

Core Activities of WG5

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on behalf of the WG5 members

[Overview]

- Mission and main activities
- Risk communication & reporting
- CORA
- Evaluation of CORA



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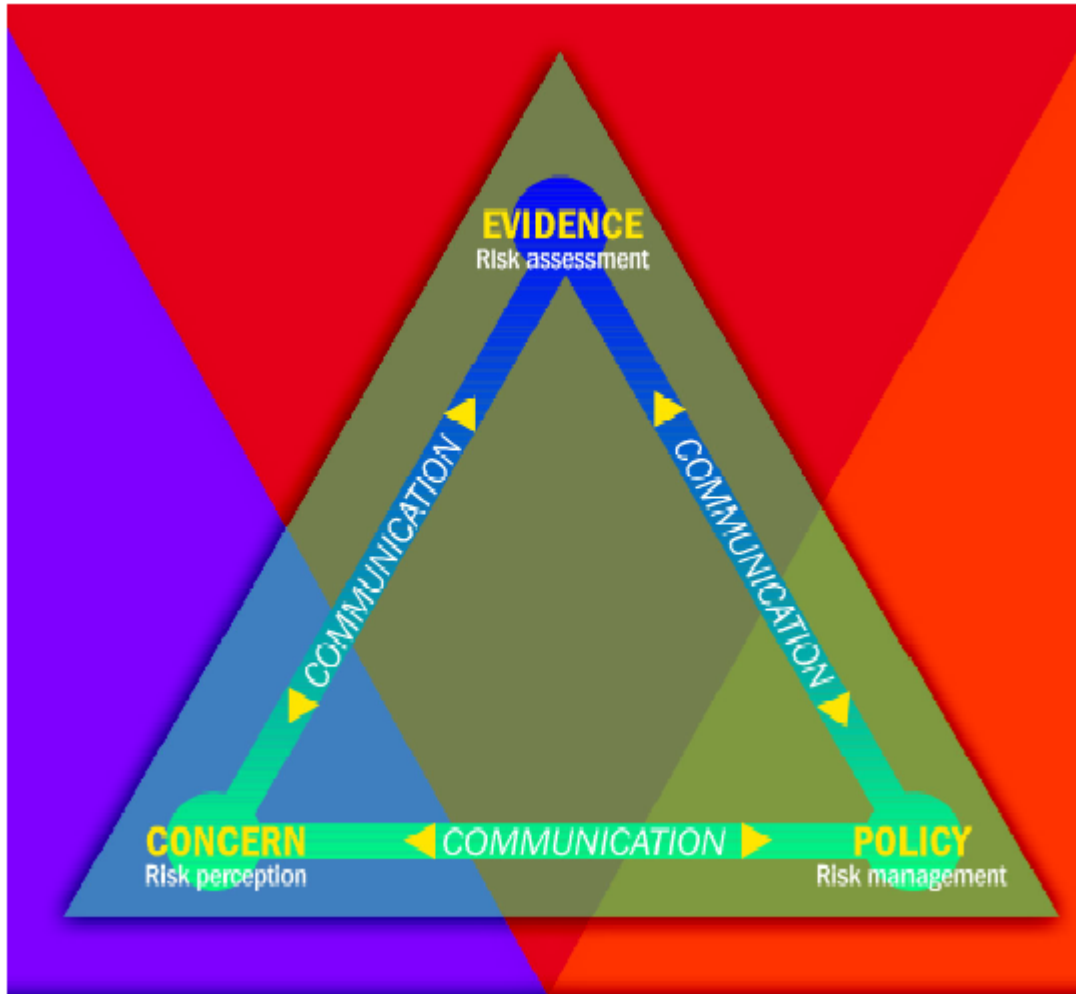


[COST BM 0704 Mission]

Primary objective is to create a structure in which researchers in the field of EMF can share knowledge and information - covering

- Identifying new technologies
- How existing EMF-technologies change and novel applications are developed
- New emission characteristics – potential exposures
- Possible health effects – what concerns might arise
- How such concerns might be addressed - scientific evidence!
- Which tools are effective in communicating such evidence

Communication is a crucial activity



Risk management is a tool for addressing people's concerns

- Policy
- Concerns
- Evidence

[Core activities]

- CORA
- Hypersensitivity fact sheet
- Expert survey on precautionary measures in COST countries

- Preparation of a new COST proposal

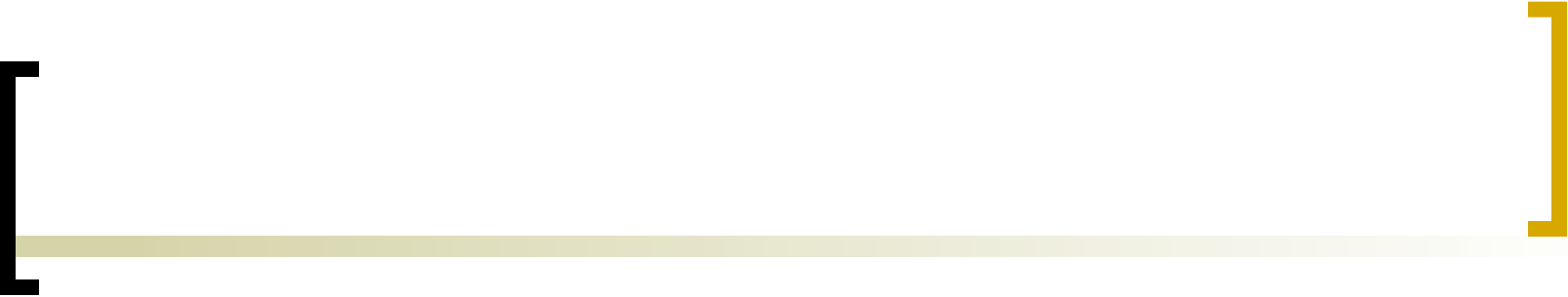
[CORA]

Framework for Communication of risk assessments

[Overview]

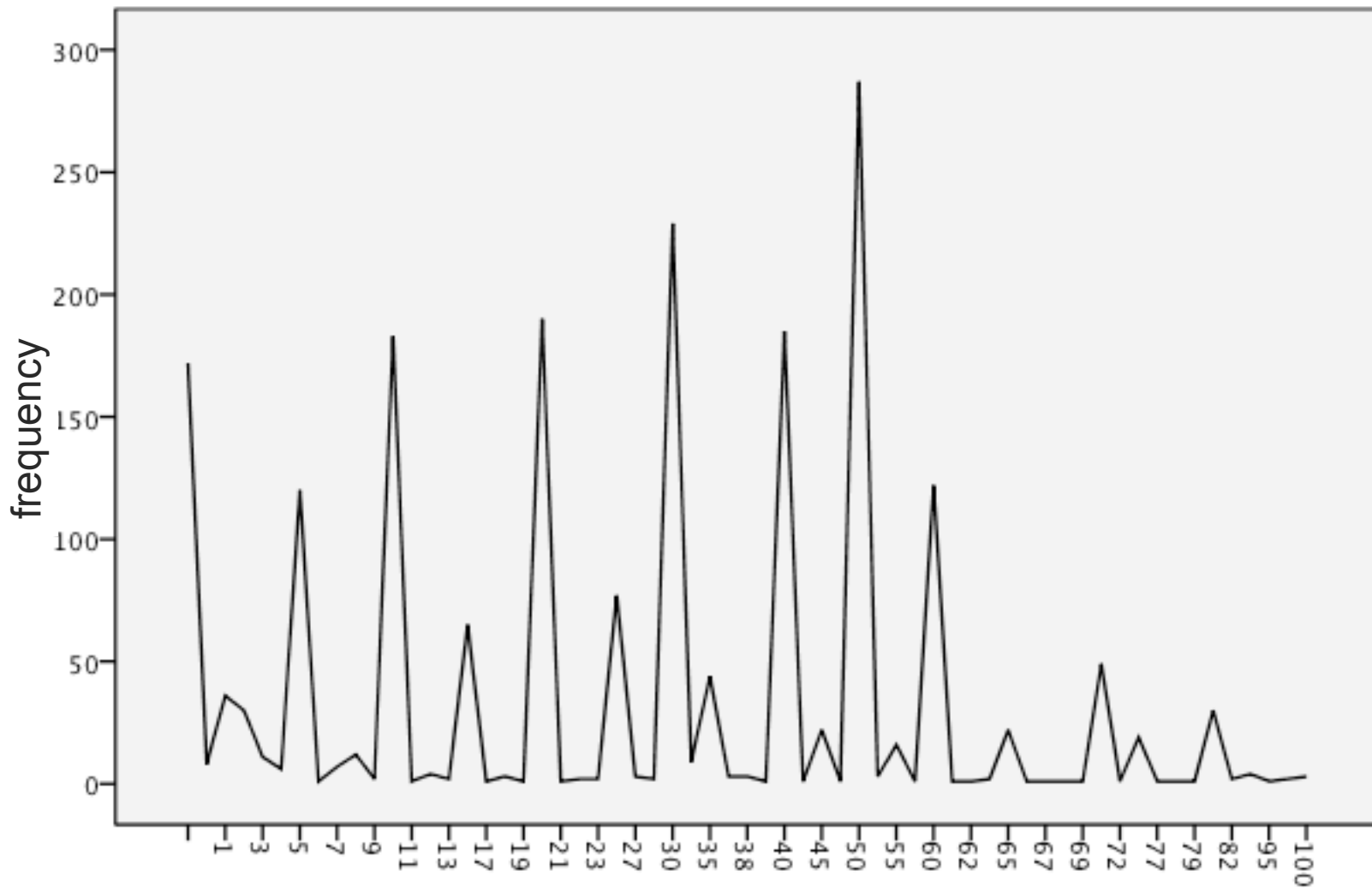
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„ Risk communication is not just a matter of good intentions ... Risk messages must be understood by the recipients, and their impacts and effectiveness must be understood by communicators. To that end, it is not longer appropriate to rely on hunches and intuitions regarding the details of message formulation.”

Morgan & Leave 1990

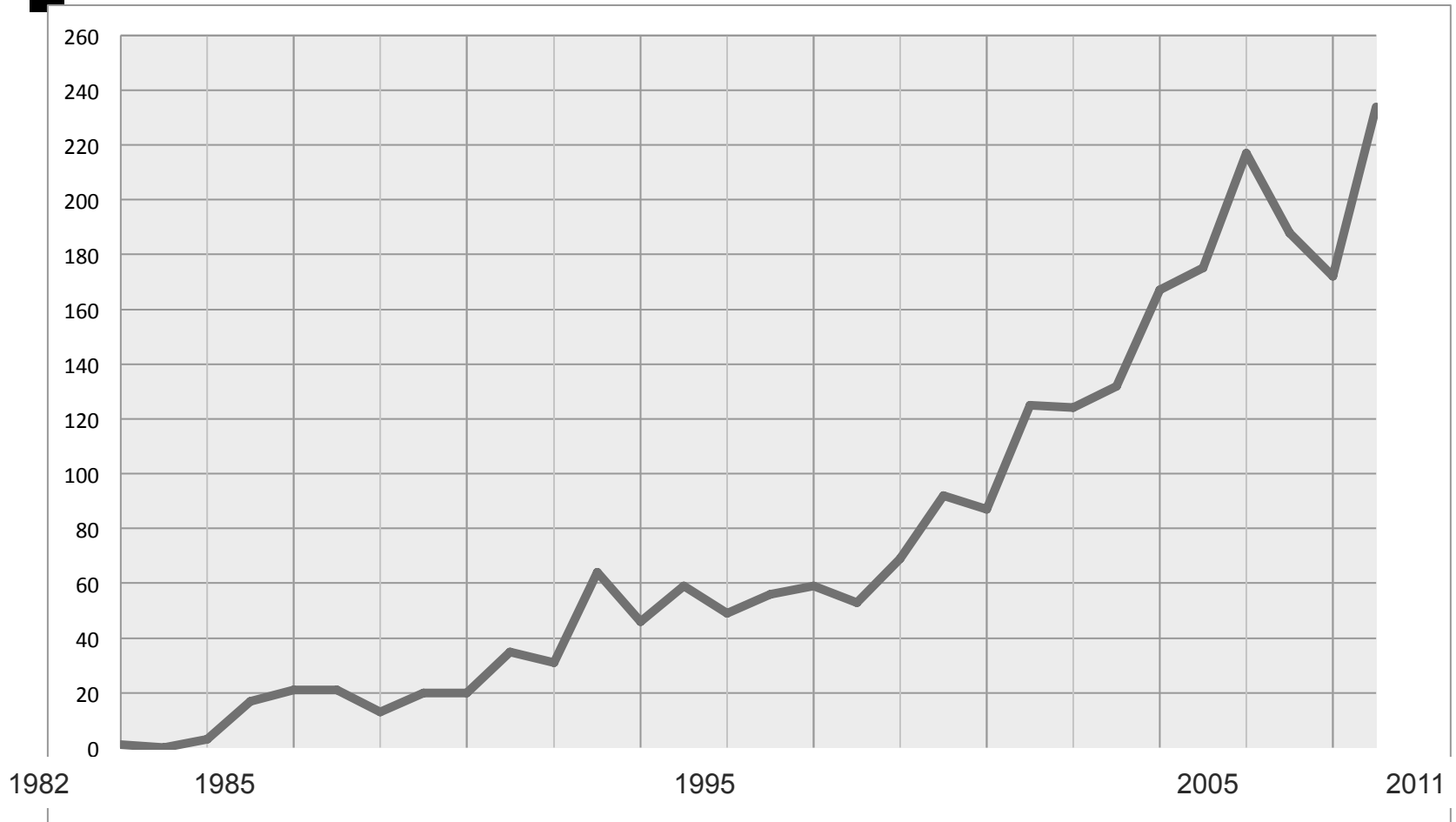


What does 2B “possibly carcinogen” mean to you?

How confident are you that the effect will happen? (0-100)

N=1841

Scientific literature on risk communication



Number of Publications/ Year

Peter Wiedemann

Web of Knowledge, 7.3.2012

Scientific literature on risk communication

EMF related publications

- FEMU: 65 publications
- Risk communication: < 10
- There is no research about how to communicate risk assessments to general readers.

Good reporting for general readers

Good reporting should help the readers outside the scientific community to understand:

- the strength of the evidence on which the conclusion of the assessment is based
- the main arguments - in terms of the scientific data - that support the conclusion
- The weight of the pro- and con- arguments

[Limitations]

Risk communication has take into account the processing limitations of the readers

- Time and motivational constraints
- Cognitive and knowledge limitations

Approaches to better reporting for readers with limited resources

Options

- to support readers to understand the main arguments on which the assessment is based
- to support readers to make an informed judgement about the trustworthiness of the assessment

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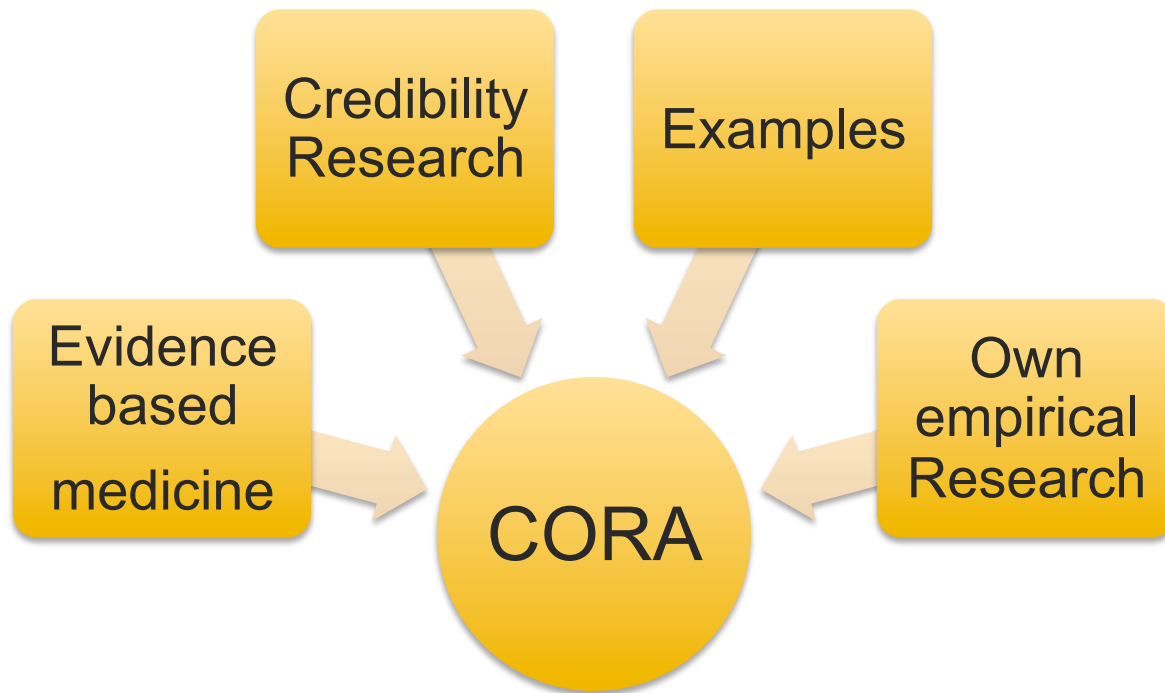
[Basic Idea]

To help readers to make a qualified judgement about the trustworthiness of a risk assessment report

Questions:

- Which characteristics of a report should be reported?
- Which characteristics do general readers use?
- How to bridge the gap?

[Procedure]



Cora Framework

Section I: General Information

1	Mandate	Does the report include information about the mandate of the hazard assessment?
1	Objectives	Are the hazard assessment's objectives, as well as its scope and limitations, described?
3	Funding	Is there information available about the funding of the hazard assessment?

Section II: Criteria for Composition

4	Criteria for selecting experts	Are the criteria upon which the selection of the experts was based disclosed?
5	Composition of the expert group	Is the composition of the expert group explained? What <u>kind of experts are included</u> , and is the spectrum of required expertise is covered?

Section III: Criteria for Impartiality

6	Procedure for assurance of impartiality	Are the procedures that are applied to garner an impartial view, i.e. free of vested interests, described?
7	Disclosure of members' names and affiliations	Does the report disclose the names and affiliations of the experts who conducted the risk assessment?

Section IV: Criteria for Public Consultation

8	Public consultation and stakeholder participation	Is there information about a procedure applied in order to receive comments and inputs from various stakeholders and the general public?
9	Special procedure for addressing controversies	Is there information about a special procedure that addresses scientific controversies?

Section V: Criteria for Structure and Process of Assessment

10	Method of literature search	Is information available about the literature search strategy, and was the strategy unbiased?
12	Method of quality assurance	Does the report indicate which procedures were used to enhance the quality of the assessment?
13	Procedure for weighing evidence	Is the process of weighing the various studies, and how they are combined for the conclusions of the assessment, explained?

Section VI: Criteria for Conclusion

14	Consensus finding procedure	Is information available about the procedure of finding consensus among the experts?
15	Two-sided argumentation	Are the strengths and weaknesses of the available evidence indicated?
16	Uncertainty reporting	Is there information available about the remaining uncertainties of the conclusions?

Structure of the CORA sections

- Recommendation
- Rationale
- Points for attention

[Example: Public consultation]

Recommendation

Check whether there was a public consultation process in order to get the opinions of various stakeholders on the risk assessment report.

[Example: Public consultation]

Rationale

- Studies on public participation in risk related decision making suggest that stakeholder involvement will improve process quality and outcome quality (Beierle & Cayford, 2001, 2002).
- It is seen by the public as a potent conflict resolution tool (Wiedemann & Schütz 2008).
- Including important stakeholders can foster trust in the resulting risk assessment and the acceptability of the recommendations made in the assessment (Dietz and Stern 2008).

[Example: Public consultation]

Point for attention:

Stakeholder participation is not a substitute for expertise required for the quality of a risk assessment. However, it indicates that a range of societal values and concerns have been included in the assessment.

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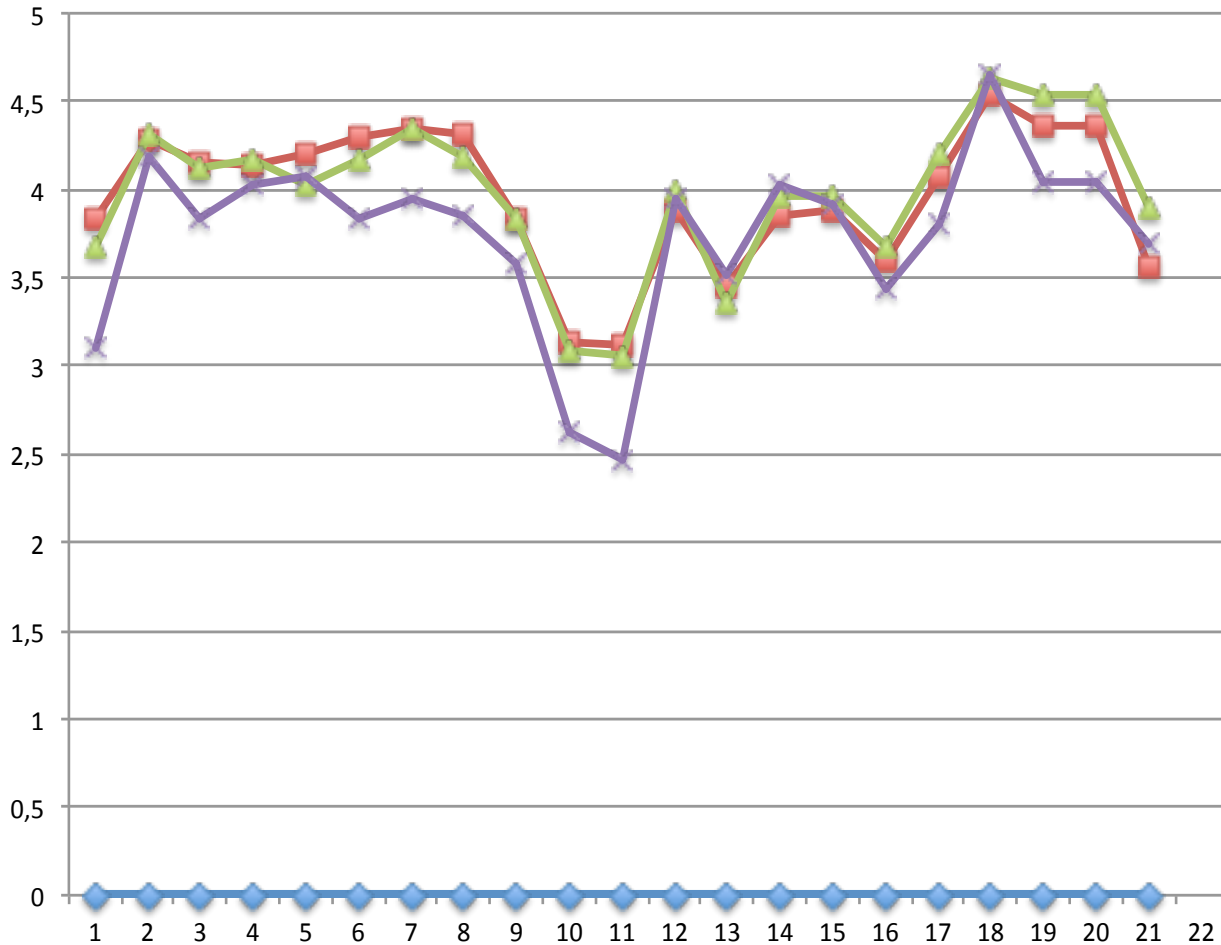
[CORA evaluation study]

Design

- Online survey (experimental design)
- N=301
- 2 Samples (General practitioners and General public)
- Germany/Bavaria, Spring 2011

- Dependent variable: Perceived relevance for assessing the trustworthiness of a risk report

Perceived relevance of CORA recommendations



- I am convinced that cell phones cause adverse health effects.
- ▲ I am uncertain whether cell phones may cause adverse health effects.
- × I am convinced that there is no health risk.

[Benefits of CORA]

Evidence-based information in policy development

Researchers

Risk managers and communicators

EU, national and local officials and representatives

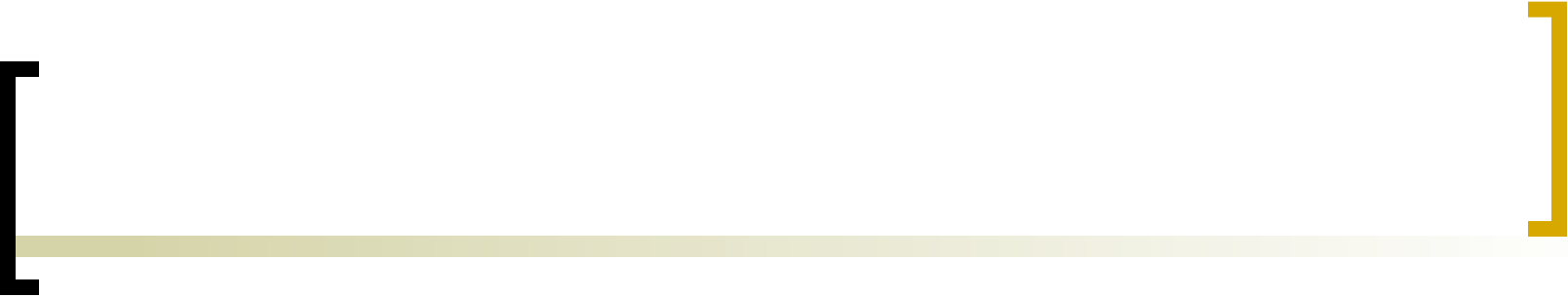
Advisory and standards development bodies

Industry and commerce

The media

The general public

- To help the readers of RA reports to raise the right questions for evaluating its trustworthiness
- To help the risk assessors to provide the right information

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Thank you very much for your attention!