



Bundesanstalt für Arbeitsschutz und Arbeitsmedizin

**Foresight in Germany**  
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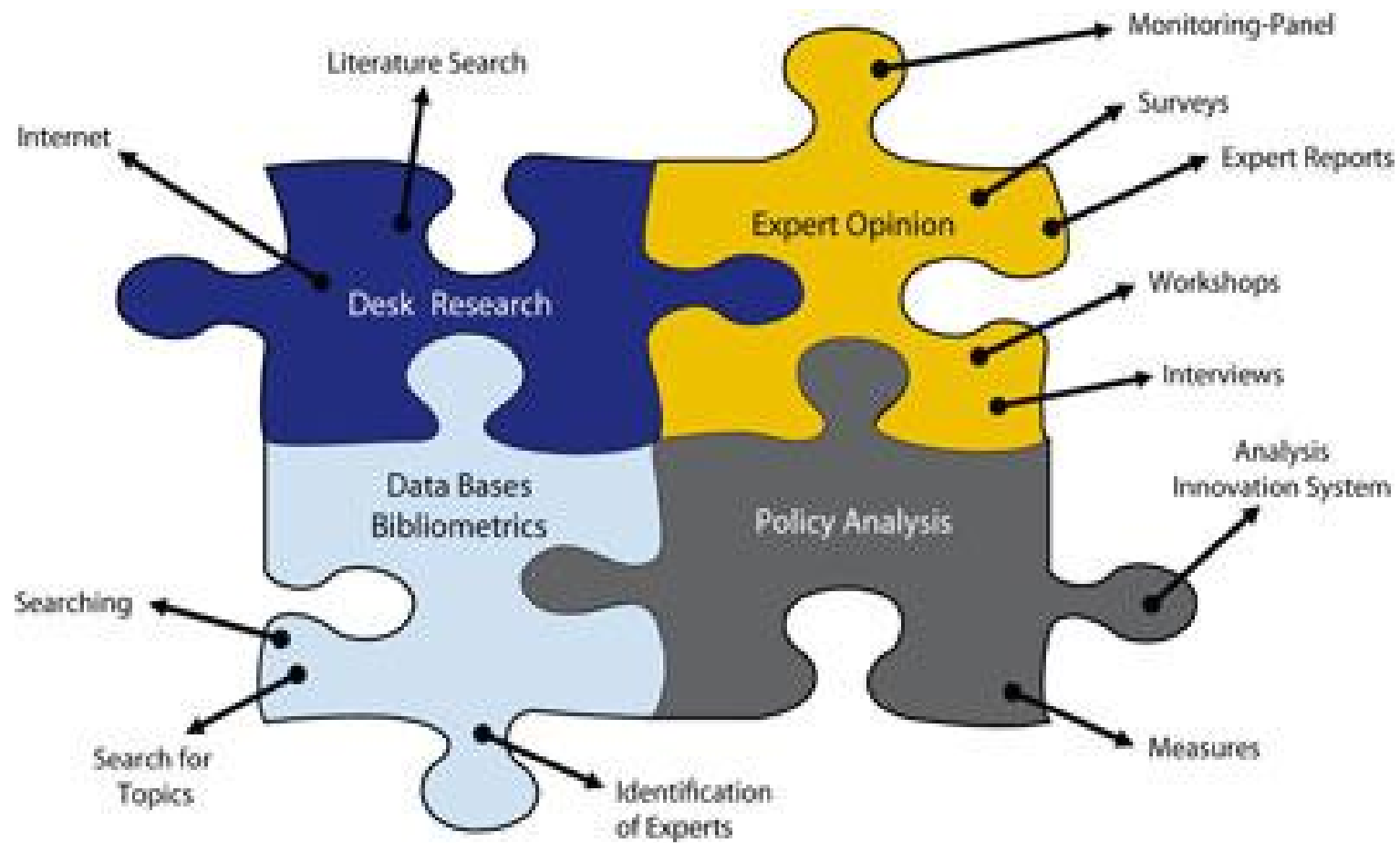
## Foresight studies in germany

The BMBF (Ministry for research) launched a Foresight Process in September 2007 in order to safeguard Germany's Long-term innovative capacity as a centre for research and education. In this frame a international comparative study about existing foresight studies was carried out and is on the web.

# Objectives

- “ Identifying new key areas in research and technology
- “ Naming (and determining) areas for cross-cutting activities in the field of research and innovation
- “ Analysing fields of technology and innovation with regard to their potential for strategic partnerships
- “ Determining priority fields of action for research and development

# The Foresight Process



# Results of the first wave

## *Ageing research:*

- “ Better understanding of ageing
- “ Can the individual ageing process be influenced
- “ Can besides of prolonging of the life span the health span be prolonged
- “ Because of this how working processes will be changing
- “ Can the mechanism of learning be identified and how can this be used for learning of elderly

# HumanLifeSpace:

“ How will be the infrastructure of LifeSpaces changed by technology, traffic, services, living and working, safety and security

# Human-Technology Boundaries

- “ Role of human being within more and more technological wrappers
- “ Mechanical persons
- “ Symbiotic of man-machine
- “ Man-machine-cultures

# ProductionConsumption2.0

- “ Interactive value creation
- “ Governance of the systemic change of ProductionConsumption2.0

# Time Research

- “ Time is not well understood and a critical factor in complex processes
- “ Chronobiology as future issue . i.e. for medicalisation (missile drugs, target drugs, depots etc)
- “ Synchronisation and parallelisation

# Future OSH Issues

## Understanding the complexity of stress and strain and health:

“ Research in the future will continue to explore problem-focused and emotion-focused coping, particularly in terms of their potential: to improve the quality of working life; to enable individuals to develop a sense of self-worth; to mobilise confidence; and to promote health and wellbeing. Research will also continue to investigate how different coping strategies are used, how they combine, the patterns they take in relation to different stressors and emotions, and what criteria individuals use to evaluate coping effectiveness.

## Learning in changing environment

- “ The six core features that contribute to the development of an individual’s mental capital and mental wellbeing are: sensory processing; cognition; social cognition; executive function; emotional/motivational processing; and self-concept
- “ There is a need for future clarification how this core features influence each other and with which strategies/approaches work ability and employability can be safeguarded over a life span.

# Work overload

“ Work overload, for example, will continue to be described in quantitative terms (e.g. too much work to do with too few resources, too many interruptions, working long hours). But it will also have a qualitative dimension, which focuses on the cognitive aspects of the job. Here stress is expected to arise as a result of a more continuous learning requirement, which may involve new skills for new aspects of the job, arising from more sophisticated software and technological innovations.

# Chemical Substances

One important aspect of REACH is the authorisation of substances.

The prioritisation process is continuous:

“ In a first step, dossiers for 16 substances have been submitted to the ECHA as identified Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC) of which 15 substances have been added to the candidate list. Actually, another package of 15 substances has been published on the ECHA website for public consultation. Until October 15th interested parties are welcome to comment on these 15 substances. The comments will be taken into account when the ECHA Member State Committee decides whether the substances will be added to the Candidate List from which substances are selected for authorisation.

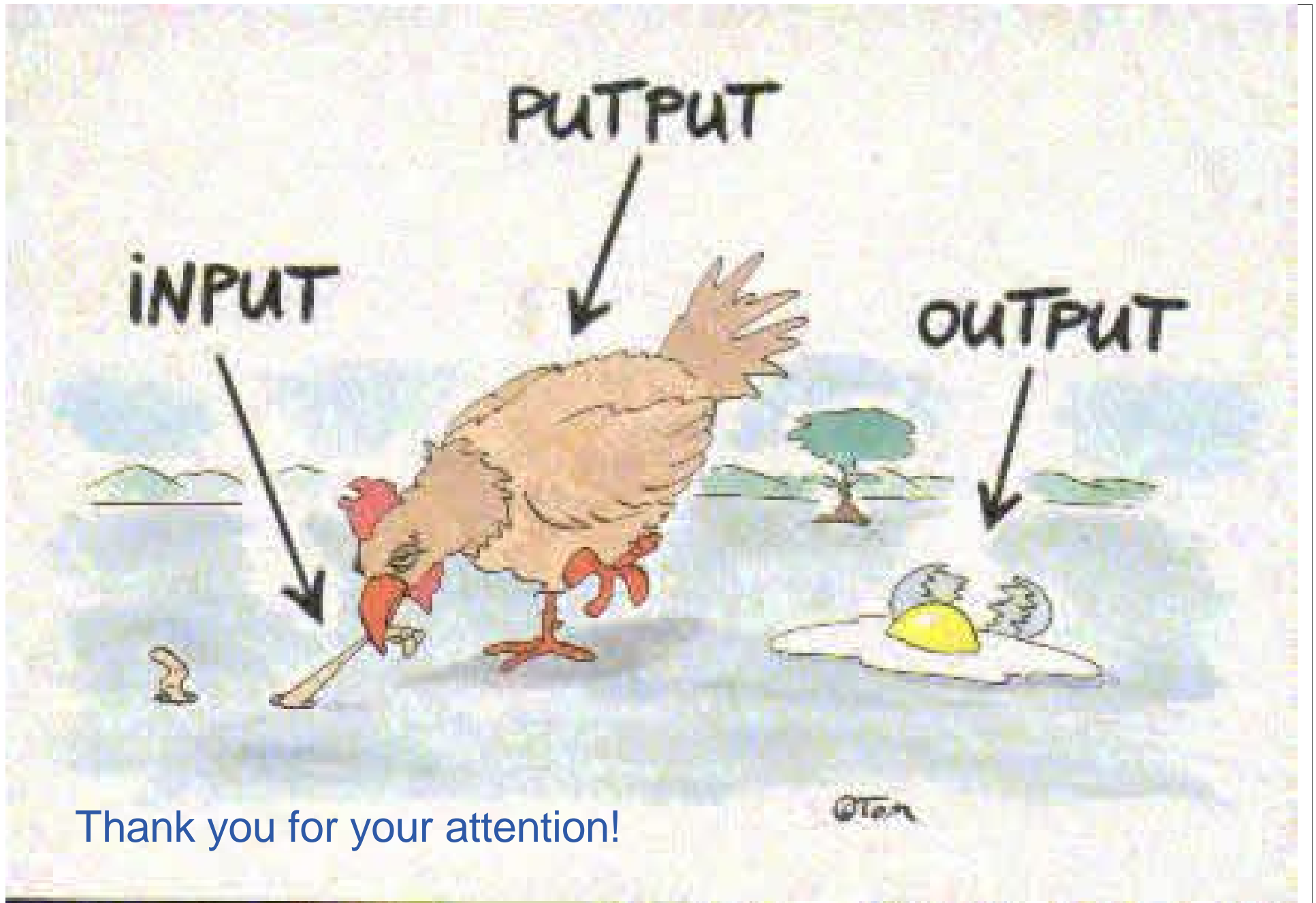
## Developing a new model for early intervention

A new model of early intervention should support GPs with new options for referral. It should provide a minimum level of work-related health support to all employees, especially important for those in organisations without any form of occupational health provision. A suggested approach to achieving this would be through the creation of a *Fit for Work* service.

To find an appropriate way to include SMEs in comprehensive intervention is still a future challenge.

## Trends

- “ Mental ill health is becoming a predominant phenomena . in sick leave rates, early retirement, long term sickness
- “ Musculoskeletal disorders are increasing, there is a link to mental ill health
- “ early diagnosis tools becoming more and more important



Thank you for your attention!