The Relevance of Information for Managing the Refugee Flow

G. Neubauer[1], R. Nippold[2]

1) AIT, 2) DLR

Establish Pan-European Information Space to Enhance seCurity of Citizens

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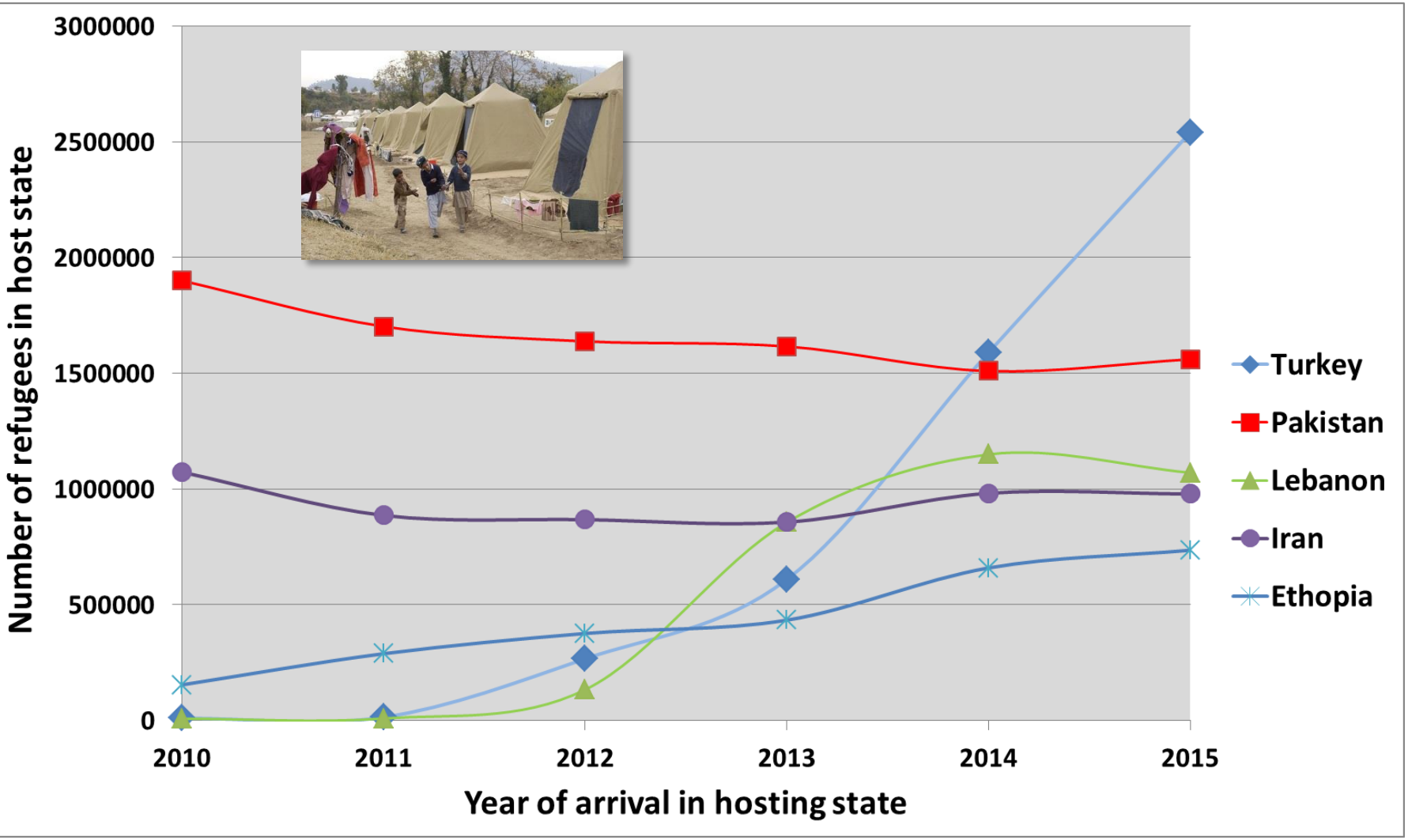
Introduction

- The ongoing flow of refugees is one of the main challenges of both the member states as well as the European Union

- **2015: 54%** of refugees worldwide came from **Syria** (4,9 Mio), **Afghanistan** (2,7 Mio) and **Somalia** (1,1 Mio)

- GOs as well as NGOs managing the refugee flow suffered from **lack of information exchange**

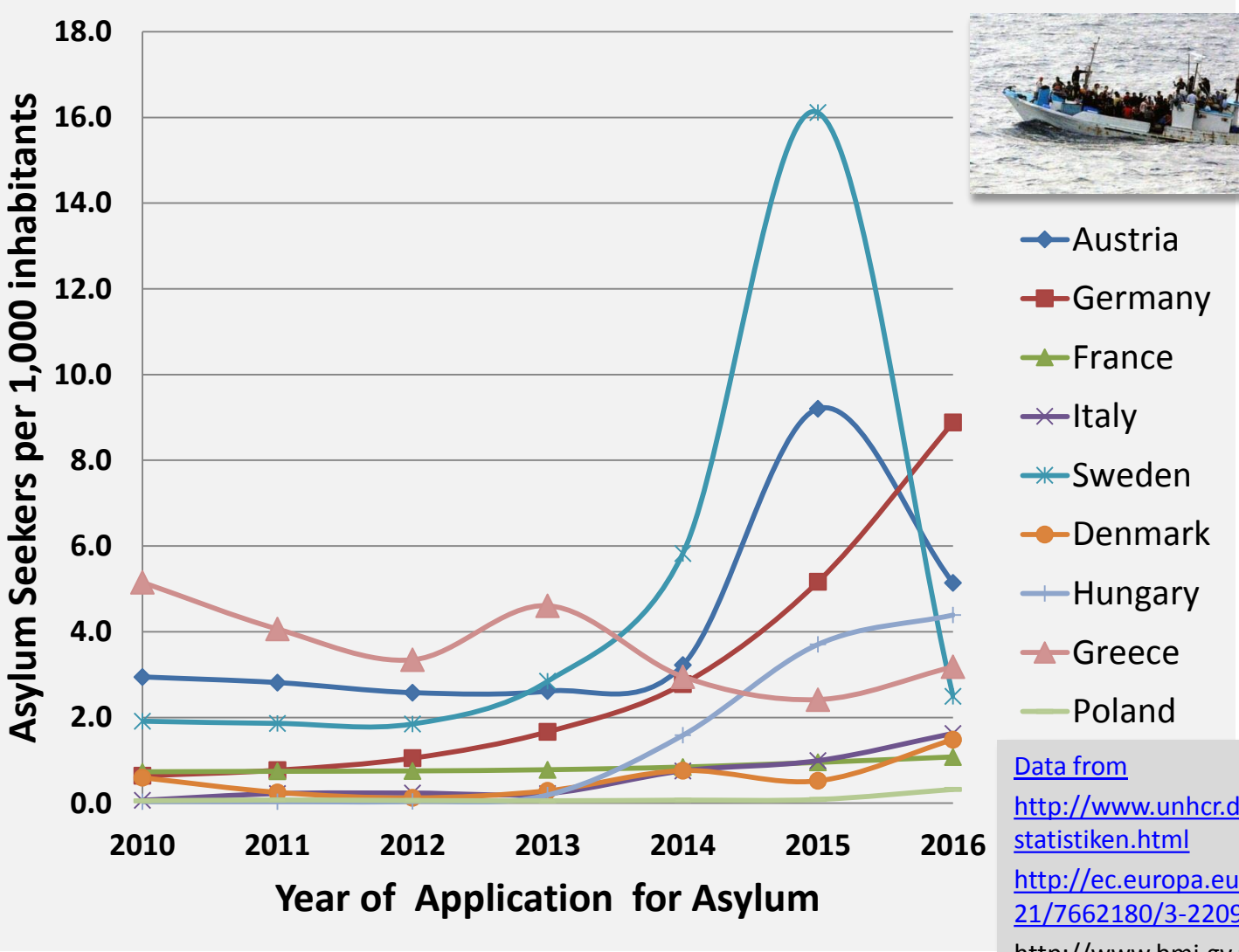
Number of Refugees



UNHCR Global Trends (2015): **65,3 million** forcibly displaced persons, among them **21,3 million refugees**, **40,8 mill.** internally displaced persons (**IDP**) and **3,2 mill. asylum seekers**

Data from http://www.unhcr.de/service/zahlen-und-statistiken.html

Asylum Seekers in Europe



Data from

http://www.unhcr.de/service/zahlen-und-statistiken.html

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/7662180/3-22092016-AP-EN.pdf

http://www.bmi.gv.at/cms/BMI_Asylwesen/statistik/files/2016/Asylstatistik_Oktober_2016.pdf

Objectives of the FP7 project EPISECC

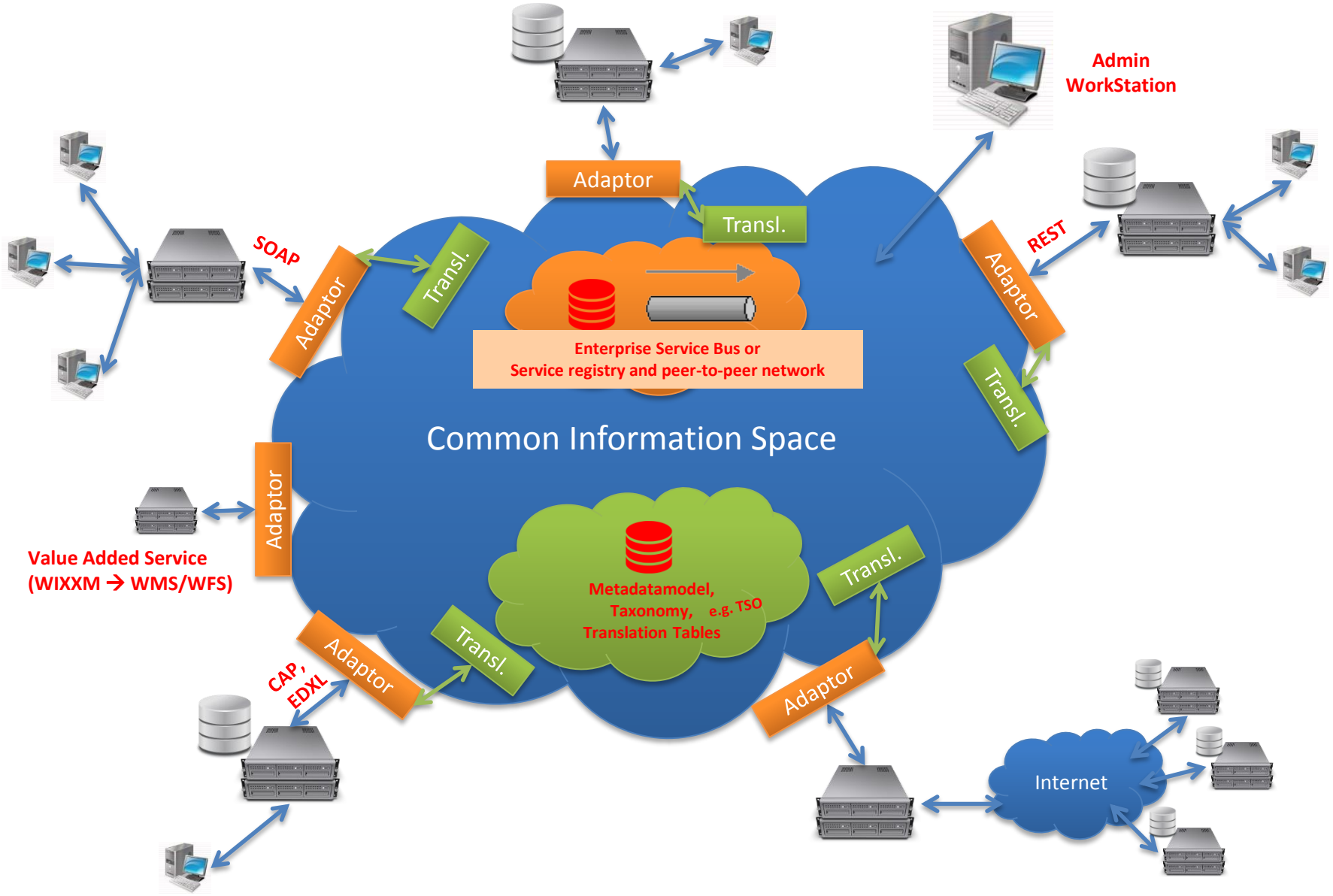
1. Develop a **pan-European inventory** of past critical events/disasters and their consequences focusing on the performance of processes, data exchange and organisational boundaries

2. Develop a concept of a common information space including appropriate semantic **definitions by taxonomies** and/or ontologies.

3. Analysing existing interoperability concepts and derive **concept of a common information space**

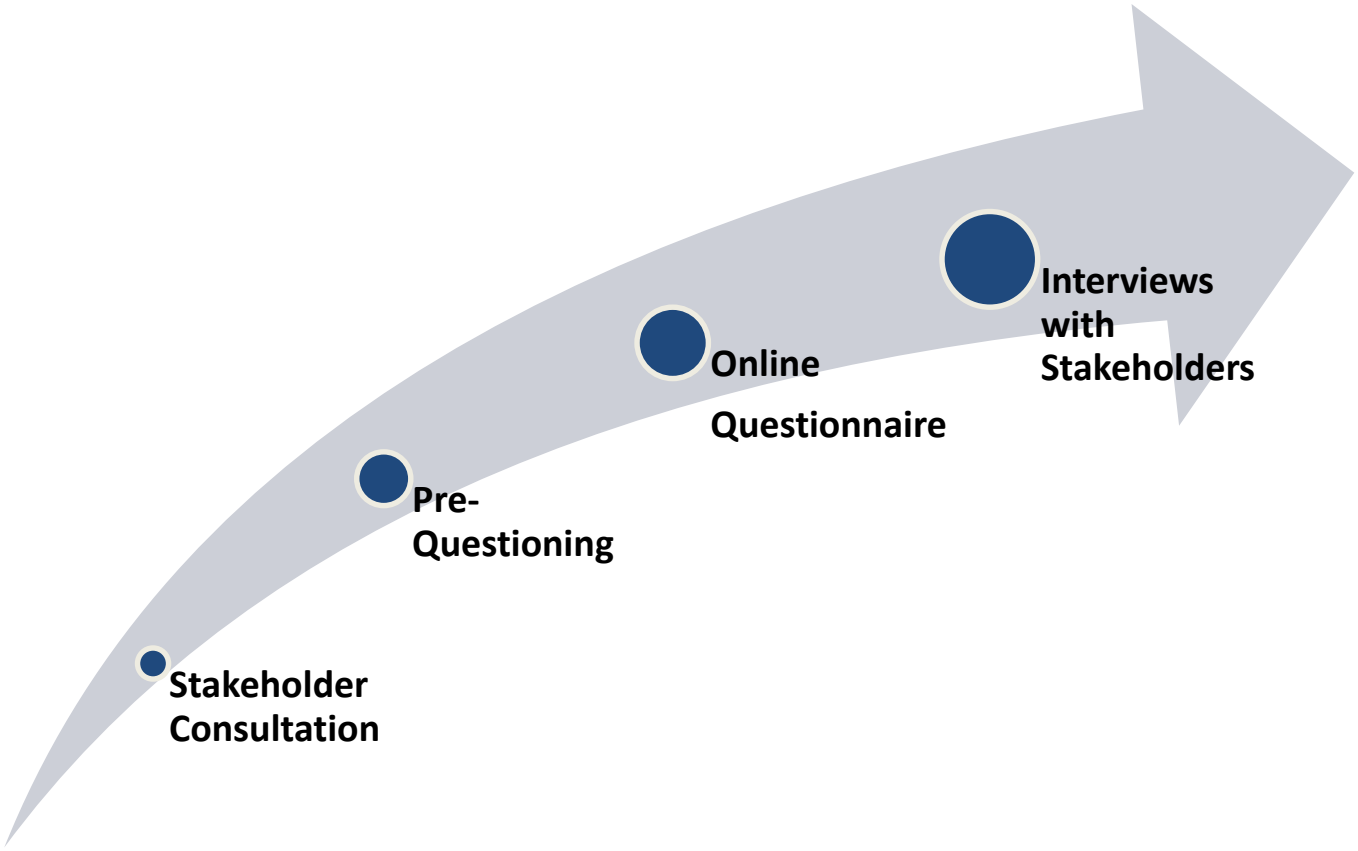
4. Validation of the architecture and suggestion of **novel Emergency and Crisis Management Models**

Common Information Space - overview



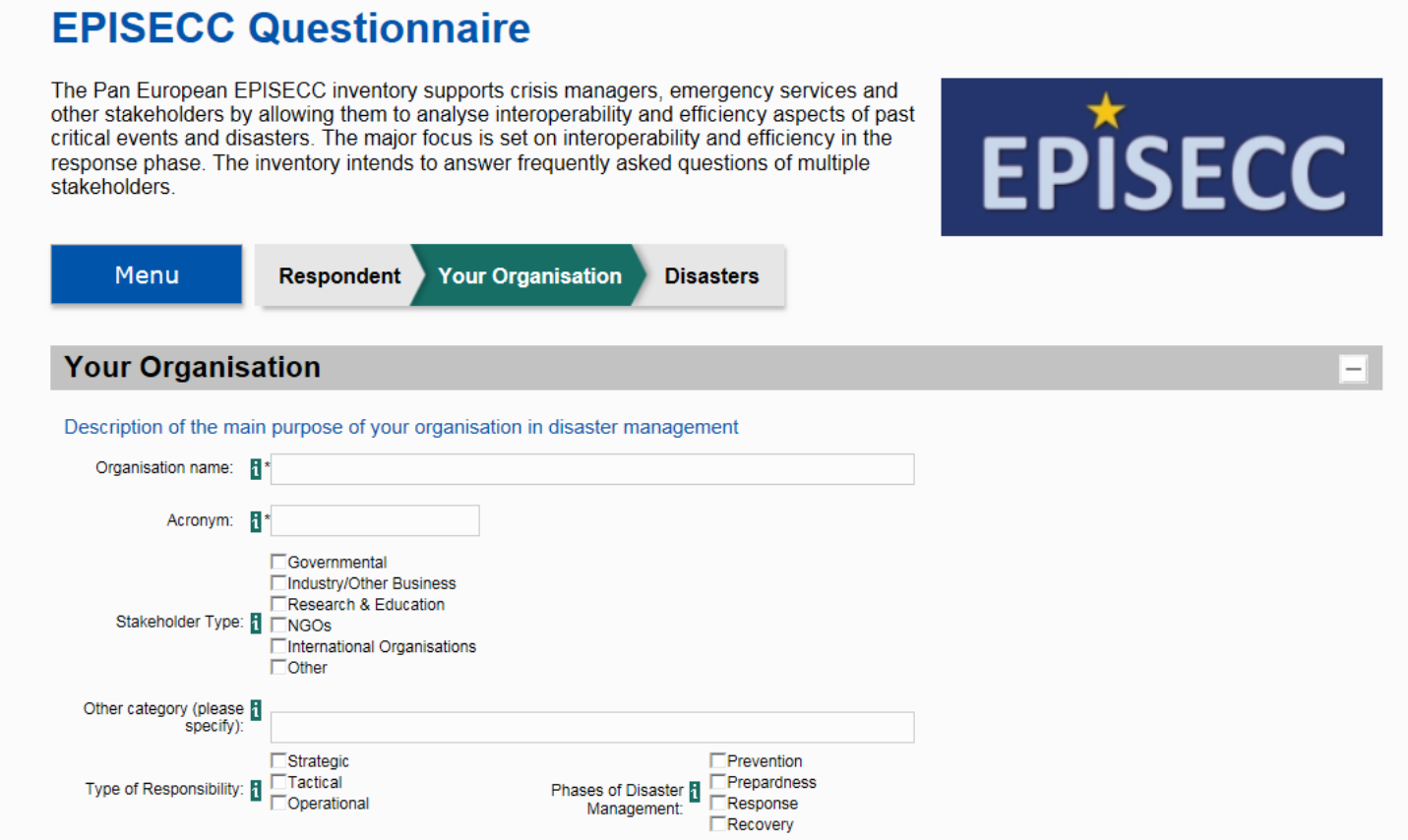
Pan European Inventory of events/disasters, considering time dimension

- **Technical Approach**: Development process of EPISECC inventory



Questionnaire – Interface to Stakeholders

- Information on interviewed Organization
- Focus on specific event (Disaster) including used processes, measures, standards, data resources, tools, cooperation with other organizations and interoperability



Requirements from Austrian stakeholders in 2015 (1)

Interoperability related requirements
• More efficient communication
• Lack of information on number of incoming and outgoing refugees, operational picture
Requirements related to technical solutions
• Public communication system resistance
• Software solution to manage location of refugees

Requirements from Austrian stakeholders in 2015 (2)

Other requirements
• Mobile homes, waste management
• Financing of NGO activities unclear
• Unification of processes
• Coordination of non-integrated volunteers

2016: Situation in Austria according to the interviewed stakeholders

- End of march 2016 „**Balkan“ route** closed
- Refugee flows moved to the west (predominantly the **Brenner route**)
- **Number** of refugees much **lower** (about 1/3)
- **Refugee coordinator** in all involved organisations
- **Cooperation** considerably **improved**, new processes, regular meetings
- **Several organisations** / stakeholders **not involved** in the management of the refugees anymore
- **Refugees** are now **sent back at border** in case of lack of permission

Requirements expressed by the interviewed stakeholders

Requirements 2016 in Austria
Cooperative tools on • border crossing level • for GO and NGO cooperation
• Network with international refugee managers to get an operative picture in early stages
• Better information for potential refugees on situation in Europe – wrong picture exists
• Better control of refugees of asylum seekers, more consequences related to their will of cooperation

Requirements expressed in Germany

Requirements 2016
• Better personnel equipment, lower workload for stakeholders
• Better short term and middle term prediction (2-3 days, 1-2 weeks):   • On number as well as composition of incoming refugee flows
• Medical screening at very early stages, before they reach the border
• Efficient coordination of transport means, in particular for longer distances
• Improved processes in refugee camps (e.g. identification, medical diagnosis)   • Early identification of security critical developments

Conclusions

- Compared to the second half of 2016 number of refugees and asylum seekers decreased considerably in many countries (e.g. Austria), however the refugee flow remains a **predominant challenge**

- **Improved information exchange** between stakeholders is one of the **main requirements** expressed both in Austria as well as Germany

- An **enhanced operational picture** related to short- (days), middle- (weeks) and long term (weeks to months) **evolution of refugee flow** development is also expressed in both countries

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Public Safety Communication Europe

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Graz University of Technology

AIT AUSTRIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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icri iMinds KU LEUVEN

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HWCommunications
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UNHCR - Definitions

1. **Refugees:** include individuals recognized under the 1951 convention relating to the status of refugees, …, individuals granted complementary forms of protection, and those enjoying temporary protection

2. **Internally displaced persons:** persons who have been forced to leave their homes or places of habitual residence both by violence or man-made or natural disasters without crossing borders

3. **Asylum seekers:** individuals who have sought international protection and whose claims for refugee status have not been determined*)

*) Reference: UNHCR Global Trends – Forced Displacements in 2014, http://unhcr.org/556725e69.html

Interoperability Indicator

A measure to quantify the quality of information exchange:

0 = very bad, no information exchange

1 = excellent, best possible

4 Parameters need to be assessed:

$$KI_{Int} = \text{[illegible]} + \text{[illegible]} \cdot \text{[illegible]}$$

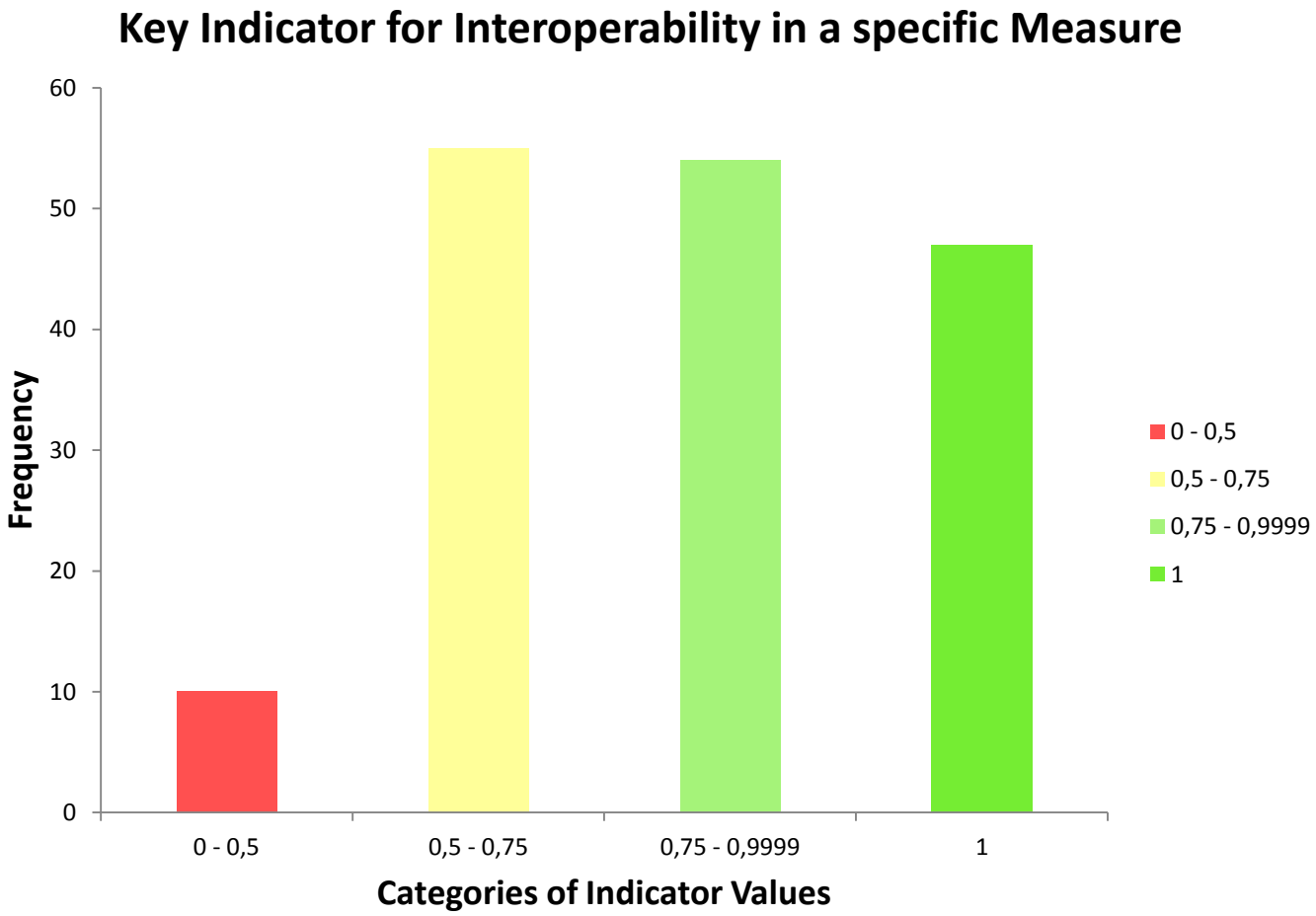
Time to establish channel to communicate

Time to communicate

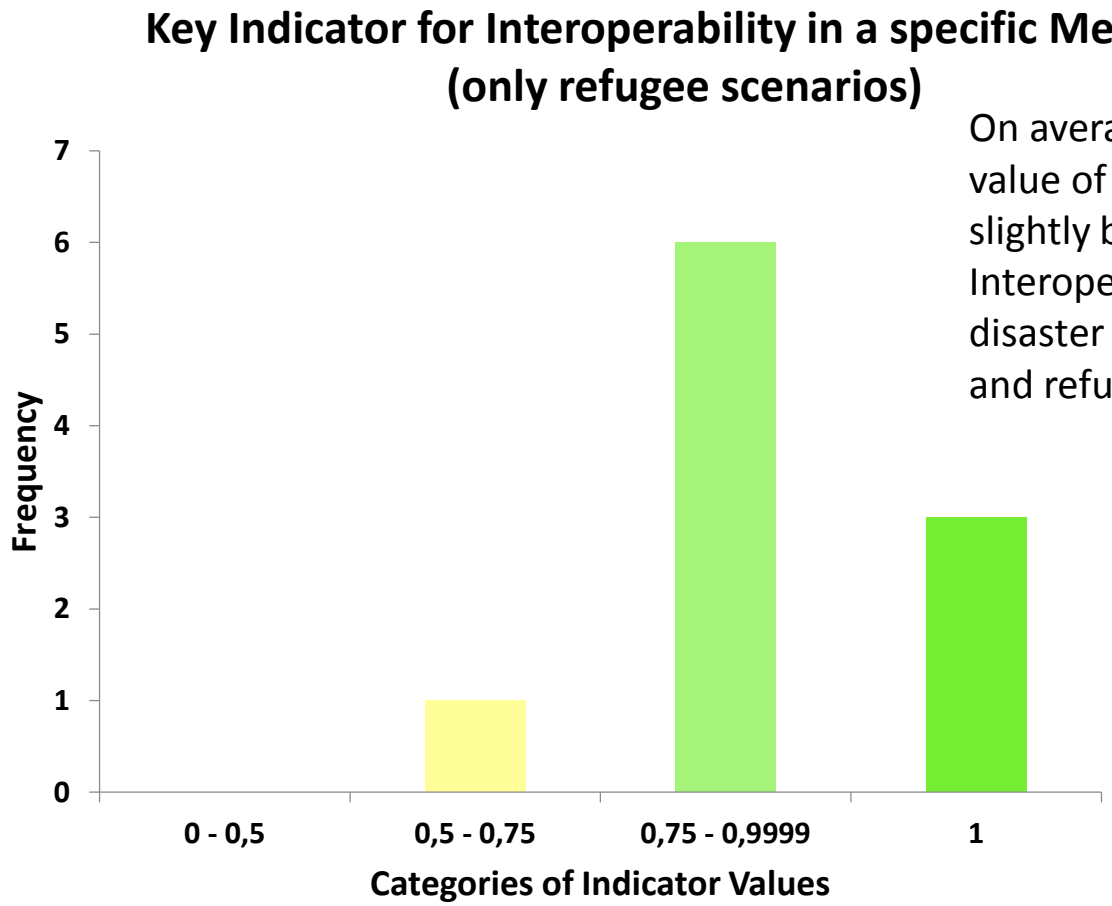
Data exch-anged

Data under-stood

Interoperability – Crisis Management



Interoperability – Refugee Scenarios



On average an Interoperability Indicator value of **0.84** was reached, which is slightly better than the mean Interoperability Indicator value for all disaster categories (without migration and refugee crises), which is **0.79**

- **0 - 0,5**
- **0,5 - 0,75**
- **0,75 - 0,9999**
- **1**