

Expert Judgement Network

Closing the gap between scientific uncertainty
and evidence-based decision making

Challenges of uncertainty and risk

- Most problems on the interface between science and policy are characterised by uncertainty and risk
 - Acceptance/licencing of new technology
 - Setting “safe” limits or intervention limits
 - Understanding impact of policy

The need for EJ... and the problem

- Complexity of society and environment plus need for timely response means we *cannot wait* for long term empirical studies...EJ is indispensable
- BUT
 - Non-structured EJ is not satisfactory
 - Structured EJ is not yet fully developed
 - Social, legal, governmental processes not attuned to the potential or properly calibrated to the limitations

Vision and aims

- The aim of the Action is to establish a multidisciplinary network of scientists and policy makers around the use of structured expert judgement to quantify scientific uncertainty in support of *evidence-based decision making*, that through new scientific development, training, and the spread of good practice, will improve understanding, communication and effectiveness in the use of scientific knowledge amongst policy makers.
- **We are near a *Tipping Point* in the use of Structured Expert Judgement methods**

COST network

- Cooperation in Science and Technology
- Intergovernmental programme supports networks across 10 different domains
- Network includes website, conferences, workshops, working groups and Short term scientific missions

Expert judgement network

- Part of Individuals, Societies, Cultures and Health Domain (ISCH)
- Supports EJ Net for 4 years
- Member countries:
 - Belgium; Croatia; Cyprus; Denmark; Estonia; Finland; France; fYR Macedonia; Germany; Greece; Iceland; Ireland; Israel; Italy; Lithuania; Malta; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Serbia; Slovakia; Spain; Switzerland; United Kingdom
- Financial support possible for participants from member countries. For elsewhere as invited speakers (one off). But in general meetings open for all..

The Challenge...and the Opportunity

- Our society needs good assessments of risk
- Expert assessment of risks is often the only available data
- Domain experts are not always good at assessing uncertainty...but
 - They can be trained
 - We can measure expert performance
- *Establish a new paradigm for using expert uncertainties to inform policy and decision making*

Welcome to Glasgow, welcome
to Strathclyde

Enjoy the meeting, and
contribute to the network!



University of
Strathclyde
Glasgow