



#Science4Policy

COVID-19 crisis – complex and wicked problems



- Need for interdisciplinary evidence
- Proliferation of advisory structures
- Joint press conferences with scientists and policymakers
- Incorporation of scientists to the public sphere (more science communication)
- Frictions at the science and policy interface in some countries

COVID-19 crisis



“While policy making and public messaging during the COVID-19 pandemic continue to be informed by the latest scientific advice, the early months of the crisis exposed **the uneven level of research and advice in different Member States**, as well as the different approaches taken to providing and using that advice. This meant that **evidence was patchy, sometimes contradictory and often confusing** as a result of different messaging in different Member States.”

EC “Drawing early lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic”, COM(2021) 380

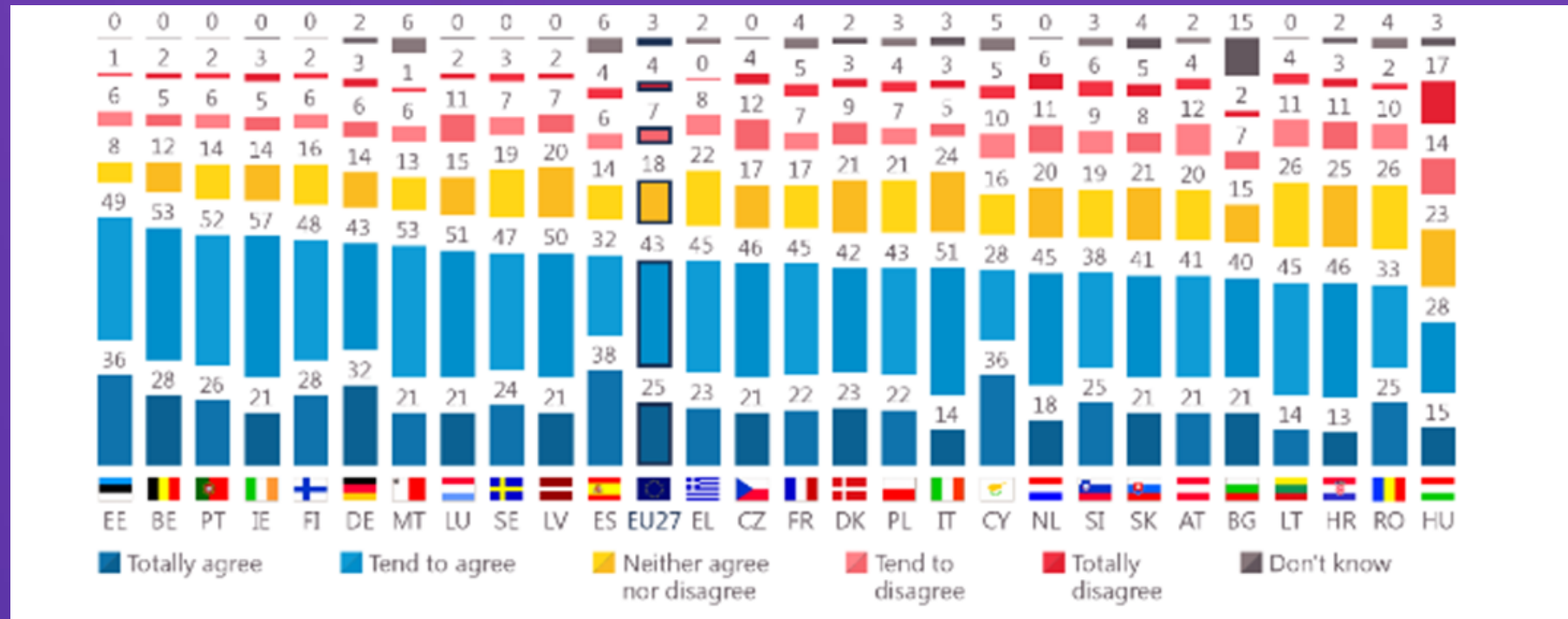
Why better science/evidence for policy?



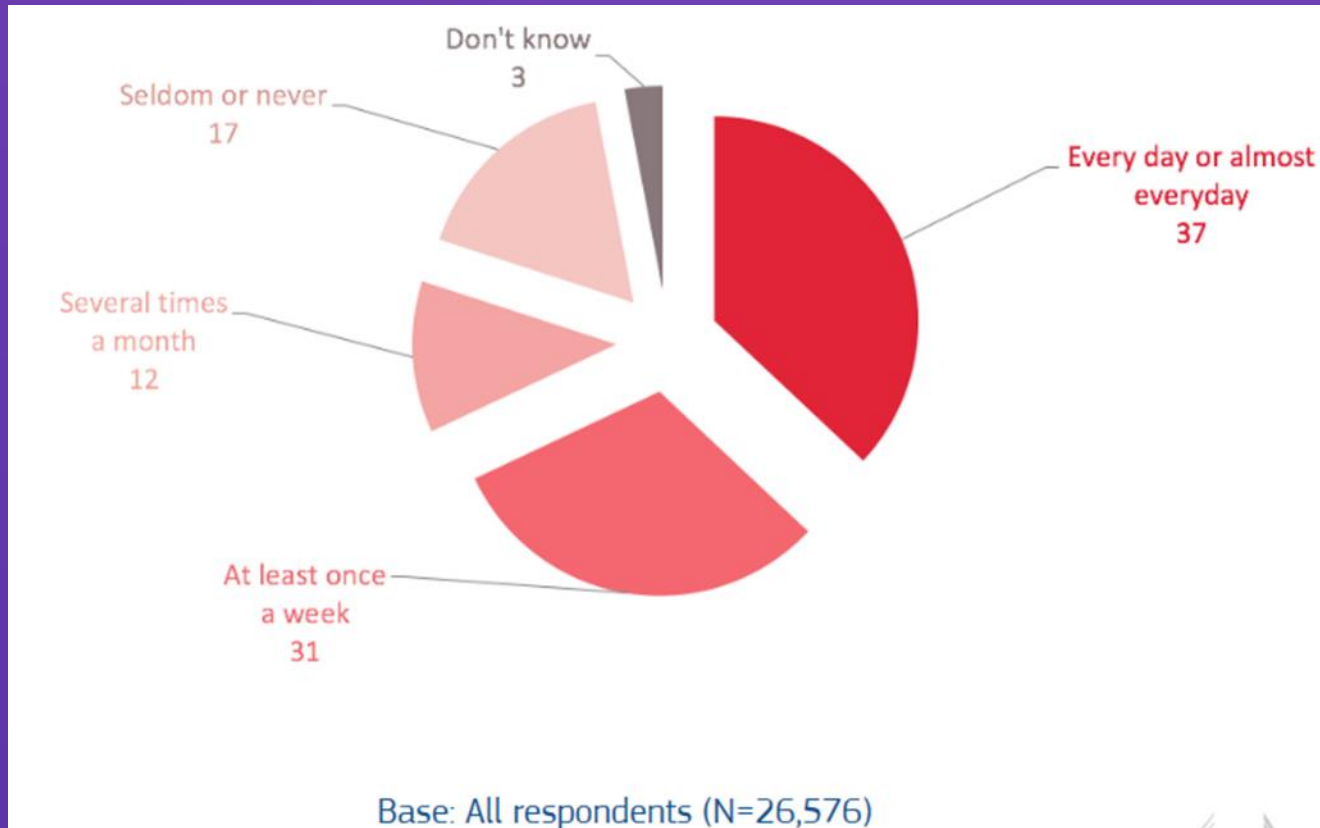
Citizens demand evidence-informed policymaking!

68% of EU citizens agree with the sentence:

“Scientists should intervene in political debate to ensure that decisions take into account scientific evidence”



Improving the quality of public debates



Almost four in ten respondents (37%) come across *fake news* every day or almost everyday

Flash Eurobarometer 464, 2018

Stock-taking and promoting debate on Science for Policy for Member States

Commission Document (Oct'22)



Commission offers to promote debates on science for policy within and between Member States

- How to strengthen and connect existing and potential science-for-policy initiatives
- How R&I ministries/agencies support policymakers in other fields to use scientific knowledge
- How the Commission could support national efforts for reforms in the public administration and the science and innovation systems

<https://europa.eu/!fwYr7f>

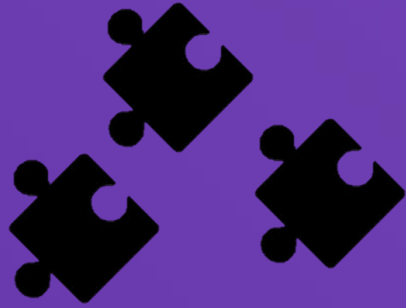
Series of workshops on national ecosystems



- 14 workshops with 1800+ participants
- Mapping the science-for-policy ecosystems and recommendations for policy change
- Expert discussion papers
- Survey with 500 responses from S4P experts and practitioners

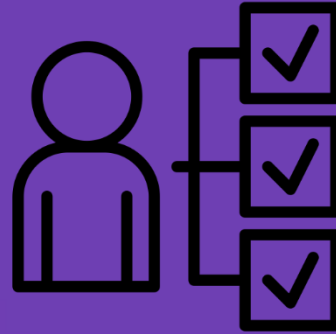


Three challenges to science for policy



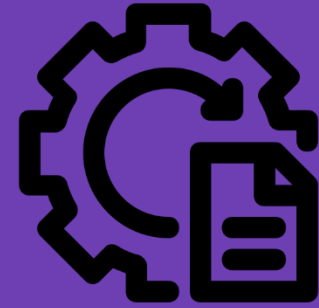
Institutional environment:

missing connections & coordination



Individual capacities:

missing competences and inter-sectoral understanding



Good governance of evidence use:

Limits of science and policymaking

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Three types of EU support to address them

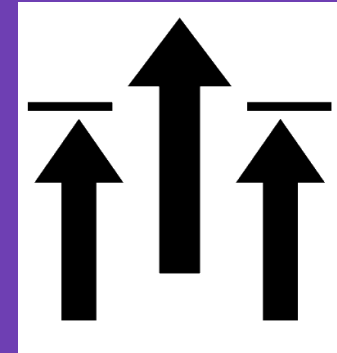


**Institutional
capacity &
professional
network building**

<https://europa.eu/!fwYr7f>

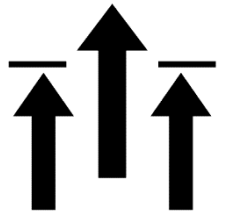


**Professional
competence & inter-
sectoral professional
schemes for
knowledge
exchange**

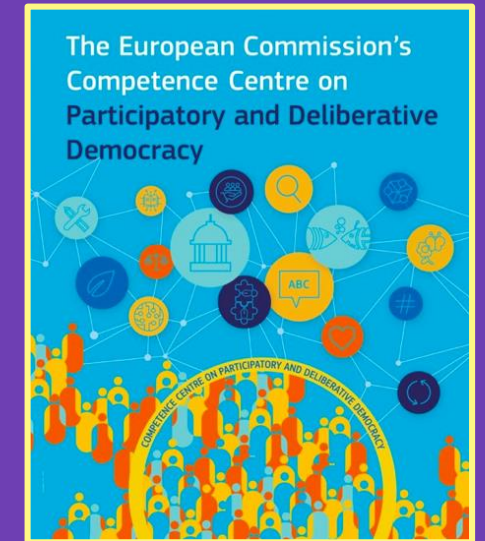
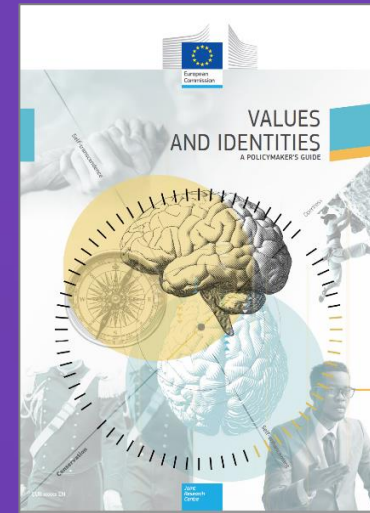
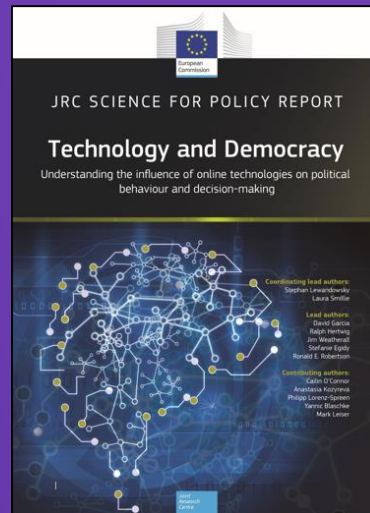
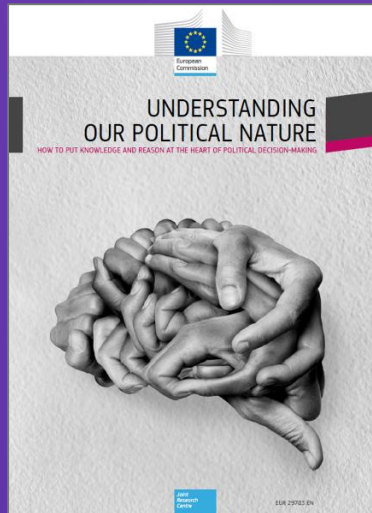


**Knowledge on
science-for-policy
ecosystems,
practices, and
capacity & limits**

No expertocracy – Limits of science for policy



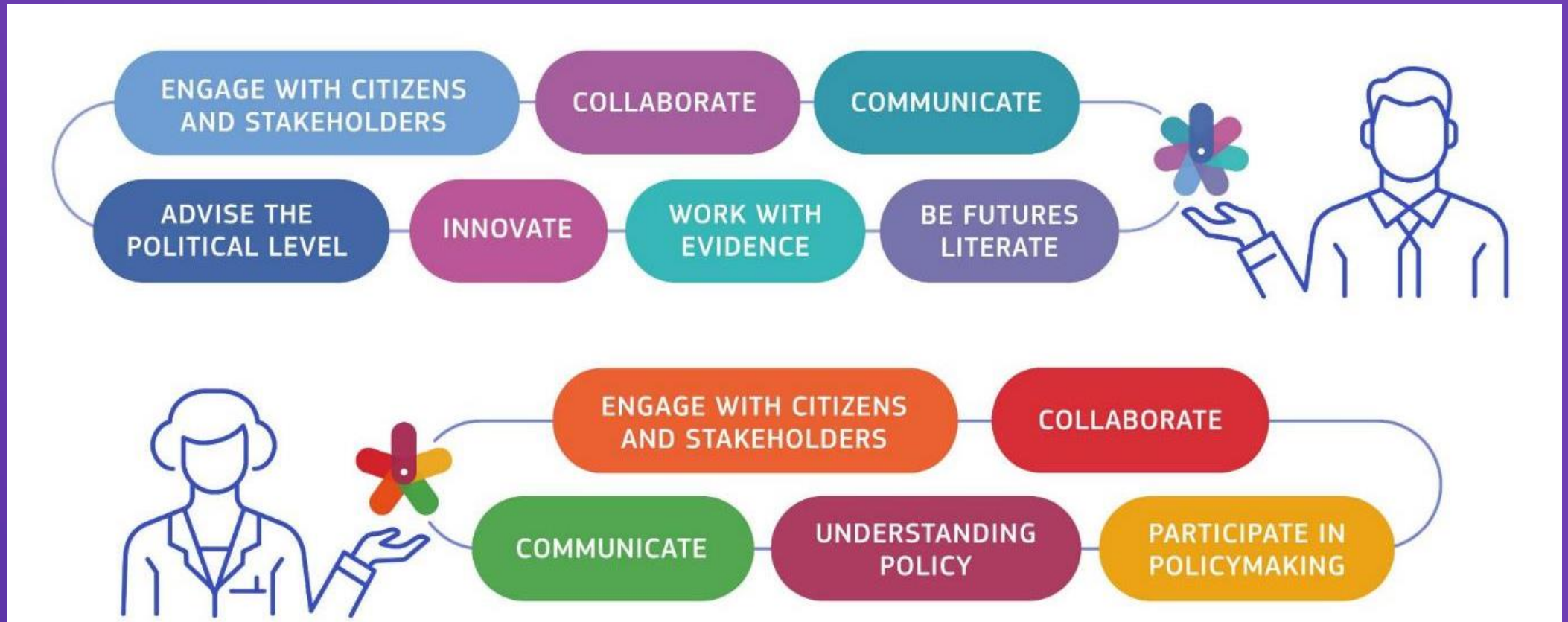
- Enlightenment 2.0 research project
- How do we take political decisions?
- What is the weight of our own values and identities?
- What is the connection with democracy and society?



- See also: Christensen J, Holst C, and Molander. *Expertise, Policy-making and Democracy*. 2022 Routledge

<https://europa.eu/!fwYr7f>

Competence frameworks for evidence-informed policymaking



Schwendinger F, Topp L and Kovacs V, *Competences for Policymaking*, EUR 31115 EN, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2022, doi:10.2760/642121, JRC129623

<https://europa.eu/!fwYr7f>

Smart4Policy



[European Commission](#) > [EU Science Hub](#) > [Smart4Policy](#) >

Smart4Policy – Reflect about your work on policy!



Institutional support



Better Regulation (2021)

- Scientific evidence as “cornerstone”
- Research communities as partners to engage with early
- Integration of science advice and foresight in impact assessment & policy evaluation



A new vision for public administration (PA) fit for future (2021)

- Commission support to Member States (TSI)
- Systematic consideration of scientific knowledge to address wicked problems

Recovery and Resilience Funds (RRF) (2021)

The new ERA: A policy framework co-creation with MS for R&I (2020)

- Knowledge valorisation (2022 - guidelines)
- Inter-sectoral researcher mobility
- Feedback to policy
- Impact-oriented research
- Better research assessment frameworks (2022 – Council)
- Policy Support Facility (PSF)
- Competence frameworks for science for policy (2022)



Strengthening science for policy ecosystems



- Boundary organisations
- Knowledge brokers
- Institutional preparedness to provide science advice
- Policymaking is done across all levels

Linking the TSI to developments at EU level



Recognition of the
value of
Science for Policy

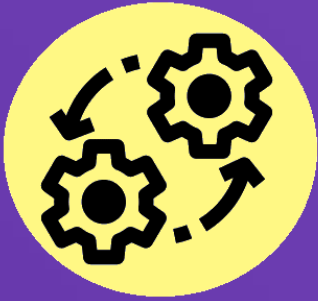


- Political momentum & changing policy frameworks
- Promoting EU policy/support instruments available to Member States, including TSI

- Seven Member States request technical support to build capacity for evidence-informed policymaking

- The largest multi-country public administration reform project by Technical Support Instrument
- A 2-year project delivered by the JRC and the OECD
- Beneficiary organisations ranging from centres of governments to research and innovation bodies

Objectives



Better institutional integration of the use of evidence, science, and evaluation in policymaking



Improved capacity and awareness for evidence-informed policymaking in governance and public administration in a post-pandemic Europe



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Project governance framework

Project advisory group

National coordinating groups



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DG REFORM

JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE (JRC)



General Secretariat
of Coordination of
the Presidency of
the Government of
the Hellenic
Republic

General Secretariat
of Fiscal Policy

Council of Economic
Experts (SOE)

Centre of Planning
and Economic
Research (KEPE)

National Centre for
Social Research
(EKKE)

National Centre for
Scientific Research
Demokritos



The Federal Public
Service Policy and
Support (BOSA)

BELSPO

Statbel

Intercabinet
Working Group

Federal Planning
Bureau

KUL-Instituut voor
de overhead

UCL Louvain



Government of the
Czech Republic
(VLADA)

Ministry of the
Interior

Ministry for
Regional
Development

Ministry of Industry
and Trade

Minister for Science
Research and
Innovation Office

Research,
Innovation and
Development
Council

Technology Agency
of the Czech
Republic



Estonian
Research Council
(ETAG)

Ministry of
Education and
Research

Government Office

Estonian Academy
of Sciences



Ministry of Science
and Education of
the Government of
Latvia

Cross-Sectoral
Coordination Centre

State chancellery



Research Council of
Lithuania

Office of the
Government

Government
Strategic Analysis
Centre of the
Government of
Lithuania (STRATA)



Ministry of the Interior
and Kingdom Relations
(DZK) of
the Dutch Central
Government

Netherlands
Scientific Council for
Government Policy
(WRR)

Chief Science
Officers'
Interdepartmental
network

Ministry of Justice

Ministry of
Education, Culture
and Research

Ministry of Finance

Project overview

Outcome A. Improved capacity for EIPM

Diagnostic reports

Needs assessment

Country roadmaps

Capacity-building
workshops



Policy recommendations for
reform of policy making and
science systems



Better analytical and
strategic competences

Outcome B. Increased awareness, recognition, and understanding

Thematic
symposia



International mutual
learning and exchange



Joint declaration on science for policy by the seven participating Member States

Draft of the analytical framework



ANALYTICAL LEVEL

SUPPLY OF SCIENCE AND EVIDENCE

DEMAND OF SCIENCE AND EVIDENCE

WHERE SUPPLY AND DEMAND MEET

Individual

- Professional and team competences
- Incentives to engage in science for policy
- Career profiles, mobility programmes and challenges

Organisational

- Mandates & missions
- Dedicated structures, processes & support for science for policy
- Role of civil service in policymaking
- Resources and staff suitable for evidence-informed policymaking

Inter-organisational

- Coordination mechanisms & boundary organisations for policy engagement
- Role and functions of scientific councils, academies, etc.
- Inter-institutional coordination (e.g. knowledge sharing mechanisms)
- Boundary organisations and actors to engage with scientific community and knowledge

System

- Policies on research assessment, inter-sectoral mobility, research funding, etc. promoting EIPM-culture and values
- Policies/processes/norms promoting EIPM-culture and values, public trust, and processes between branches of public administration

- Policies/processes on domestic core public policy (Better regulation, RIA, budgets, foresight, impact of green transition, knowledge valorisation, etc.)
- Policies/processes influence by European commitments and processes (Structural Funds, Green and Digital Transition, RRP, HE, ERA, etc.)



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International capacity-building workshops

Scientists

- **Aim:** enabling trainees to deliver similar exercises nationally to help scientists maximise their policy impact
- 3 online/in-person workshops
- 48 participants in total (pairs of scientists-facilitators)
- 3 pairs per country (6 people)
- Training of trainers format
- July-September 2023
- Delivered by the JRC

Policymakers

- **Aim:** building capacity in policymakers for EIPM and ensuring follow-up trainings
- Number of trainees to be decided
- 2 online/in-person workshops Using JRC's competence framework and OECD work on Building Capacity for EIPM and peer learning
- Around Q4 2023 – Q2 2024
- JRC and OECD

Knowledge brokers

- **Aim:** address challenges in science for policy and in setting up knowledge mobilisation units
- 1 online/in-person workshop
- Number of trainees to be decided
- With the input of experts and practitioners from other organisations
- Around Q1-Q3 2024
- JRC and OECD



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Mutual learning exercises via thematic symposia

- Opportunity for networking and international exchange of practices
- A total of 3 international thematic symposia (online or in-person)
- To be held between Oct 2023-Jan 2024, and April-July 2024
- Topics decided:

Strategic foresight and anticipatory governance

AI and data analysis in public governance

Policy evaluation in public administration

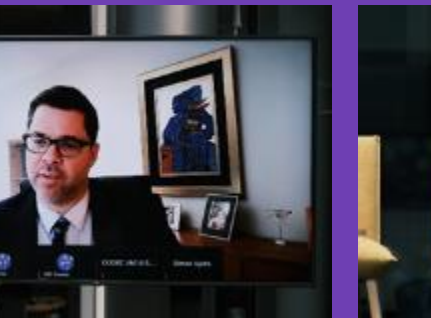


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Project kick-off meeting



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Project timeline

2023				2024			
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4

★ Kick-off

Final conference ★

COUNTRY ANALYSES / POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Diagnostic report 

Needs assessment 

Roadmap 



Final report

CAPACITY BUILDING


*Workshops for
scientists*


*Workshops for
policymakers*


*Workshop for
knowledge brokers*

MUTUAL LEARNING


*1st Thematic
Symposia*


*2nd Thematic
Symposia*


*3rd Thematic
Symposia*



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Conclusions

1. We aim to better connect and improve science-for-policy ecosystems in the EU Member States for more resilient democracies
2. This is an endeavour that brings together actors from the public administration side and the research and innovation systems
3. Join and support our work in your country and in the EU-27!

Thank you

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