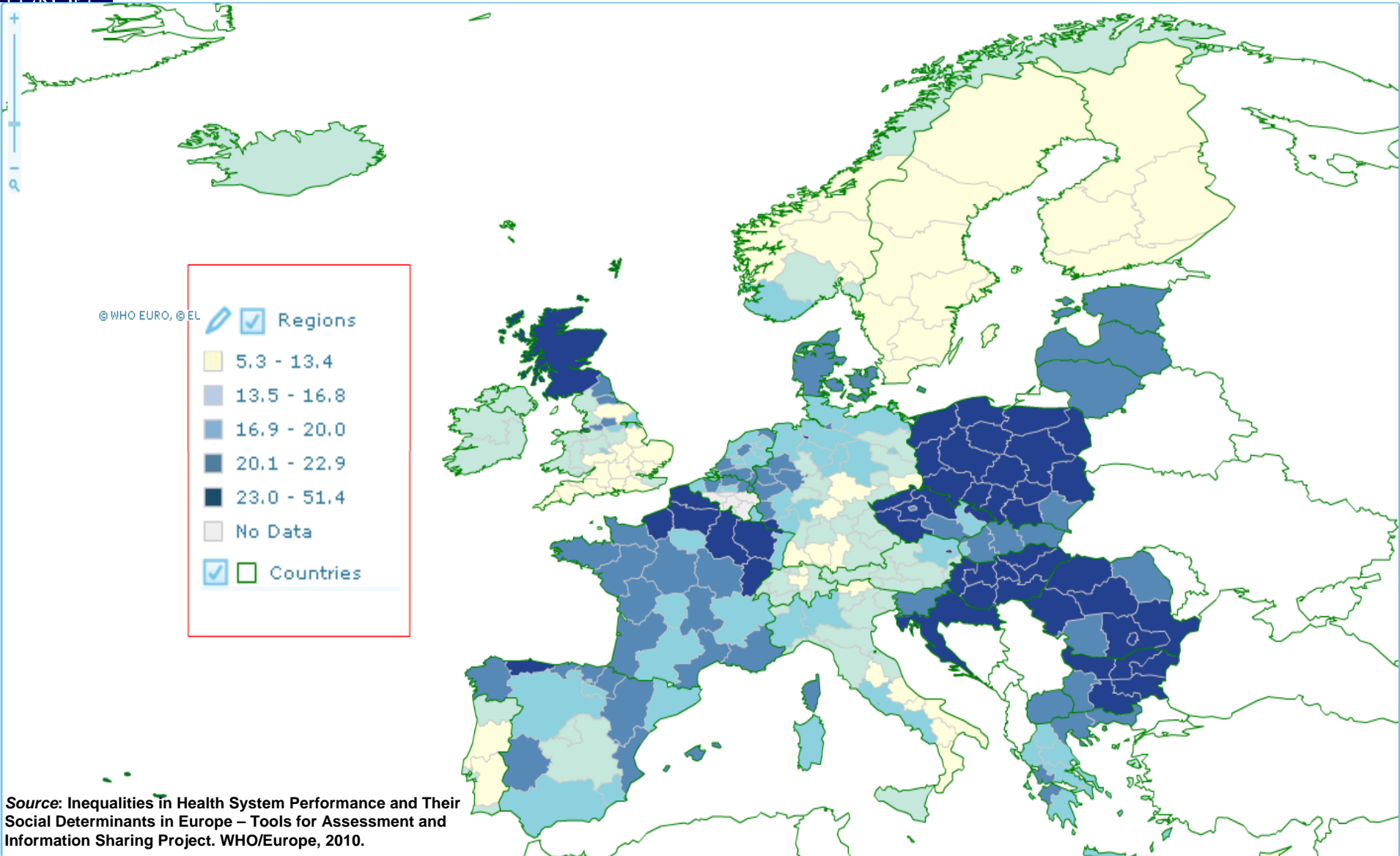
Mortality trends from lung cancer in EU countries, 1970–2007



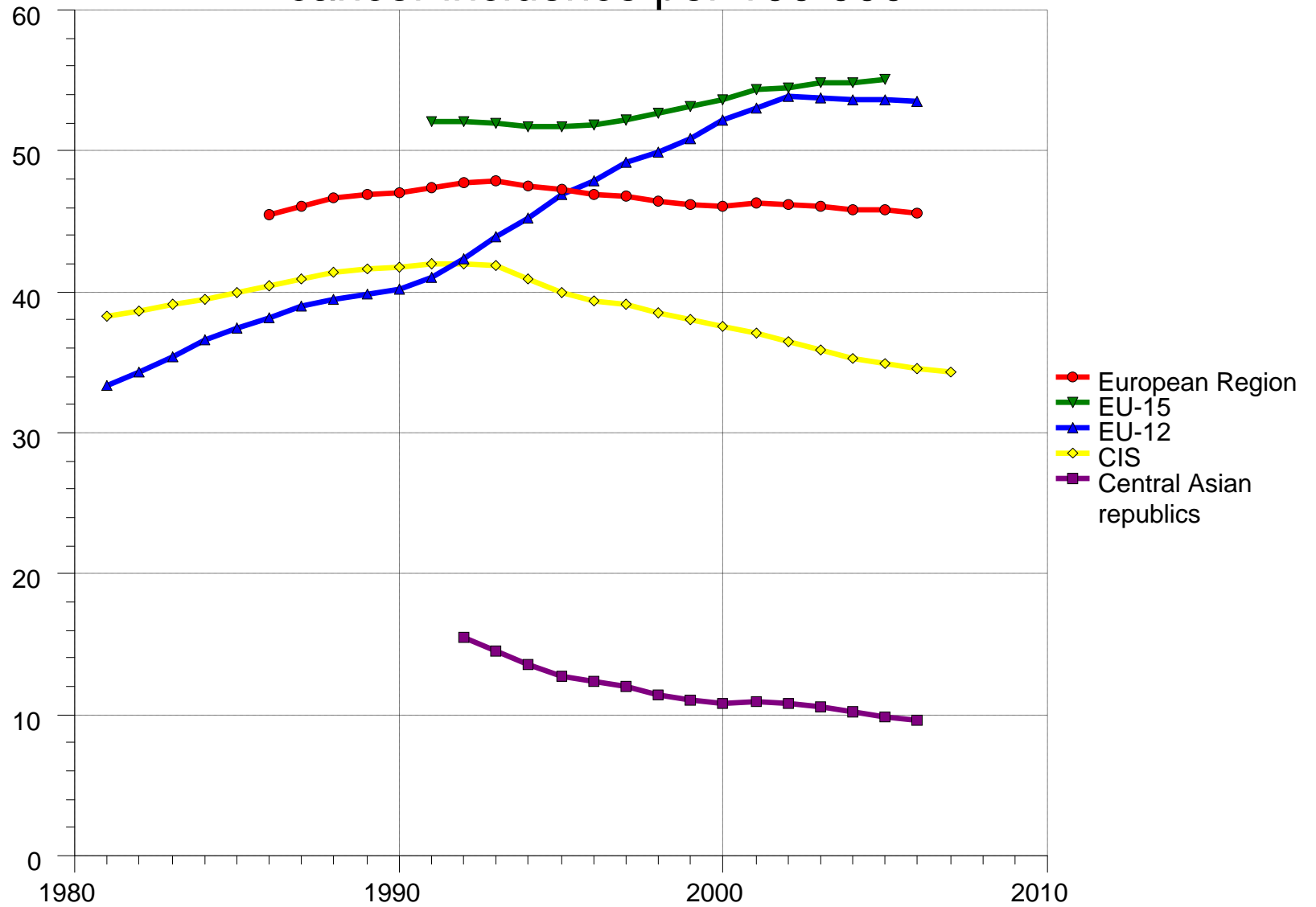
Source: European Health for All database. WHO/Europe, 2010.



Lung cancer mortality rates in the EU and neighbouring countries around 2005–2007

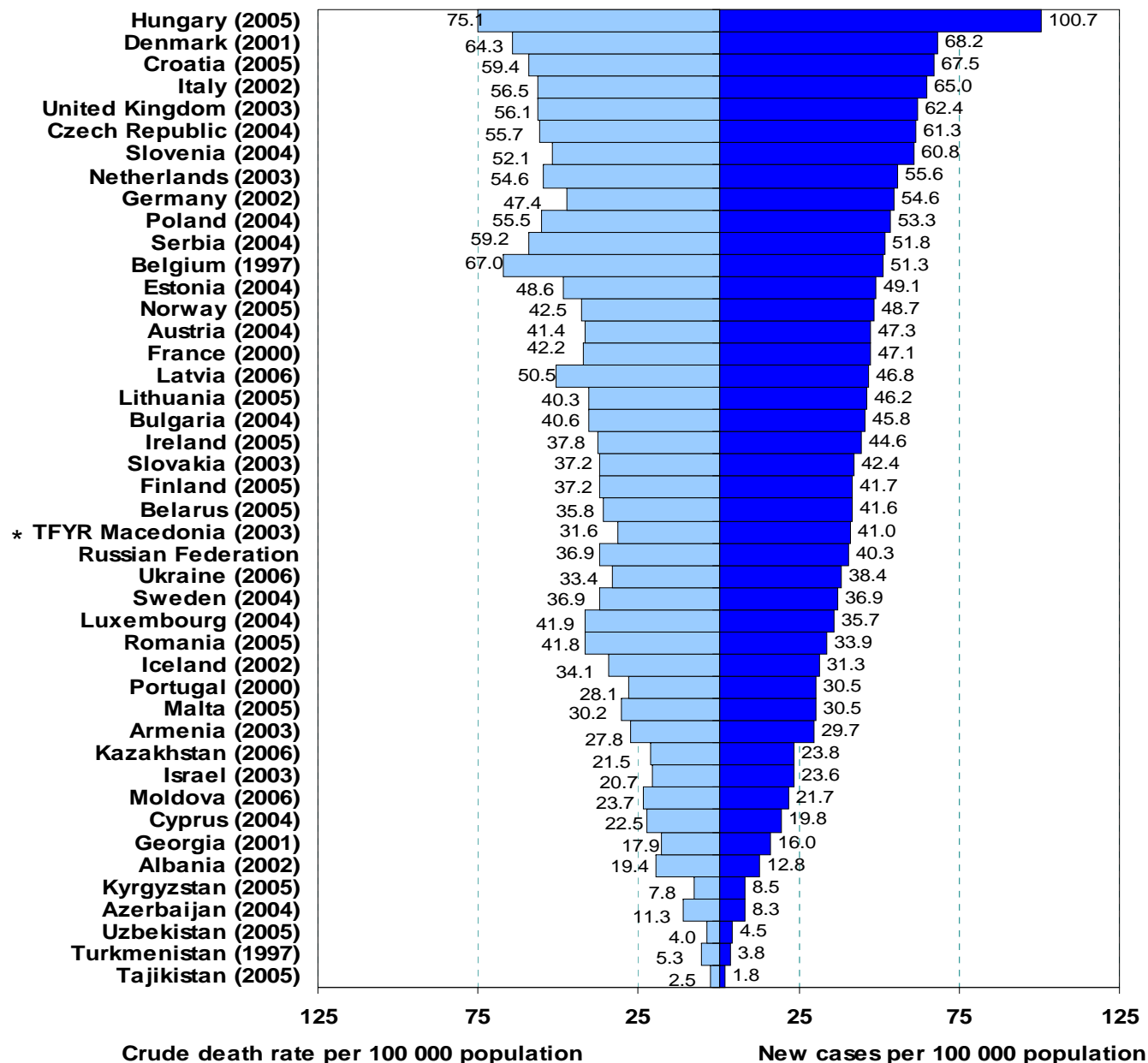


Trachea, bronchus and lung cancer incidence per 100 000



Source: European Health for All database, WHO/Europe, 2010.

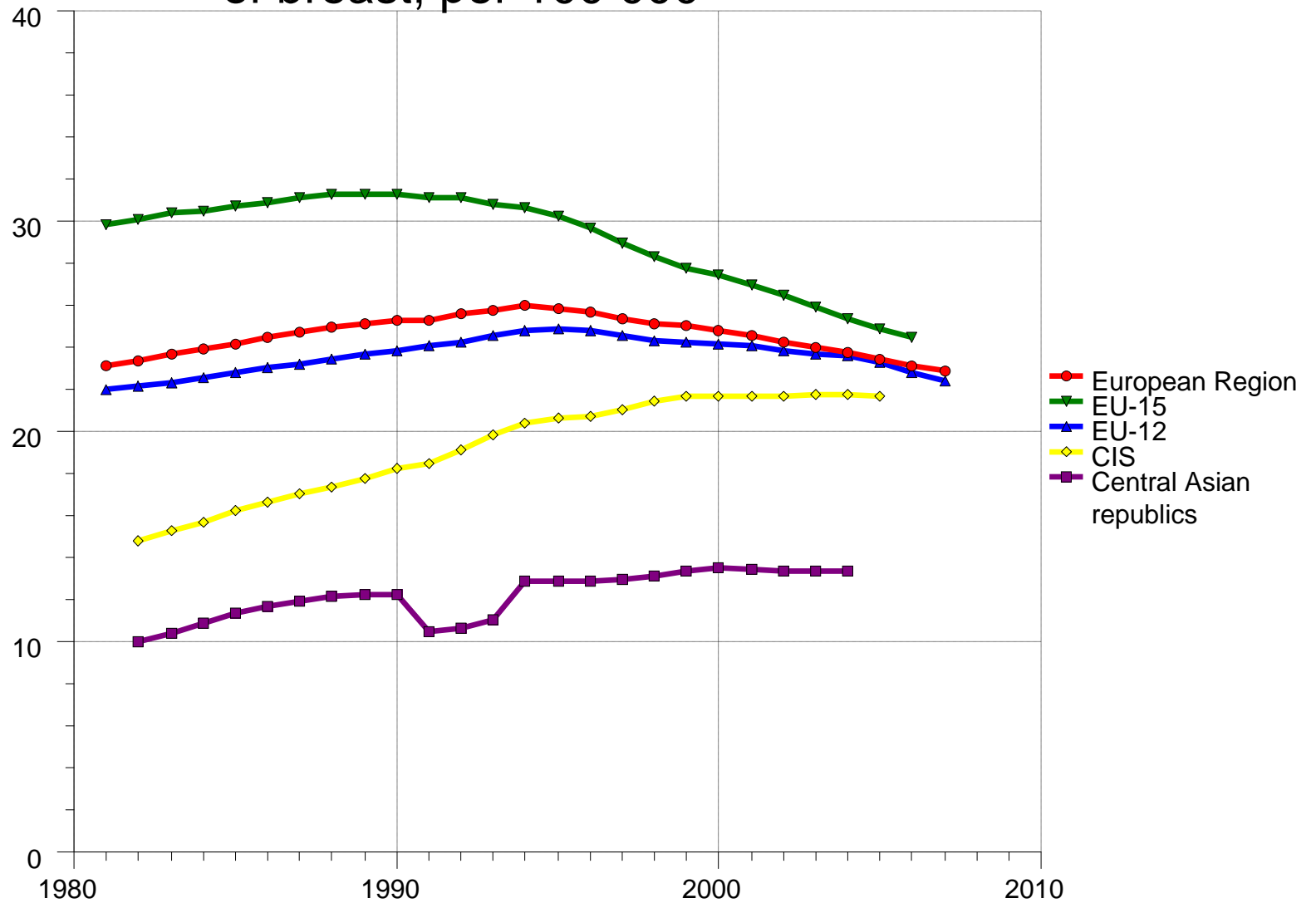
Lung cancer incidence and deaths



Source: Atlas of health in Europe. WHO/Europe, 2008.

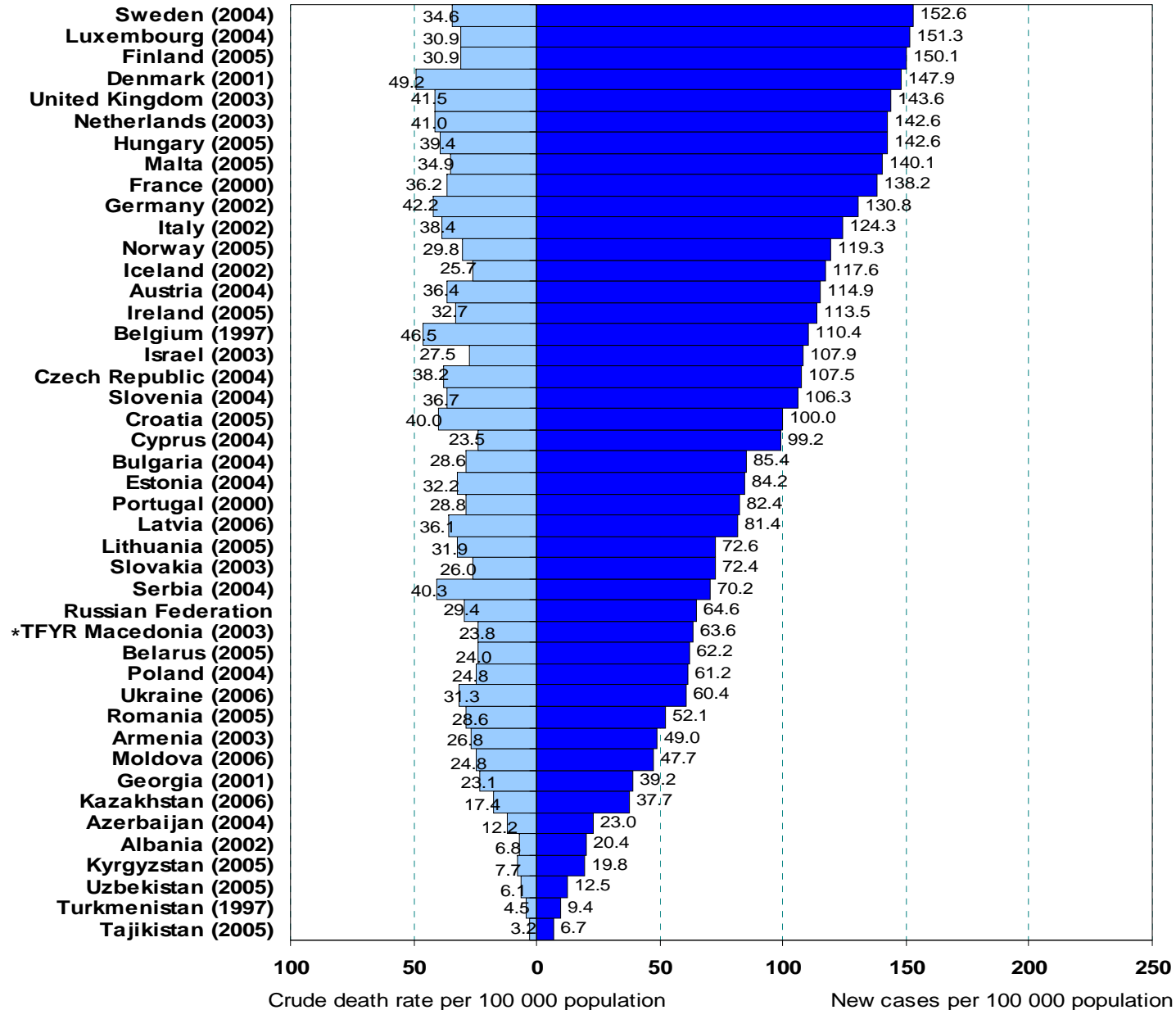
* The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

SDR, females, malignant neoplasm of breast, per 100 000



Source: European Health for All database. WHO/Europe, 2010.

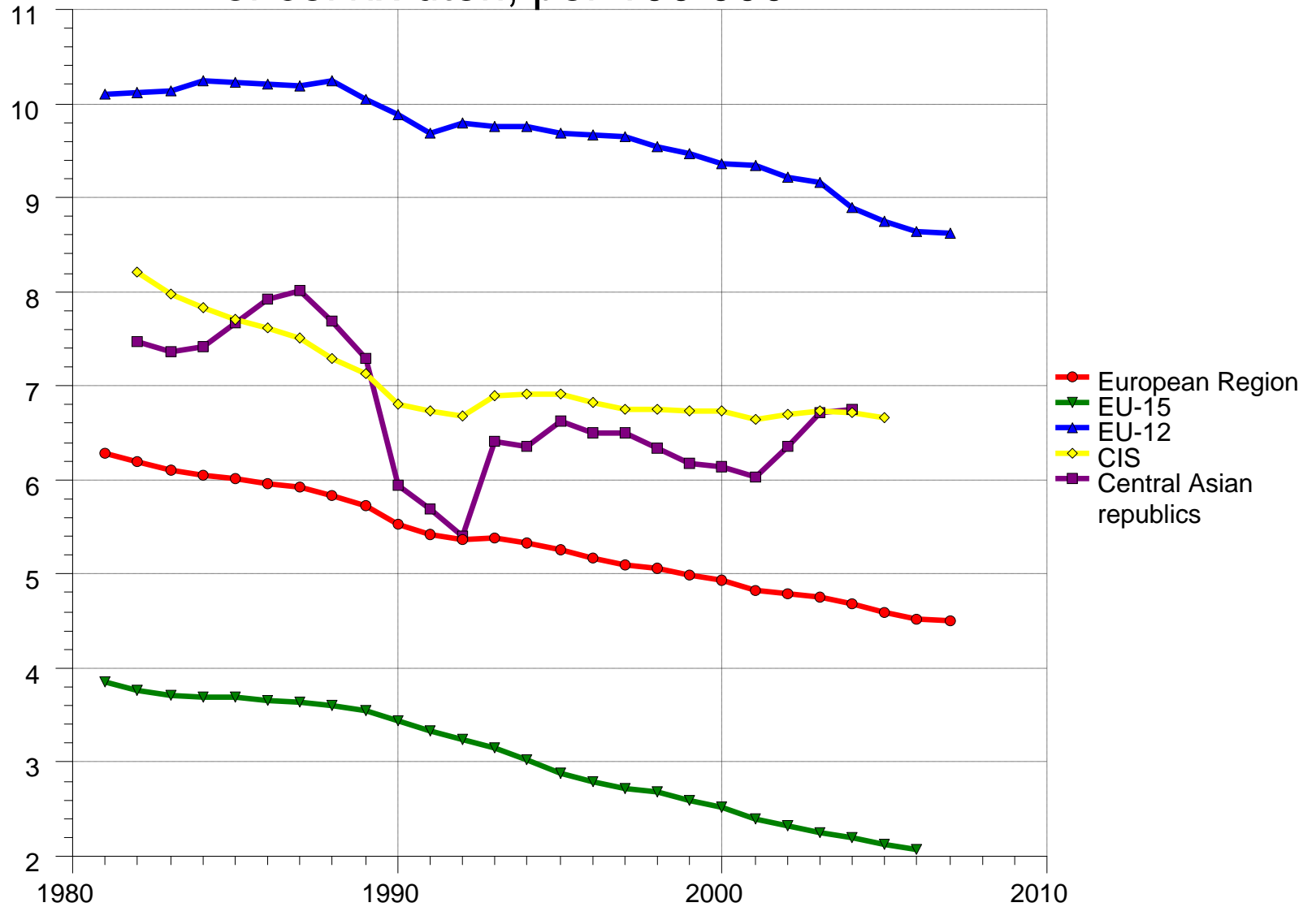
Female breast cancer incidence and deaths



Source: Atlas of health in Europe. WHO/Europe, 2008.

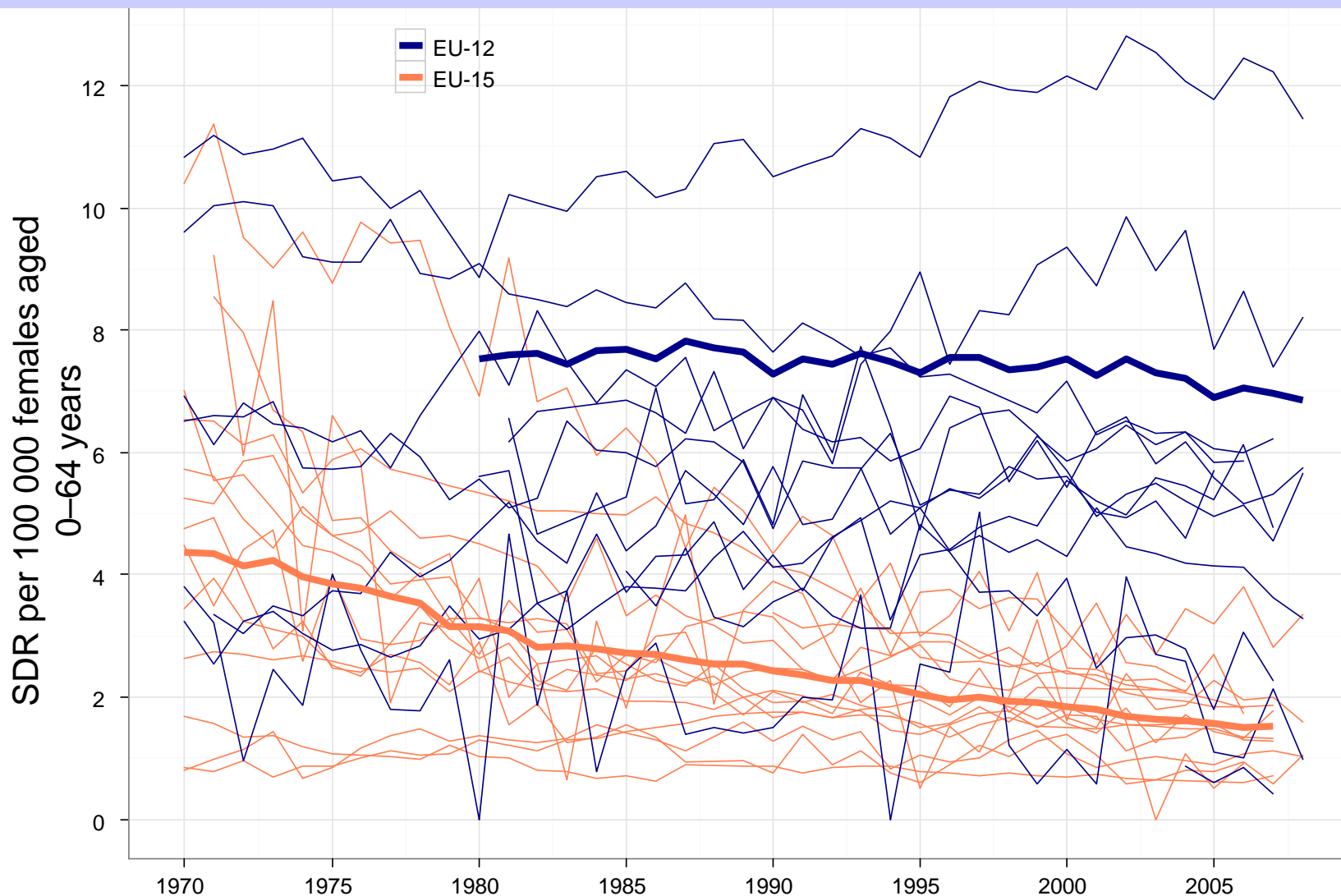
* The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

SDR, females, malignant neoplasm of cervix uteri, per 100 000



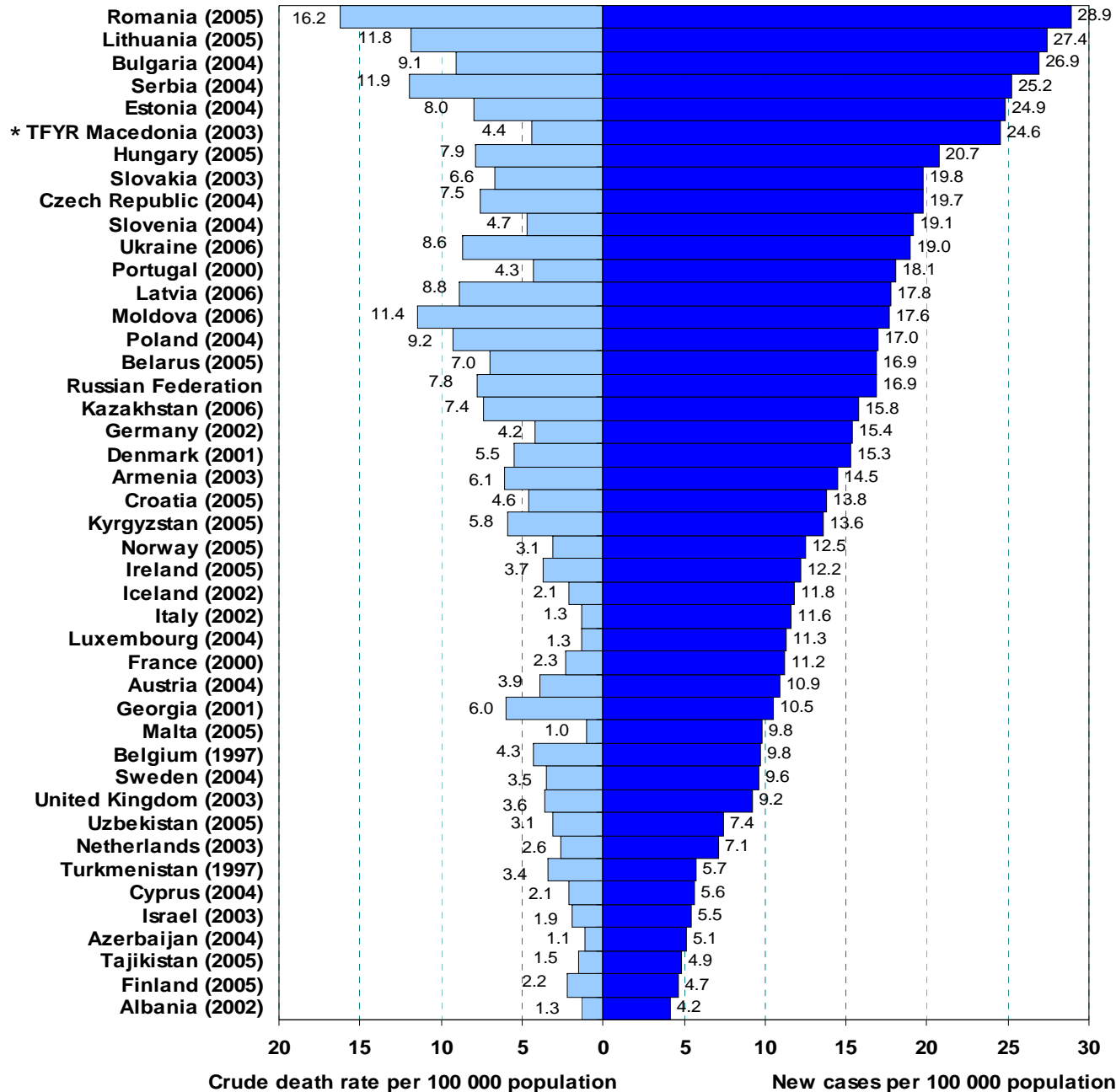
Source: European Health for All database. WHO/Europe, 2010.

Trends in premature mortality from cervical cancer in EU countries, 1970–2007



Source: European Health for All database. WHO/Europe, 2010.

Female cervical cancer incidence and deaths



Source: Atlas of health in Europe. WHO/Europe, 2008.

* The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Integrated action plan on noncommunicable diseases (NCDs)

Population-wide health promotion to tackle the main NCD risk factors:

- Tobacco
- Poor diet
- Excessive alcohol intake
- Physical inactivity

Early detection

- Mammography
 - Cervical cancer screening
 - Colorectal cancer
- ... already introduced in all countries, although target populations and recommended frequency vary considerably
- ... screening introduced in only a few countries in the European Region

Cancer research across Europe

- Need for coordinated and comprehensive cancer registries across the EU, covering (a representative sample of) all populations
 - Latest data on EU-wide cancer incidence and mortality are incomplete and outdated
- Thorough review of European directives on research and data protection

Regional leadership, technical excellence and synergistic collaboration among partners

With political leadership from the EU and Member States, and technical leadership from WHO, cancer control can make real progress in the coming years.

Thank you...
Merci beaucoup...
Dank u wel...