Impactful Research and Innovation for disaster preparedness

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European Commission

Core Values of Our Strategy

Policy Alignment

Ensure that security R&I maintains the focus on the final use of its outcomes in alignment with policy priorities.

Future Security & Preparedness

Contribute to forward-looking planning of EU practitioner capabilities to anticipate future threats.

Social Compatibility

Ensure the development of innovative security technologies that are socially compatible.

Industrial Growth

Pave the way for industrialisation, commercialisation, acquisition, and deployment of successful R&I outcomes.

EU Sovereignty

Safeguard EU Strategic autonomy and technological sovereignty by strengthening the security industrial base.

Pursuing a forward-looking capability-driven approach in security

- Move from a reactive to a proactive approach in security, based on foresight, prevention & anticipation.

Risks & threats to security

Identity gaps & needs

Improved ability to respond thanks to R&I

Improved policy response due to improved capabilities

FORWARD LOOKING APPROACH IN SECURITY

Challenges:
COVID, extreme weather events, pressure at external borders, crime, terrorist attacks, hybrid attacks etc.

Use tools & actors
referred to in Commission staff working document (2021) 422 final: CERIS, EU Innovation Hub for Internal Security, EU agencies etc.

Support policy response
response in disaster resilience, fight against crime & terrorism, critical infrastructure protection, border management, cyber security.

TACKLING KEY CAPABILITY NEEDS – FILLING THE GAPS (DRS DESTINATION)

Societal Resilience

- Enhanced understanding and improved knowledge and situational awareness of disaster-related risks by citizens, empowered to act and involved in relevant research

Improved Disaster Risk Management and Governance

- More efficient cross-sectoral, cross-disciplines, cross-border coordination of the disaster risk management cycle and governance from international to local levels

Strengthened capacities of first and second responders & Interoperability

- Strengthened capacities of first responders in all operational phases related to any kind of natural and human-made disasters so that they can better prepare their operations;
- Improved ability to rescue and manage the first phases of emergencies that take into account extreme climatic events and/or geological hazards that may threaten urban areas

Disaster Research Days 2024 - Shaping the Future of Science and Research for Disaster Risk Reduction

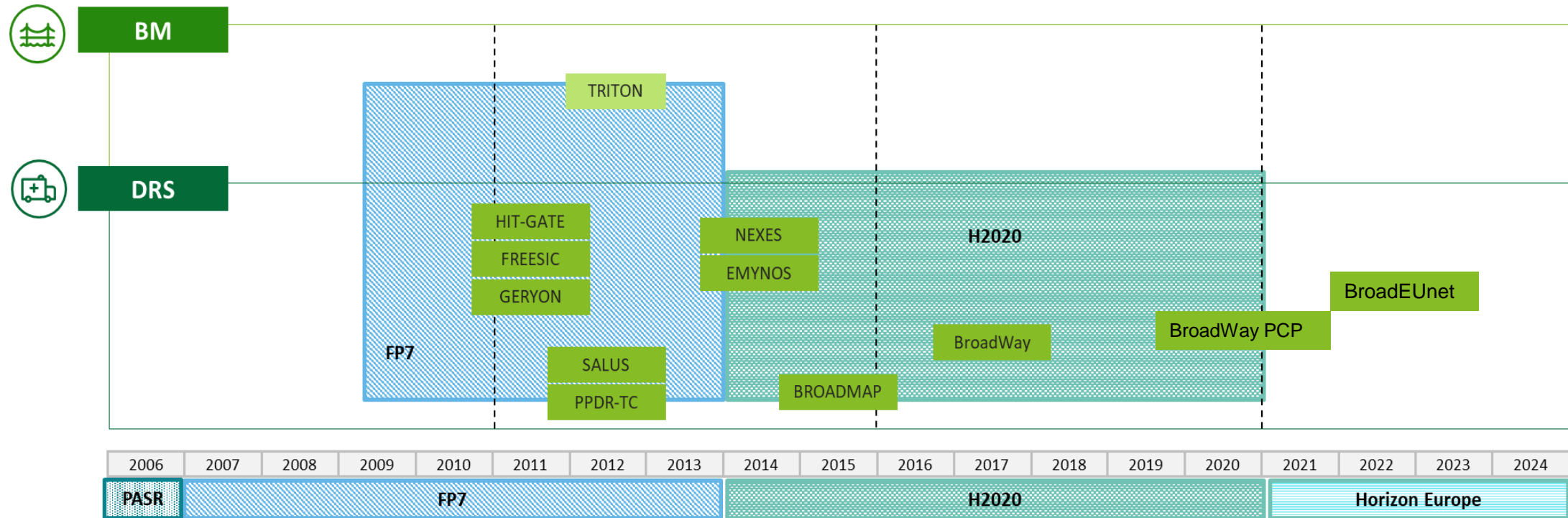# Capability mapping - Secure Communication (EUCCS)

Figure: European Commission - Study on Strengthening Security Research, 2025 (page 104).
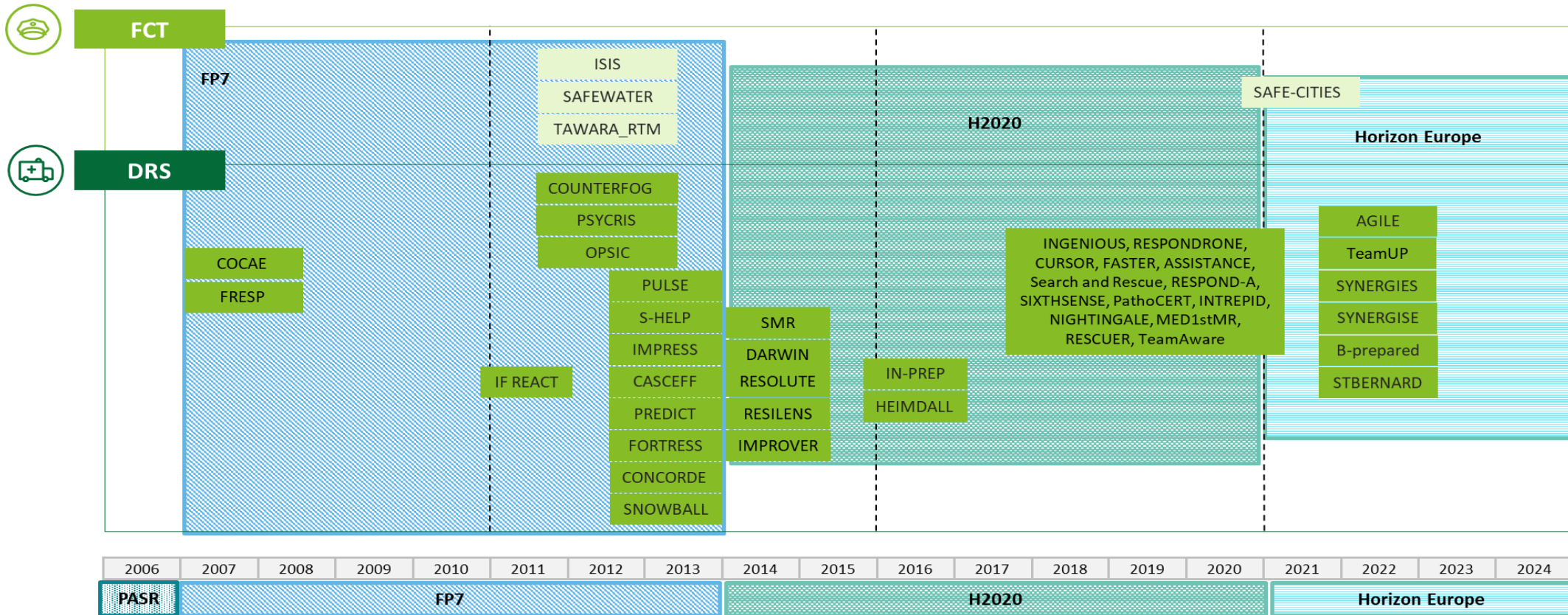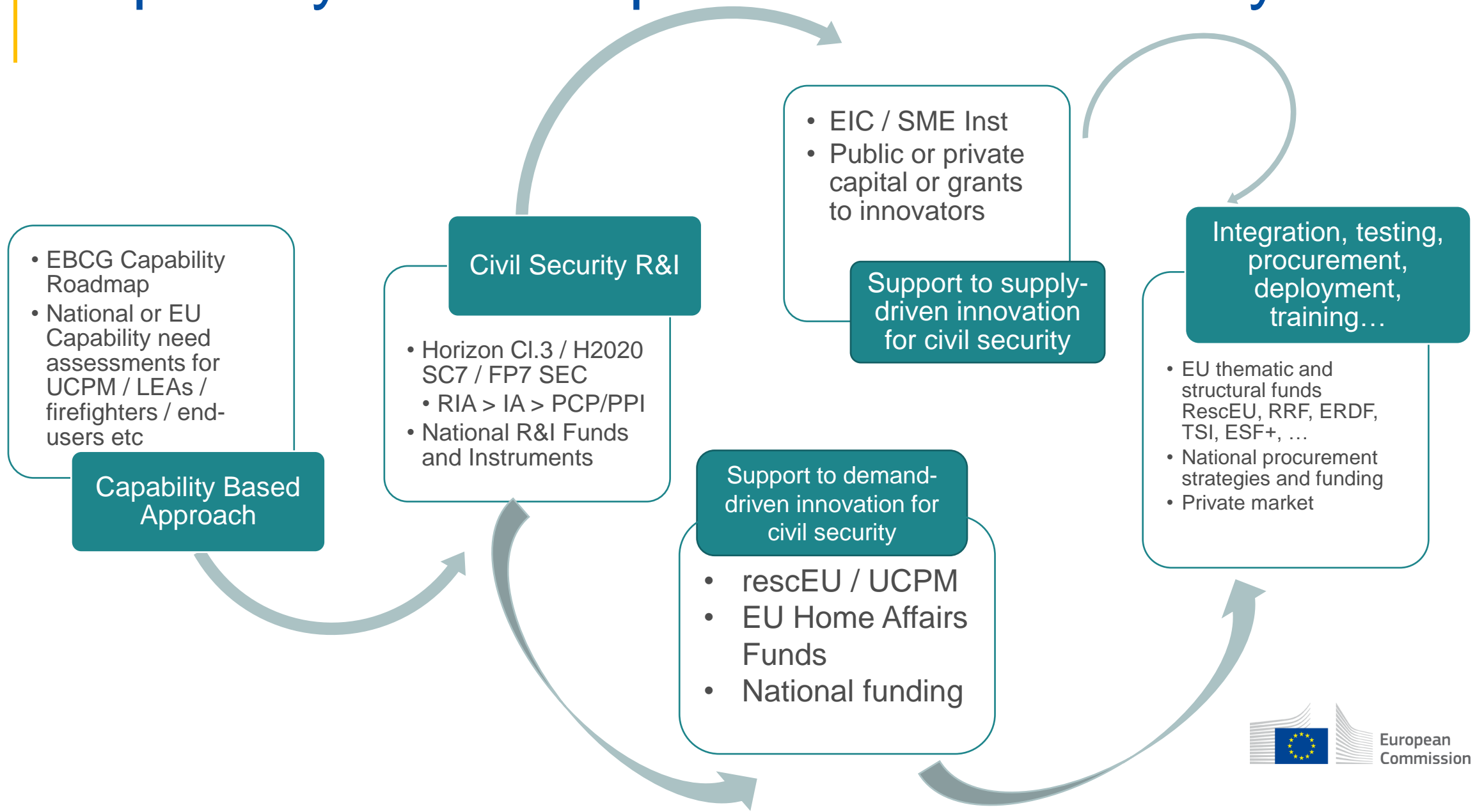
Capability mapping - Incident Response

Figure: European Commission - Study on Strengthening Security Research, 2025 (page 102).

Capability-Based Uptake for civil security R&I

Capability Based Approach
- EBCG Capability Roadmap
- National or EU Capability need assessments for UCPM / LEAs / firefighters / end-users etc

Civil Security R&I
- Horizon Cl.3 / H2020 SC7 / FP7 SEC
  - RIA > IA > PCP/PPI
- National R&I Funds and Instruments

Support to supply-driven innovation for civil security
- EIC / SME Inst
- Public or private capital or grants to innovators

Support to demand-driven innovation for civil security
- rescEU / UCPM
- EU Home Affairs Funds
- National funding

Integration, testing, procurement, deployment, training…
- EU thematic and structural funds RescEU, RRF, ERDF, TSI, ESF+, …
- National procurement strategies and funding
- Private market

The role of end-users in HORIZON EUROPE CL3 projects

1. Give user's requirements to the technology developers

2. Follow up on the development ensuring that it remains in agreement with the requirements

3. Validate the final outcome and give useful feedback

Feedback from first responders is essential in ensuring that the technologies developed in a project are effective in real-world scenarios
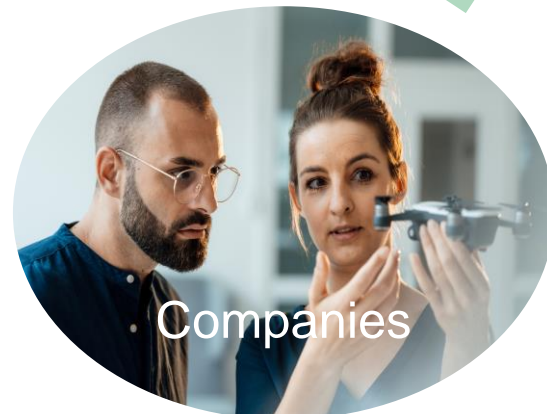
Communication challenges in a EU project

In an EU project you will need to communicate with entities from all over the EU, but also with all sorts of participants, such as researchers, local authorities, companies and other end-users

Researchers

Each one of them has their own "language"!

Companies

End -Users

Experience from end users in our projects

Based on your experience, what are your top three pieces of advice for fellow end-users considering participating in an EU research project?

1. **Be vocal about your needs**: It's essential for end users to clearly communicate their operational requirements from the outset. Don't shy away

2. **Involve technical experts**: To get the most out of the project, ensure that technical staff from your organization are involved.

3. **Focus on concrete outcomes**: As a representative of your end-user organisation, your role is to guide researchers toward practical, practical results.

Experience from end users in our projects

Q: Which advice would you give to other end-users considering applying for upcoming call for proposals?

A: Just do it, don't hesitate. There's nothing to lose, but much to gain….

…We started years ago as an associated partner, then we moved as a partner and now we are coordinating so it was a step-by-step learning, and I can recommend this slow learning process that helped us a lot.

Thank you