An aerial photograph showing a residential area that has been severely flooded. A wide, muddy river flows along the left side of the frame. The water has inundated large areas of land, including fields and parts of a neighborhood with several houses and trees. The sky is overcast, and the overall scene depicts a significant natural disaster.

International Handbook on Emergency Response for Flood Defences

General Overview

April 24 2024

1. Objectives of this presentation

- To present the scope of the handbook
- To provide some background to arriving at the handbook
- Arriving at a Community of Practice
- Using the handbook
- Dissemination and feedback

Where did it start?

- A national community with a large international network
- Idea for an Emergency Response Handbook arose in 2016 (Exercise Waterwolf)
- During the international FloodRisk conference 2020 (Budapest) we made a big step forward
- Positive reactions from Japan, Germany, USA, Belgium, England and of course the Netherlands: community of willing
- Polder2C (Interreg project) as a boost to create a community of committed
- Corona was surprisingly very instrumental to work virtual and effective together over many time zones

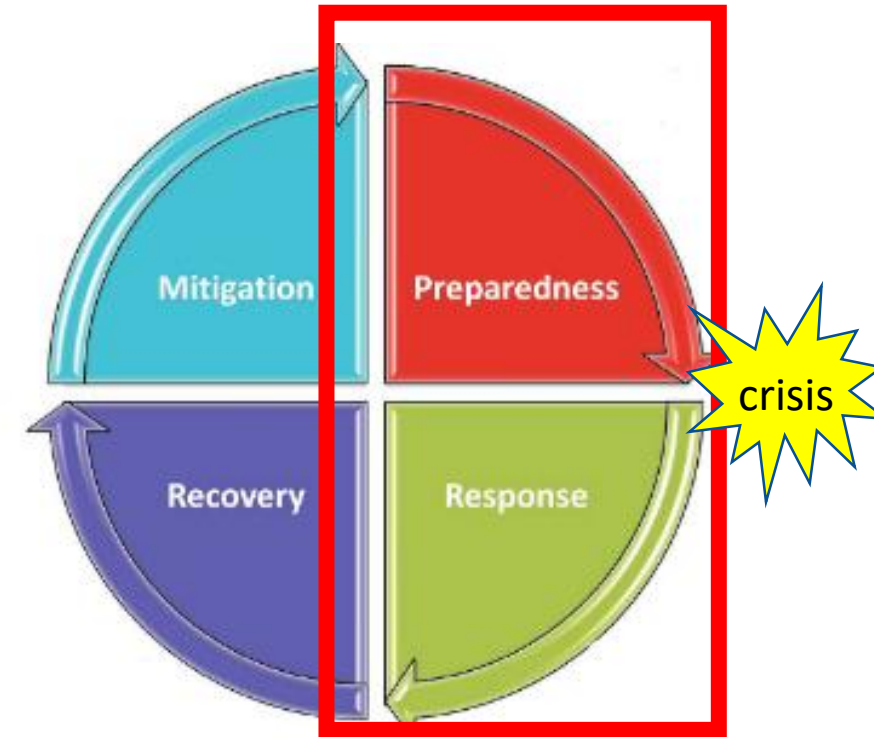
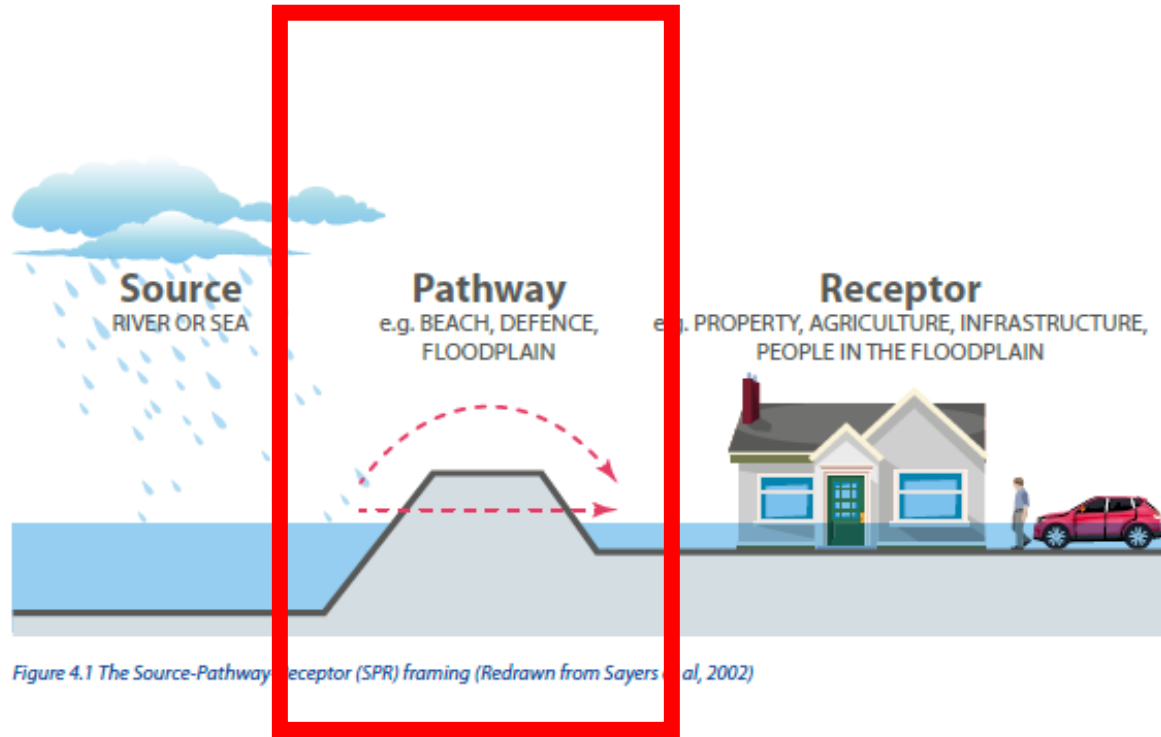


Why do we need a Handbook Emergency Reponse for Flood Defences?

- Floods pose serious threats to societies.
- Increasing scale of floods → requires external or even international assistance.
- Different response approaches are available worldwide → Need for sound inventory.
- Number of well trained practitioners/flood fighters decreases → Need to document knowledge and experience.

Need to join forces to be able to react, learn and cooperate appropriately and effectively → we need a handbook!

2. Scope of the handbook – high level



The ultimate goal

OUTPUT

- Handbook free for all flood defence managers worldwide.
- Effective international network for exchange of flood fighting staff and equipment.
- Sharing experiences with mutually developed ways of working and procedures.

OUTCOME

- Better prepared crisis organisations knowing how to act best in emergency situations regarding their flood defences.
- Reducing risk of flood by failure of flood defences.
- Less casualties, loss of property and disrupting of society

GOAL

- International guidance and collaboration for practical implementation of sound emergency measures during flood situations.
- The handbook to become an invaluable tool to help flood defence managers to prepare for and act during flood events.

Target audience

Flood Defence Managers

- Patrollers / inspectors
- Operational staff (early warning)
- Advisors (e.g. risk, geotech)
- Responders
- Crisis management

National Authority

- Flood forecasting
- Civil Security
- Crisis planning
- Crisis management

Local Authority

- Crisis management evacuation
- Rescue and relief
- Crisis communication

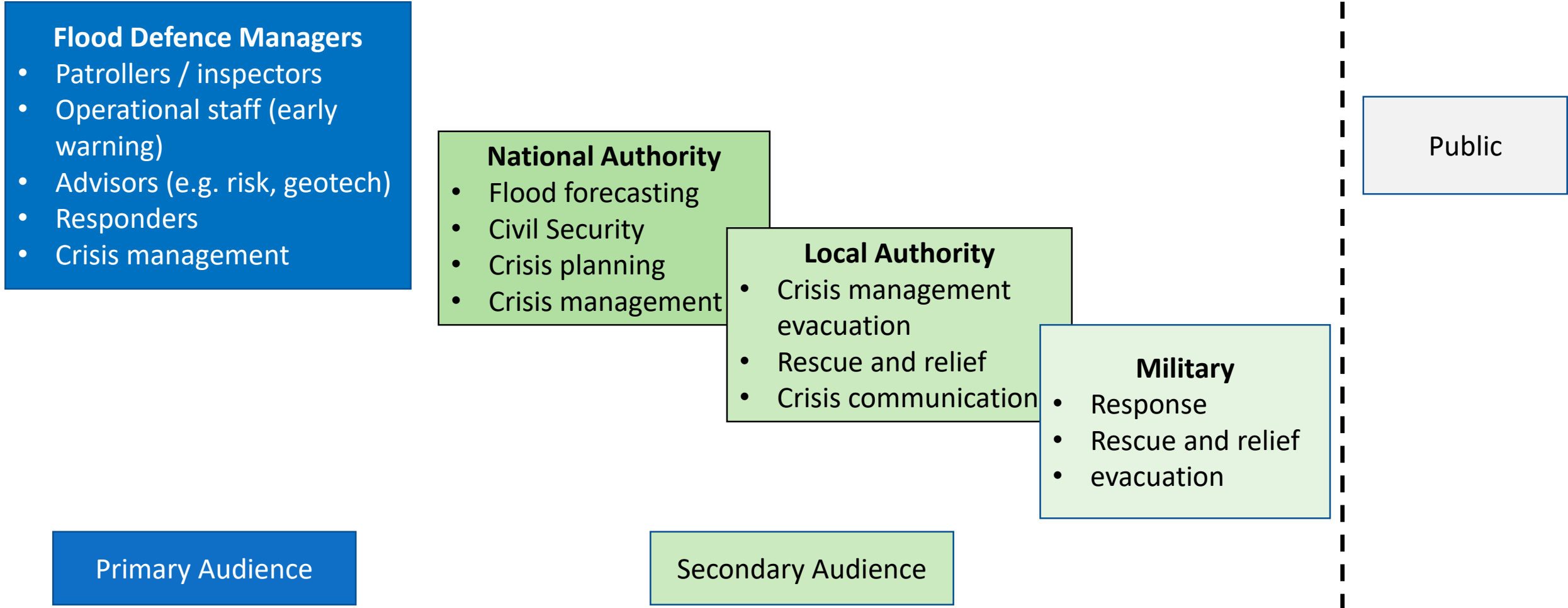
Military

- Response
- Rescue and relief
- evacuation

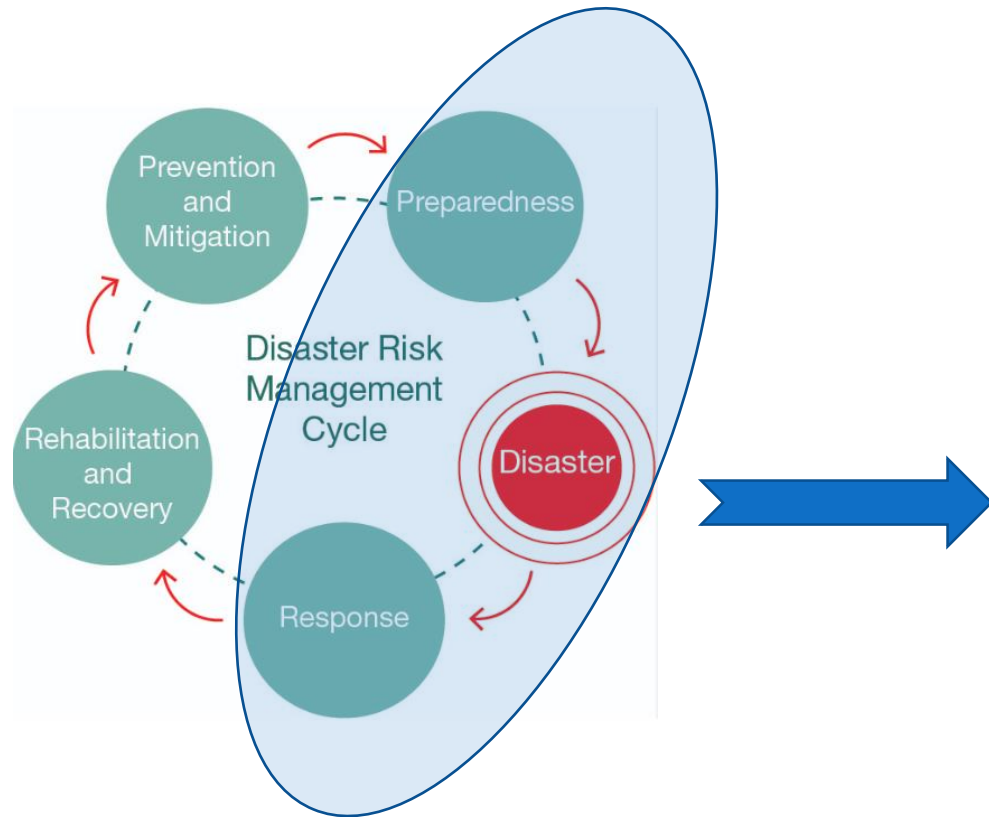
Public

Primary Audience

Secondary Audience



3. Background - Contents & structure



1. Introduction		
2. Flood emergency response management		
3. Preparedness	4. Response	
5. Flooding threats		
6. Flood defences		
7. Crisis communication	8. Assessing and inspecting	12. Health, safety and wellbeing
	9. Understanding the problem	
	10. Selecting and designing measures	
	11. Logistics and implementation	
13. Reliability of emergency measures		
14. Knowledge-sharing & collaboration		
15. Funding		
16. Concluding remarks		

3. Background - Strong international input

AUTHORS & REVIEWERS

- Netherlands
- Japan
- USA
- United Kingdom
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- New Zealand
- Poland
- Portugal

CONTRIBUTIONS / CASES

- Netherlands*
- Japan*
- USA*
- United Kingdom*
- Bangladesh
- Belgium
- Egypt
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Guyana
- India
- Kenya
- Mozambique
- New Zealand
- Philippines
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Vietnam
- Zimbabwe

* Rijkswaterstaat, MLIT, USACE and EA contribute financial and therefore considered to be the “owners”. A Letter of Intent to arrange this is under construction.

Ownership



- Dutch Rijkswaterstaat: overall project management and –coordination
 - UK Environment Agency: contracted lead author
 - United States Army Corps of Engineers: graphic design
 - Japanese MLIT: publishing process
-
- Each partner contributes for around the 50 k€ (in kind or via budget) so total costs producing this handbook estimated on 200 k€.
-
- Via a “letter of intent” we will make agreements on future management of the handbook

3. Background - Committed team



+ more than 20 independent experts

4. Arriving at Communities of Practice

For the CoP, the following needs to be clear:



Objective – main objectives & success indicators



Audience – which groups: regional communities and a one mondial community?



Organisation – processes / agreements / responsibilities



Support – tasks & tools

4. Arriving at a CoP - Objective

To develop, share and benchmark knowledge, experience and tools / approaches regarding “life cycle flood risk management (preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation)”.

Success indicators:

- Short term: Publishing of an International Handbook

Long term:

- (bi-) annual conferences, webinars, brown bag meetings
- newsletter
- Coordinate R&D efforts
- Incident Observations – hands on sharing of experiences



4. Arriving at a CoP - Organisation

Processes / agreements / responsibilities



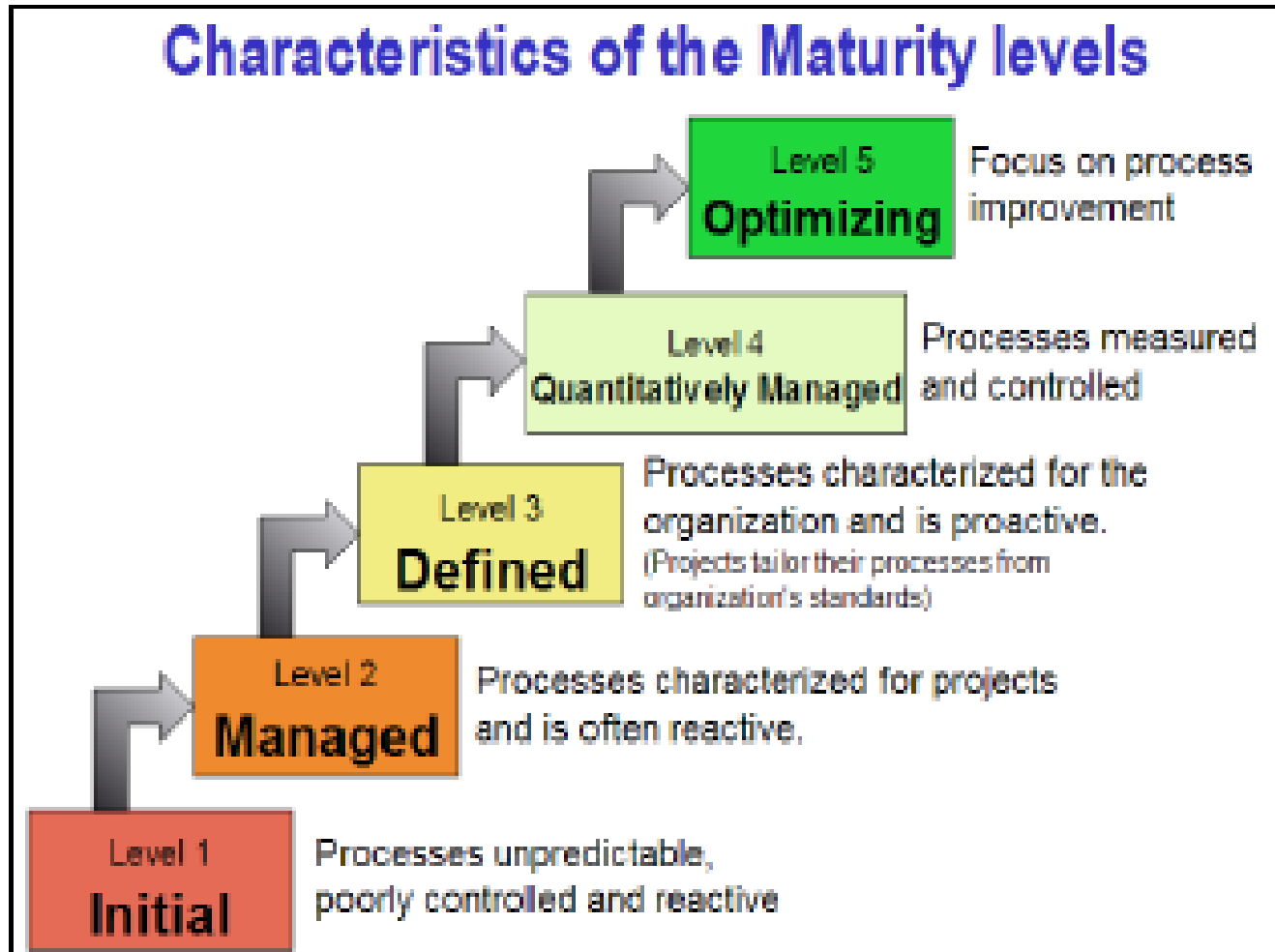
We need:

- Articles of association
- Mission & vision
- Organigram & who is who
- (Multi) annual plan

We need:

- Board – supervisory, safeguarding
- Working committee – “work force”
- Secretariat – point of contact
- Linking pins / members - community

5. Using the handbook



We consider a extra “guideline for self assessment” to help end users to implement the handbook

We want to use the concept of Maturity Levels :

- For each chapter (2 – 15) the most important 3-5 competencies will be defined.
- For each competency up to 5 levels of maturity will be defined.

6. Dissemination and feedback

- The big challenge for coming months will be: how are we going to disseminate the IHERFD
 - First opportunity Singapore International Water Week (June 2024): oral presentation June 20th plus poster presentation Dutch pavilion
 - ICOLD meeting New Delhi
 - We try to get World Bank involved
 - Other suggestions?
- We have to decide either to have first a blueprint version, or call it a version 1.0 to make clear we need feedback to improve the handbook
- We want to invite users of the handbook to give feedback
- Then in a few years develop to a final version



Thank you for you attention