

TB Surveillance – The Challenge of Data Quality

Sofia, 25 November 2009

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The two questions

What is happening?

What are we doing?

The two questions

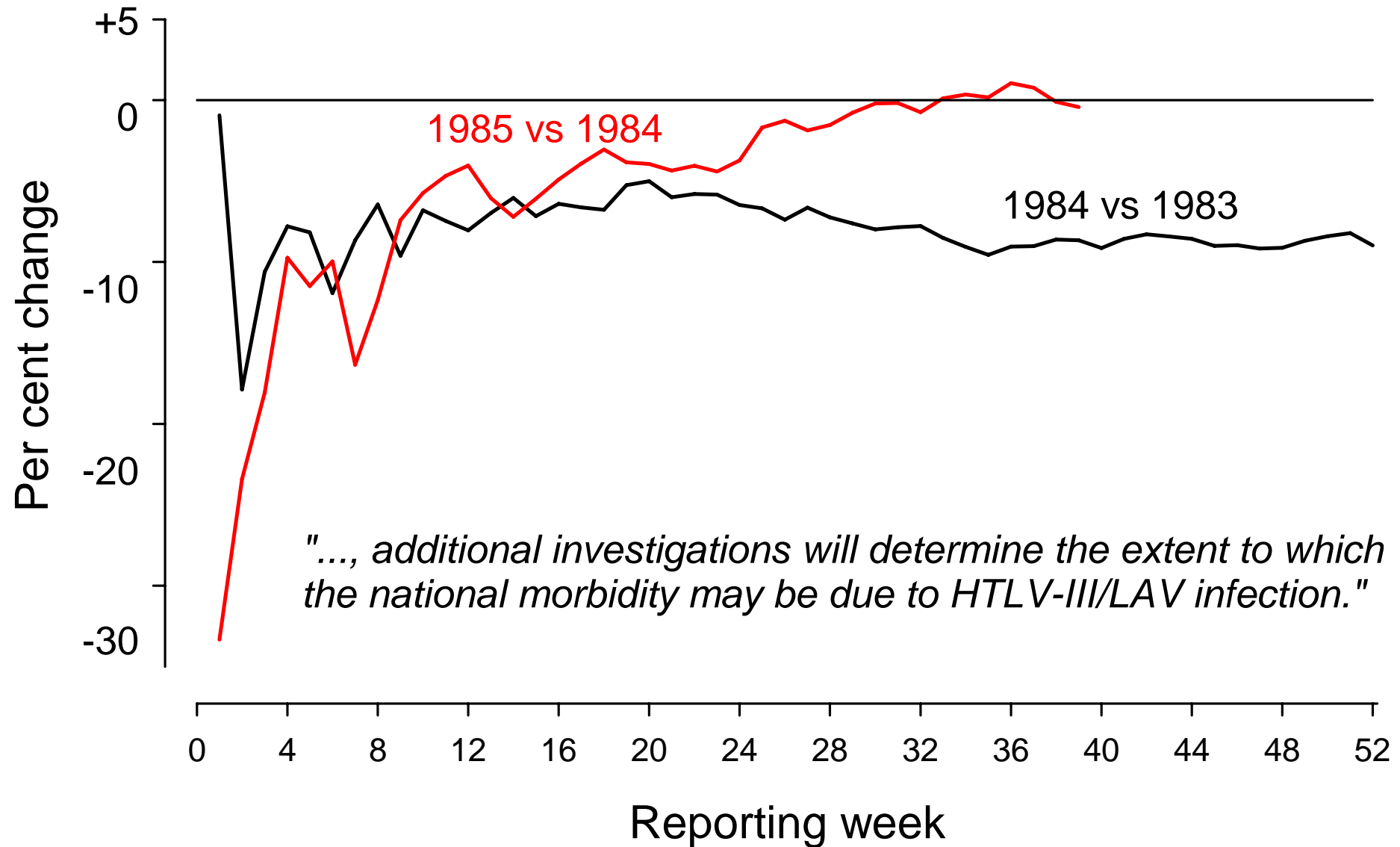
What is happening?

What are we doing?

Points on surveillance priorities

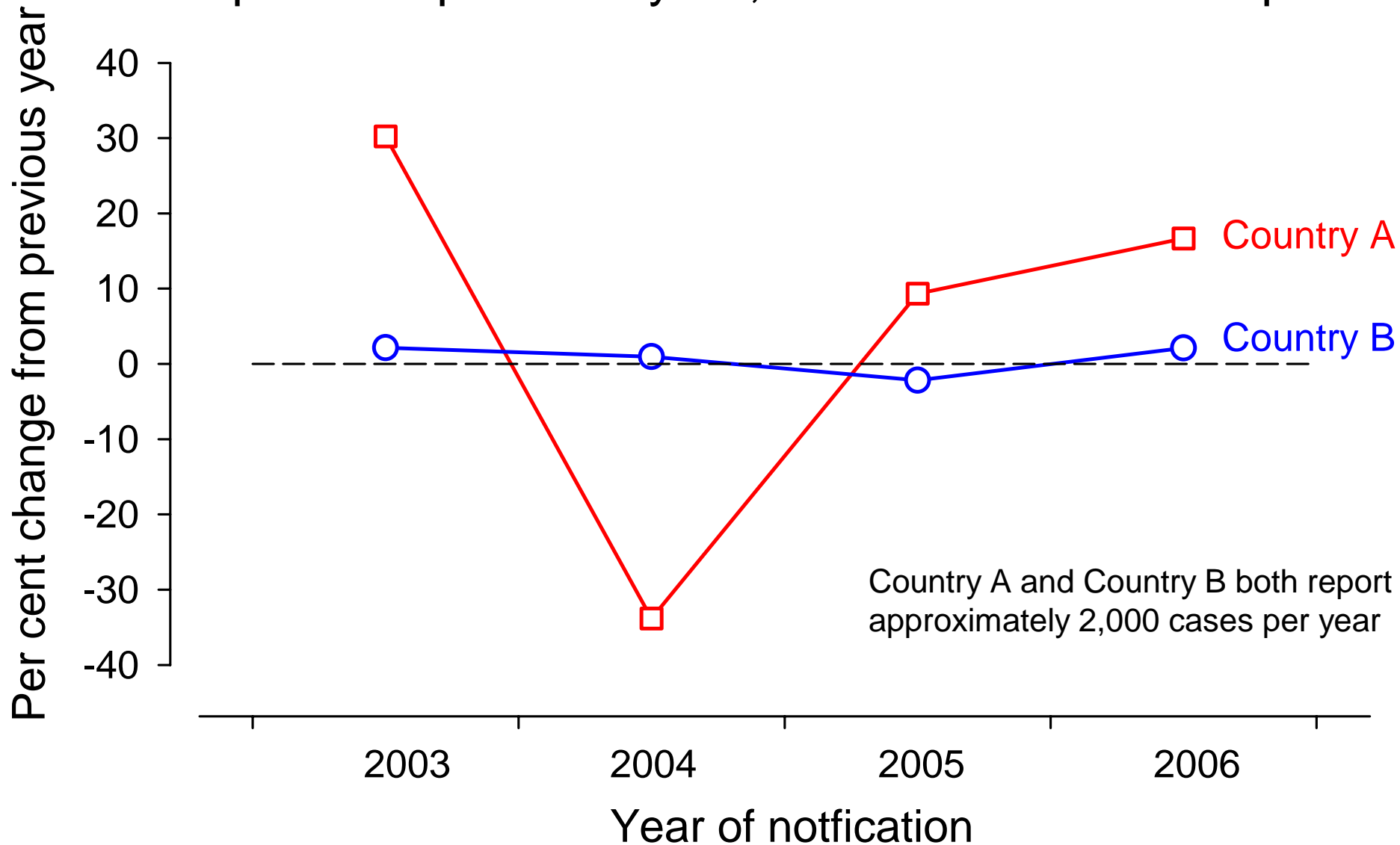
- o Simple, accurate case count, based on an unambiguous case definition
- o Any sophistication above case count includes only few key variables, targeted for 100% completeness and accuracy
- o Variables that are not analyzed are utterly useless
- o Prevalence surveys are no excuse for countries that cannot count the cases

Tuberculosis - United States, First 39 Weeks, 1985

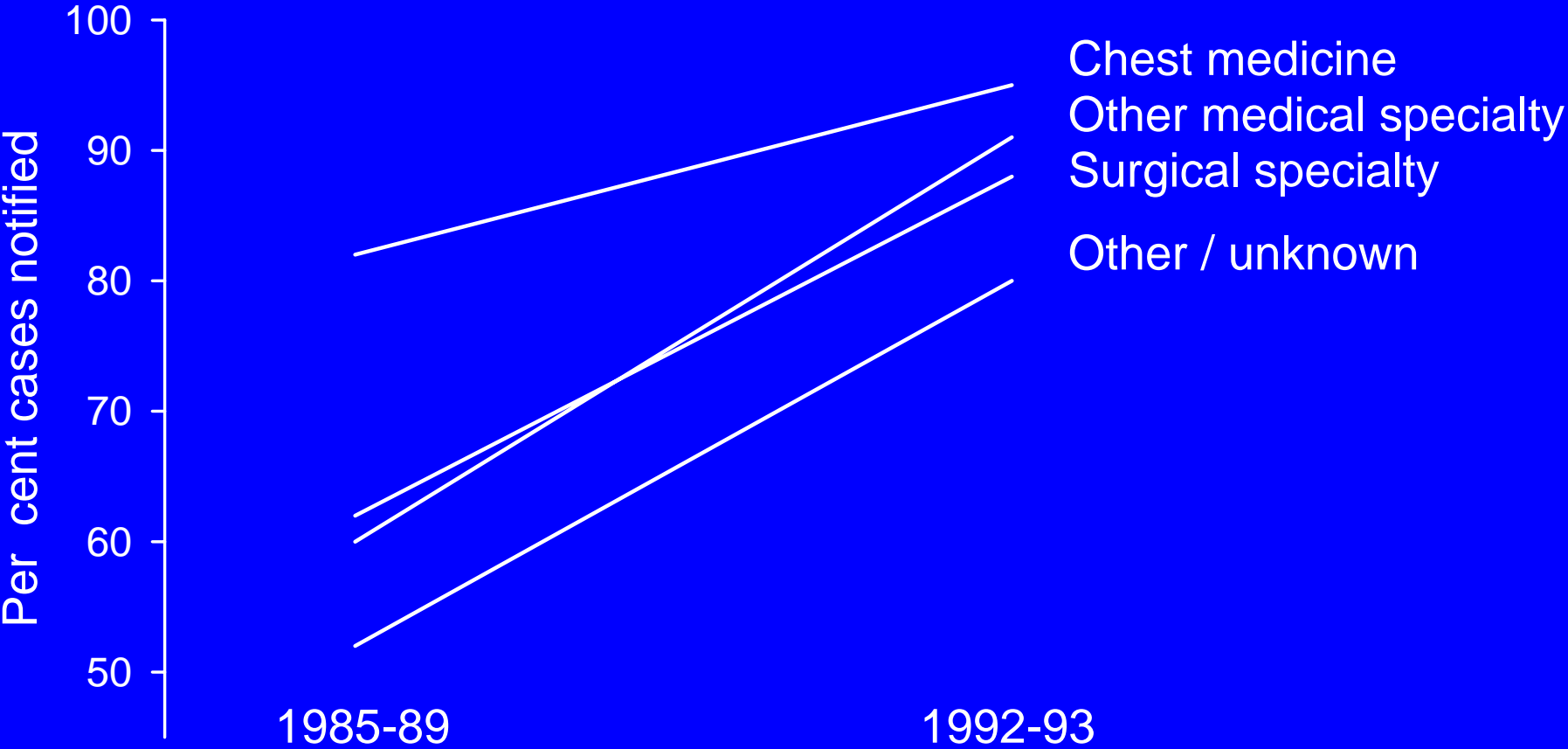


*CDC. Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 1985;34:625-7
Raw data courtesy: Alan B Bloch, 11 Oct 1994*

Percentage change in tuberculosis notifications, compared to previous year, two countries in Europe



Improved Notification of Tuberculosis in Two London Hospitals



Brown JS, et al. Br Med J 1995;310:974

Tuberculosis cases documented and reported to the Public Health Departments by two large hospitals in West Greece during 2000-2003

Prefecture	Thorax and University Hospital identified cases	Reported cases to PHD	Notification rate (%)
Achaia	100	22	22
Aitolokarnania	39	20	51.3
Ilia	47	30	63.8
West Greece total	186	72	38.7

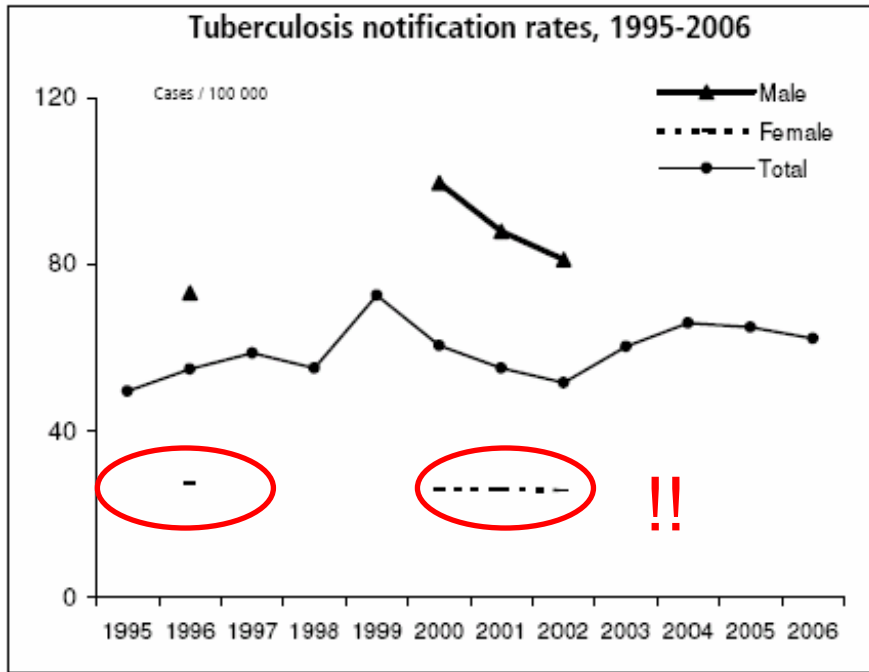
Jelastopulu E, et al. Eurosurveillance 2009;14:52-5

Elements of a mandatory notification system

- o Mandate practicing clinicians to report each new case placed on antituberculosis treatment
- o Mandate laboratories to report each new laboratory-confirmed case of tuberculosis
- o Develop a system to link clinician- and laboratory-notified cases to consolidate and exclude duplicate reporting
- o Report bacteriologically confirmed cases separated from all other cases

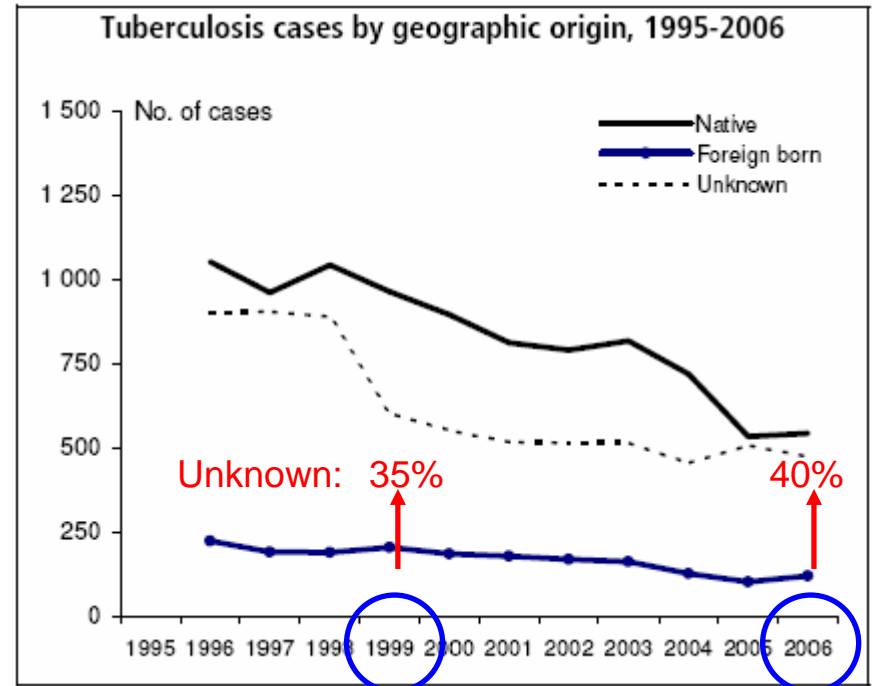
Is this Europe, priding herself?

Country X



Anything goes...

Country Y



No intention to improve further...

Hierarchy of key variables for each case

0) Impeccable case count

1) Result of bacteriological examination

2) Major site of disease

3) Sex

4) Date of birth

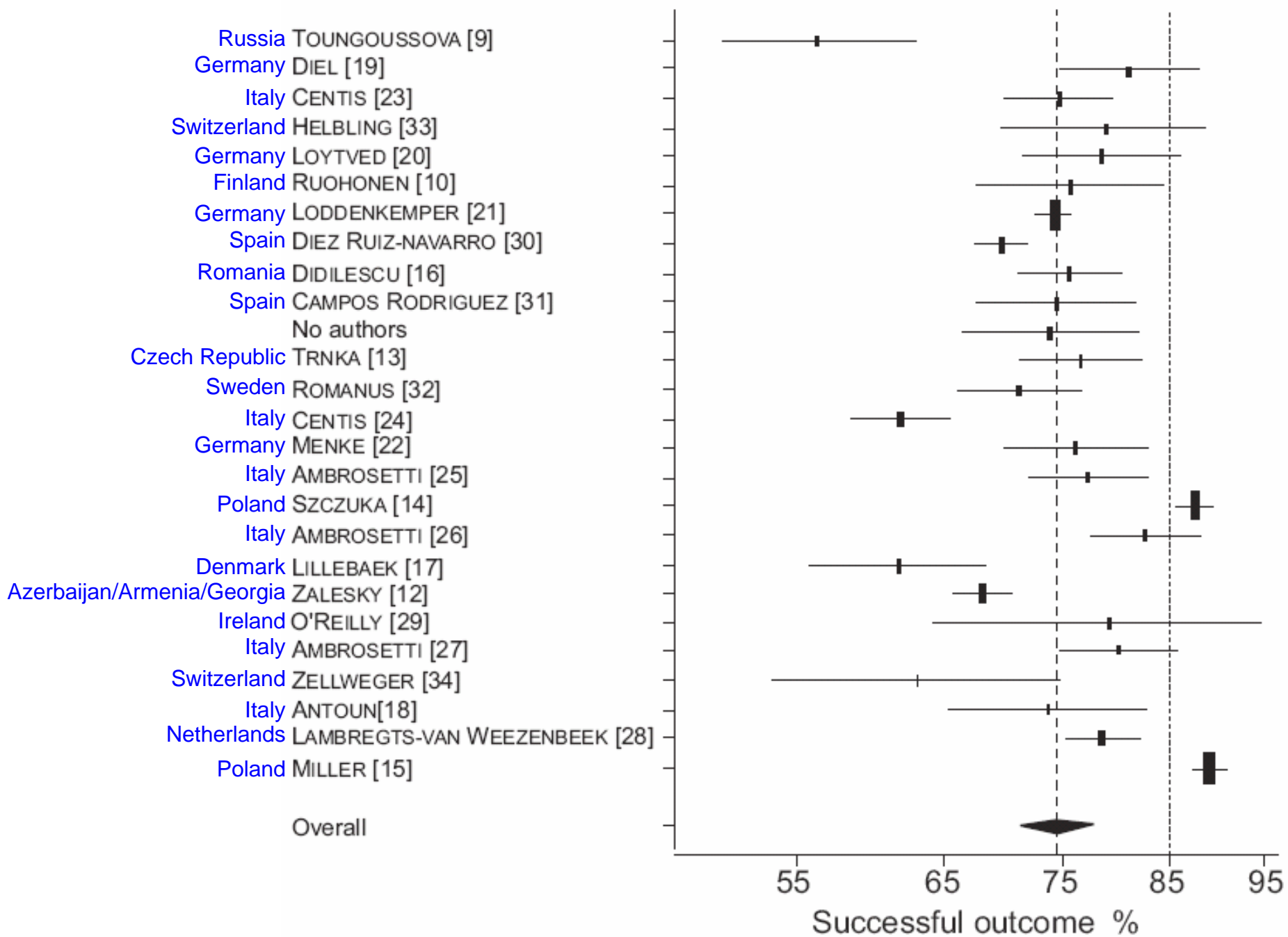
5) Country of birth

No other information until the above is available in 100% for each and every case

The two questions

What is happening?

What are we doing?





Either way gets you to the trophy....
....but one seems to have more appeal

Thank you for bearing with me!

