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One-Health evaluation on West Nile virus integrated Surveillance in Northern Italy, 2016

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(Article begins on next page)

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Trans-Domain COST Action TD1404 (NEOH) Workshop
16-17/01/2017, Valletta, Malta

Network for Evaluation of One Health

OH evaluation on West Nile virus integrated Surveillance in Northern Italy, 2016

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WNV

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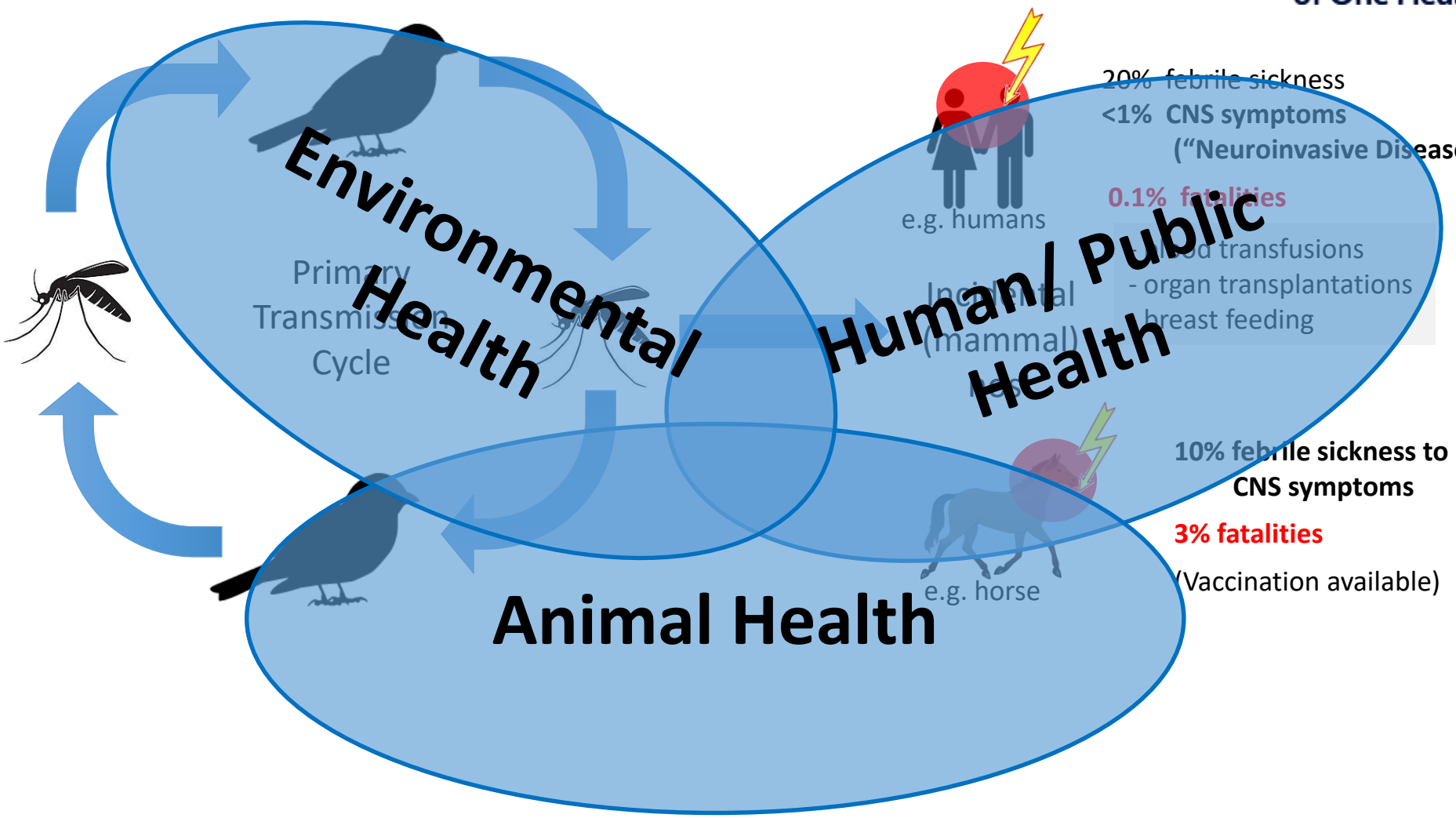

holistic approach to understand and manipulate the transmission system

Italy: **national plan** for the surveillance of human vector-borne diseases

Regional integrated surveillance plans: detecting WNV circulation and reducing the risk of infection in horse and human populations

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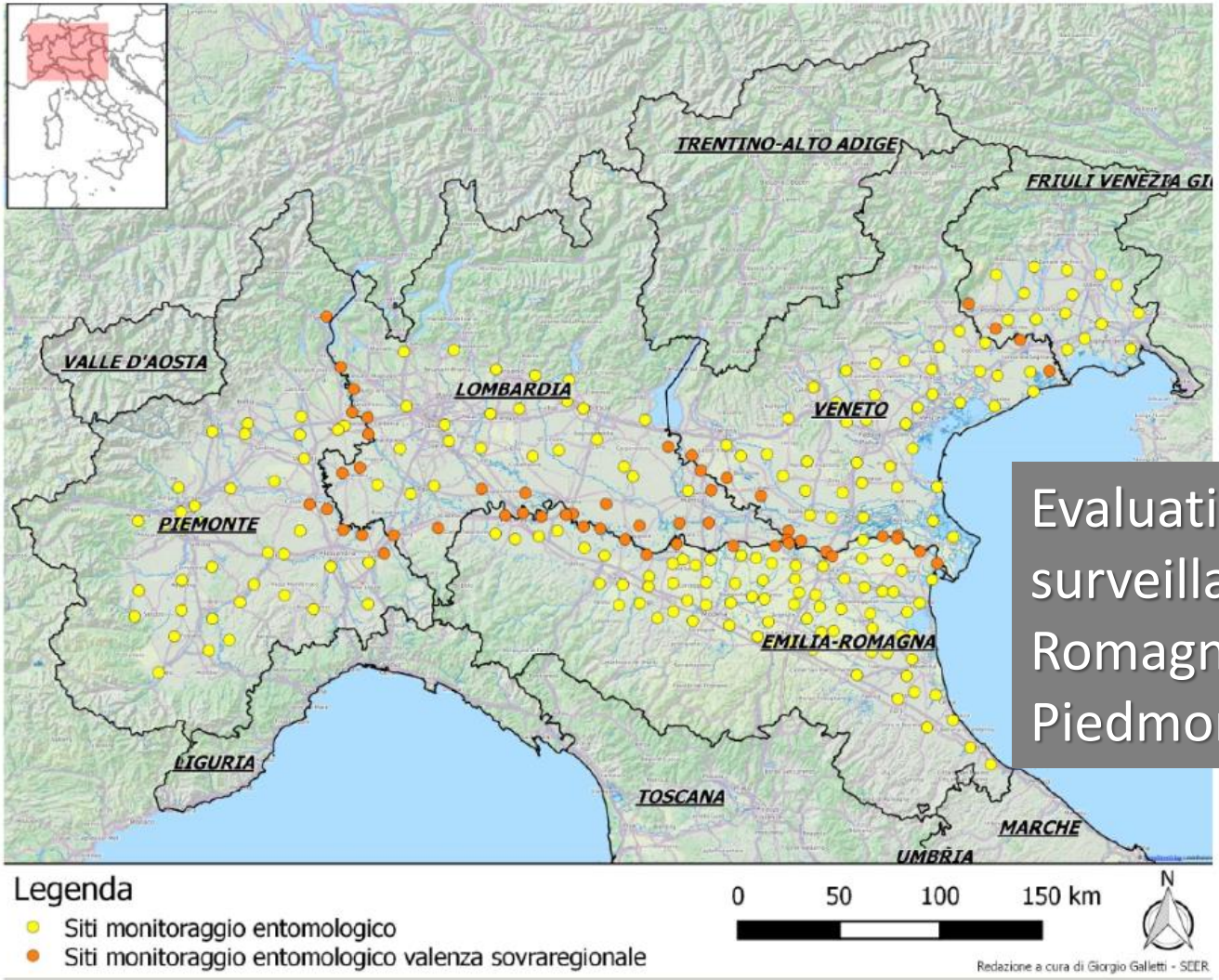

Evaluation of regional surveillance in Emilia-Romagna, Lombardy, and Piedmont regions, 2016

Entomological traps in Po river valley (source: Emilia-Romagna WNV surveillance plan 2016)

Evaluation questions

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1. OH-ness evaluation

Use of NEOH handbook to score

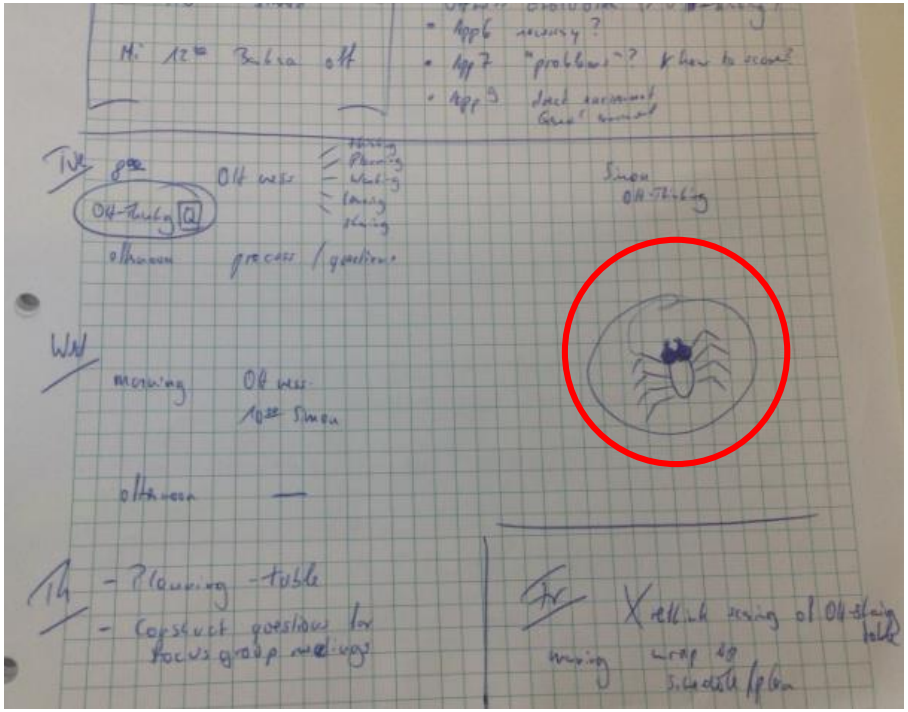
OH - thinking

OH - planning

OH - sharing

OH - working

OH - learning



Detect the strength of OH approach

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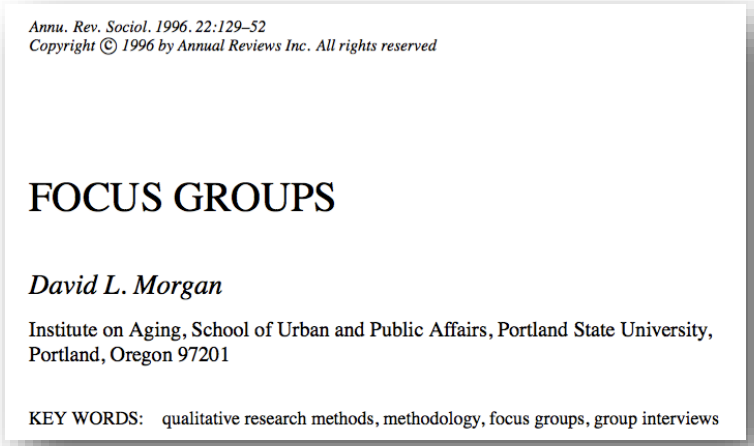
2. process evaluation

Focus group

- One for each region
- Maximun 8 participants
- 'privileged observers' – participating in the surveillance system
- 90'



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FOCUS GROUPS

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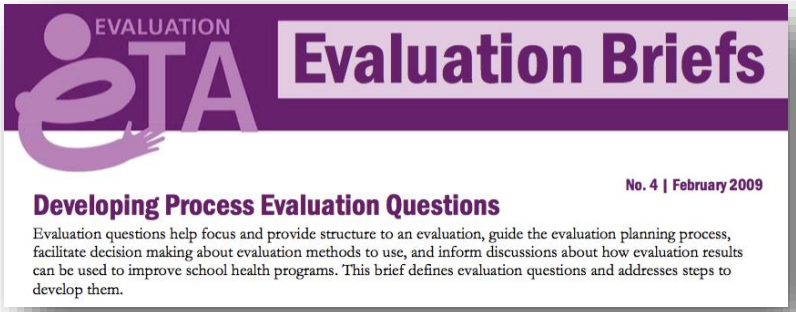
KEY WORDS: qualitative research methods, methodology, focus groups, group interviews

Detect strengths and weaknesses of how the initiative is implemented

Specific Questions

1. Fidelity
2. Reach
3. Dose delivered



EVALUATION eTA **Evaluation Briefs**

No. 4 | February 2009

Developing Process Evaluation Questions

Evaluation questions help focus and provide structure to an evaluation, guide the evaluation planning process, facilitate decision making about evaluation methods to use, and inform discussions about how evaluation results can be used to improve school health programs. This brief defines evaluation questions and addresses steps to develop them.

RESULTS OF EVALUATION (1)

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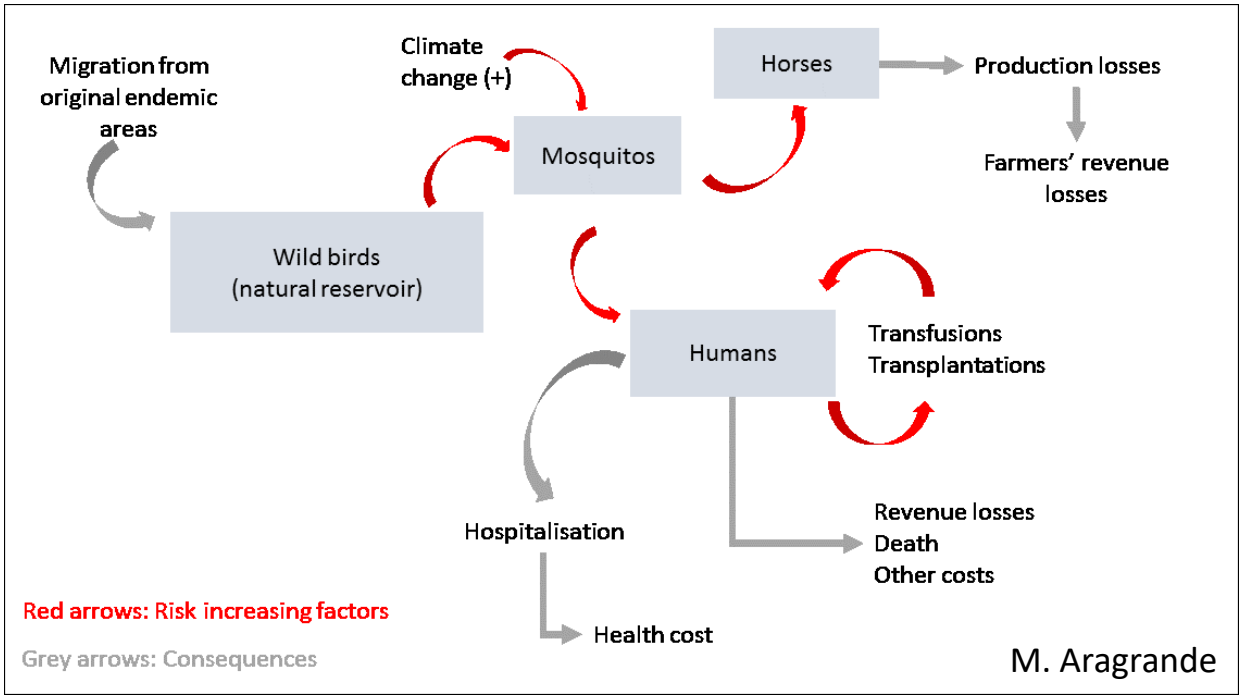
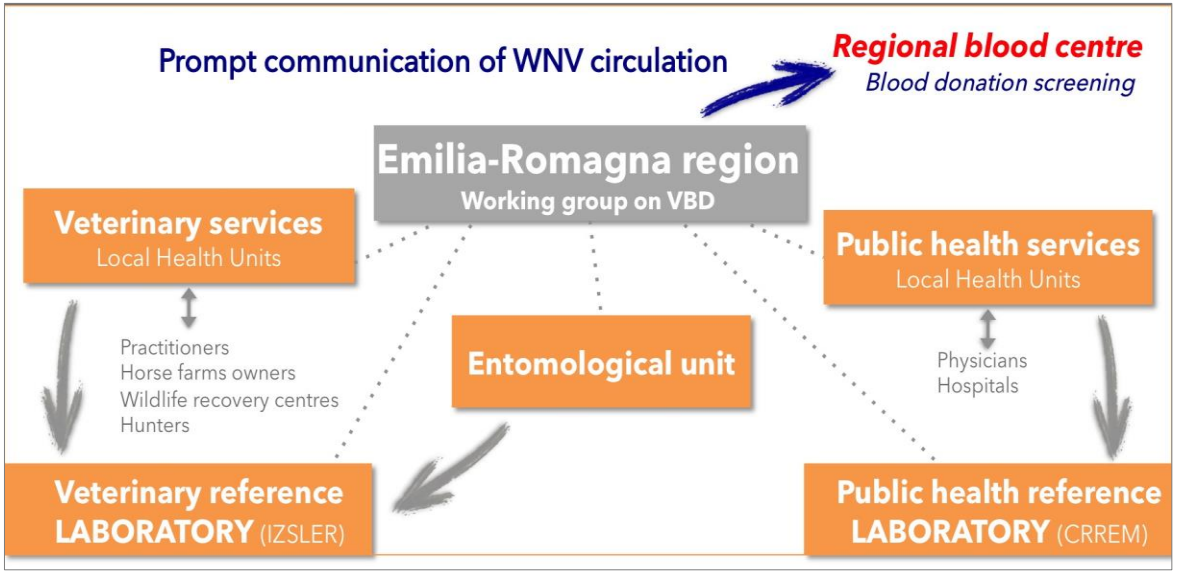


Identification of the system

Institutional system



Theory of Change

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Input:
- **Previous knowledge**
- **Funding**
- **Actors**: veterinarians, medical doctors, entomologists (funding, availability, education, training)
- **General stakeholders**: general public, horse owners (informed and cooperating)
- Platform for **communication** and interaction between stakeholders

Institutional context

Research methods:
«surveillance system»
(sampling of mosquitoes, birds, horses, humans etc.)

Actors (Vet, MD, Entom)
Other stakeholders (gen pub, horse owners)

Output/results:
- **Timely detection of WNV-circulation** in mosquitoes/birds
- **Increased networking**
- **Added knowledge**

Acceptability
Appropriation

Outcome:
Early warning!
(= more targeted health system)

1st order impact

Long-term goal 1:
↓ risk of WNV-Infection in people.

innovation

Considering the Socio-economic space

2nd beneficiaries

Long-term goal 2:
↓ health-cost for government (less hospitalization etc.)
↓ loss of revenue…
Model for similar surveillance systems

Identification of the variables required to reach the desired impact

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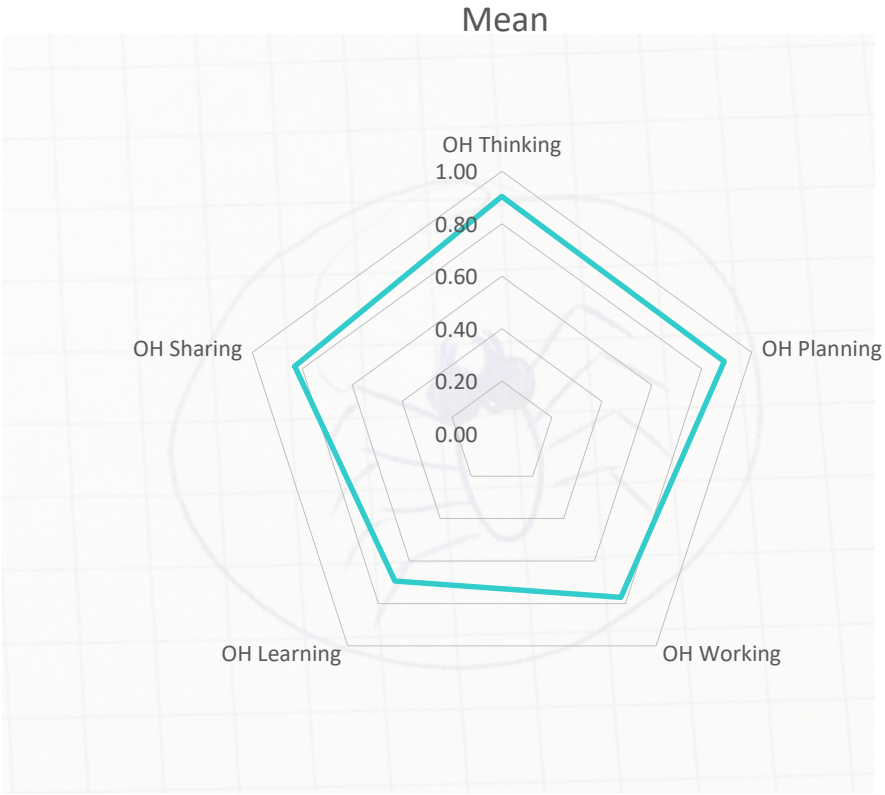
OH-ness evaluation

Spider diagram



Scores

OH Thinking:	0.90
OH Planning:	0.89
OH Working:	0.77
OH Learning:	0.69
OH Sharing:	0.83

Good scores, highlighting critical issues related to communication and learning gaps

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Process evaluation

first insights and outlook

- 12/12/16 FG in Piedmont
- 22/12/16 FG in Emilia-Romagna
- 12/01/17 FG in Lombardy

Preliminary results

- Some differences among Regions
- Critical points
    - Communication
    - Funding

Implementation of the evaluation process:
problems encountered, limitations

OH-ness evaluation

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In general

- Assessment tools were in the validation phase
- Vocabulary not always clear
- Room for subjective interpretation of questions
- We had to remember to evaluate the overall system, not the success/output of the system

In particular

- OH thinking: quite hard to compile
- OH learning: has to be answered by actors involved in the initiative, very difficult as external evaluators

Process evaluation

The help of sociologists is essential

Conclusions

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- Evaluation process iterative and time-consuming, but very rewarding by providing deeper insights

- OH-ness evaluation enabled to detect critical points

- Deeper insights expected from the qualitative process evaluation

→ basis for the development of shared recommendations to fine-tune and implement the initiative in a more OH oriented perspective