



Towards a coordinated risk assessment framework?

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Content of my presentation



1. Introduce ECDC to you
2. ECDC's role and mandate in risk assessment
3. ECDC view on the common framework.

What is ECDC ?



"An independent agency, named the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control"
(Regulation 851/2004) – started 2 years ago, now operational in every aspect of its mandate

A European Union Agency which :

- is a member of the European Union (EU) family
- covers EU 27, EEA/EFTA and as of 1 January 2007 integrating Turkey, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Croatia;



↓
Chair of MB

What is the role of ECDC in the Founding Regulation ?



- Identify, assess & communicate current & emerging health threats to human health from infectious diseases (**risk assessment** role and it has advisory role to the EC and MS on risk management issues)
- **Detection of health threats:** surveillance and epidemic intelligence;
- **Provide evidence-based scientific opinions/advice;**
- **Strengthen preparedness and response**
 - Operate the early warning system and response
 - Support MS in outbreak investigation and RA;
 - Build capacity through training
- **Health Communication**

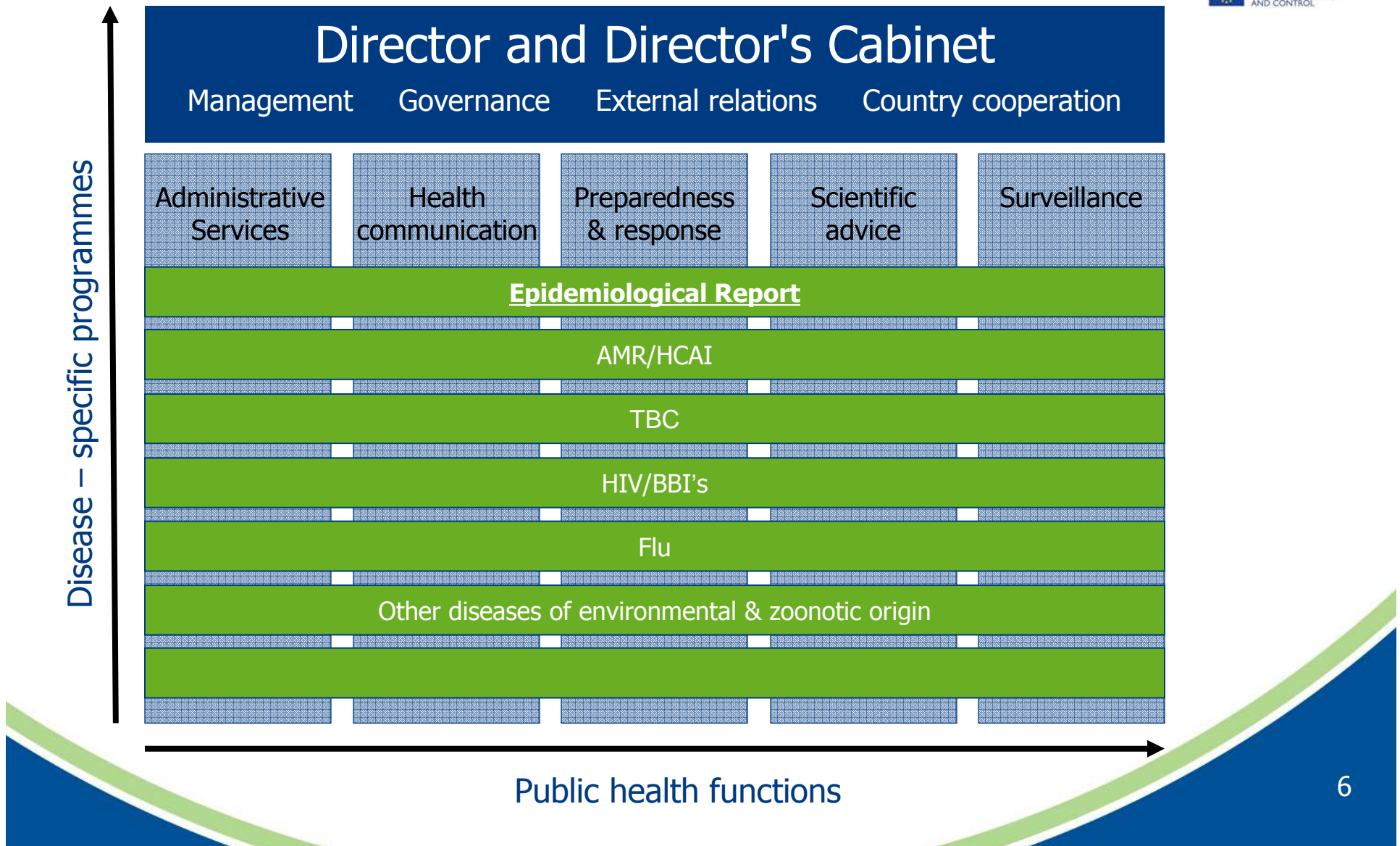
**ECDC:
scientific and
technical
institute**

ECDC works in partnership

- EU institutions: Commission, EP, (Council?), EU agencies;
- WHO: HQ and EURO;
- Member States: ECDC builds on networks, infrastructure and expertise of MS's;
- ECDC has no institutions, research centres and laboratories of its own – “networks the networks” to ensure synergy and consistency between European and national levels;



How is ECDC organised?



ECDC Bodies Management Board



Management board

ECDC Bodies Advisory Forum



Advisory Forum

ECDC Bodies Director and staff



ECDC and its Competent Bodies



- Competent Bodies → formally designated by MS's (National public health institutions)
- Function :
 - Bilateral links
 - Coordination, collaboration, preparation of various issues for Commission/MS's
 - Appoint expertise



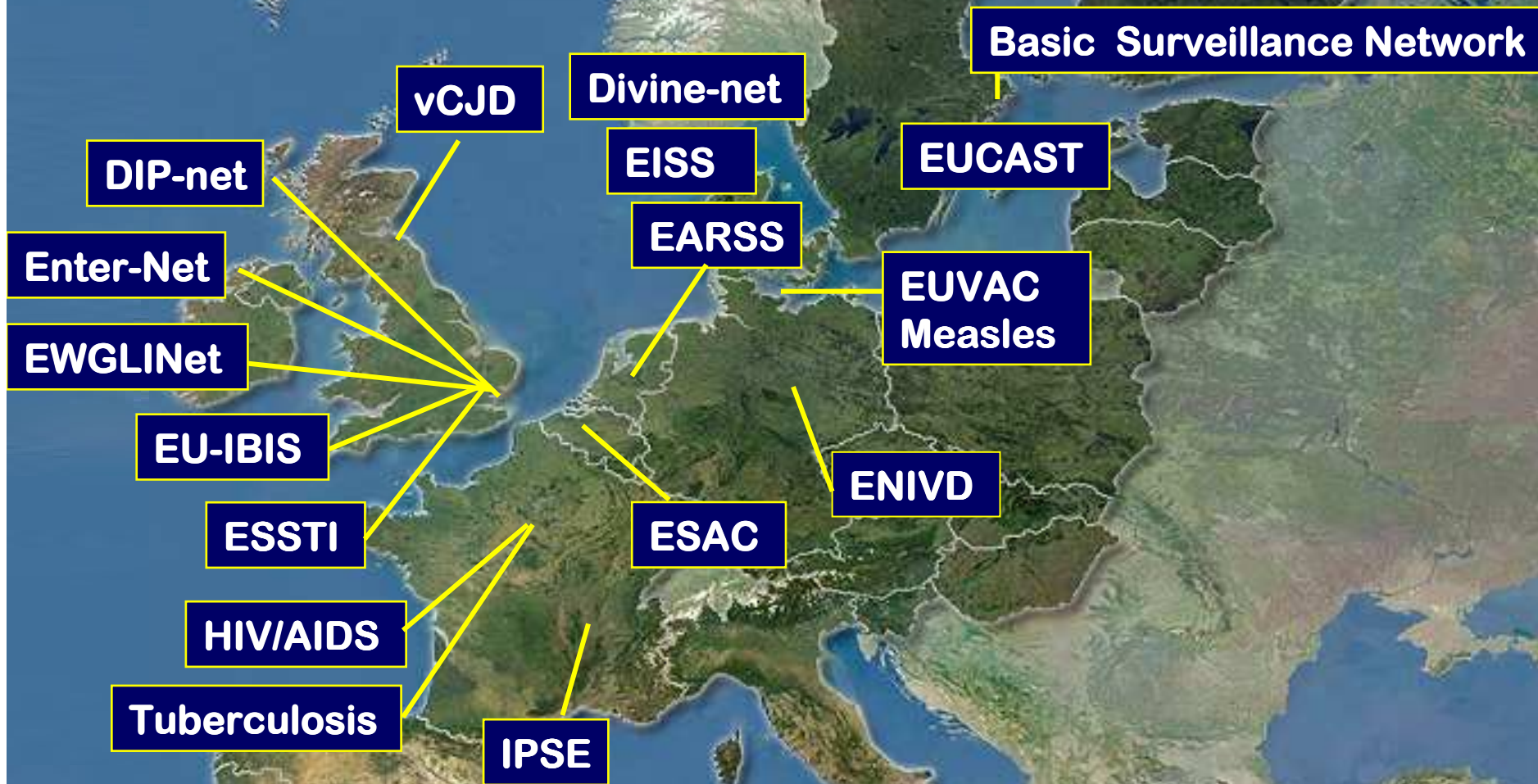
Mission statement

To strengthen European surveillance in order to reinforce detection, prevention and control of infectious diseases in Europe.

Surveillance Unit's tasks:

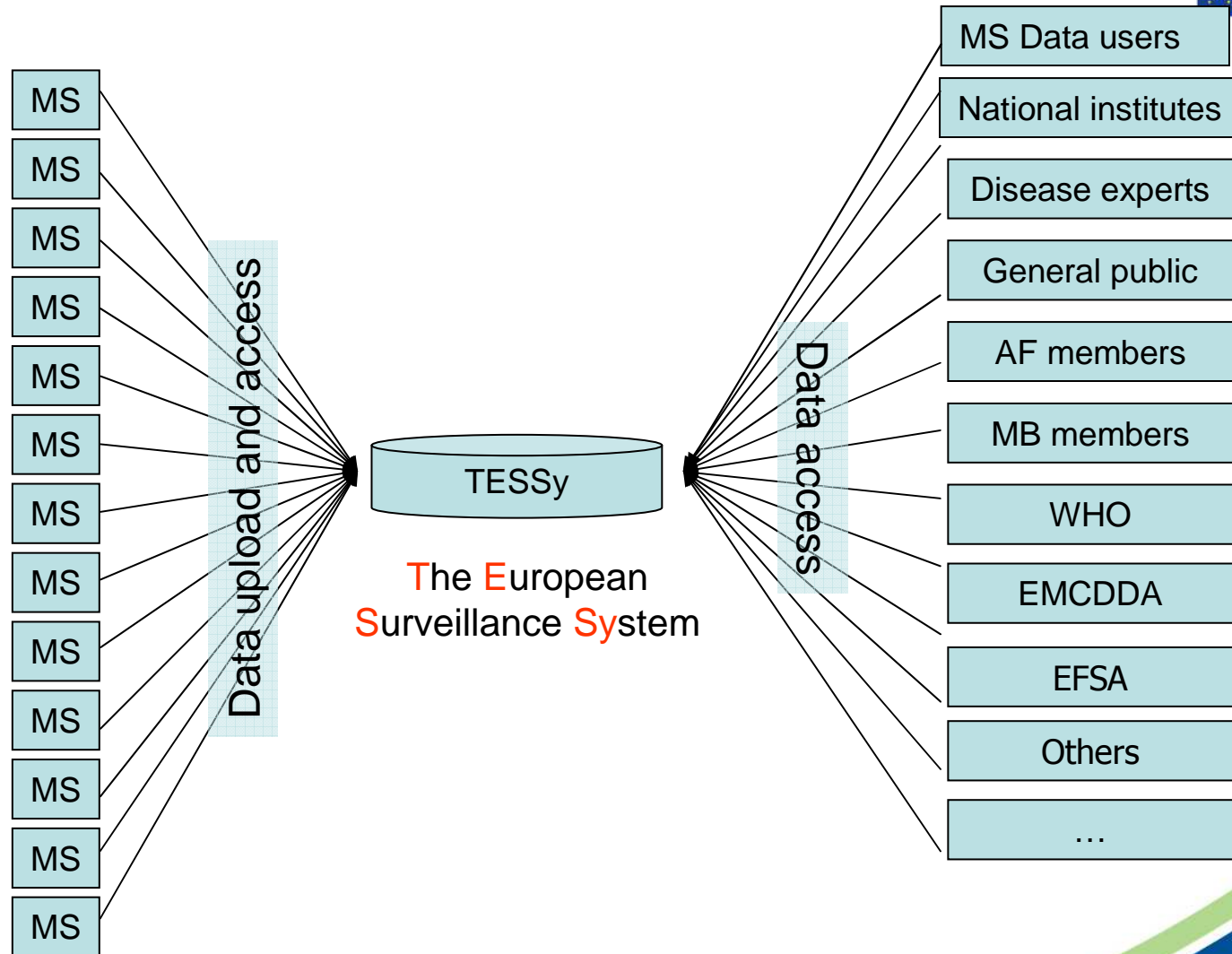
- Search, collect, collate, evaluate and disseminate data
- Coordinate the integrated operations of the DSNs

Surveillance networks set up by Commission



Surveillance networks funded through Public Health program
wide variety of data flows and databases

Planned Solution: one stop-shop



Current main activities... towards an integrated system



- Evaluation of DSNs, transition plans for DSNs integration
- Surveillance Long-term Strategy - future surveillance aims & objectives, 7 year perspective
- Improve quality and comparability of surveillance data – harmonisation / standardisation
 - New Case Definitions, *finalising*
- Developing European Database (TESSy)
- Annual Epidemiological Report



Preparedness and Response Unit



Preparedness and Response Unit

Early warning & Response

Epidemic Intelligence

Response

Preparedness

Preparedness

Training



Emergency Operation Centre



**Preparedness
and Response
Unit: an
operational,
hands-on unit.**

**Peace – time : E1
everyday**

**War – time: RA of
multi-countries
preparedness**

ECDC meeting in the Emergency Operation Centre



Jean-Claude Desenclos and Charles Jeannin, part of ECDC led team assessing outbreak of chikungunya in Italy, September 2007



Denis Coulombier (ECDC) and Dr Naema Al Gasseer (WHO representative in Iraq), outbreak of avian influenza, Iraq, February 2006



ECDC mandate in Preparedness and Response



- Detection of public health threats related to infectious disease or of unknown origin, assessment, investigation and control;
- Coordination of risk assessment activities in relation with public health threats through the ECDC Emergency Operation Centre (EOC);
- Strengthening preparedness of EU MS for the prevention, surveillance and control of infectious diseases;
- Strengthening and building the capacity of EU MS for these threats through training;
- Provision of technical advice and support to third countries upon request.



Scientific advice



By the year 2013 ECDC's reputation for scientific excellence and leadership is firmly established among its partners in public health.

ECDC is one of the prime resources for scientific information and advice on communicable diseases for the Commission, the Parliament, the MS and their citizens.



Health communication



- **Scientific communication**
 - Full integration of *Eurosurveillance*
 - Website
 - Scientific reports and publications
- **Information to the Public/Media**
 - Press/media
 - Website – multilingual portal in 2008
 - Coherence in risk communication
 - Focus on informing general public
- **Support to the Member States**
 - Network(s) of health communicators, e.g. with EC on influenza
 - Sharing of information and expertise
 - Joint projects with MSs (in pipeline)



Achievements of strategic importance ECDC operational on every aspect



1. Strategic Multiannual Plan 2007-2013 (budget agreement with Mr. Madelin)
2. First Epidemiological Report in EU (10 years's data)
3. Integration of all projects "inherited" from Commission Public Health Programme : DSN's, EPIET, Eurosurveillance, Epinorth, Episouth; handover of EWRS operation in pipeline;
4. Building up Emergency Operation Centre and regular monitoring of emerging health threats Health Monitoring Bulletin
5. Scientific opinions produced : influenza (all aspects; HPV vaccines; Childhood immunisation, schedules; Human H5N1 vaccine; rotavirus etc.
6. Pandemic preparedness status report to Commissioner.

Cont'd



7. EU Tuberculosis Action Plan
8. HIV/AIDS best practices to be identified
9. ESCAIDE Conference : European Scientific Conference on Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology
10. Risk assessments, e.g. Chikungunyna recently
11. 98 % budget execution in 2007 and full recruitment in establishment plan

2008 : Increased Focus on CONTENT DELIVERY

2. ECDC's role and mandate in risk assessment and the procedure used



ECDC Mission Statement



"... the mission of the Centre shall be to identify, ***assess*** and communicate current and emerging threats to human health from communicable diseases."

Who can request?



"The Centre shall issue a scientific opinion:

- (a) at the request of the Commission...;
- (b) at the request of the European Parliament or a Member State...
- (c) on its own initiative..."

Our Scientific Panels



"...the Centre may set up independent *ad hoc* scientific panels."

The Early Warning and Response System



"The Centre shall analyse the content of messages received via the early warning and response system. The Centre shall provide information, expertise, advice and ***risk assessment.***"

Four ways to handle requests



- the assessment is made in house by the ECDC experts
- if there exists a dedicated surveillance network covering this issue, they can be asked for an opinion
- the ECDC Advisory Forum (basically our Scientific Board) is asked for an opinion
- an *ad hoc* Scientific Panel is set up

Examples of RA's (1)



- Guidelines to minimize the risk of humans acquiring highly pathogenic avian influenza from exposure to infected birds or animals
- Avian influenza in cats – ECDC advice for avoiding exposure of humans
- The public health risk from highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses emerging in Europe
- Sudden deaths and influenza vaccinations in Israel - ECDC Interim Risk Assessment

Specific ECDC issues



1. Panels only *ad hoc* – *problem*
2. Need to do rapid RA's: do we need a coordinated procedure?

3. ECDC's view on the common framework for risk assessment



- Diversity of the EU family with a need for common procedures (difficult to justify the opposite)
- ECDC – as a new agency- learned a lot from all of you and now happy to share our experience, especially in rapid RA (this process is important for all of us)
- Common framework would be a benefit all of us:
 - Selection of experts, conflict of interest,
 - Building up evidence
 - Terminology
 - Output
 - Impact assessment

Cont'd



- Common framework certainly refers to procedure and not content (INDEPENDENCE!!!)
- How do we ensure that our opinions and RA's do not contradict to each other? Most difficult to find the right answer but it would embarrass all of us if we did not !
- How do we ensure that we inform each other and coordinate with one another before we come out with an opinion or RA! Not to catch each other by surprise or embarrass each other! We are stronger together than seperately
- How do we ensure an uptake in the MS's and how do we monitor it?

Many relevant issues for our discussions



- Learn from each other
- Need to coordinate more
- Seek your views on a more harmonized approach
- How do we ensure that we are aware of each other's work and we do not end up in embarrassing situations?

Thank you!

