

Interdisciplinary knowledge chains and tools for decision-making in environment and health

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HENVINET
HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

www.henvinet.eu



Example questions for research

- What are the respiratory effects related to climate change?
- What are the risks related to phthalates?
- What are urban health risks related to air pollution?
- What issues will the populations of the North have to deal with in the future?

Example questions for research

- What are the respiratory effects related to climate change?
 - >> Advice to GPs
- What are the risks related to phthalates?
 - >> Risk assessment, chemicals
- What are urban health risks related to air pollution?
 - >> Urban management
- What issues will the populations of the North have to deal with in the future?
 - >> CC policies

Common traits

The questions:

- Complex ("simple" questions have been answered)
- Cross disciplines as we knew them
- It matters who poses the question, and it matters to whom the question is addressed

Delivering answers:

- Common framework
- Accepted interface facilitates a dialogue
- Communication heavy both within research and between research and the world

Example solutions: Knowledge chains

INTARESE: Methods development for integrated environment and health assessment www.intarese.org

- Framework development, recognizes the need for scoping
- Case studies
- Toolbox www.integrated-assessment.org
- Data sources: Monitoring and surveillance

HEIMTSA: Health and Environment Integrated Methodology and Toolbox for Scenario Assessment

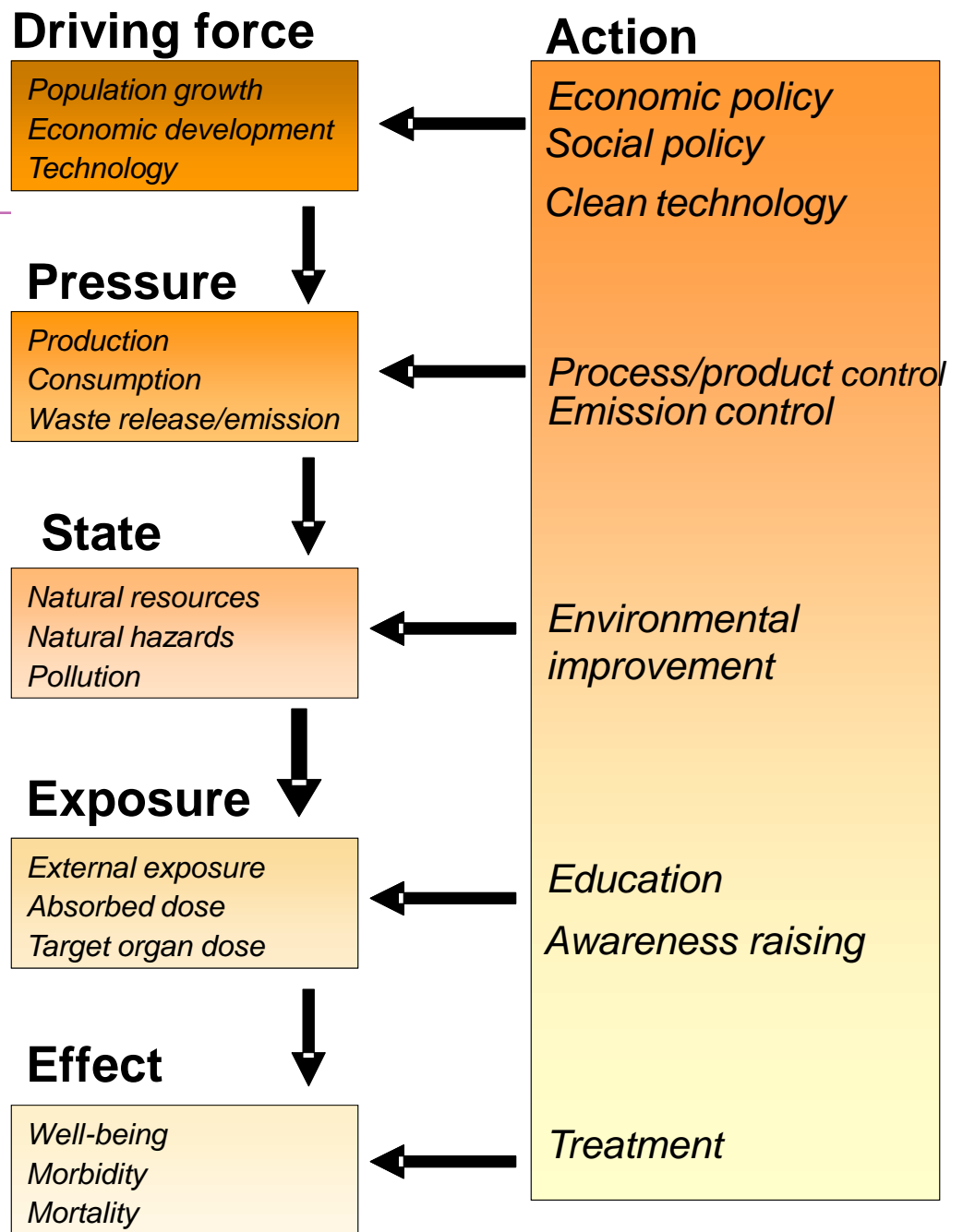
- Four case studies on “issues” – indoor air, outdoor air, pollutants with complex pathways, noise – using the “full chain” analysis
- Understanding uncertainties
- www.heimtsa.eu

HENVINET: Health and Environment network

- 4 Scale/EHAP topics – DPSEEA - based knowledge evaluation
- Permanent E&H network www.henvinet.eu as tool for communication

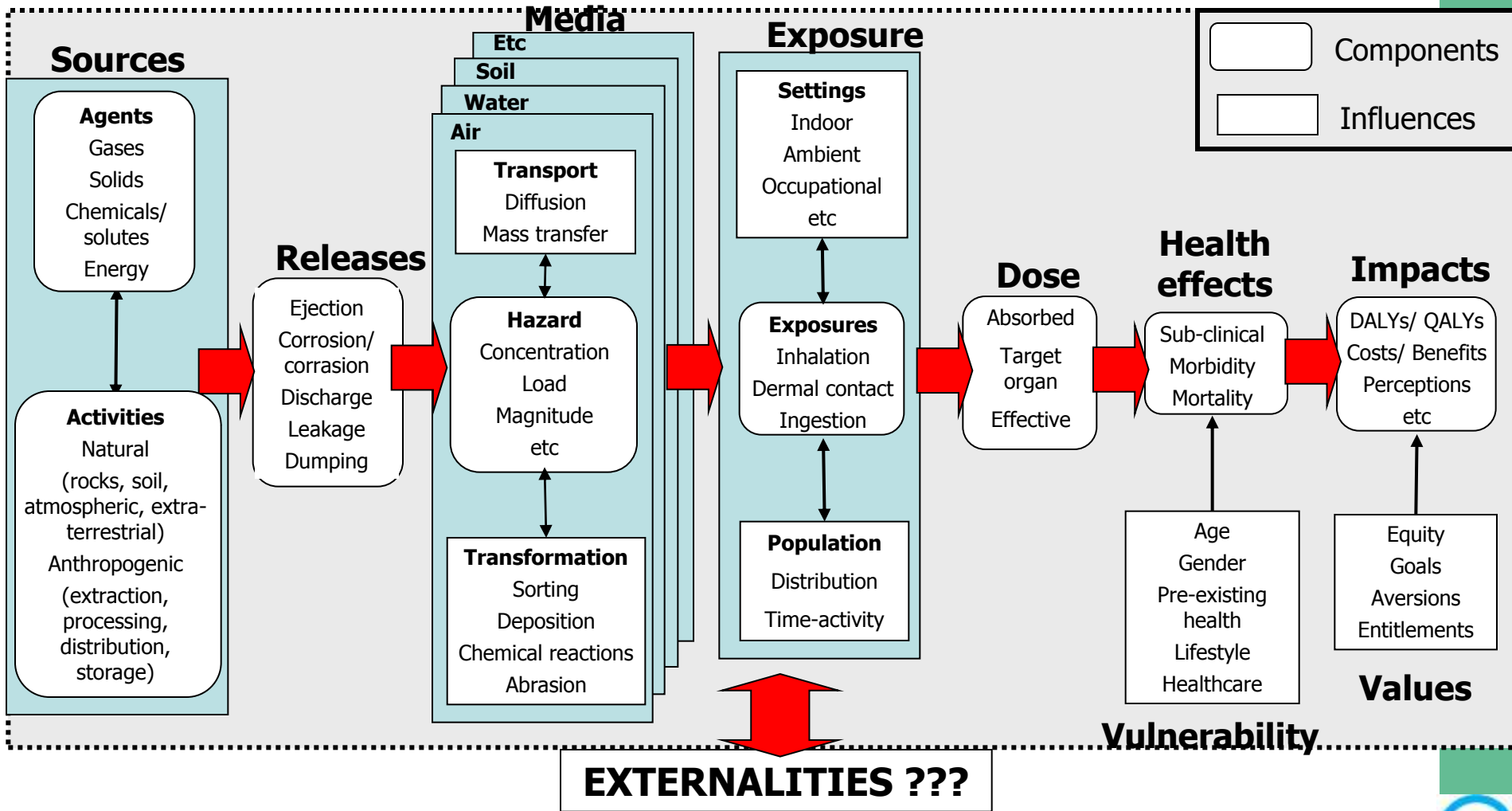


Frameworks I

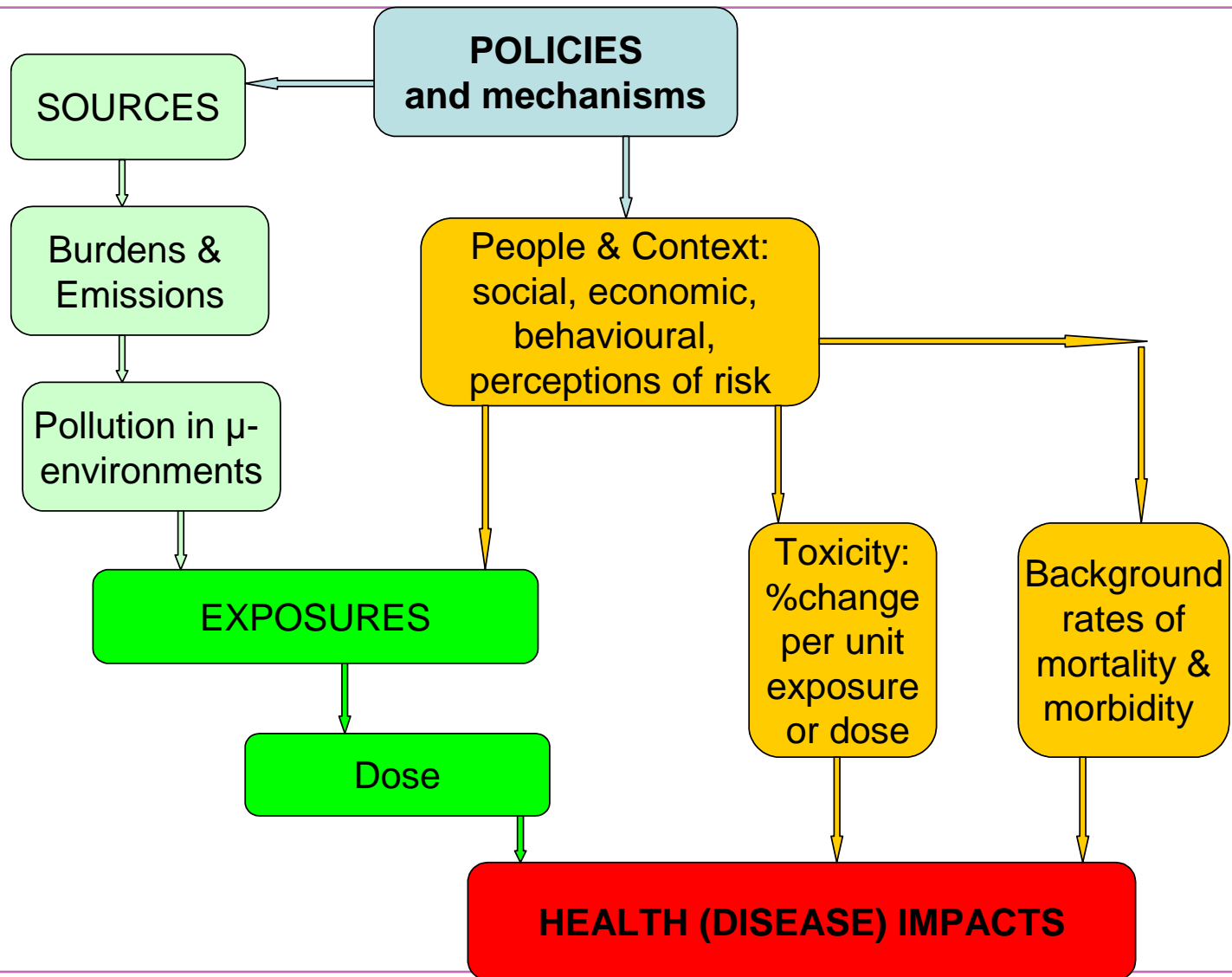


Source: WHO ECEH

Frameworks II INTARESE

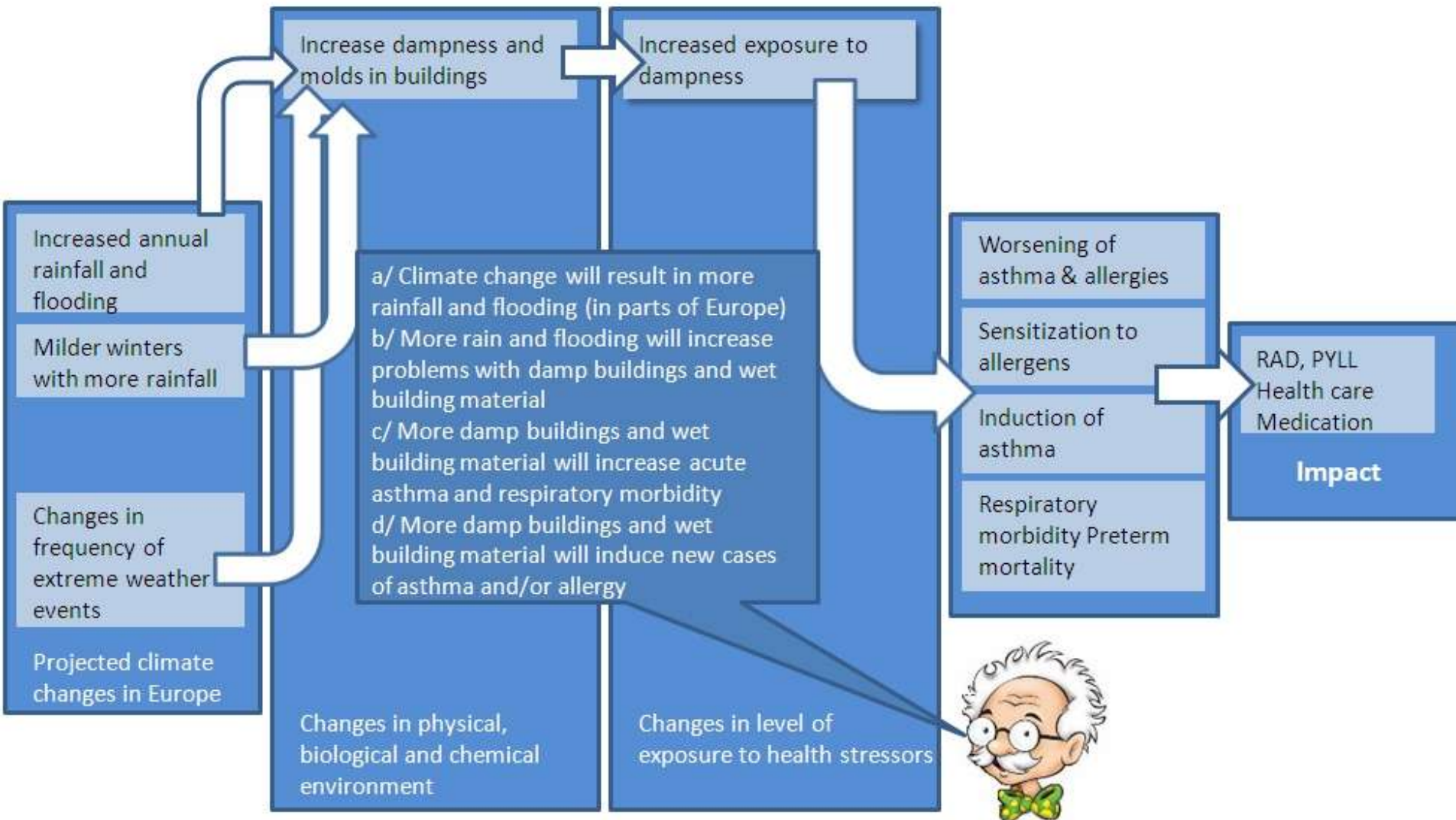


Frameworks III HEIMTSA



Source: IOM/F. Hurley, 2010

Frameworks IV: CC-related dampness and asthma/allergy (HENVINET)



Delivering the answers: HENVINET

- Stage 1: knowledge evaluation
 - Design framework /mind map (“scoping”)
 - Evaluate (Review and expert elicitation)
- Stage 2: Policy interpretation based in expert workshop
 - sufficient evidence for action
 - Insufficient evidence for action
 - sufficient evidence for no action
- Stage 3: Communication to the owner of the question

Missing link: Science – Policy Interface

Scientific domain

- Define research questions
- Generate research results

Policy domain

- Define policy questions
- Decide policy solutions



- Common platform:
- access to research actors
 - tools for assessment
 - tools for communication
 - accessible results

Questioning the answers

- **Data is not knowledge**
 - What is involved in interpretation and who does it?
- **Quality criteria**
 - Meaning & weight of knowledge?
 - Relevant body of knowledge?
 - The 'right' (group of) experts?
- **Anything goes?**
 - Where does science become personal interpretation? From (lack of) data & uncertainties to science to knowledge from a problem solving perspective
- **Method is a part of the process:**
 - No best method/practice: contextual negotiation & mutual learning (accepting each others complexities, expertise & views)

Conclusion: main challenges

- Developing (operational) frameworks
- Understanding the need for interfaces
- Accepting each others complexities, expertise and views
- Internalizing the real-world concerns into the solutions
- Recognizing that the process is part of the answer.

Thank you for your attention!
