




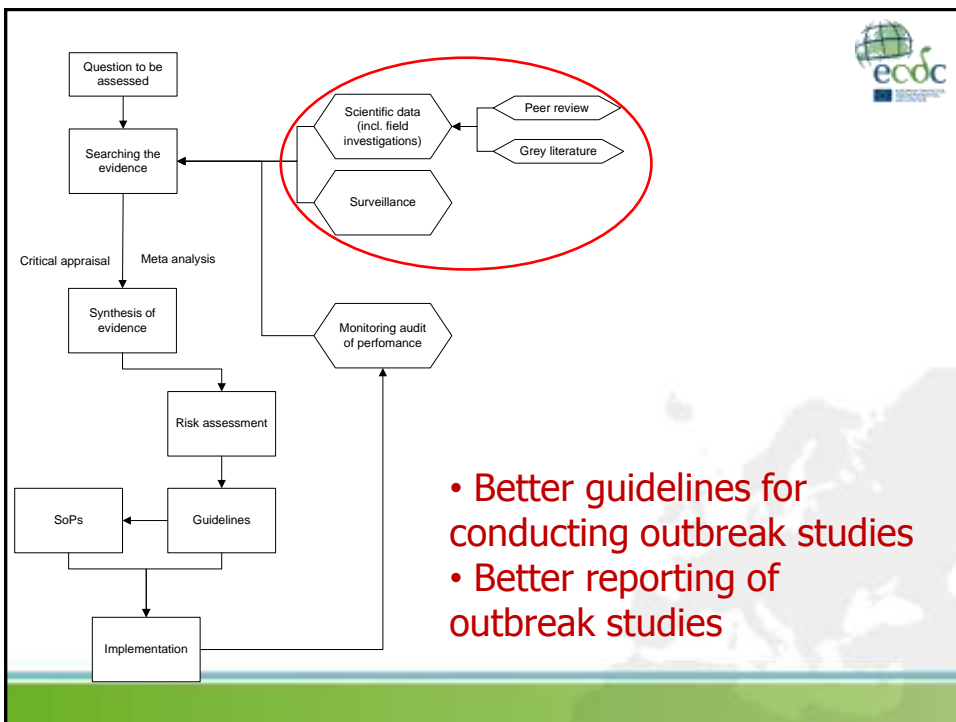
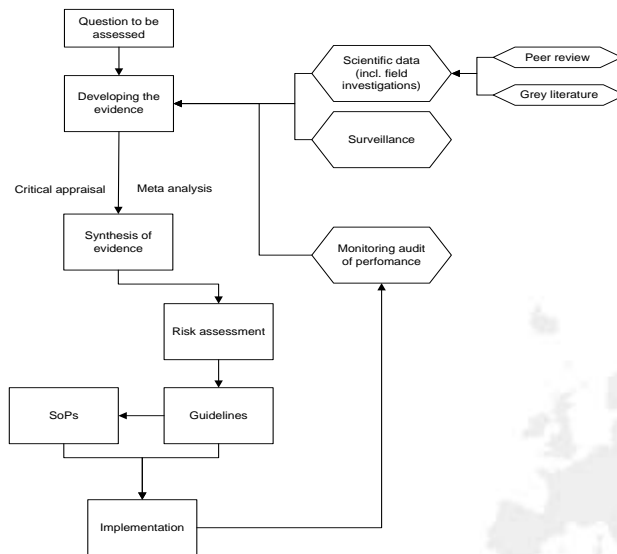
Public health guidance

Frode Forland, Senior Expert
GIN Workshop Seoul August 2011

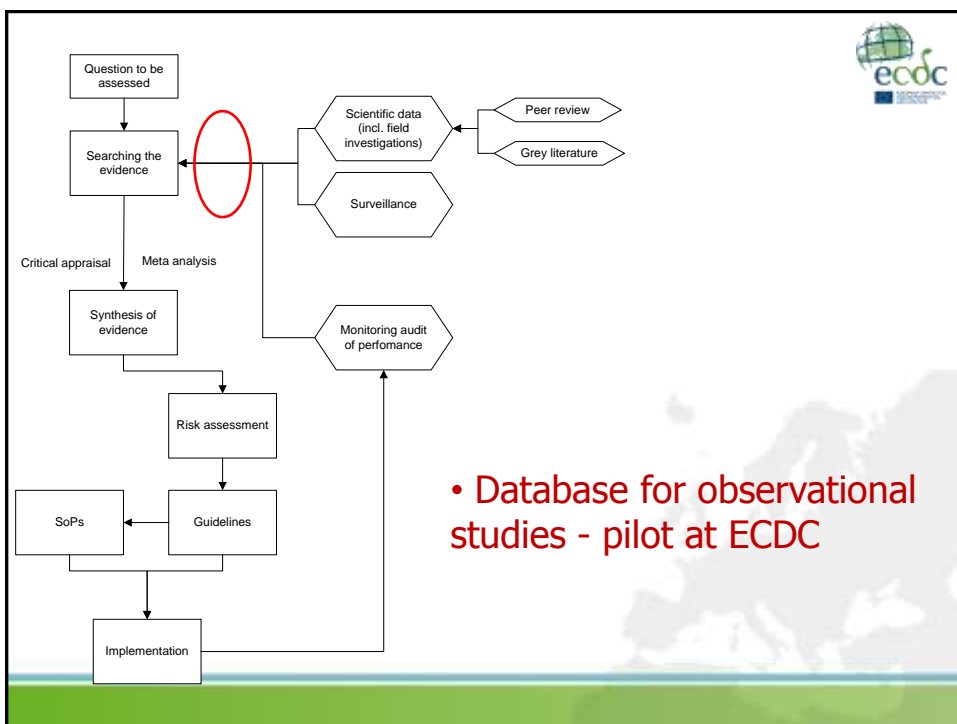
Working evidence based in public health infectious diseases

- A case is also an exposure
 - An outbreak can only be studied when it is ongoing
 - The evidence base is often weaker
 - Often lack of time
 - Wider and more complex judgements
 - Uncertainties might be high
 - The role of context
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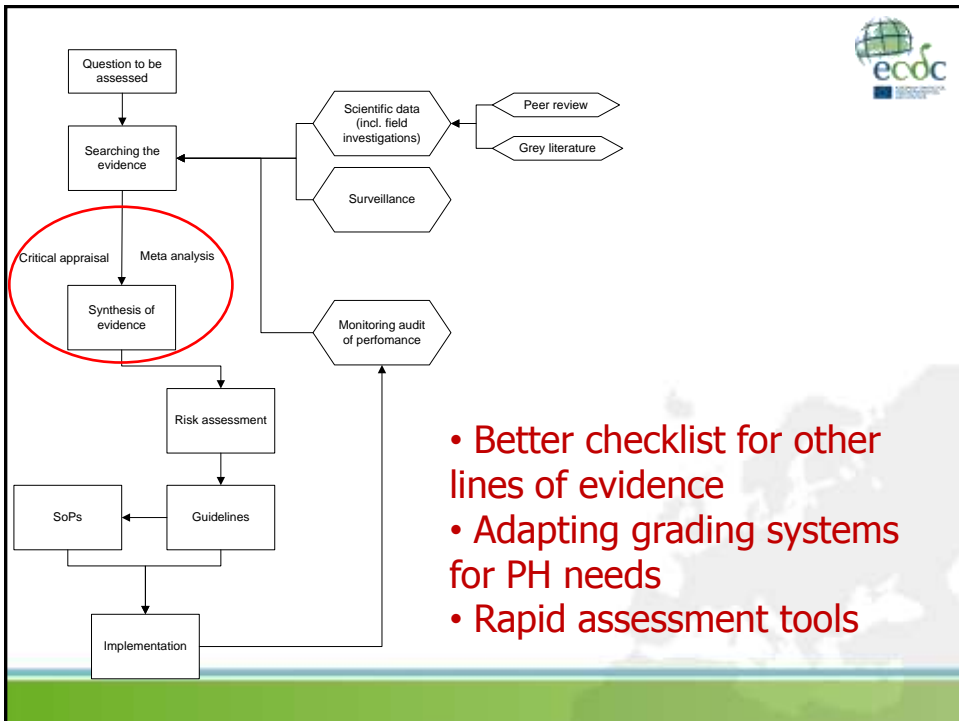
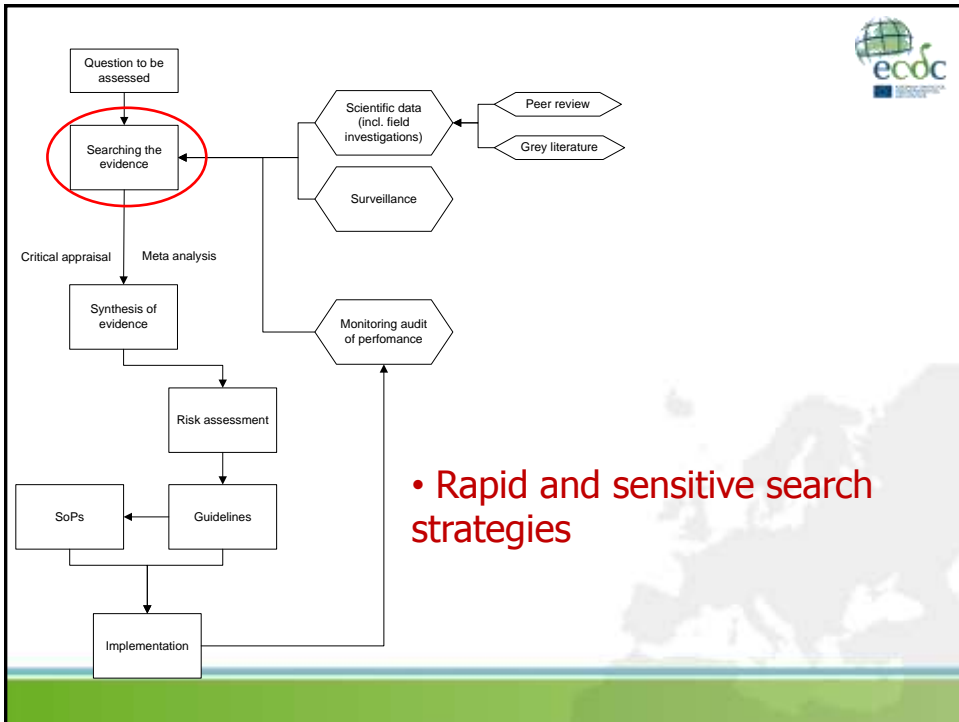
The evidence cycle



Stage	Tasks	Tools
Stage 1	Verify event	Protocol for verification of incidents
Stage 2	Prepare descriptive background document	Checklist for basic epidemiological indicators to be included (e.g. Time, Place, No. of cases). Checklist for possible biases.
Stage 3	Perform risk assessment	Definitions of 'trigger levels' and 'stopping rules' and more..
Stage 4	Develop advice	Considered judgement form Checklist on other available guidance or situation analysis. Risk conception list/checklist. Express uncertainties
Stage 5	Implement and evaluate	Risk communication templates



• Database for observational studies - pilot at ECDC



Where GRADE fits



Prioritize problems, establish panel, conflict of interest

Systematic review

Searches, selection of studies, data collection and analysis

Assess the relative importance of outcomes

Prepare evidence profile:
Quality of evidence for each outcome and summary of findings

Assess overall quality of evidence

Decide direction and strength of recommendation

GRADE

Draft guideline

Consult with stakeholders and / or external peer reviewer

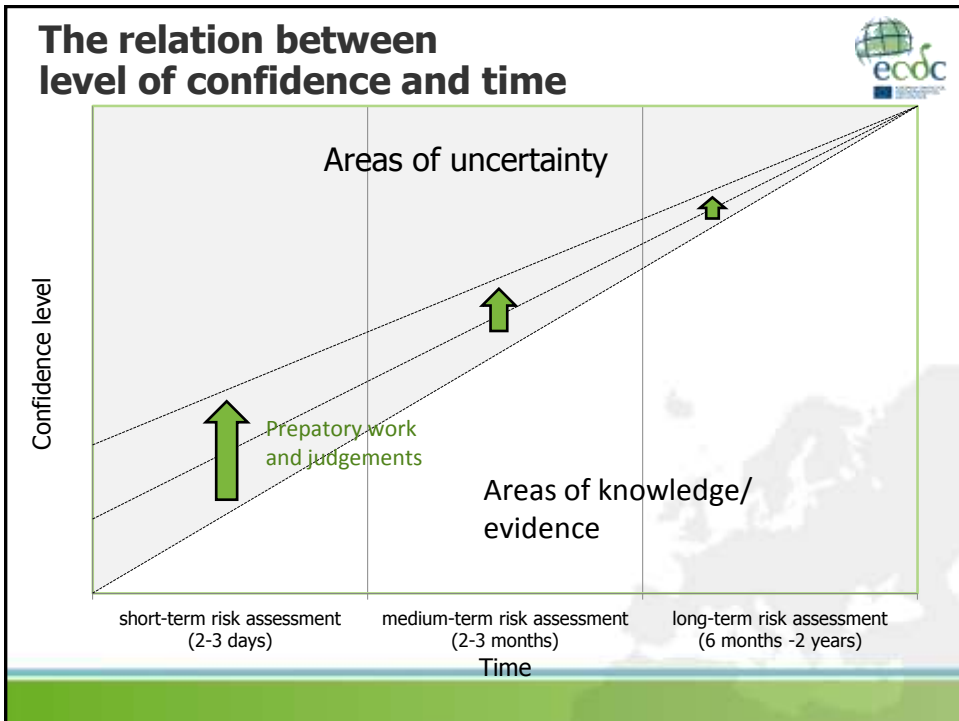
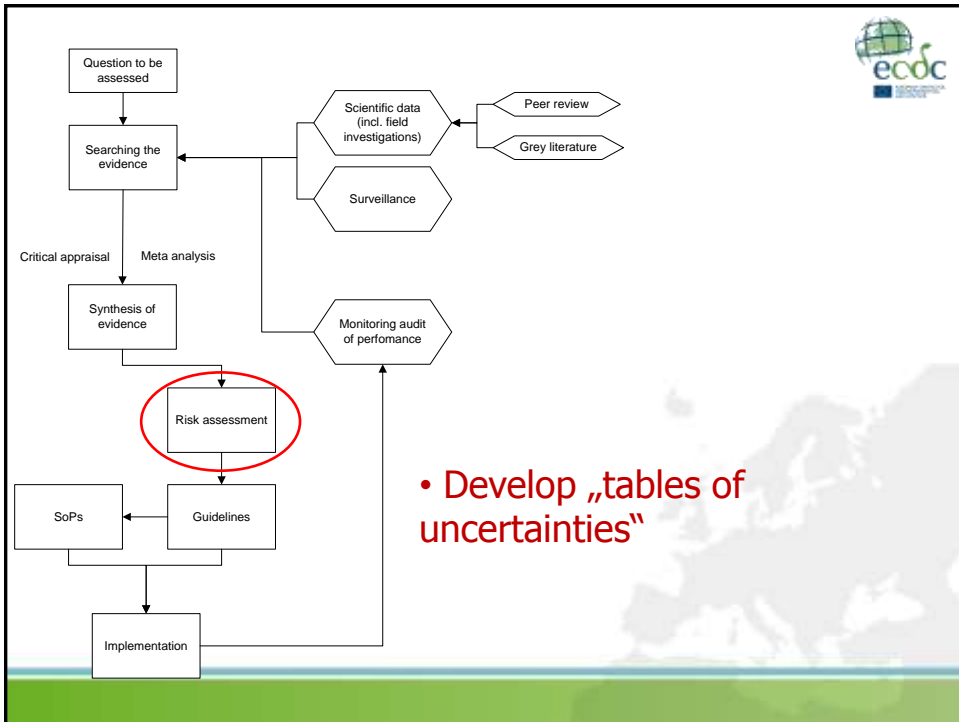
Disseminate guideline

Implement the guideline and evaluate

Challenges of applying GRADE



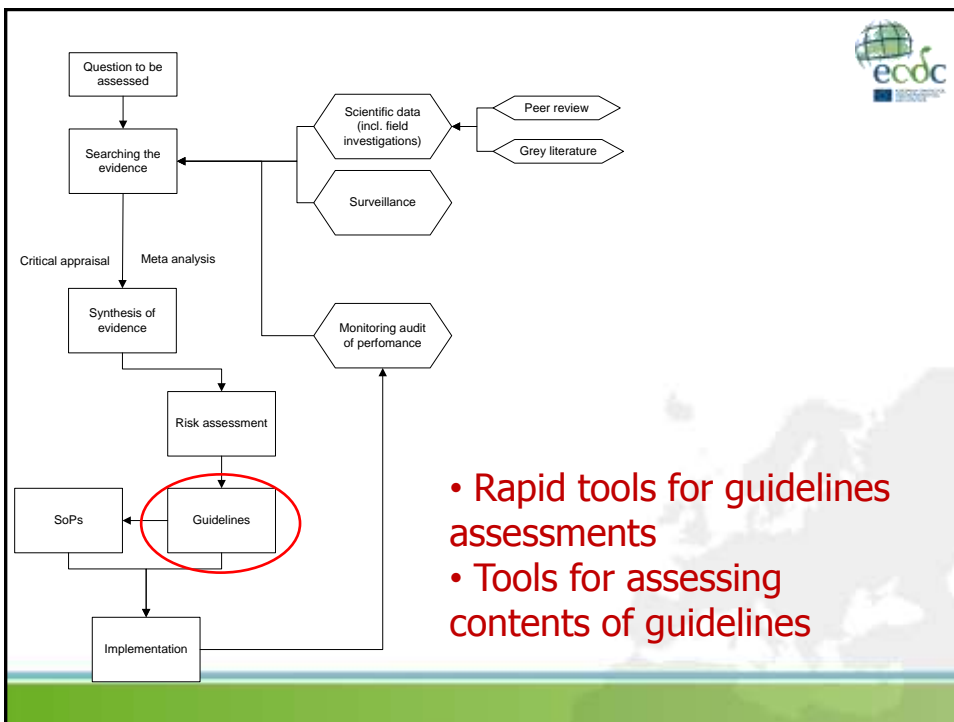
Problem	GRADE comment	Possible solution
GRADE is not addressing all the relevant steps of a public health advice	More steps, ethical, legal etc can easily be incorporated	ECDC to continue discussions with GRADE on how to do this
GRADE nomenclature is not giving credit to observational studies	Important to stick to one nomenclature, whatever problem	More neutral terms could be used
GRADE is poorly developed in the area of observational studies	Need to develop better checklists	Develop the GRADE-ing system laterally to incorporate other lines of evidence
The GRADE system is comprehensive - takes time to use	There is need to develop better methods for rapid reviews	Develop a rapid line of grading for e.g. rapid risk assessments



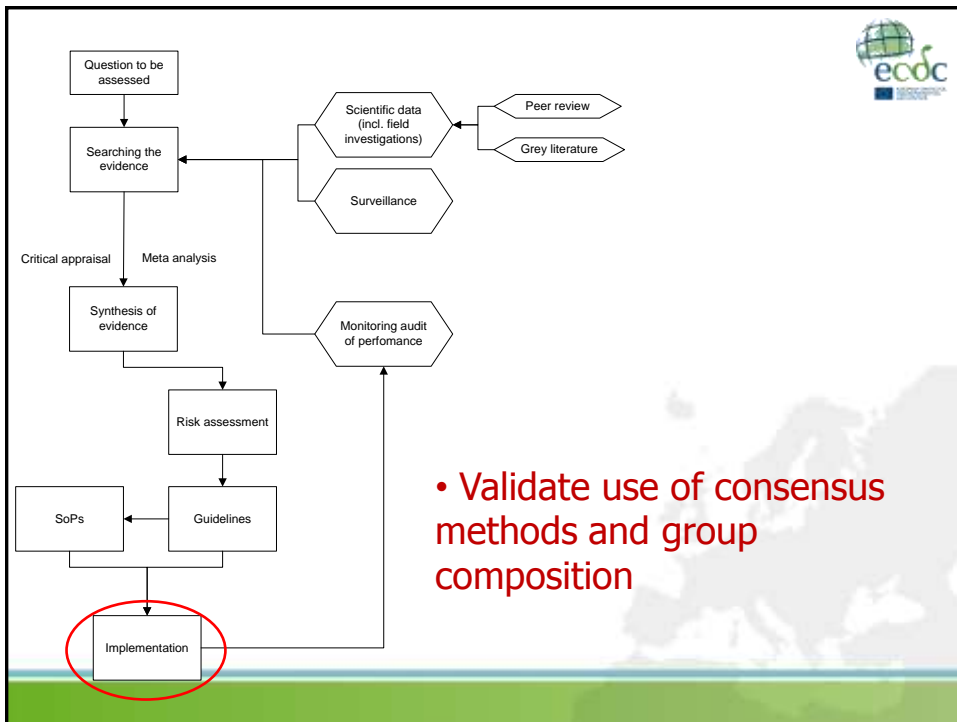
RIVM/MNP guidance for uncertainty



UNCERTAINTY MATRIX		Level of uncertainty <i>(from deterministic, through probability and possibility, to ignorance)</i>			Nature of uncertainty		Qualification of knowledge base (backing)			Value-ladenness of choices		
		Statistical uncertainty (range-chance)	Scenario uncertainty (range as 'what-if' option)	Recognised ignorance	Knowledge-related uncertainty	Variability-related uncertainty	Weak	Far	Strong	Small	Medium	Large
Location	↓											
Context	Ecological, technological, economic, social and political representation											
Expert judgement	Narratives, statistics, advice											
Model	Model structure	Relations										
	Technical model	Software & hardware implementation										
	Model parameters											
	Model inputs	Input data, deriving factors, input scenarios										
Data <i>(in general sense)</i>	Measurements, monitoring data, survey data											
Outputs	Indicators, statements											



- Rapid tools for guidelines assessments
- Tools for assessing contents of guidelines



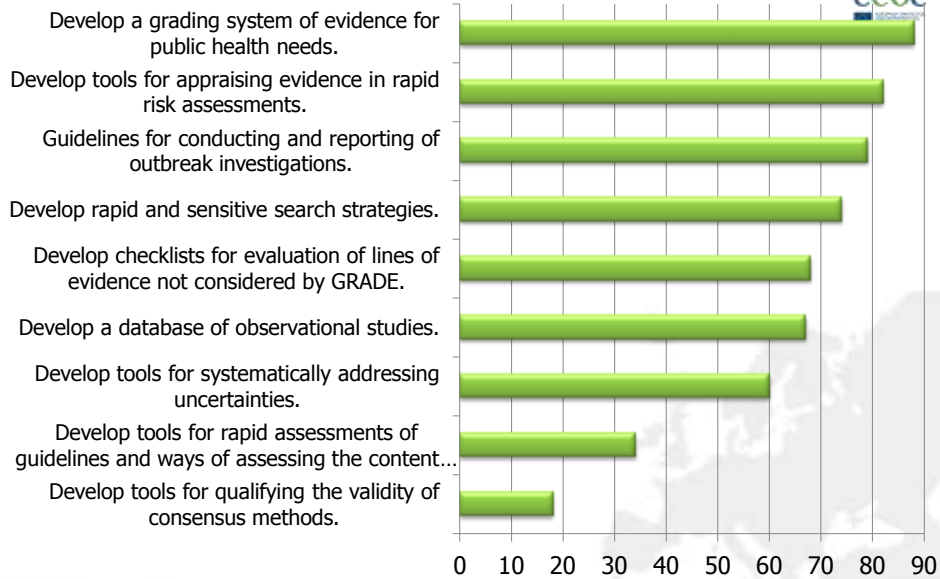
The use of Consensus methods

The role of experts

'Unpack the expert' and be transparent about the process

- When there is no published evidence
- In composition of panels
- To judge upon the evidence
 - Preliminary judgement in an urgency
 - As members of panels
 - In a review process of an advice
- Many elements from formal consensus processes can be used also under time constraints

Prioritized topics



n=13

points