

The objective of the talk is to provide an introductory overview of systematic reviews and meta-analyses with an emphasis on main concepts, challenges and possibilities. The first part of the talk will present the main historical background for why systematic reviews were introduced in the 1990'ies, reflect on the main arguments for and against the method, and sketch the development of the methods since. The second part of the talk will present the main components of a well performed systematic review and discuss comparability between included studies and risk of bias. The third part of the review will present and discuss the main figures presented in a meta-analysis: Forest plot, risk of bias tables, and funnel plot. The final part of the talk will reflect on possible future direction of the method.