



**University of  
Zurich**<sup>UZH</sup>

Institute of Biomedical Ethics  
and History of Medicine

Swiss TPH



Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute  
Schweizerisches Tropen- und Public Health-Institut

# PubliCo is supported by:



Collegium  
Helveticum



# Index



<b>Welcome</b>	<b>Welcome of the Collegium Helveticum, jointly supported by the University of Zurich, ETH Zurich and Zurich University of the Arts.</b>	<b>Christian Ritter (Collegium Helveticum)</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	From infodemics and their impact on societies (in different fields) to strategies for solutions	Beat Glogger (scitec-media)
<b>The need</b>	The infodemic in the context of the COVID-19 crisis, how it impacts people and societies; the need for better ways to inform people and to understand their needs	Tim Nguyen (WHO, health emergencies programme)
<b>The idea</b>	Core idea of PubliCo: quantitative and qualitative tools to listen to people and to provide personalized information	Nikola Biller-Andorno (IBME) / Sonja Merten (SwissTPH)
<b>The strategy</b>	The long way from “it would be nice to have” to “that’s how we’re gonna do it”	Giovanni Spitale (IBME)
<b>The structure</b>	Design process, how to translate ideas into things. Focus on privacy and lean code, easy to deploy even in low tech settings	Giulio Michelon (Belka)
<b>Citizen science</b>	What is citizen science, why it is important to involve citizens as active actors in science, how this was important in PubliCo’s development (ProjectBuilder)	Rosy Mondardini (Citizen Science Centre Zurich)
<b>WHO White paper</b>	Sharing techniques and experiences to inform others.	Kristen Jafflin (SwissTPH)
<b>Future</b>	PubliCo is more than a COVID-19 response tool. Its modularity allows to develop and store different preset modular surveys to be deployed when needed – eg earthquake, flood, biological risk and so on. Also, we will do our best to deploy and test it also in other context than Switzerland, including EU countries but also LMIC. We easily imagine 5-10 years of research in this sense.	Nikola Biller-Andorno (IBME) / Sonja Merten (SwissTPH)
<b>Demo</b>	Demonstration of how the tool works	Samuel Giacomelli (Belka)
<b>Open discussion</b>		

# What happens during a public health crisis?

## Public:

- What is this? Why is it happening?
- Lots of information become available at the same time. Is it all good?
- Who do I trust?
- How can I filter out non relevant or information?
- ...

## Policy makers:

- Choices need to be made. Sometimes hard choices.
- What do people think? How do they behave?
- Are they willing to accept this or that measure?
- Which specific subset of the population is facing the hardest time?
- How do we prioritize interventions?
- ...

There is no “one size fits all” approach



# 1. Introduction

Beat Glogger (scitec-media)



## 2. The need

Tim Nguyen (WHO, health emergencies programme)



The infodemic in the context of the COVID-19 crisis, how it impacts people and societies; the need for better ways to inform people and to understand their needs

Tim Nguyen  
World Health Organization



World Health  
Organization

EPI • WIN

infodemic  
MANAGEMENT

## An infodemic is accompanying the pandemic

- An infodemic is an overabundance of information – good or bad – that makes it difficult for people to make decisions for their health
- Misinformation<sup>1</sup>, disinformation<sup>2</sup> and fake news can cause real harm to health, public trust, social cohesion and emergency response

<sup>1</sup> inaccurate information

<sup>2</sup> false or inaccurate information intended to mislead



**We're not just fighting an epidemic; we're fighting an infodemic. Fake news spreads faster and more easily than this virus, and is just as dangerous.**

**Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**  
Director-General, World Health Organization

# The COVID-19 infodemic can harm health

- The infodemic can lead to confusion, risk-taking and harmful behaviours
- In some countries, misinformation has generated mistrust in governments, public health authorities and science



## Approximately:

- 700 people have died
- 5,011 have been hospitalized and
- 90 have developed blindness or eyesight damage after drinking methanol as a “cure” for coronavirus

Photo credits:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/04/iran-700-dead-drinking-alcohol-cure-coronavirus-200427163529629.html>; <https://www.sciencemaq.org/news/2020/05/unproven-herbal-remedy-against-covid-19-could-fuel-drug-resistant-malaria-scientists>; [https://www.cnn.com/us/live-news/us-coronavirus-update-04-24-20/h\\_d3b4da7f4ba4054207abe4cf783b10f4](https://www.cnn.com/us/live-news/us-coronavirus-update-04-24-20/h_d3b4da7f4ba4054207abe4cf783b10f4)

# Technology has changed the way information is produced, distributed and consumed

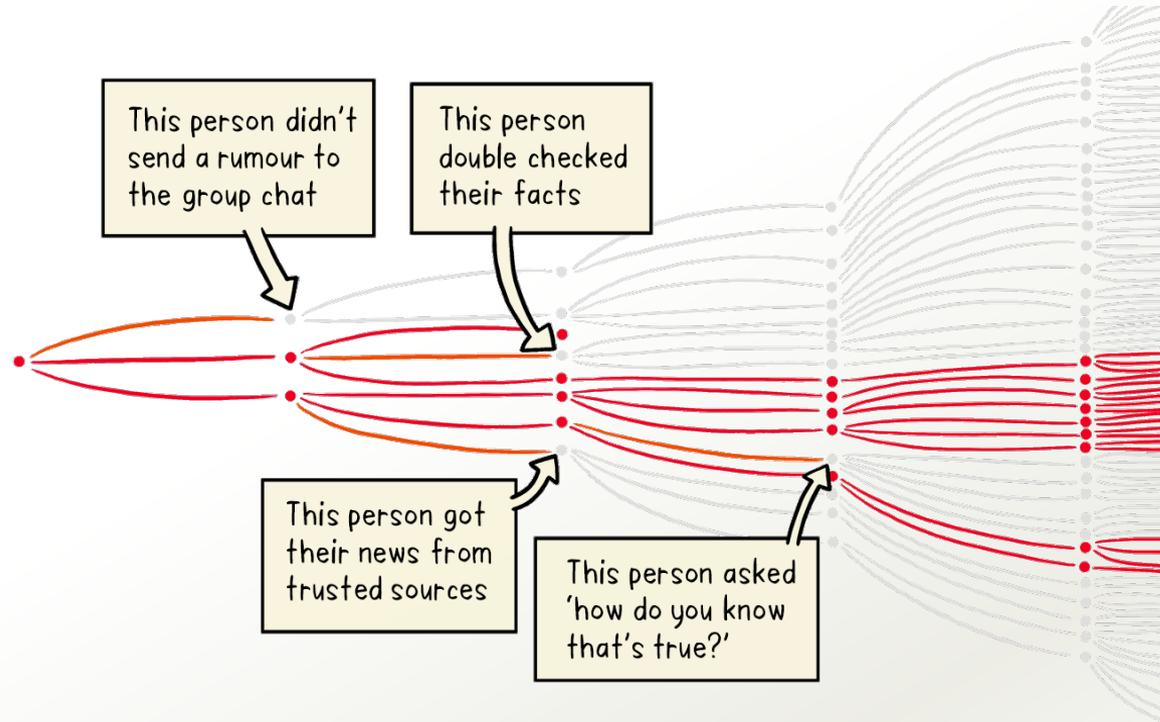


VS.



- Infodemics thrive in the virtual space
- Managing the infodemic has become more challenging with rapid spread of mis- and dis-information through social media
- Managing the infodemic is critical to managing the pandemic

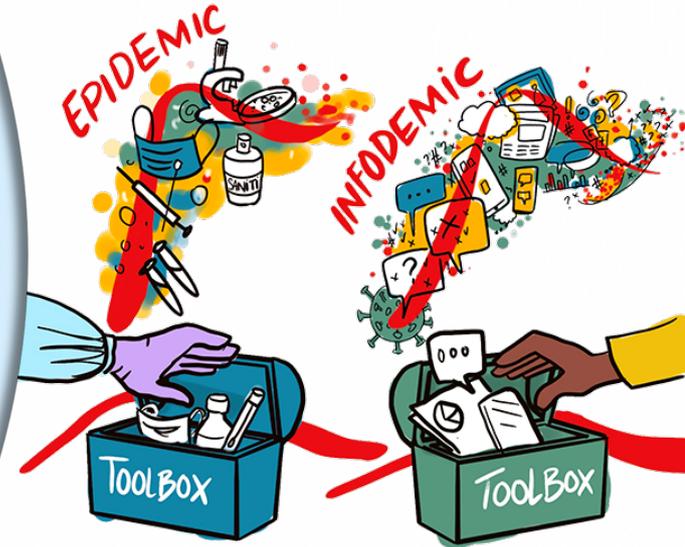
# How people receive, process and act on information varies



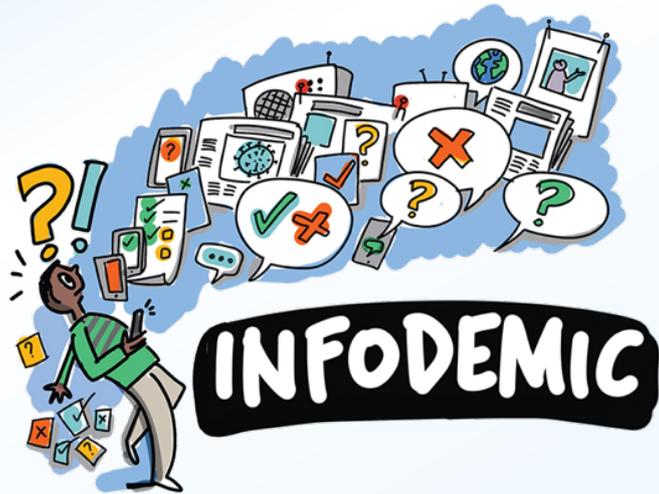
Understanding how information originates, evolves and spreads on different platforms and channels is key to managing the infodemic

# The right information at the right time, in the right format

- While it is not possible to completely eliminate, **it is possible to manage the infodemic**
- Infodemic management aims to ensure people have **access to factual information in a timely manner that is easily understood**; so they may rapidly adopt behaviours to protect health and the health of others during an epidemic
- Infodemic management must :
  - Be backed up by science
  - Rely on evidence-based interventions
  - Make use of best practices, including sharing experiences and continuous learning



# Infodemic management interventions aim to influence health behaviour during epidemics



## Infodemic interventions

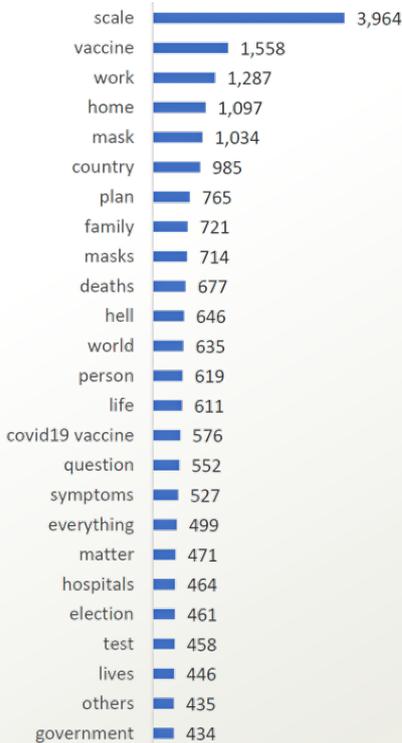
- 1 LISTEN TO CONCERNS
- 2 TRANSLATE SCIENCE & COMMUNICATE RISK
- 3 PROMOTE RESILIENCE TO MISINFORMATION
- 4 ENGAGE & EMPOWER COMMUNITIES

# Quantifying information through social listening

WHO uses a digital listening approach which analyses and quantifies information associated with COVID-19. For example, top keywords and topics are tracked in order to identify trends and help manage the infodemic.

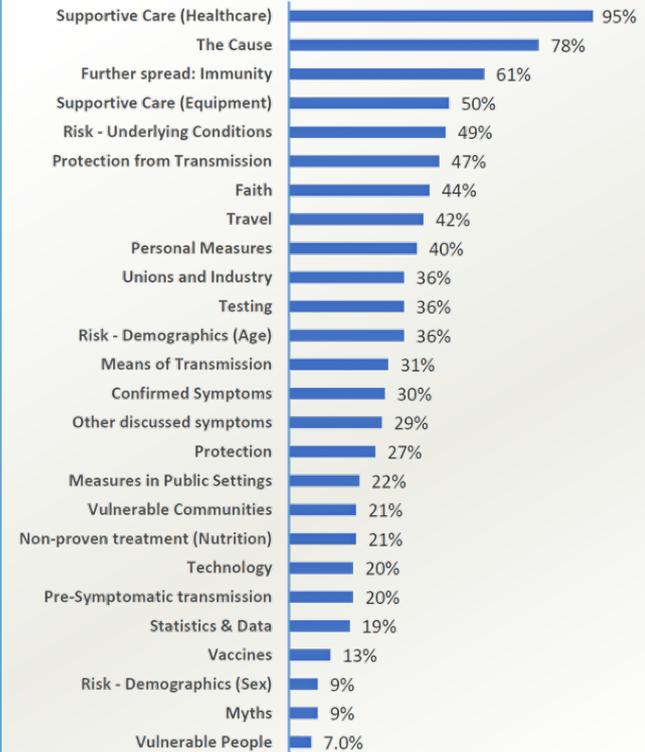
## Questions on COVID-19 (12 – 18 Nov 2020)

Top key words  
(excluding 'COVID-19', 'coronavirus' and 'virus')



## Top rising topics (12 – 18 Nov 2020)

Based on % change of conversation volume from the previous week



# Translating science into protective measures

WHO video guidance on COVID-19

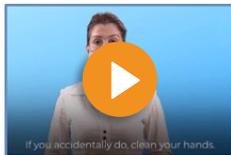
## MASKS



[Medical and fabric masks: who wears what when?](#)



[How to wear a fabric mask safely](#)



[How to wear a fabric mask](#)



[How to wear a medical mask](#)

## TRANSMISSION



[How to break the chains of transmission](#)



**NEW!**  
[Three factors help you make safer choices during COVID-19](#)

## PROTECTING OURSELVES



[How to protect yourself against COVID-19](#)



[Seven steps to prevent the spread of the virus](#)

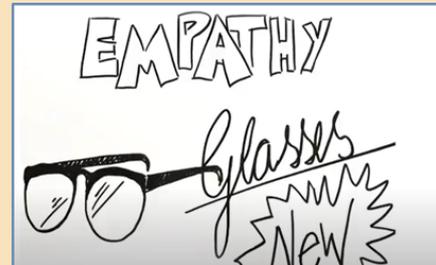
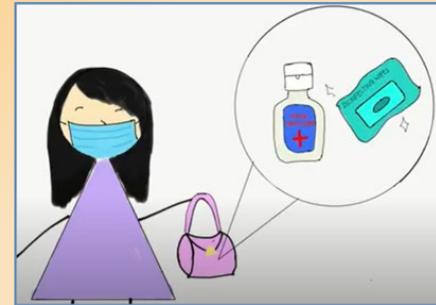


**Being resistant to misinformation** requires an understanding of how information flows, but also understanding of cognition and behaviour

## WHO works with communities to protect health during epidemics

- WHO EPI-WIN has established representative groups from key communities (faith-based, youth, employers and workers) who communicate regularly with WHO and give input on projects and initiatives. Examples:
  - **Co-development** of practical guidance on COVID-19 education, preparedness and response to support faith-based organizations and faith communities
  - **Collaborating** with young people to design creative, engaging and relevant communication around 'reducing transmission of COVID-19'
  - **Facilitating** a virtual dialogue series together with leaders and representatives from the World of Work
- Since the beginning of the pandemic, WHO EPI-WIN has hosted **80 COVID-19 related webinars** with **participants from 149 countries**

Examples of youth entries for  
'Reducing transmission' Design Lab



## Working together to support public health

- Launched in June 2020, the Collective Service is a partnership between the *International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)*, the *United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)* and the *World Health Organization (WHO)*. The Collective Service leverages active support from the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (**GOARN**) and key stakeholders from the public health and humanitarian sectors.

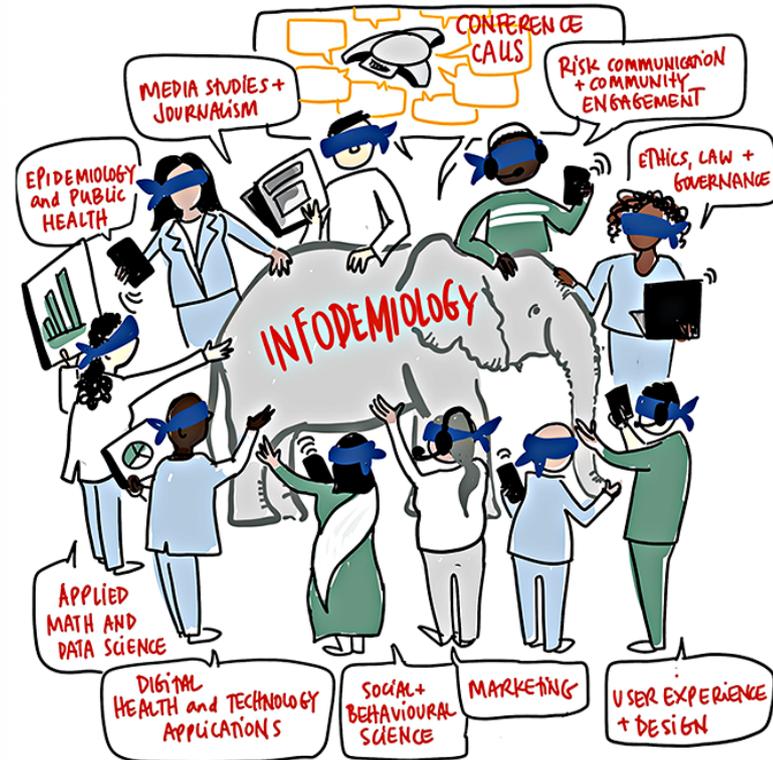


- The **Collective Service** works on **risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)** to ensure consistent, systematic and predictable support to partners involved in public health, humanitarian and development responses to the pandemic

# Infodemiology: the science behind infodemic management

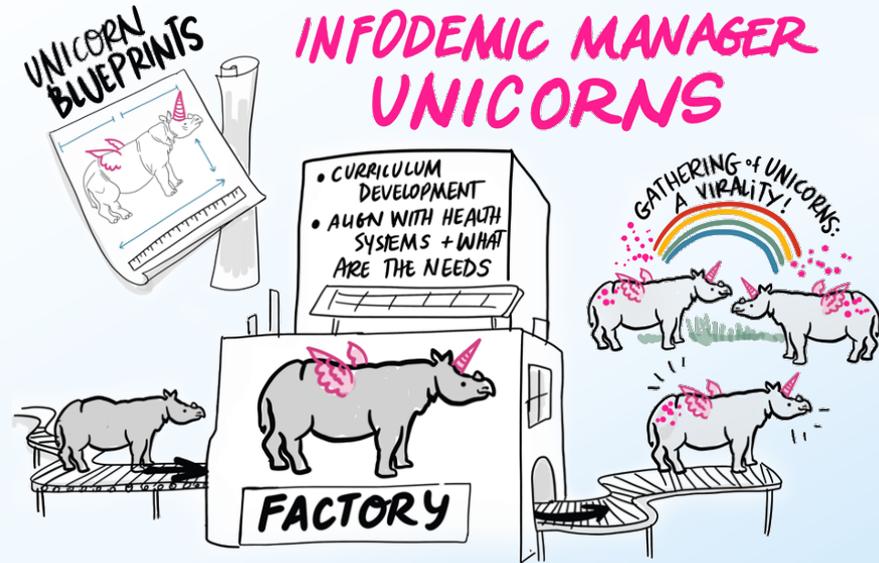
Infodemic management is an evolving area of research and practice

- **How do overwhelming amounts of information** affect behaviour in emergencies and what interventions are effective in addressing it
- **How does online behaviour** affect offline action
- **How does misinformation** affect cognition and influence seeking health services
- **Role of policy interventions** to successfully address and mitigate health misinformation
- **How misinformation** affects unnetworked or closed networks and vulnerable populations



# First global WHO infodemic manager training completed on 26 November 2020

- 278 participants from 75 countries
- Various [lectures by infodemic management specialists](#) on topics such as:
  - [Tools for analysis of the infodemic](#)
  - [Public health and epidemiology in context of infodemic response](#)
  - Risk communication and community engagement



# Resources on infodemic management

## WHO RESOURCES

- [Infodemic management](#)

WHO infodemic management work and activities

<https://www.who.int/teams/risk-communication/infodemic-management>

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- [EPI-WIN updates](#)

An archive of COVID-19 related weekly updates

<https://www.who.int/teams/risk-communication/epi-win-updates>

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- [3rd Virtual Global WHO Infodemic Management Conference](#)

Whole-of-society challenges and solutions to respond to infodemics

<https://www.who.int/teams/risk-communication/infodemic-management/3rd-virtual-global-who-infodemic-management-conference>



## OTHER RESOURCES

- [Sending SMS messages for the general public for COVID-19 response](#)

WHO, ITU and UNICEF are collaborating to facilitate sending short messages SMS to inform the general public about COVID-19

<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/ICT-Applications/Pages/COVID-19-public-SMS.aspx>

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- [When old technology meets new: How UN Global Pulse is using radio and AI to leave no voice behind](#)

UN Global Pulse can offer speech to text (radio) listening

<https://www.unglobalpulse.org/2019/04/when-old-technology-meets-new-how-un-global-pulse-is-using-radio-and-ai-to-leave-no-voice-behind/>

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- [UNESCO series on journalism education](#)

UNESCO medio/journalist training

<https://en.unesco.org/unesco-series-on-journalism-education>

UPCOMING EVENT

LIVE  
WEBINAR

# 3rd virtual global WHO Infodemic Management conference

Whole-of-society challenges & solutions to respond to infodemics



11 December 2020

8:00 EST / 14:00 CET / 20:00 ICT

#societyVSinfodemic

[MORE INFO](#)

[REGISTER](#)



**EPI**•WIN

**infodemic**  
MANAGEMENT

[www.who.int/epi-win](http://www.who.int/epi-win)

# 3. The idea

Nikola Biller-Andorno (IBME) / Sonja Merten (SwissTPH)





### 3. The idea

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- Over the course of the current pandemic, citizens have been exposed to a range of prevention, containment and control measures, communicated by a diverse spectrum of media outlets.
- Information from different sources has an impact on citizens understanding, emotional responses, moral judgements, and behavioral dispositions.
- Not all communication content is equally reliable, and citizens vary in the information sources they can or choose to access.





### 3. The idea

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- Providing high-quality information while actively dismantling myths is a key concern for national and global health authorities.
- At the same time: need to obtain an excellent grasp of public perception in order to allow for continuous adaptations and improvement of communication strategies as well as prevention, containment and control measures.
- Failure to communicate can result in irritation, loss of trust, and suboptimal adherence to public health policies.





### 3. The idea

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- PubliCo is a new tool to provide bi-directional interaction between citizens and policy-makers for risk and crisis communication
- PubliCo relies on both quantitative and qualitative data to provide a precise, timely and rich analysis of complex phenomena
- PubliCo is open and transparent by design, strict data protection
- PubliCo is participatory: Development, deployment and validation cycles are carried forward by an interdisciplinary research team, an expert committee and citizen scientists





### 3. The idea

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- PubliCo is flexible and allows the inclusion of qualitative data
- PubliCo offers a space to write a diary on everyday experiences during a crisis (anonymous)
- PubliCo diary narratives can add a perspective of people's concerns in real life
- Diary entries may highlight additional concerns, which can then trigger new analyses in PubliCo



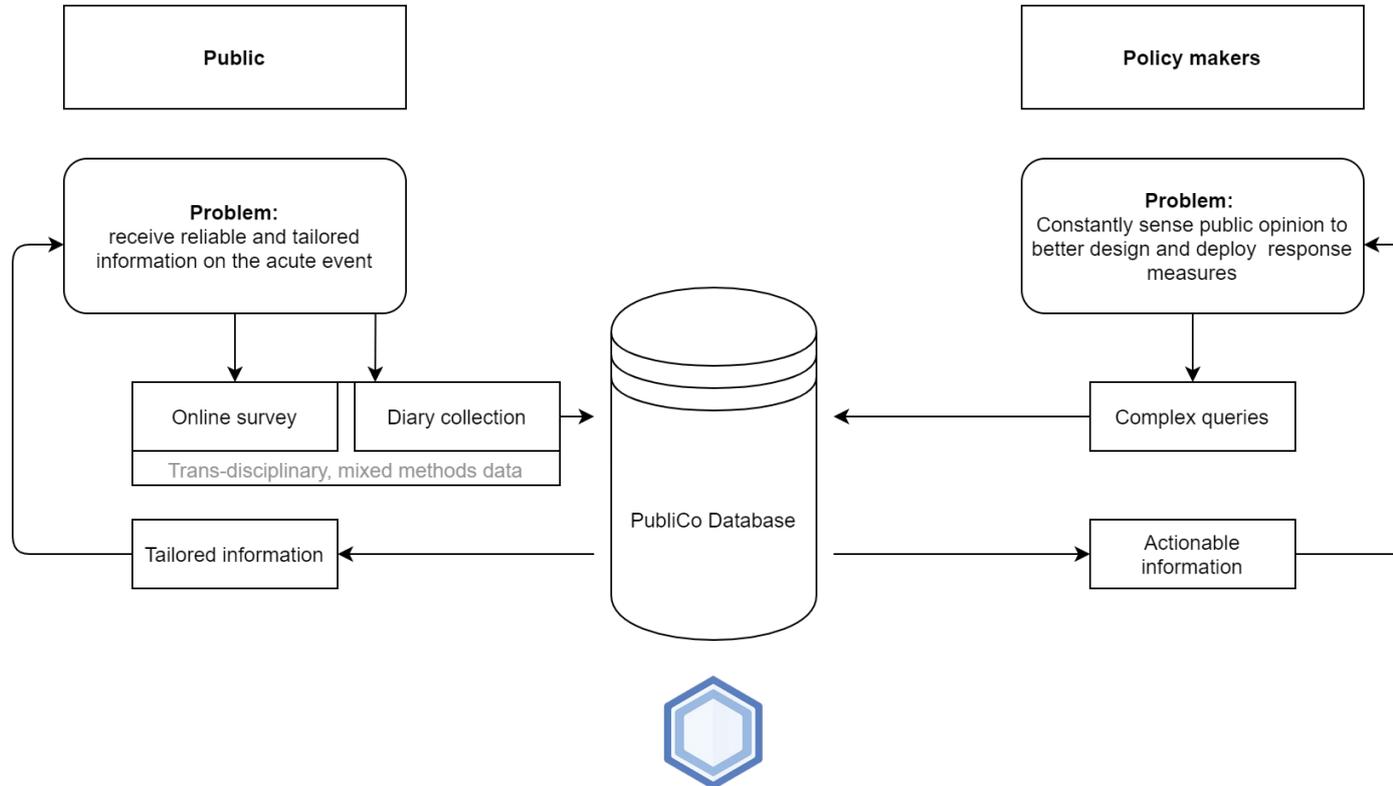
# 4. Strategy

Giovanni Spitale (IBME)



## 4. Strategy

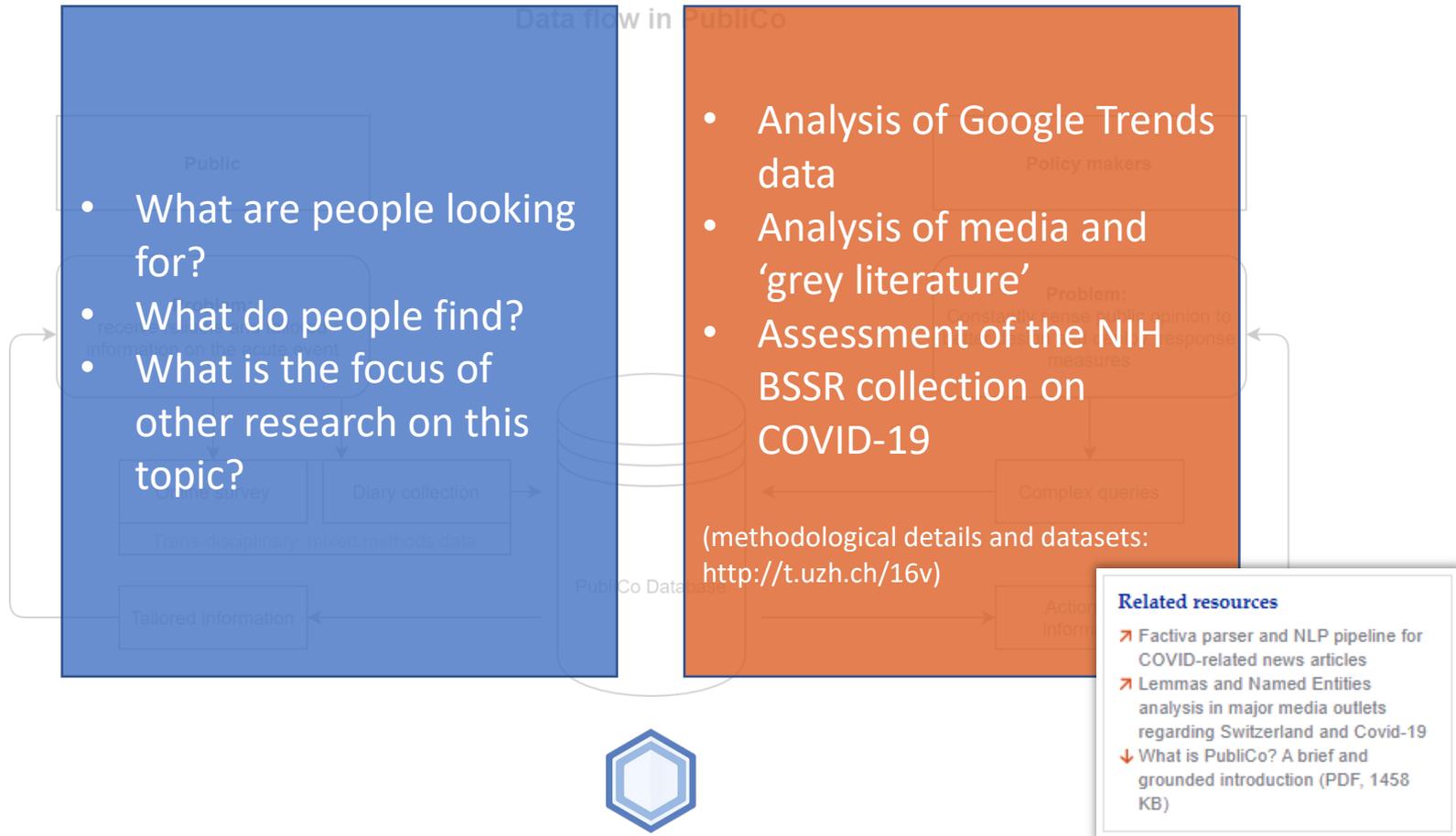
Data flow in PubliCo



# 4. Strategy



## 4. Strategy



# 4. Strategy

```

# List of all Lemma dataframes
df_lemmas_freq_all = [df_lemmas_freq_january,
df_lemmas_freq_february,
df_lemmas_freq_march,
df_lemmas_freq_april,
df_lemmas_freq_may,
df_lemmas_freq_june,
df_lemmas_freq_july,
df_lemmas_freq_august,
df_lemmas_freq_september,
df_lemmas_freq_october,
df_lemmas_freq_november,
df_lemmas_freq_december]

# Loop for index and series
L = []
for x in df_lemmas_freq_all:
    x = x.set_index('Lemma')
    L.append(pd.Series(x.values.tolist(), index=x.index))

# All together
df_lemmas_freq_all = pd.concat(L, axis=1, keys=('1', '2', '3', '4', '5', '6', '7', '8', '9', '10', '11', '12'))
df_lemmas_freq_all = df_lemmas_freq_all.fillna('0')
for month in df_lemmas_freq_all:
    df_lemmas_freq_all[month] = df_lemmas_freq_all[month].str[0]

df_lemmas_freq_all = df_lemmas_freq_all.astype('int')

# Calculate the total
lemmasums = df_lemmas_freq_all.iloc[:, [0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11]].sum(axis=1)
df_lemmas_freq_all = pd.concat([df_lemmas_freq_all, lemmasums], axis = 1)
df_lemmas_freq_all = df_lemmas_freq_all.rename(columns={0: "total"})

```

Data flow in Publico

```

# Calculate the mean of the months
lemmameans = df_lemmas_freq_all.iloc[:, [0,1,2,3,4,5,6]].mean(axis=1)
## In case of empty months, exclude them from the mean here! Numbers are indices, where 0 is january and 11 is december

df_lemmas_freq_all = pd.concat([df_lemmas_freq_all, lemmameans], axis = 1)
df_lemmas_freq_all = df_lemmas_freq_all.rename(columns={0: "mean"})
df_lemmas_freq_all["mean"] = (df_lemmas_freq_all["mean"].astype('float')).round(2)
# Reorder and reindex

total_col = df_lemmas_freq_all.pop("total")
df_lemmas_freq_all.insert(0, "total", total_col)
df_lemmas_freq_all.reset_index(level=0, inplace=True)
df_lemmas_freq_all = df_lemmas_freq_all.sort_values(by=['total'], ascending=False)
df_lemmas_freq_all.index = pd.RangeIndex(len(df_lemmas_freq_all.index))
df_lemmas_freq_all.index += 1
df_lemmas_freq_all["lemma"] = df_lemmas_freq_all["index"]
df_lemmas_freq_all = df_lemmas_freq_all[['lemma', 'total', '1', '2', '3', '4', '5', '6', '7', '8', '9', '10', '11', '12', 'mean']]

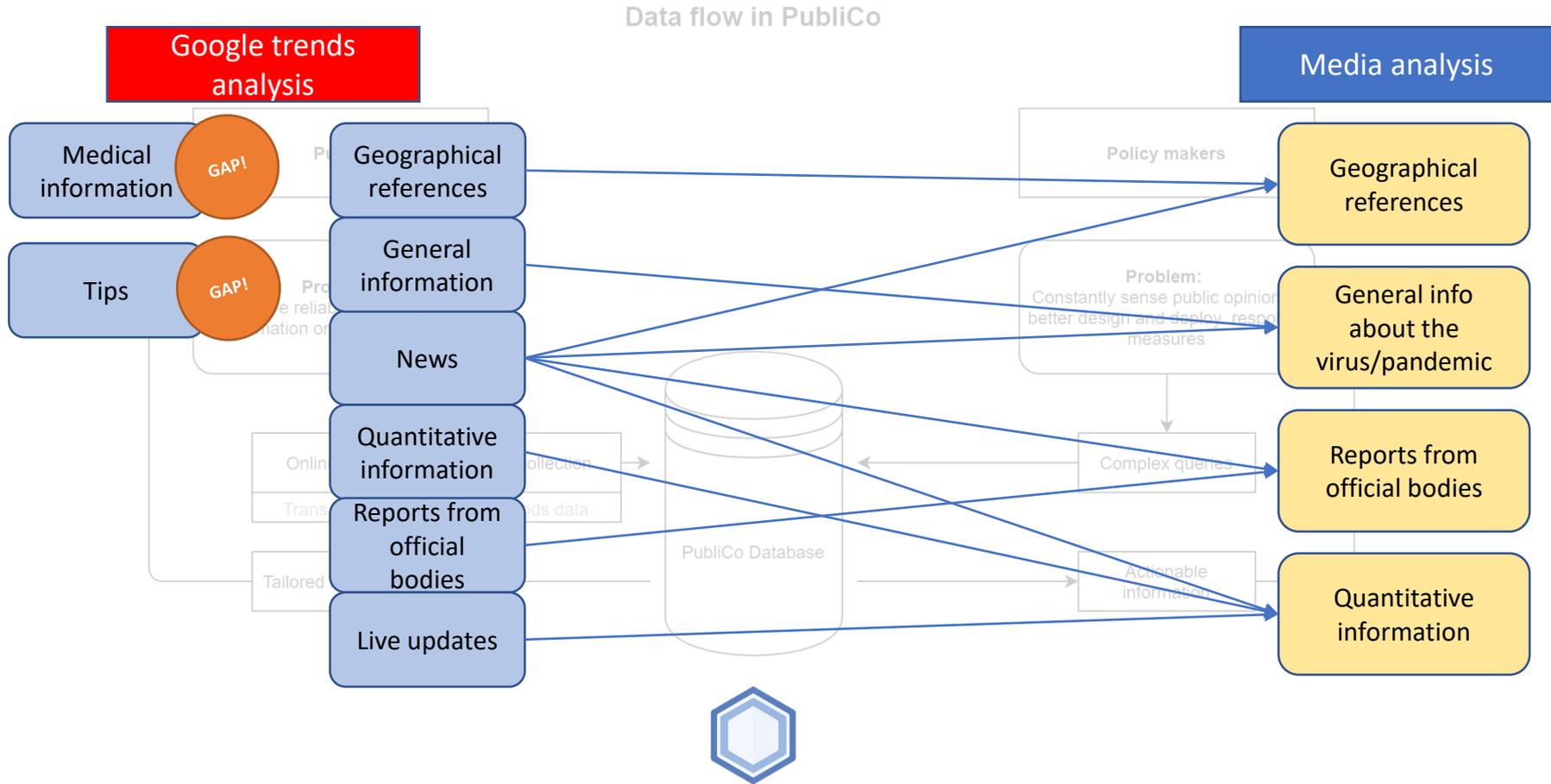
# Export and display
df_lemmas_freq_all.to_csv(os.path.join(export, "lemmas\lemmas-frequency-timeseries.csv" ))

display(df_lemmas_freq_all.head(20))

```

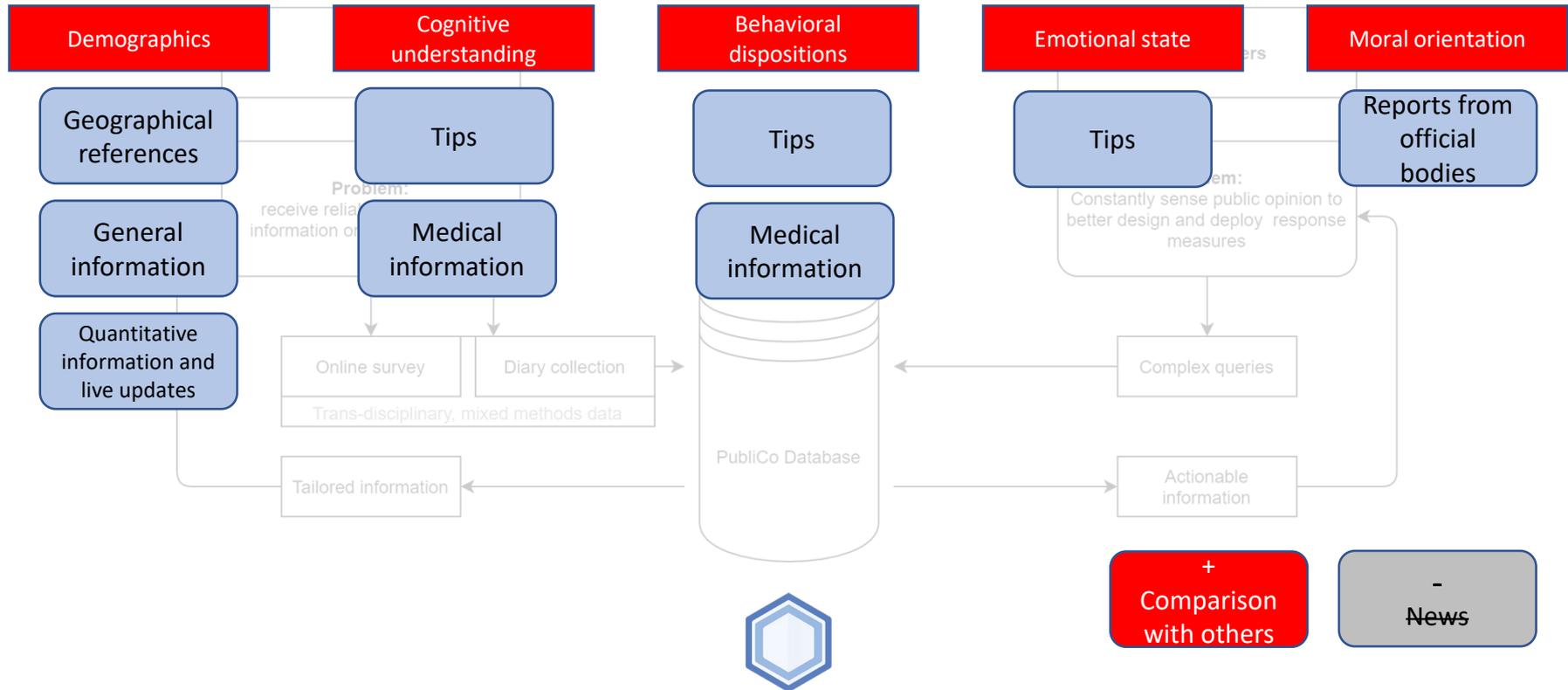


# 4. Strategy



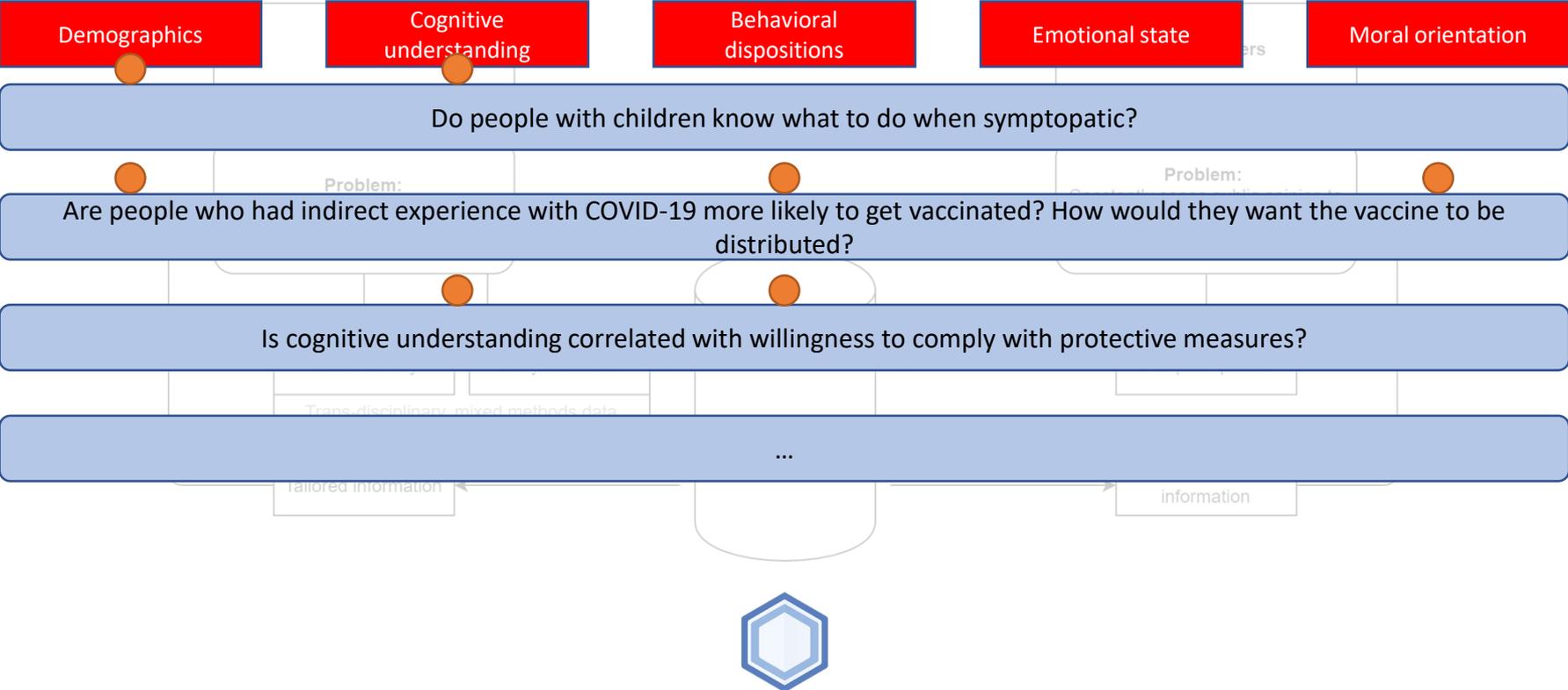
# 4. Strategy

Data flow in PubliCo



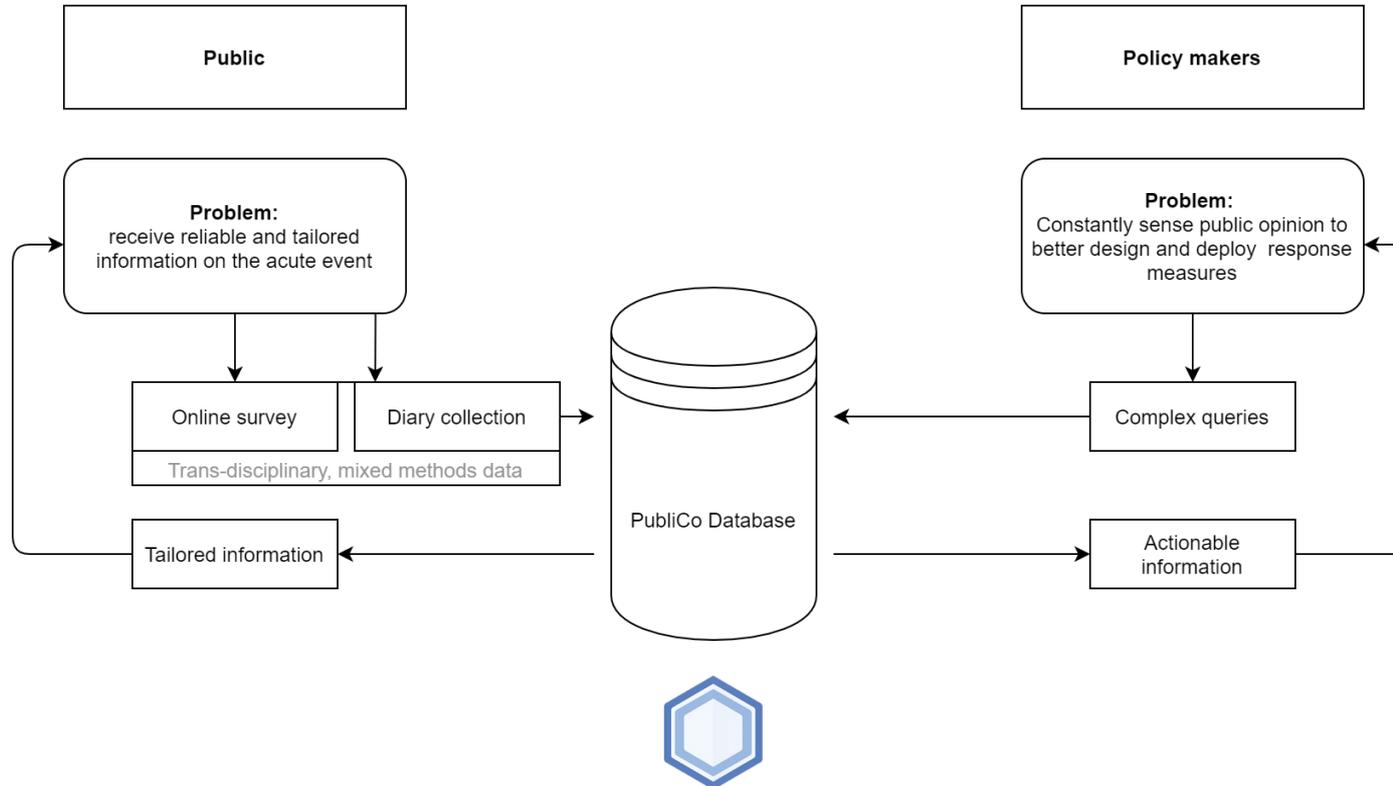
# 4. Strategy

Data flow in PubliCo



# 4. Strategy

Data flow in PubliCo



# 5. Structure

Giulio Michelon (Belka)





**BELKA**

# Giulio Michelin

CEO, Belka

We've helped top companies launching their digital products.

FURLA

THRON

Red Bull®



lastminute.com



Design process, how to translate ideas into things. Focus on privacy and on lean code, easy to deploy even in low tech settings



Design process, how to translate ideas into things.  
Focus on privacy and on lean code, easy to deploy  
even in low tech settings



Design process, how to translate ideas into things.  
Focus on privacy and on lean code, easy to deploy  
even in low tech settings

Giulio you need to help me! I'm the only nerd in the team 🙄

Giovanni Spitale  
Phd student, PubliCo coordinator



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying "publico.community". The website header includes the PubliCo logo, a notification "1 available • COVID-19", and a "Take the survey" button. The main content area features an illustration of six diverse people in a conversation. The central text reads "Your voice matters." followed by "Make yourself heard by the institutions and receive personalised information. PubliCo. Together through the crisis." and a "Take the questionnaire" button.

publico.community

PubliCo

1 available • COVID-19

Take the survey

# Your voice matters.

Make yourself heard by the institutions and receive personalised information.  
PubliCo. Together through the crisis.

Take the questionnaire



[www.publico.community](http://www.publico.community)

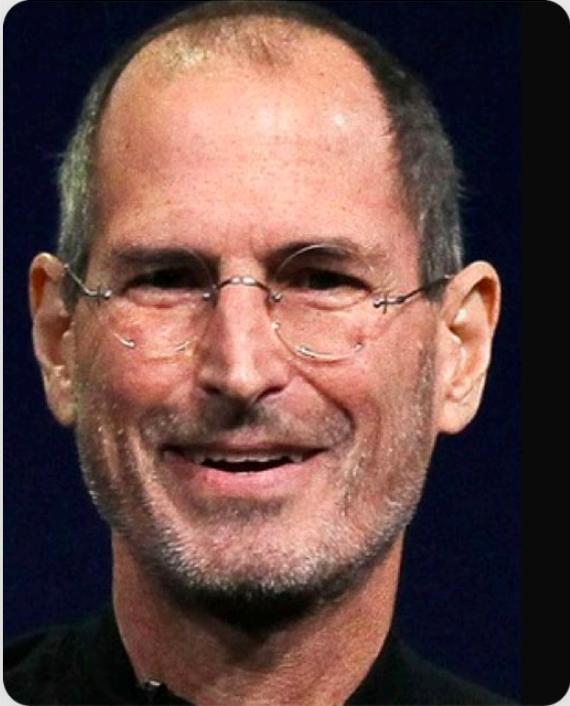
# Belka's process

WHY



# Belka's process





**If you define the problem  
correctly, you almost have  
the solution.**

**— Steve Jobs**

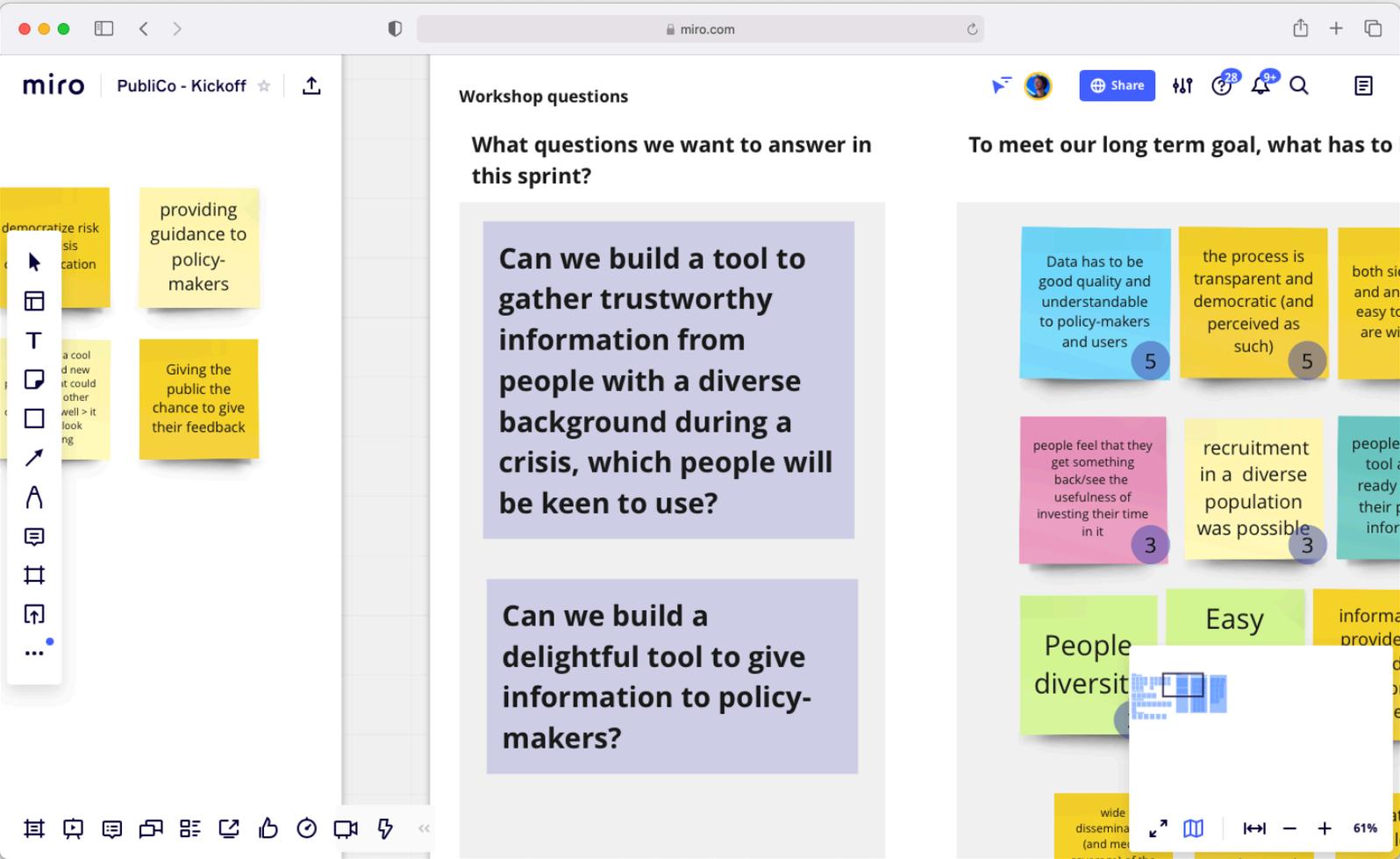


**Measure twice, cut once.**

**— My carpenter**







# What are KPIs?

Key Performance Indicator — or “put a number on it”

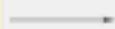


## 1st step

Data  
gathering  
from general  
public

**1st step**

Data  
gathering  
from general  
public



**2nd step**

Data  
gathering  
from citizen  
scientists

**1st step**

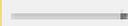
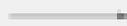
Data  
gathering  
from general  
public

**2nd step**

Data  
gathering  
from citizen  
scientists

**3rd step**

Better  
survey  
managing  
experience





## MVP (Nov, 30th)

1st step

Data gathering from general public

2nd step

Data gathering from citizen scientists

3rd step

Better survey managing experience



#1 TARGET

# GATHER THE DATA



We act as the tools to  
empower your work

You don't buy an hammer. You want to  
drive nails.



# We extend your team

No big reveals — we work side by side

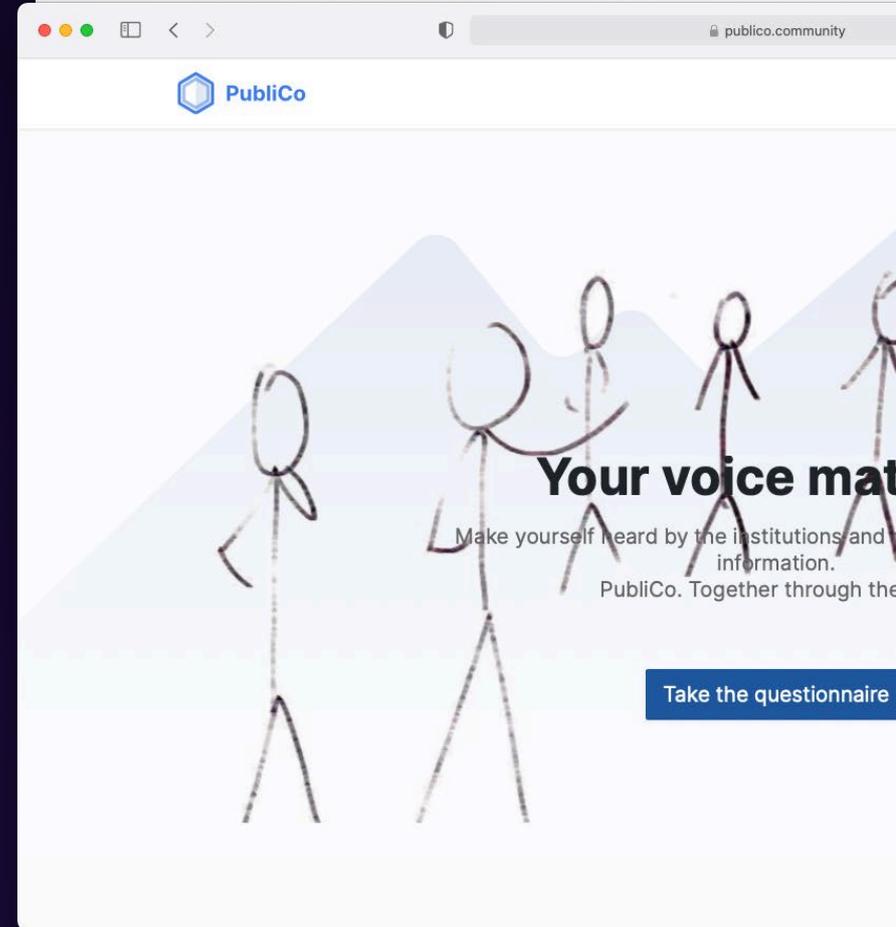


+ 15" DAILY STANDUP + WEEKLY RELEASES



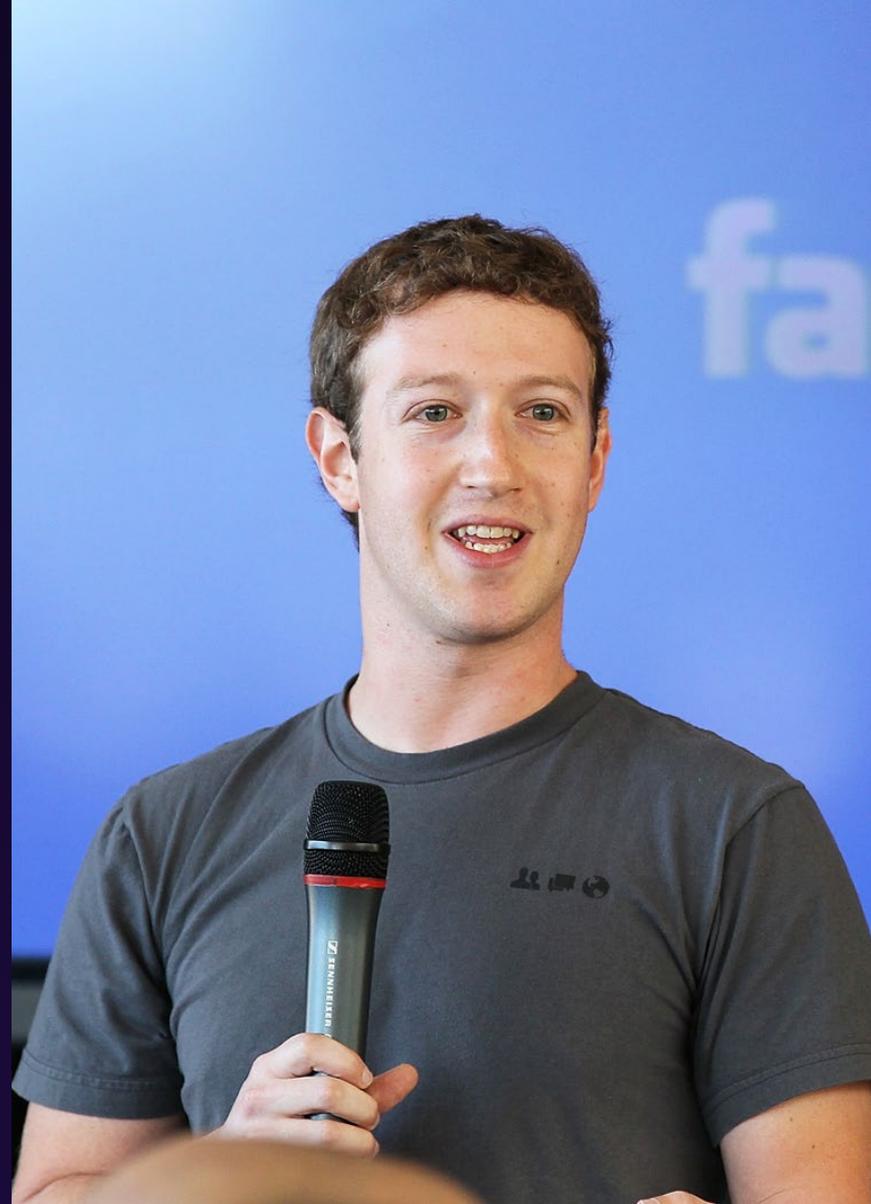
# Ongoing validation

Development starts at project kickoff to quickly align on a technology strategy and forward-looking architecture.



# Privacy by design\*

*\*not just a motto*



# Designers & Developers cooperation

Lean code, leaner team



# Low tech settings

Code takes care of itself

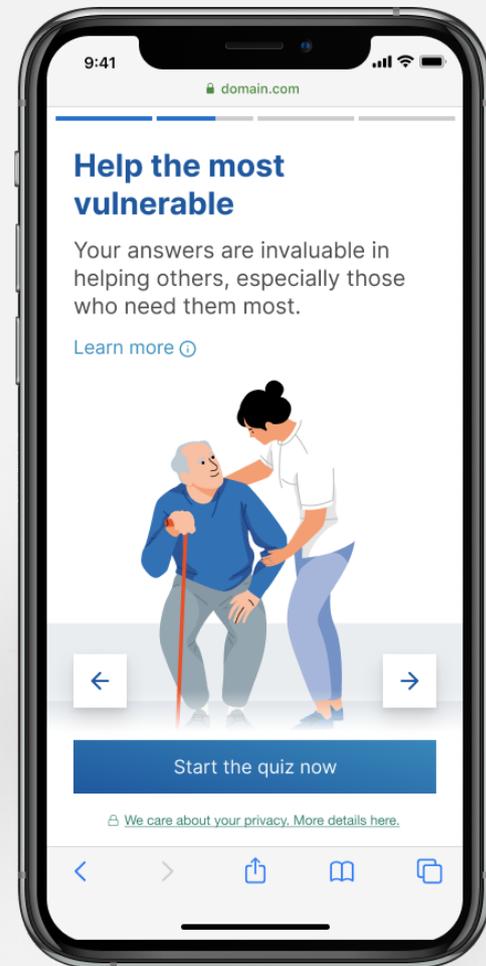
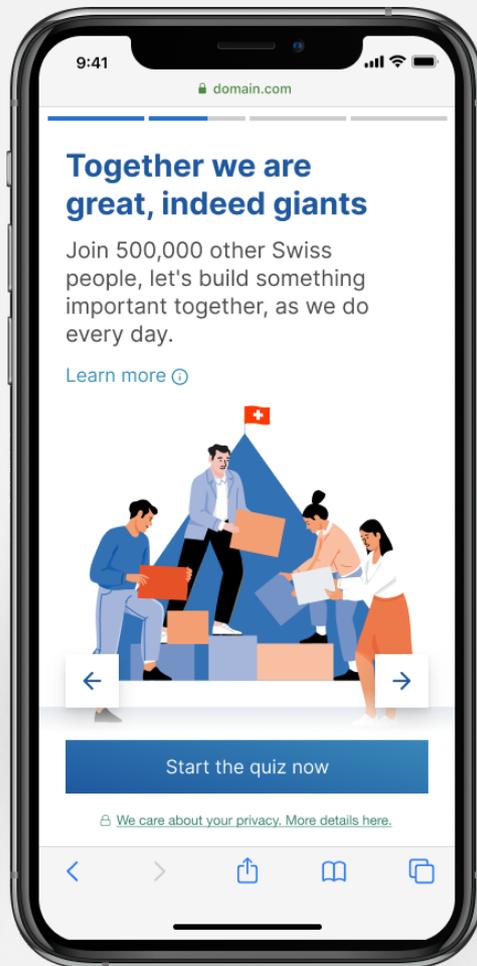
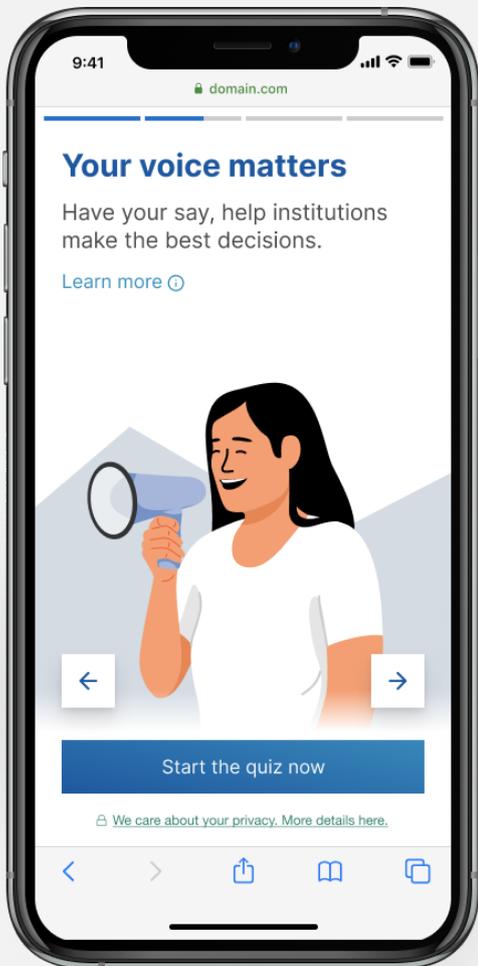


I got what I wanted. Belka managed to translate quickly our idea into something real. All the process has been transparent and with a lean methodology — no slow communication, yes Slack and weekly meetings.

I always felt included and up to date.

“ Giovanni Spitale  
Phd student, PubliCo coordinator







**BELKA**

 [www.belkadigital.com](http://www.belkadigital.com)

 [giulio@belkadigital.com](mailto:giulio@belkadigital.com)

# 6. Citizen Science

Rosy Mondardini (Citizen Science Centre Zurich)



Citizen Science Center Zurich

CITIZEN SCIENCE

Rosy Mondardini  
Managing Director  
Citizen Science Center Zurich

# CITIZEN SCIENCE

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Scientific work undertaken by members of the general public, **often** in collaboration with or under the direction of professional scientists and scientific institutions.

*(Oxford English Dictionary)*

A broad range of activities where people produce scientific knowledge outside of traditional scientific institutions.

*(Strasser and Haklay 2018)*

... *(many more...)*

*... in common:*

public participation

voluntary contributions

(science-based) knowledge production

*How much are the two communities (professional researchers and citizens) working together?*

## CONTRIBUTORY

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Designed by scientists and for which citizens primarily contribute data.

## COLLABORATIVE

---



Designed by scientists and for which citizens help project design, contribute and analyze data, disseminate findings

## CO-CREATED

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Designed by scientists and citizens and for which citizens are actively involved in most/all aspects of the research process

*What are participants contributing to the project ? What is their role?*

## DATA COLLECTION PROJECTS

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Active or passive data  
collection

*(images, descriptions,  
answers, samples,  
personal digital data,  
etc.)*



Ashutosh Shinde ~ Mantid from Thane, India

## Connect with Nature

Explore and share your observations from the natural world.

[SIGN UP](#) 

[EXPLORE](#) 



iNaturalist is a joint initiative of the California Academy of Sciences and the National Geographic Society.



293,699  
Species Observed

[SIGN UP](#) 

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48,232,527  
Observations to Date

[SIGN UP](#) 

[EXPLORE](#) 



3,074,281  
People Signed Up

[SIGN UP](#) 

[MEET](#) 

Contribute to your community's health and help track the flu.

## How are you feeling?

Great, thanks!

Not feeling well

Flu activity in: United States

Zip code

Map Style:  CDC  User Reports



### Flu activity in the United States

Last 7 days ⓘ

0.15 %  
10 reports

Flu-like symptoms

1.79 %  
122 reports

Any symptoms

*What are participants contributing to the project ? What is their role?*

DATA  
COLLECTION  
PROJECTS

---

Active or passive data  
collection

*(images, descriptions,  
answers, samples,  
personal digital data,  
etc.)*

DATA  
ANALYSIS  
PROJECTS

---

Tasks unsuitable or  
extremely difficult for  
computers – on web

*(image analysis, pattern  
recognition, text  
transcription, mapping)*

## Which Animal do You See?



NÖ NIMÄLJOGLIASIE



# PubliCo

Soft data for better risk at communication: we need to make it fair, democratic and transparent.

CONTRIBUTE

soft data for smart RCC

Info

Statistics

Tasks

S

## What & Why

During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, official briefings, expert comments, and communication in general have become not only a source of information, but also an incubator of misunderstandings. Not all information is equally reliable.

Providing high quality information and dismantling myths are important activities. However, they must be combined with a good understanding of public opinion in order to allow better communication and more effective safety measures.

We are developing a tool to tackle the infodemic: on the one hand, we will

[Go back to the project](#)

Please evaluate our questions and the information we'll provide in return.

Are the questions appropriate?

This field is mandatory

Is the information provided relevant?

## QUESTIONS

## INFORMATION

1. What are five of the main symptoms people infected with COVID-19 may experience? (list of symptoms to select from)
2. What are the five most important official recommendations for protecting yourself and others from COVID-19? (list of recommendations to select from)
3. Do you know what you should do if you get symptoms of COVID-19? (list of actions to select from)
4. What are your most trusted information sources on COVID-19 and the pandemic? Please express your opinion on the trustworthiness of these sources of information (list of sources of information to rate)

1. What the main symptoms of COVID-19 are and how to recognize them, difference between main and secondary symptom, reference to official sources for this information.
2. How transmission works, what are the five basic official recommendations, valid in every situation and their rationale, what are the other measures, what is their rationale and where to find them.
3. What to do in case of symptoms (what actions and in what order); what not to do and why (either useless, dangerous to self or dangerous to others).
4. Reliable information can arrive through multiple channels, but it is important how to distinguish it from myths. How to distinguish useful information regardless the channel it comes through.

Topic: cognitive understanding



[Go back to the project](#)

**Is this a photo (rather than a cartoon, graph, meme, etc.)?**

 YES

 NO

 NOT SURE

**Does it look like it has been taken recently (in the last three months)?**

 YES

 NO

 CANNOT TELL

**Are there people in this image?**

 YES

 NO

 NOT SURE

**Are the people wearing masks?**

 YES

 SOME OF THEM

 NO

 CANNOT TELL

**How many people are there in the image?**

 1

 2

 3

 4

 5 OR MORE

**Tweet**

*Hoy 13 hace exactamente dos meses que se detectó el PRIMER caso de COVID-19 en Guatemala en donde toda la gente corrió a los supermercados a dejarlos vacíos y a encerrarse en las casas hoy con casi 1200 casos positivos todos en la calle como si nada pasara que incoherencia. <https://t.co/Xtm2S6vt3R>*

Country/ Territory: United States

<https://t.co/Xtm2S6vt3R>





# Policy Interventions

Help scientists and policy makers to find relevant information about policy intervention in the COVID-19 crisis

CONTRIBUTE

Info

Statistics

Tasks

Settings

## What & Why

Scientists have to answer very quickly to question from policy makers about the validity of some of the policies that are in place, or the future policies they want to put in place.

To be able to do that scientists have to go through a very important amount of scientific literature, and find the relevant information, analyse it and feed back to policy makers.

AI can help in finding the relevant articles, but the result is not yet accurate.

Go back

Is this policy

YES

I DON'T

SUBMIT

You are

3020

You have

from 11

985v1 [q-bio.PE] 6 Mar 2020

«

<

1

2

3

4

...

>

»

• ARTICLES •

doi:

## Modeling the Control of COVID-19: Impact of Policy Interventions and Meteorological Factors

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Received ; accepted

### Abstract

In this paper, we propose a dynamical model to describe the transmission of COVID-19, which is spreading in China and many other countries. To avoid a larger outbreak in the worldwide, Chinese government carried out a series of strong strategies to prevent the situation from deteriorating. Home quarantine is the most important one to prevent the spread of COVID-19. In order to estimate the effect of population quarantine, we divide the population into seven categories for simulation. Based on a Least-Squares procedure and officially

# BENEFITS

## for **Scientists**

- **Resource efficiency** of research activities (larger datasets gathered across a wider geographical area and over a longer period of time at lower cost)
- Opportunity to **widen dissemination** and **impact** of their work
- **New perspectives** on topics (including new discoveries!)

# BENEFITS

---

## for **Citizens**

- Personal satisfaction from **contributing to science** and to the wider public good
- Personal development and opportunity to gain new **knowledge and skills**
- Opportunity to establish **connections** with similarly minded people
- Personal enjoyment (**fun!**) from participating in enriching activities

# CITIZEN SCIENCE CENTER ZURICH

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Enabling **RESEARCHERS** and **CITIZENS** to create and conduct **RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS** that produce **SOUND SCIENCE** while **SUPPORTING THE UN SDGs**

A joint initiative by



University of  
Zurich <sup>UZH</sup>

**ETH** zürich



WHAT WE PROVIDE

# Platform

Web  
Mobile  
Single sign-on  
Database  
API

# Knowledge

Methodology  
Teaching/coaching  
PWA  
Seed grants

# Community

Citizens  
Scientists

# Network

Partnerships  
Collaborations

# CS Project Builder

Web-based tool allowing researchers, students, and all members of the public to create and run **data-analysis CS Projects** with a simple step-by-step process

Contributors perform **complex data classification task** (ie. classify, describe or localize) **images, text, tweets, PDF files, sounds and video clips**

Facilitate the **co-creation** of Citizen Science projects by starting with the implementation of simple pilots

A joint initiative by



Thank you!

[citizenscience.ch](https://citizenscience.ch)

[info@citizenscience.ch](mailto:info@citizenscience.ch)  
[@CitSciZurich](https://twitter.com/CitSciZurich)

# 7. WHO White paper

Kristen Jafflin (SwissTPH)



## 5. WHO White paper

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Developing and sharing our experience and recommendations:

- Getting feedback
- Examining preliminary results
- Refining and revising the PubliCo platform
- Reporting on the process and recommendations in a WHO White Paper



## 5. WHO White paper

---

Feedback from:

- International advisory board with diverse array of experts
  - Expertise in bioethics, public health, risk and crisis communication, medicine, social sciences
  - Experts with experience in a wide range of different settings
- Citizen scientists



## 5. WHO White paper

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### Preliminary results

- From diaries
- From online web survey
- From Google trends and media analyses



## 5. WHO White paper

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Refining and revising PubliCo platform based on:

- Feedback from experts
- Feedback from citizen scientists
- Preliminary results



## 5. WHO White paper

---

White paper will include:

- Overview of PubliCo concept
- Summary of platform development so far
- Description of testing and validation process
- Recommendations for others who wish to develop platforms like PubliCo



# 8. Future

Nikola Biller-Andorno (IBME) / Sonja Merten (SwissTPH)





## 8. Future

---

Develop a framework/standards for good risk and crisis communication

- Targeted information vs. creating «information bubbles»
- Any role for censorship (e.g. anonymized diary entries presenting conspiracy theories)?
- Information vs. nudging/implicit blaming & shaming





## 8. Future

---

Potential future modules:

- Risk perception (infection, mortality etc.)
- Allocation issues: who should get access to vaccine, ICU, other goods (nationally, possibly also exploring national interest vs. global solidarity)
- Trade-offs freedom vs. safety
- Media consumption (e.g. movies on pandemics, computer games) and cognitive/emotional/behavioral responses





## 8. Future

---

Going global? The transferability of the PubliCo approach to other settings

- Technological preconditions (mobile phones, electricity)
- Cultural: public trust that citizens' voices are taken seriously
- Political: Potential abuse in non-democratic societies (surveillance, identification of citizens with «deviant» opinions)





## 8. Future

---

Adding a local perspective also in low-income contexts

- High relevance of obtaining views from all pockets of the population in order to develop or adapt public health measures
- PubliCo is inclusive – can engage persons from poorer strata and vulnerable population groups who may otherwise be excluded of a public dialogue
- Adaptation of the qualitative diary component to include voices from e.g. community health workers to provide a community perspective



# 9. Demo

Samuel Giacomelli (Belka)



# 10. Discussion



# THANKS TO OUR ADVISORS

Dr.	Andreas	Reis	WHO, Co-Lead of the Global Health Ethics Team
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# THANKS FOR YOUR TIME!

[www.publico.community](http://www.publico.community)

[t.uzh.ch/16v](https://t.uzh.ch/16v)

