



WHO Workshop on Electrical Hypersensitivity
25-26 October 2004
Prague, Czech Republic

Review of Current Governmental Responses to EHS

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Radiation and Environmental Health


World Health Organization

Geneva, Switzerland

OUTLINE

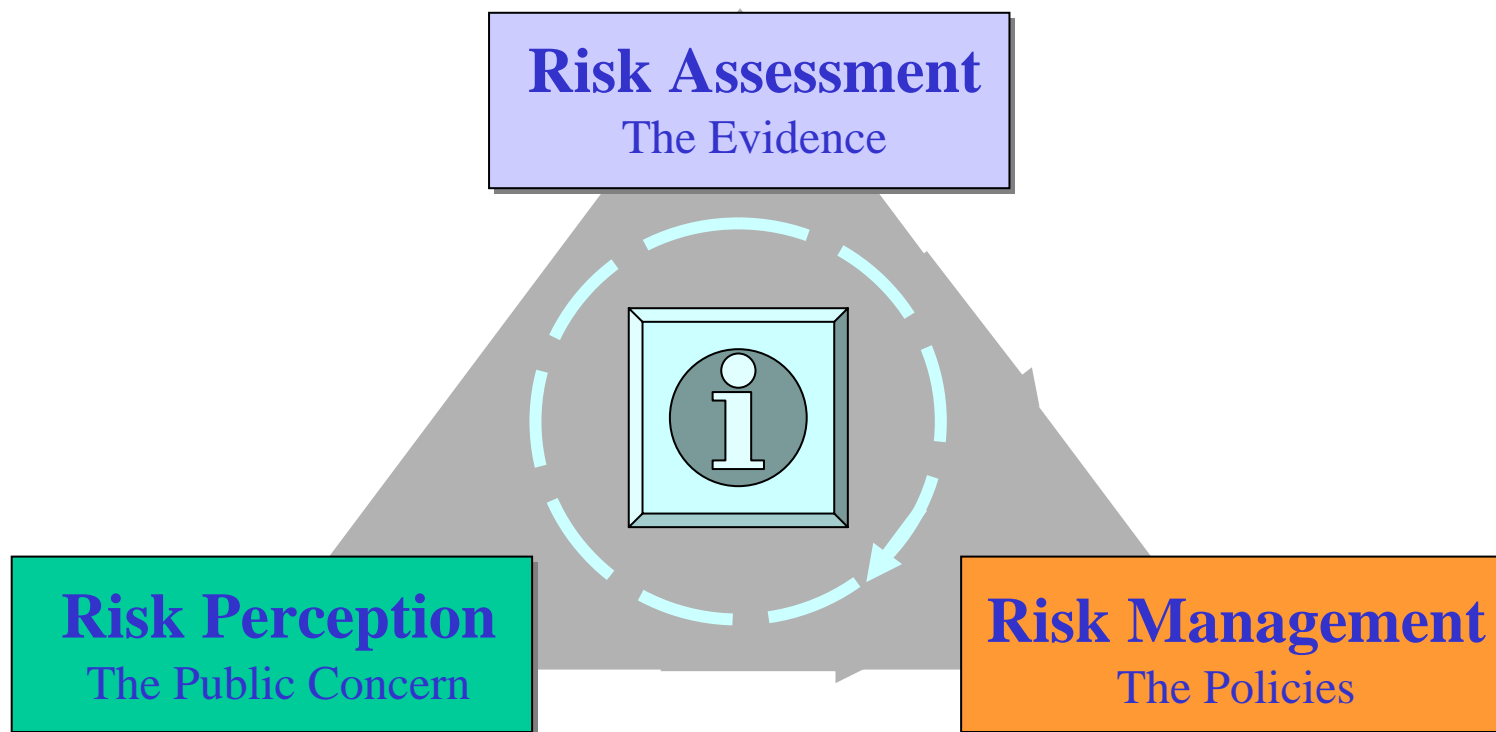
- **Introduction**
- **A survey of governmental responses**
- **WHO's related activities**



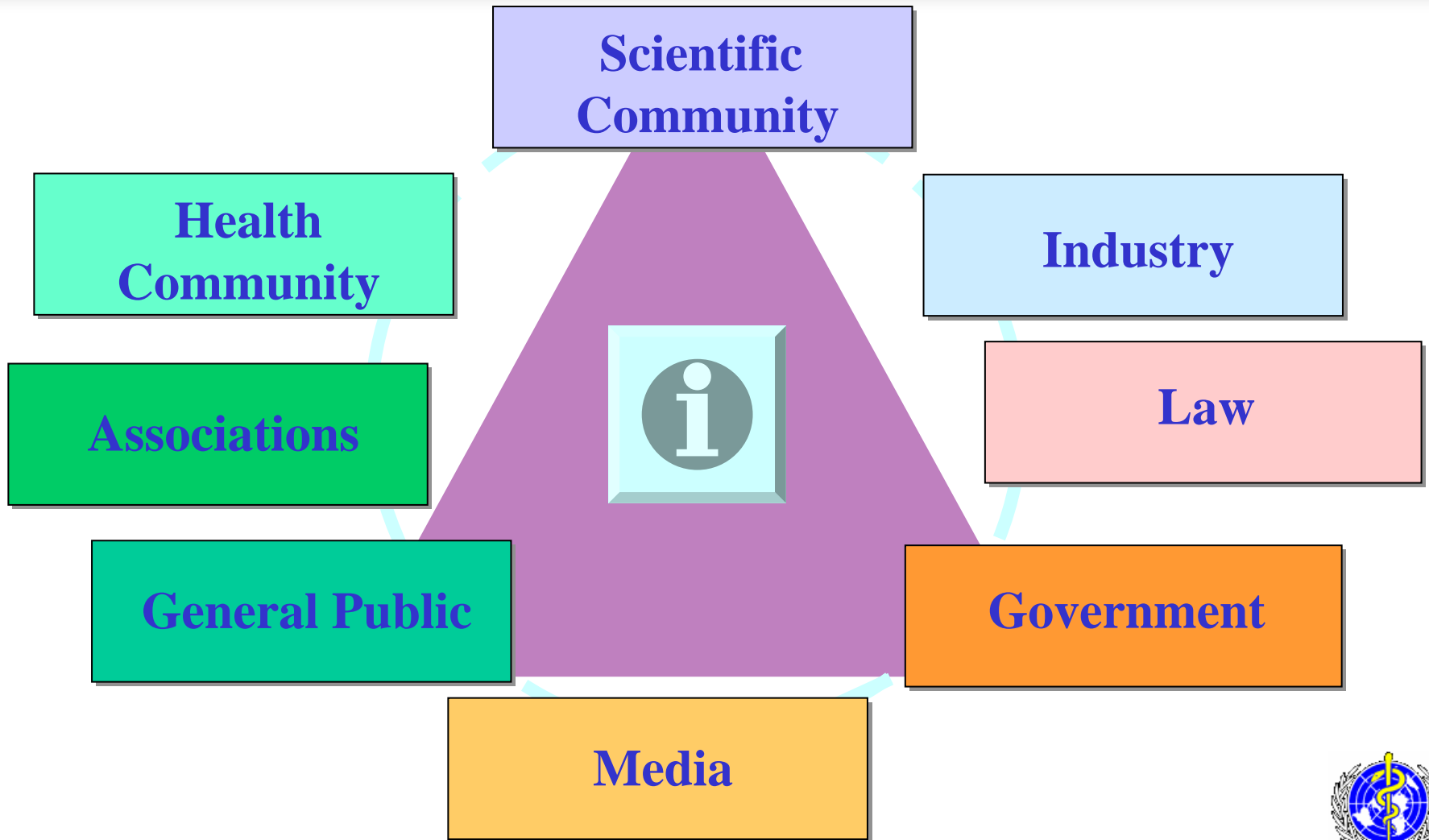


HEALTH is a state of
COMPLETE physical,
mental and social well-being
and not merely the
ABSENCE of disease or
infirmity
(WHO Constitution)

EMF: An Environmental Risk?



The Stakeholders



Structure



EMF Project
Secretariat

**International
Advisory
Committee**

**Research
Coordinating
Committee**

**Standards
Harmonization
Committee**



**International
Organizations**





**Collaborating
Institutions**

**> 50 National
Authorities**



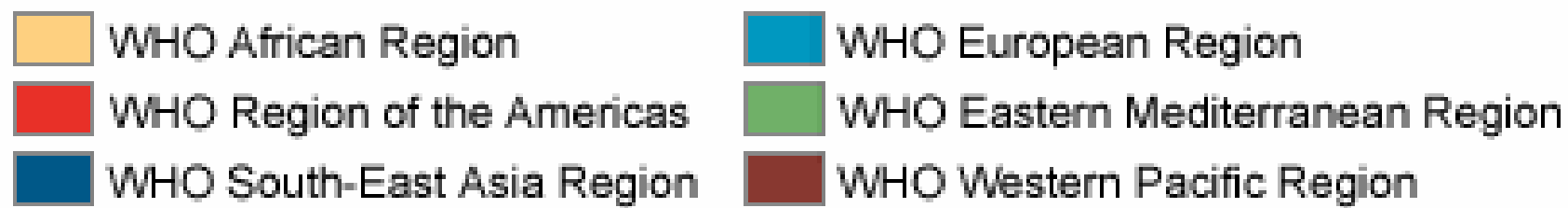


• Thailand

- | | |
|--|--|
|  WHO African Region |  WHO European Region |
|  WHO Region of the Americas |  WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region |
|  WHO South-East Asia Region |  WHO Western Pacific Region |



- Philippines
- Japan
- New Zealand



- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Germany
- Israel
- Netherlands
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- United Kingdom



WHO African Region

WHO Region of the Americas

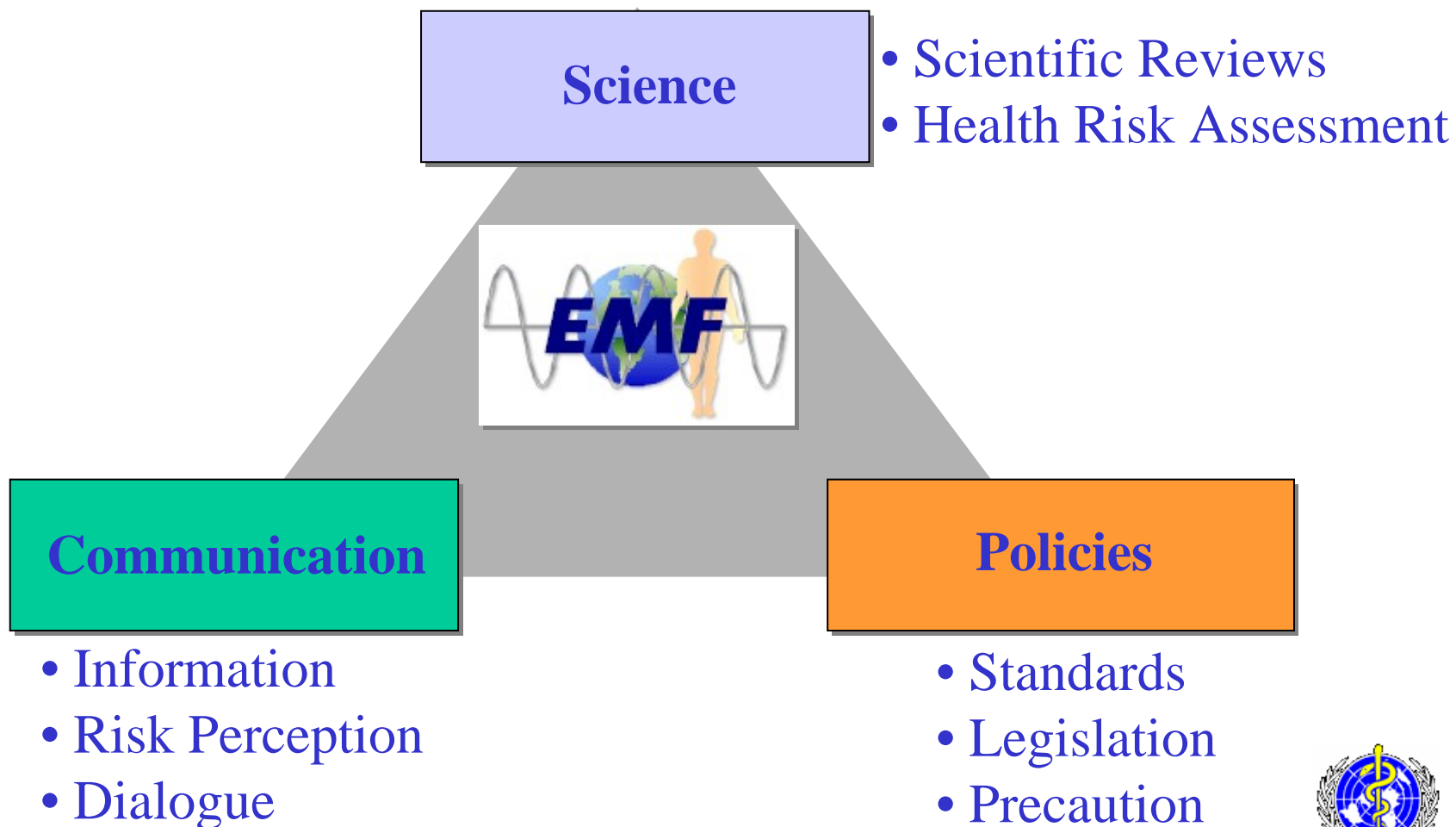
WHO South-East Asia Region

WHO European Region

WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region

WHO Western Pacific Region

WHO Activities



WHO and EMF RESEARCH



<http://www.who.int/emf>

*What has
been done?*

*What is
being done?*

*What needs to
be done?*

time

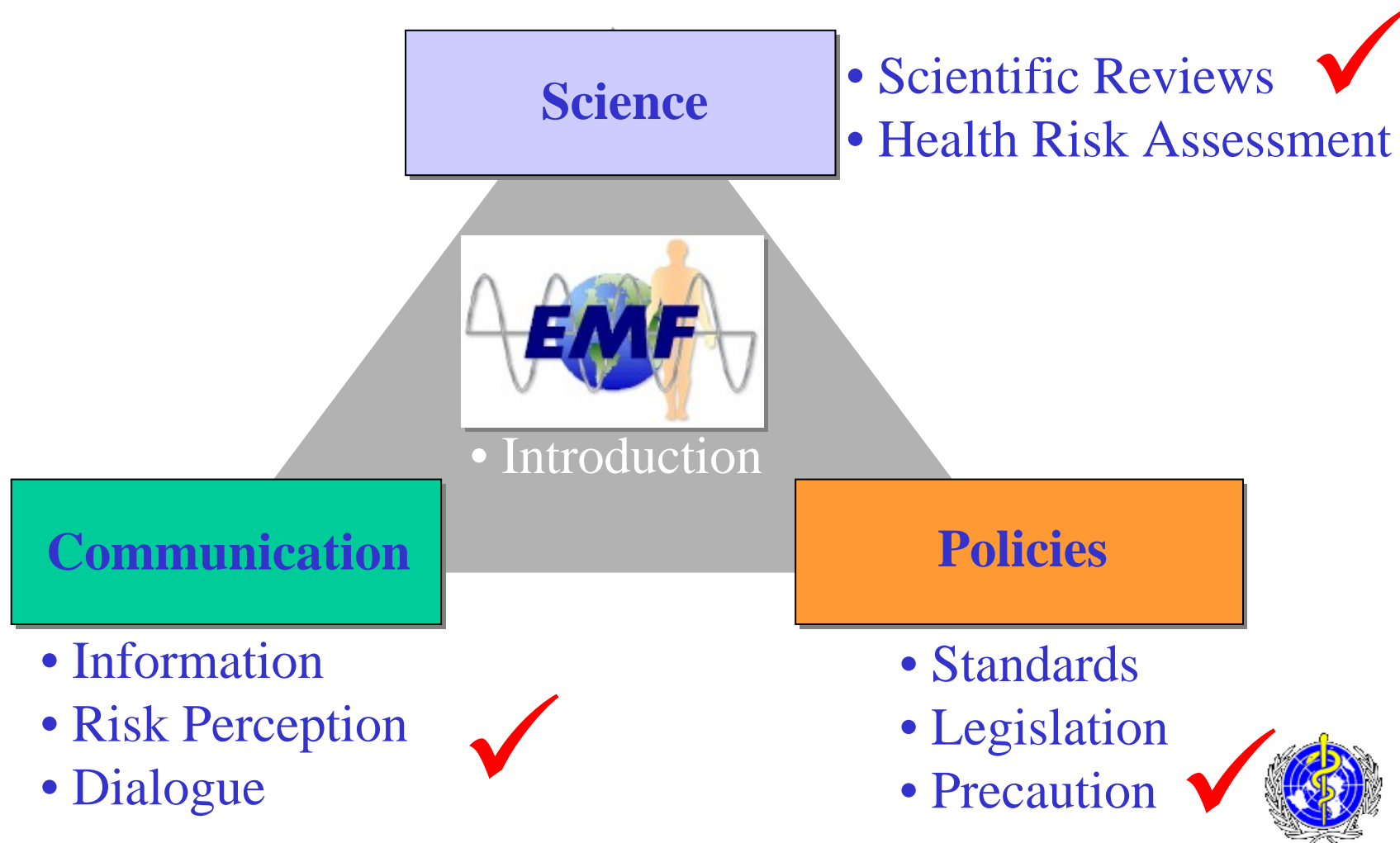
- WHO Research reviews
- Health Risk Assessments

WHO Research
Database

WHO Research
Agenda



OUTLINE



What do we do when the evidence is not strong?

- Understand and weigh the data
 - risk assessment
 - Get better data
 - research
 - Understand and manage perception
 - risk communication
- ➔ Build a rational framework for precautionary measures



Framework to Develop Precautionary Measures in Areas of Scientific Uncertainty



WHO/OMS

Draft for Review
NOT FOR FURTHER DISTRIBUTION
NOT FOR QUOTATION

For further information and comments contact:

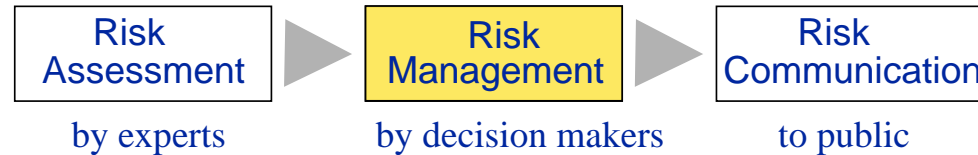
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World Health Organization
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October 2004

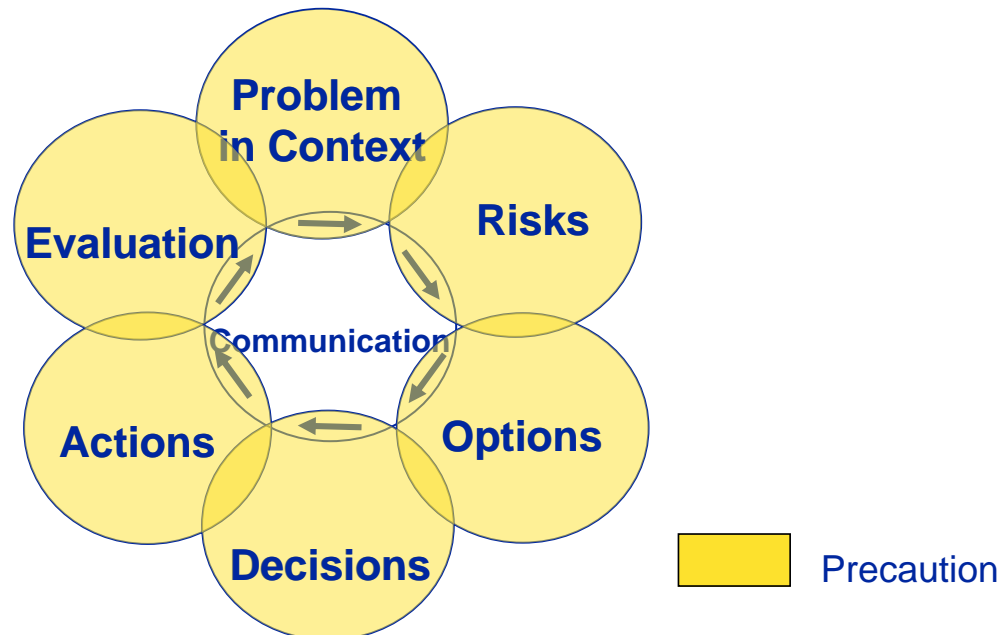


An overarching approach

Precaution in the traditional linear paradigm



Precaution in the present WHO Framework

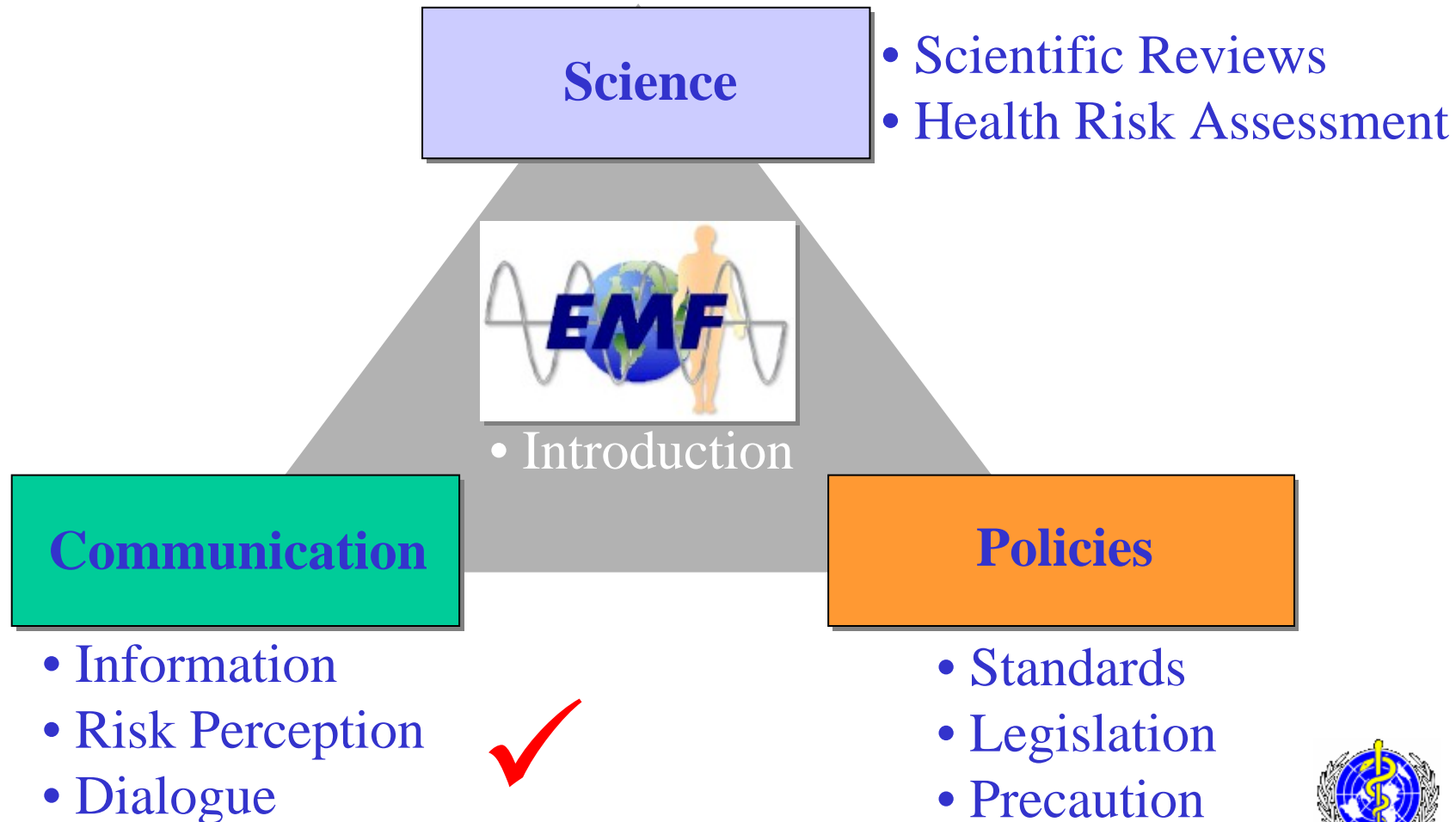


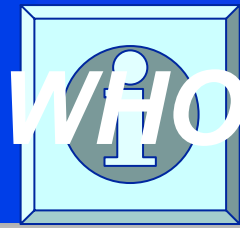
This Framework

- Encourages the development of reasonable and realistic options
- Includes consideration of tradeoffs and cost-benefit analysis
- Calls for iterative evaluations of policies

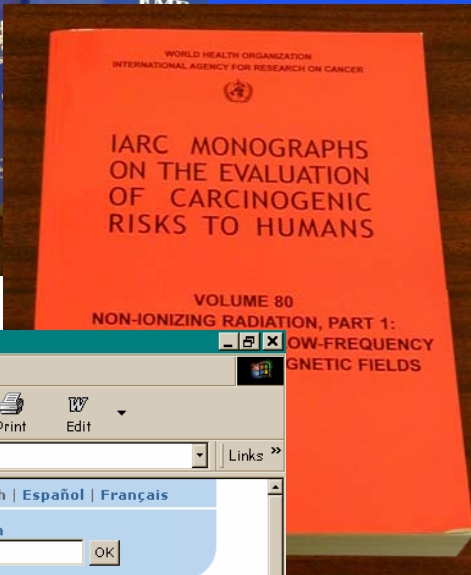
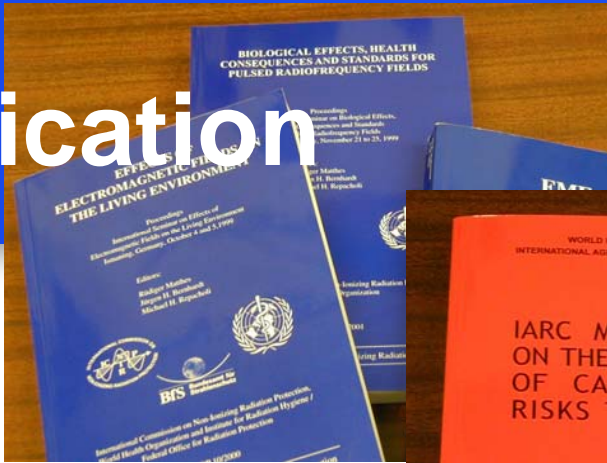
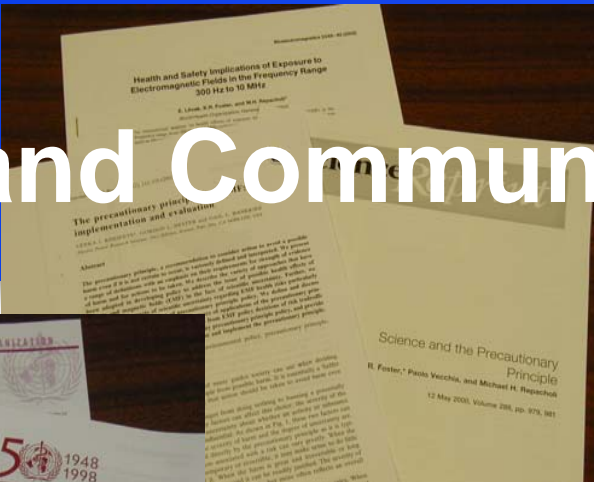


OUTLINE





WHO and Communication



World Health Organization - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by WHO

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Address <http://www.who.int/peh-emf/en/>

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The International EMF Project (EMF)

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International EMF Project

"...through its [International EMF Project](#), the World Health Organization is pooling resources and knowledge concerning health effects of exposure to EMF."

English | Español | Français

Search OK

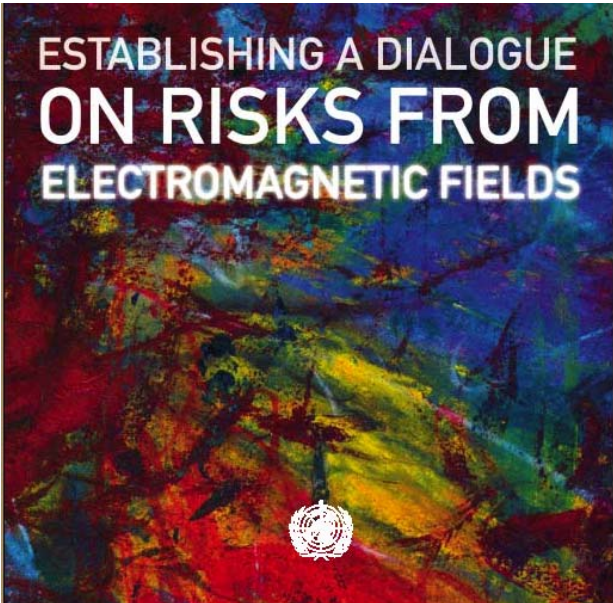
WHATS NEW!!!

This web site!!
Any feedback please email: emfproject@who.int

Establishing a Dialogue on Risks from Electromagnetic Fields
A new handbook published October 2002
[More information](#)

The EMF Standards Worldwide Database displays every country's current status on EMF protection. [More information...](#)

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www.who.int/emf



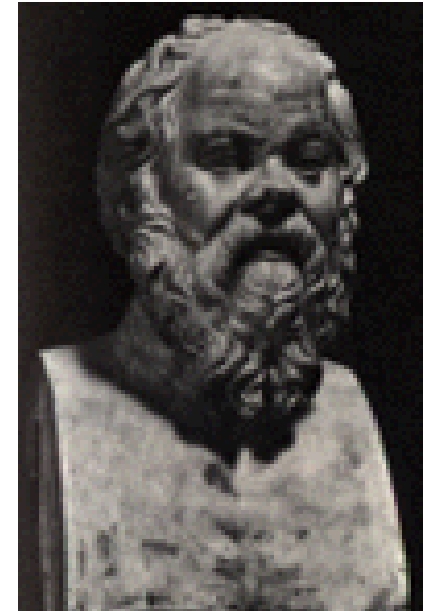
Recommendations

- Fund research identified as useful to identify the relationship between EMF and EHS
- Facilitate the development of protocols for medical evaluation
- Set up instruments for information gathering (surveys, databases,...)
- Develop means of communication and dialogue with EHS sufferers



**“Wisdom is to know,
that you do not know”**

Socrates, Greek philosopher, 469-399 BC



Please send comments to
emfproject@who.int



Definition

The Precautionary Principle (PP) provides

- what?** “a framework, procedures and policy tools for public policy actions
- when?** in situations of scientific complexity, uncertainty and ignorance, where there may be some need to act before there is strong proof of harm
- why?** to avoid, or reduce, potentially serious or irreversible threats to health or the environment,
- how?** using an appropriate level of scientific evidence, and taking into account the likely pros and cons of action and inaction”

European Environment Agency, 2004

