From Datacollection to the Final Report – practical Experiences and Conditions for an Aggregating Reporting System Part II–

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Reporting – are we being effective?

- ubiquituos reporting requirement in EU legislation
- five categories of questions (taken from EEA 2001):
  - legal transposition
  - practical compliance
  - environmental data
  - description of measures
  - policy effects and effectiveness
- an enormous amount of work but
- information submitted and subsequent evaluation is insufficient
  $\Rightarrow$ wrong questions and wrong data

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“Compliance Checking – What are the objectives of the reports?”

- check and improve the implementation process
- compliance check $\Leftrightarrow$ preparing a factual and legal interpretation of the relevant legislation

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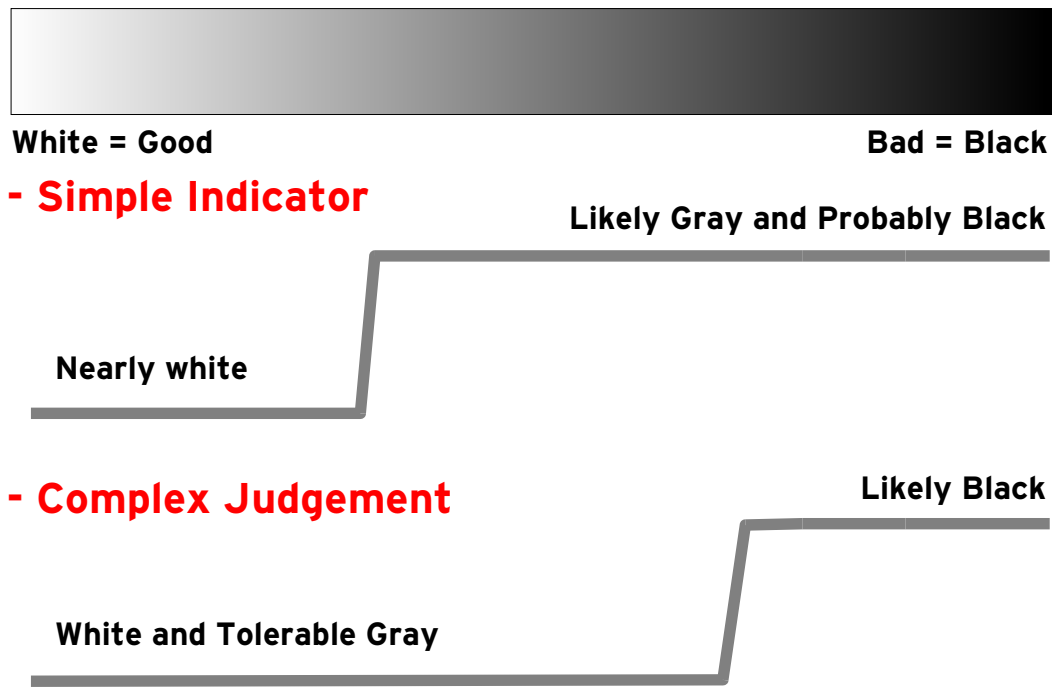
“Compliance Checking – What are the objectives of the reports?”

- check and improve the implementation process
- start with objectives and evaluation concepts and/or indicators



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"Compliance Checking – What are the objectives of the reports?"

- check and improve the implementation process
- start with objectives and evaluation concepts and/or indicators

possible simple WFD indicators

- size of waterbodies
- percentage of waterbodies at risk
- ...

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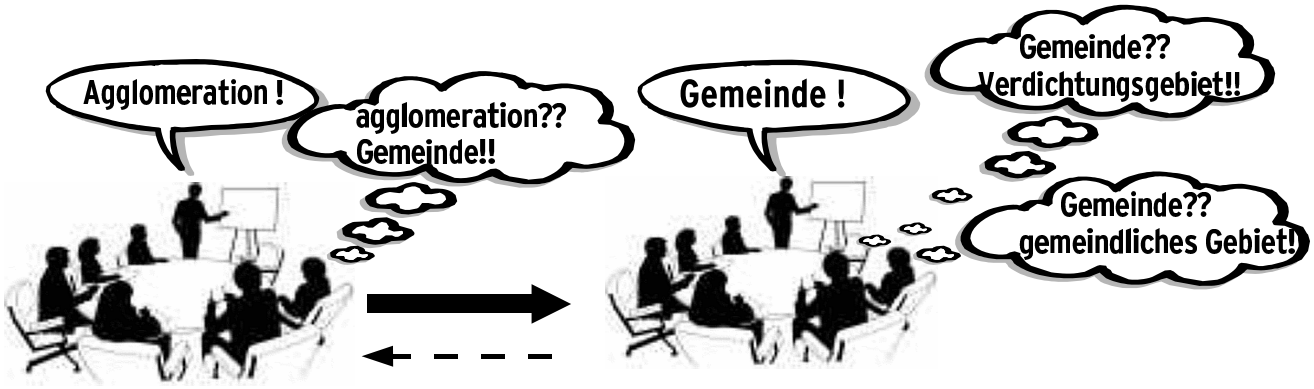
“What are the questions and how should the answers look like?”

- clear factual description of information required
- subsequent transfer to a data model – formalised description
- categories lists instead of free-text
- translate the terminology of request to terminology used in member states implementation regulations



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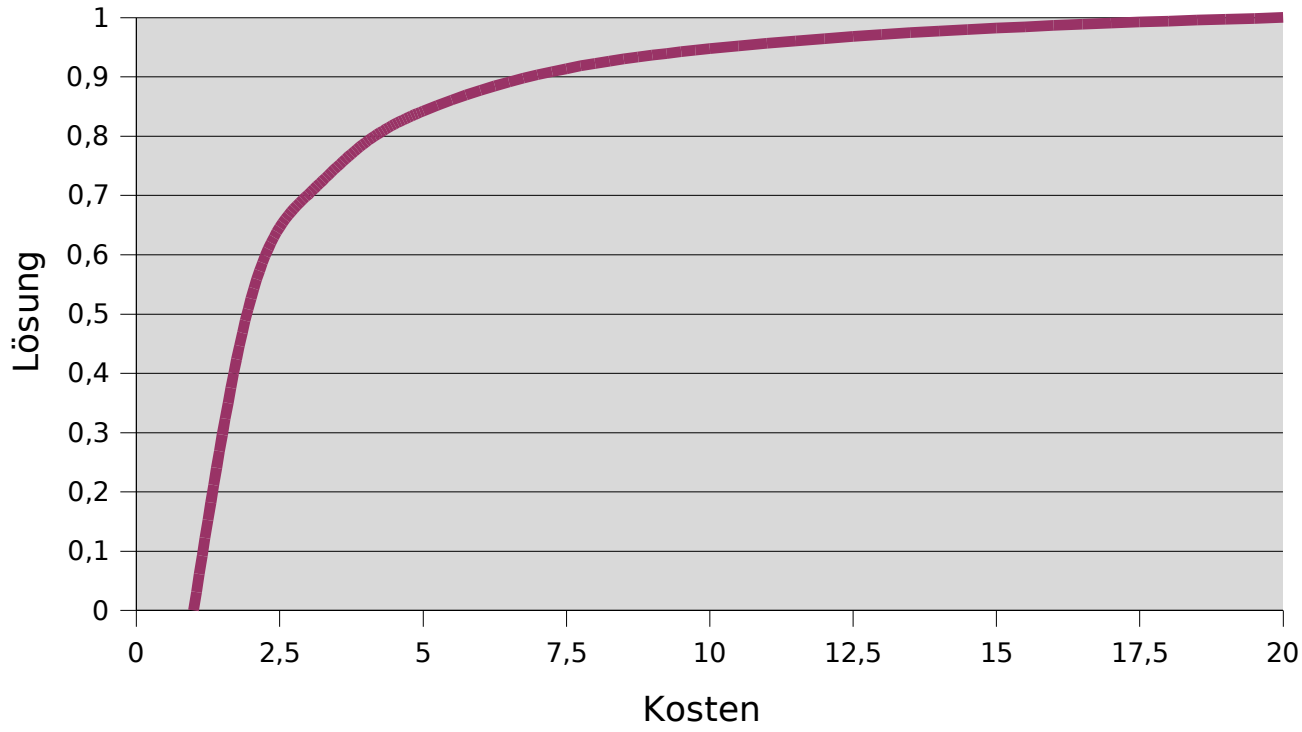
It's the Data . . . "Rules of thumb"

	Hardware	Software	Data
Lifetime (years)	3-5	5-8	>30
Cost ratio	1	10	$\gg 100$



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"Which data are available"

- existing enforcement databases are not designed for not yet specified COM reporting
- the legacy problem – changes are expensive
- explore what data are available to provide the information needed

- define possible alternatives for missing data

example from UWWT Directive

nominal load (i.e. size of agglomeration)

- requested: *direct calculation*, but data often not available
- result of reporting group: *substitute organic design capacity under certain conditions*

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"Which data are available"

- existing enforcement databases are not designed for not yet specified COM reporting
- the legacy problem – changes are expensive
- explore what data are available to provide the information needed

- don't overinterprete existing data

example from WFD-Reporting Sheets

pressures on water-bodies

- requested: *"significant pressures which cause the water body to be at risk"*
- available: *listing of identified pressures per water body*

different meaning – different methodology

Organisational aspects

- conceptual problems – cooperation of experts and IT-experts are necessary
- clear organizational structures and responsibilities for a reporting are important
- National Contact Points / EU Contact Point – technical network
- there is normally a structure behind the National Contact Point

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Lifetime of Data or the “key” (ID)-problem

- Data collections need ID’s to identify specific data sets
- ID’s must be unique and constant over time
- clear ID-management rules – crucial part of business rules

Example from UWWT-Reporting

- names of agglomerations of first questionnaire silently used as ID’s
- names of agglomeration are not treated as ID’s in German Länder DB’s
- two differing lists $\Rightarrow$needed synchronisation

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Checks and Indicators – Quality assurance

- normally several rounds of quality improvements necessary

reasons:

- organisational problems in data collection
- maintenance of databases no high priority at lower levels
- different timeframes for data maintenance at different levels
- comparison with similar data (of other MS)

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Checks and Indicators – Quality assurance

- normally several rounds of quality improvements necessary

conclusions:

- QA starts at the data-holder level but all levels are involved
- the time necessary for QA is often underestimated
- data sets could be significantly improved by QA

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Computers are tools and not solutions

- conceptual problems cannot be solved by technical means
- IT design should **after** conceptual and semantic clarification
- specification of a transfer format is the crucial step in IT design
- preparation time for external contracts on all levels

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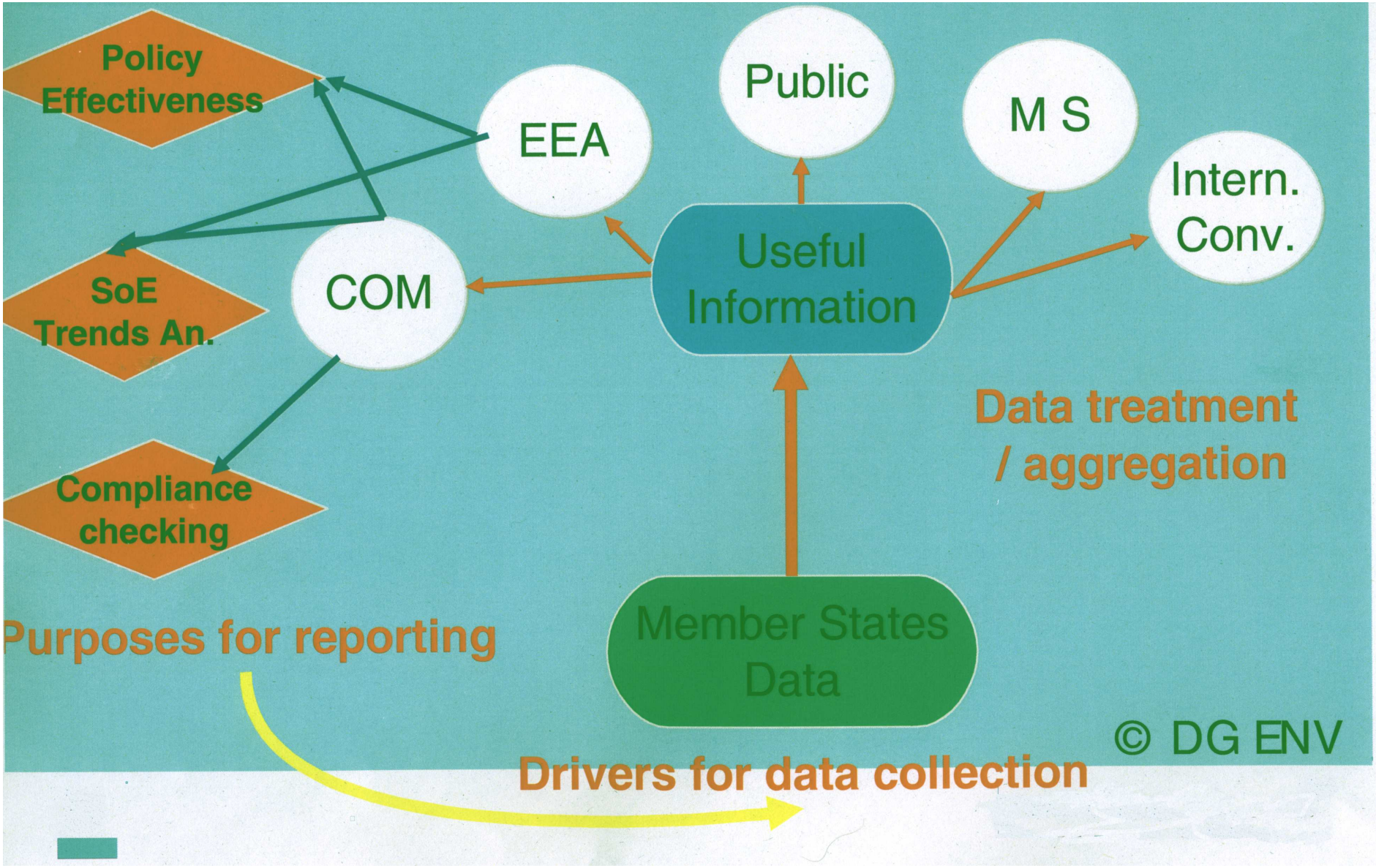
The WISE concept



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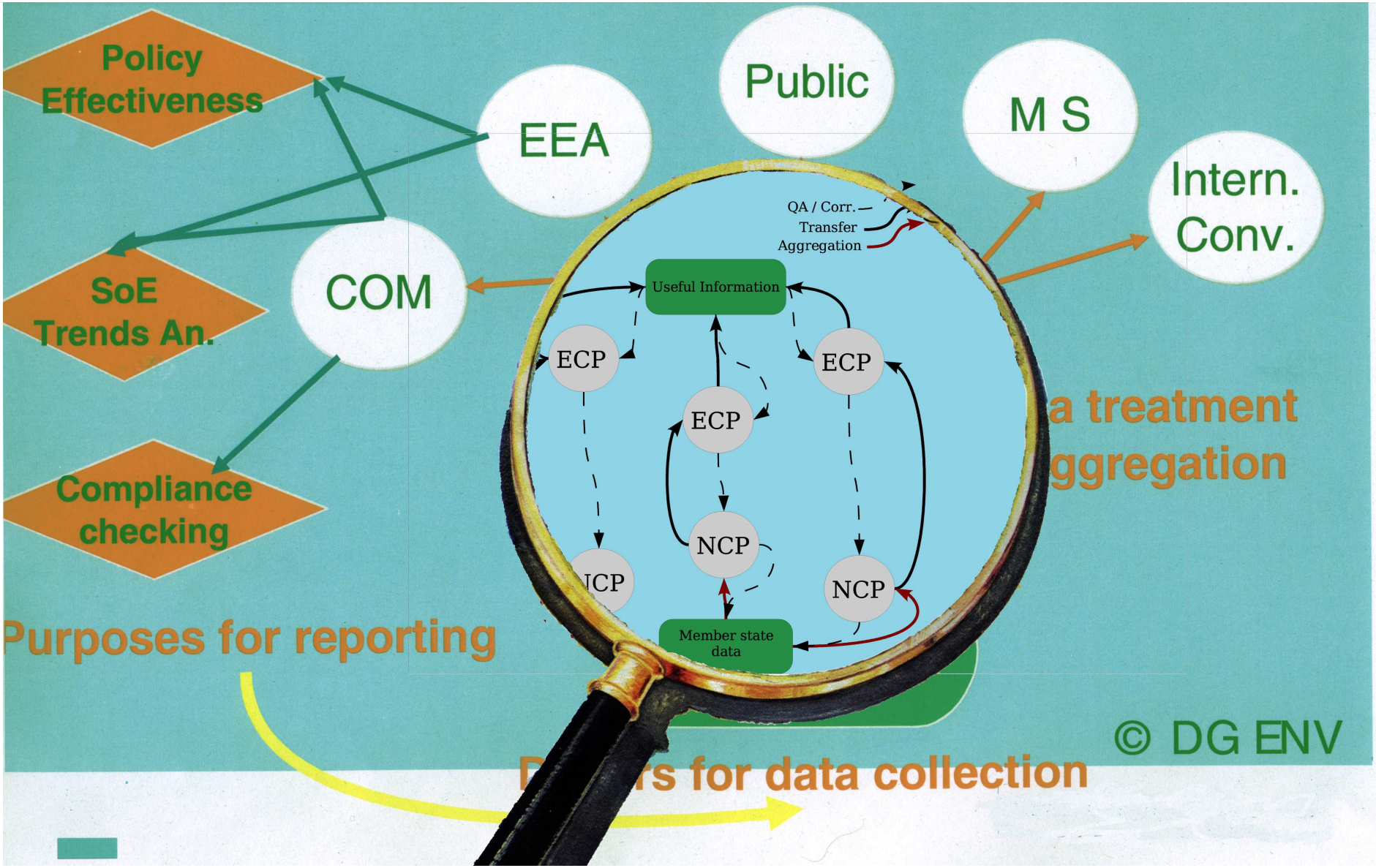

Summary

- A pure top/down approach will fail
- time and resources for defining the data request are underestimated
- QA is a multi-stage process – and also time consuming

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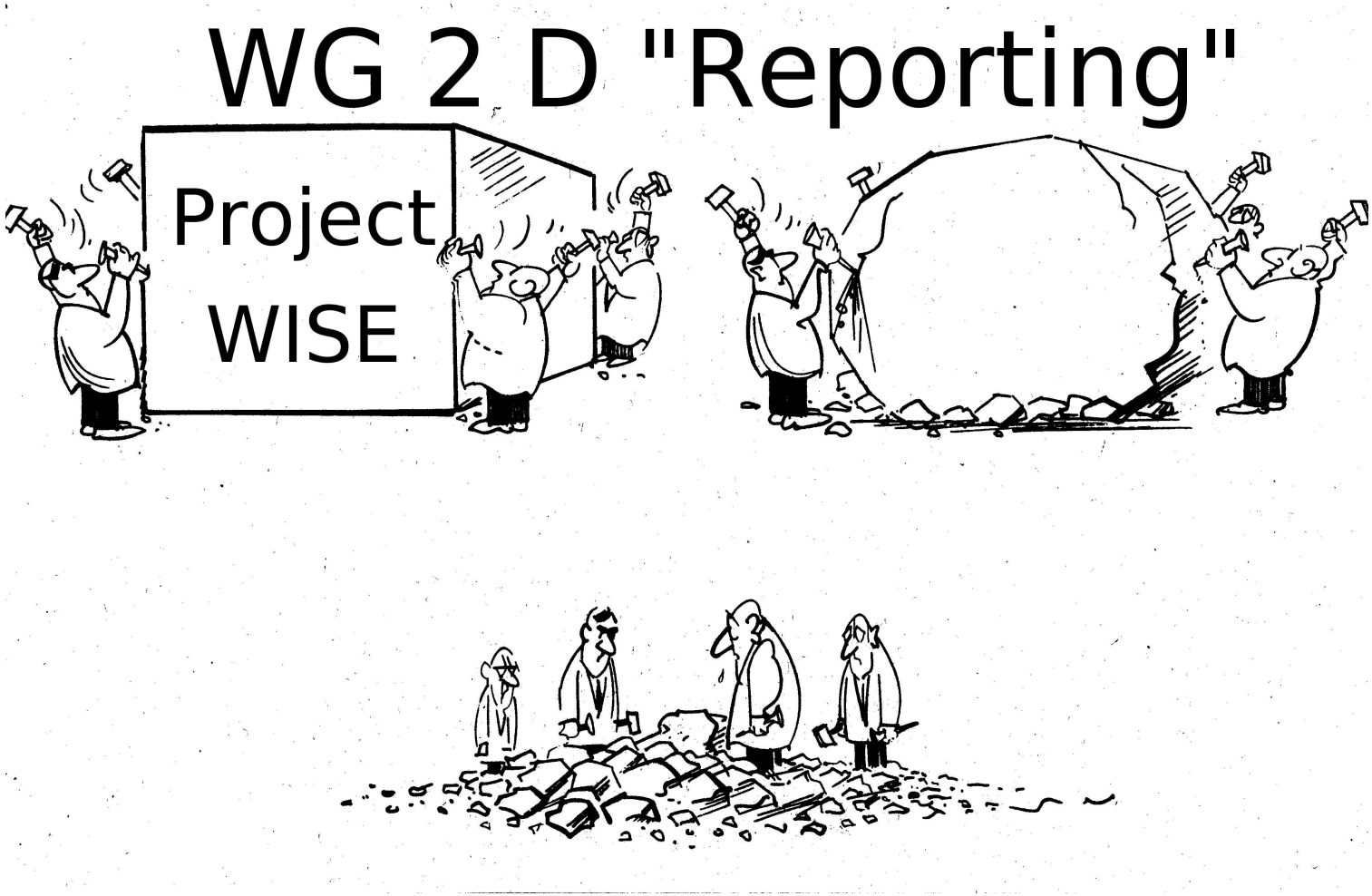
“We can do it better – Let’s move on”



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