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SIXTH FRAMEWORK
PROGRAMME

Method for evaluation of knowledge using causal chain approach

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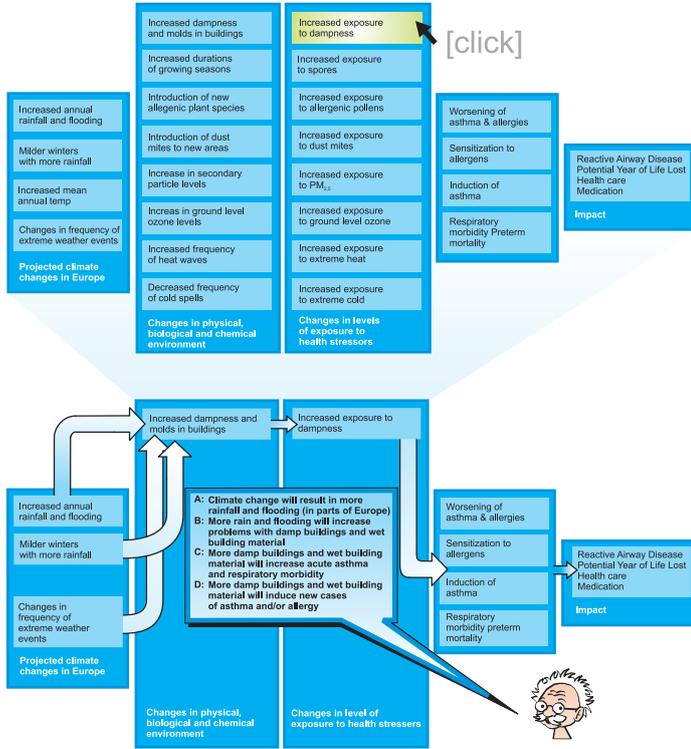
Example 1: Top: Cause-effect relationships between climate change and asthma/allergy and other respiratory endpoints. Bottom: causal diagram for stakeholder evaluation-dampness exposure related to climate change and asthma/allergy .
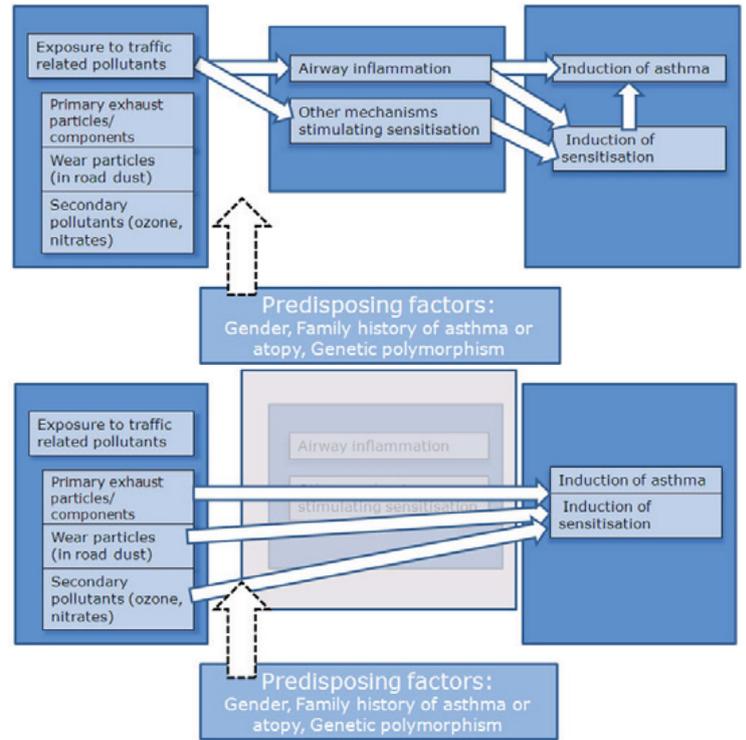
Example 2: Cause-effect relationship between traffic related air pollutants in ambient air and induction (incidence) of asthma and sensitisation to allergens.
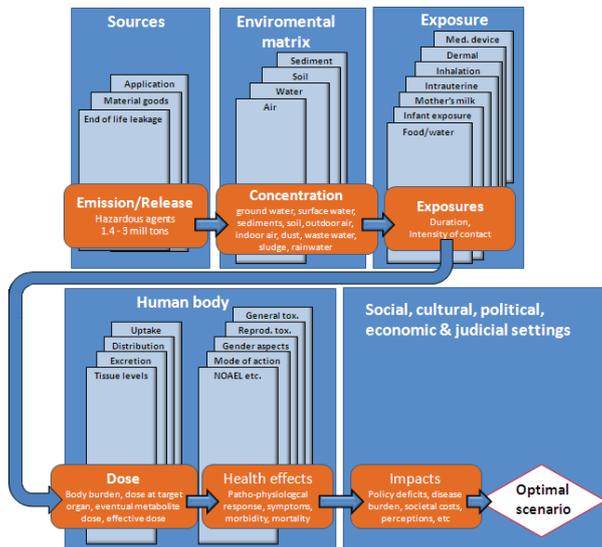
Example 3: Cause-effect relationship between phthalates in the environment and endocrine disruption in humans.

What is your level of confidence in our ability to predict the magnitude of the effect of primary exhaust particles/components on indication of asthma and sensitisation (by any mechanism)?

○ Very high confidence
○ High confidence
○ Medium confidence
○ Low confidence
○ Very low confidence

What is your level of confidence in our ability to predict the magnitude of the effect of wear particles (in road dust) on induction of asthma and sensitisation (by any mechanism)?

○ Very high confidence
○ High confidence
○ Medium confidence
○ Low confidence
○ Very low confidence

What is your level of confidence in our ability to predict the magnitude of the effect of traffic related secondary pollutants (nitrates, ozone, etc) on induction of asthma and sensitisation (by any mechanism)?

○ Very high confidence
○ High confidence
○ Medium confidence
○ Low confidence
○ Very low confidence

Example 4: Questionnaire sheet for traffic pollution.

Evaluation questions:
• Is the diagram reflecting your view of causal chain?
• What is your level of confidence in our ability to predict magnitude of change in
   -exposure characteristics as a result of change in environmental determinant?
   -health end points as a result of change in exposure?
• Level of confidence to predict the overall impact?
• What is the relative importance of a given environmental stressor in comparison to other stressor for the expected health end point?