



## **Adaptation Strategies to Global Environmental Change in the Mediterranean City and the Role of Global Earth Observations**

**“Is existing worldwide capacity building for decision making sufficient for a good life quality”**

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# How Capacity Building for Decision-Making is structured?

- Decision-making is the application of science to administration and practice for the benefit and the well-being of the public.
- It combines expertise and evidence from scientific knowledge to develop instruments for the implementation of policies.



# Fundamental goal of Capacity Building

- The fundamental goal of Capacity Building is to enhance the ability, to evaluate and address the crucial questions related to policy choices and modes of implementation among development options.
- It is based on an understanding of potentials and limits and needs as perceived by the people of the country concerned.
- As a result, the need to strengthen national capacities is shared by all countries.



# Capacity building and Agenda 21 according to UNEP

- The ability of a country to follow sustainable development paths is determined to a large extent by the capacity of its people and its institutions as well as by its ecological and geographical conditions.
- Specifically, capacity building encompasses the country's human, scientific, technological, organisational, institutional and resource capabilities.
- “The overall objectives of endogenous capacity are to develop and improve national and related sub-regional and regional capacities and capabilities for sustainable development...”



# The role of Environmental Health Training Programmes in Capacity Building for Decision Making

Training programmes for environmental health have to educate professionals who are able to deal with problems where environment threatens health

*and*

to answer the currently increasing number of questions society asks on these issues.



# Training on EH is related with environmental education and education for sustainable development.

- It identifies
  - complexity
  - interdisciplinarity
  - a combination of knowledge and skills



# Preventive health policies link with ethics and society

- An environmental health professional should not only be equipped with knowledge but also should understand in depth the mechanisms that link environment with health.
- Society needs people who are able to prevent incidents and chronic exposure to pollutants, and to handle them when they occur.
- The environmental health experts should have skills that enable them to handle situations of environmental pollution that threaten health.

*This implies handling risk and hazard analysis and their management in practice.*



# **“Environment and Health. Capacity building for decision making”**

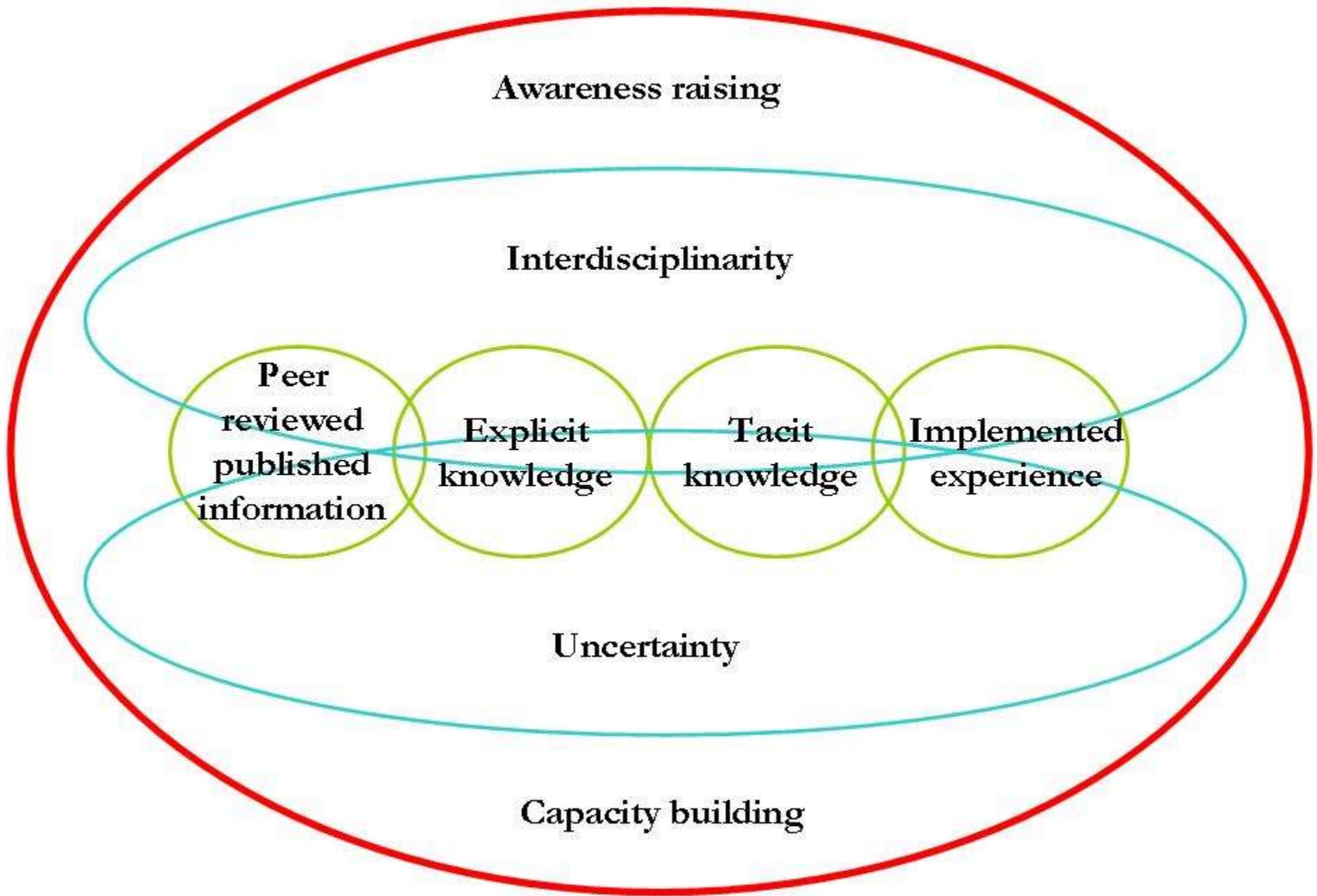
MSc currently running in the Medical School of the University of Athens

Entails two types of knowledge:

**Explicit knowledge**

**Tacit knowledge**





- Dealing with uncertainty is crucial for environmental health experts. This is related to the wide spread public perception that scientific answers should be non-normative, universally applicable and apply with absolute certainty.
- This is also related to the observation that uncertainty is often a main argument in environmental health discussions which are targeted to maintain a “status quo” and install “business as usual scenarios”.



# Education is crucial for training students

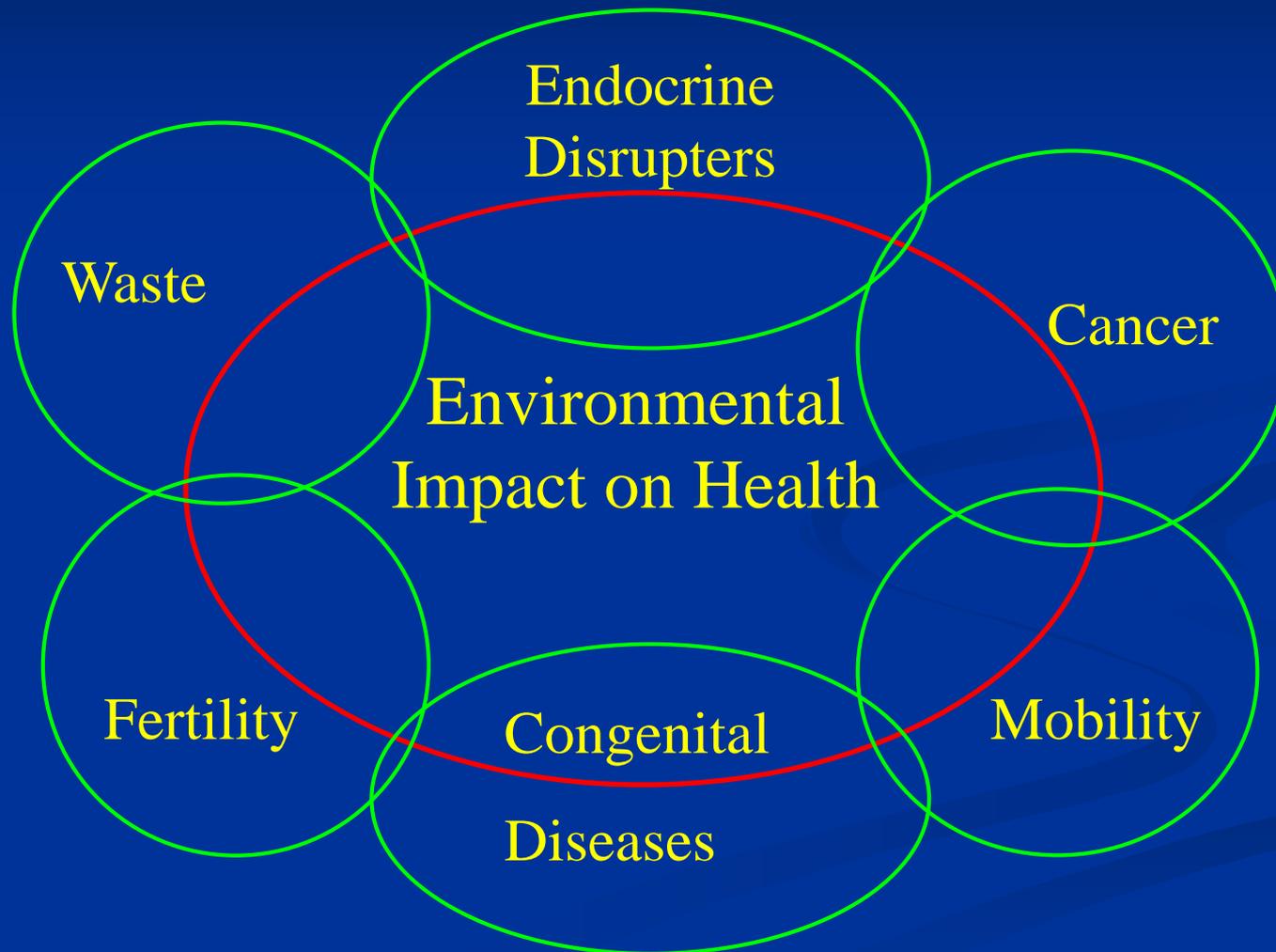
- To identify and wherever quantify the uncertainties in environmental health issues.
- To understand and to know how to handle uncertainties in discussions on guidelines, standards and documents updating the state-of-knowledge.



**Answering the question:**  
**“Is existing worldwide capacity building for decision making sufficient for a good life quality?”**



# The answer could be “YES” if Pollution Related Diseases were not a worldwide threat





*Thank you*

