

# ADVANCING EVIDENCE-INFORMED POLICY MAKING ACROSS LEVELS OF GOVERNANCE

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science  
meets  
regions

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# FRAMING EVIDENCE INFORMED POLICY MAKING ACROSS LEVELS OF GOVERNANCE

**Policy making competences differ across regions and countries**

**Complex challenges with** social pluralism, institutional complexity and scientific uncertainty also felt at regional level



**Place based dimensions central to policy making at regional level**

**National level of Dis/misinformation may also be felt, but could be attenuated: trust in public institutions is usually greater at local level. Possibility of direct dialogue**



**Need for relevant quality and trusted policy advice, delivered at the right time, in the right place, to the right people, and in the right formatT:**

**Trusted evidence data and science** to inform the design implementation and evaluation of interventions within the scope of regional prerogatives



# HOW CAN WE FRAME POLICY MAKING?

*Moving from evidence and evidence-informed policy-making to policy driven evidence ?*

It may come from (i) anecdotal observations, (ii) subjective opinions or (iii) scientific data from a controlled experiment, or observational data.



Process whereby multiple sources of information, **including statistics, data, the best available research** evidence and evaluations, are consulted **before making a decision** integrating **multiple voices, values and priorities**

The messy world of **politics**:

- Voices,
- Values
- Priorities
- Conflicts

Amplified by social media,  
Arbitrating short and long term  
visions



**Multiple crises (COVID 19, Energy, Ukraine have highlighted the need for evidence as well as the multiple dimensions that need to be taken into account to inform decisions**

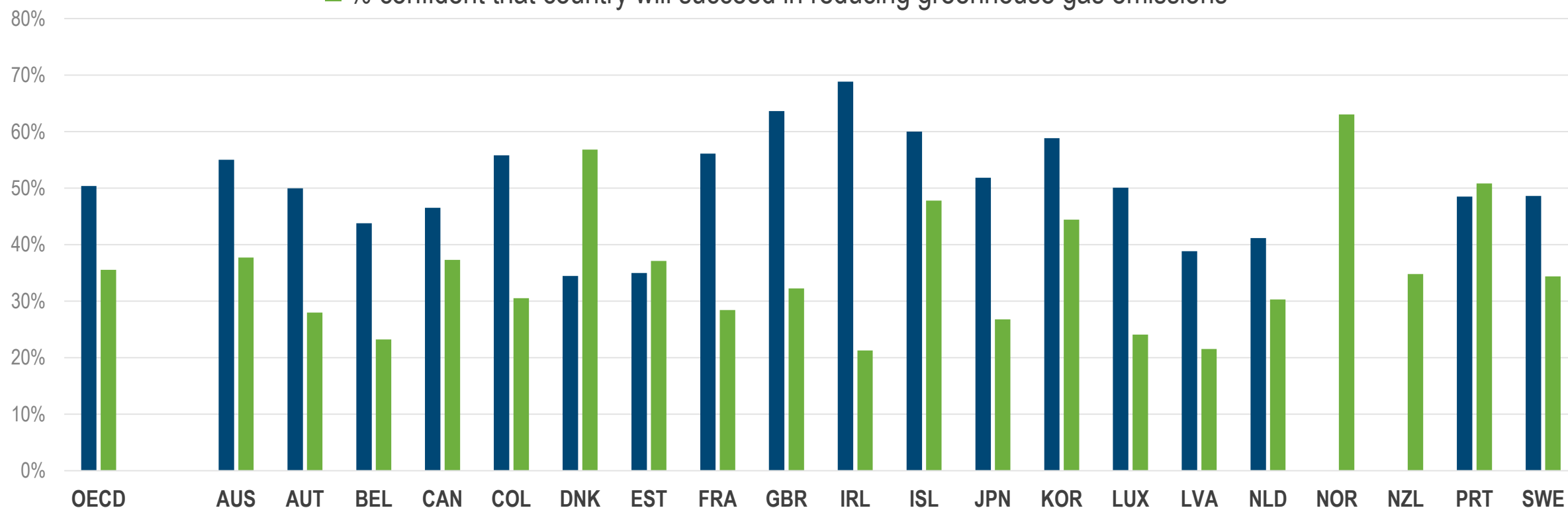


# ARE GOVERNMENTS PREPARED TO ACT ON CITIZENS' CONCERNS?

Half think their government should prioritise climate change, but only one-third are confident they will succeed

■ % saying government should prioritise reducing their country's contribution to climate change

■ % confident that country will succeed in reducing greenhouse gas emissions

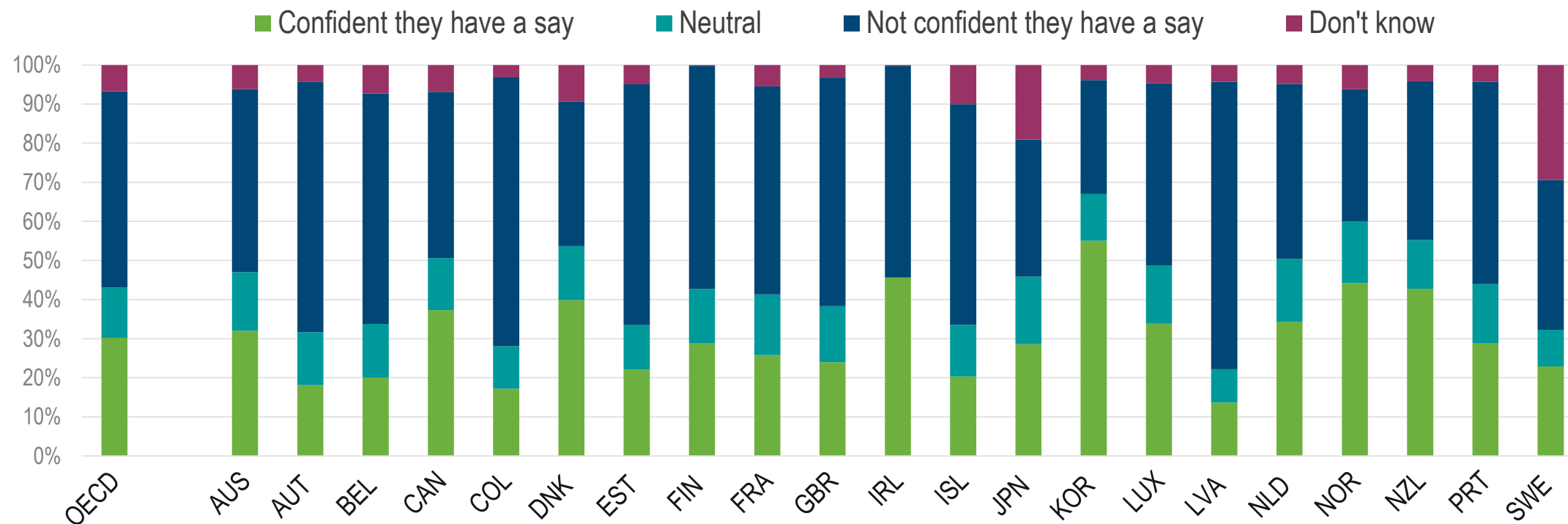




# FEW PEOPLE SEE OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN POLICY MAKING

## Half say the political system does not let them have a say in decision making

Share of respondents reporting different levels of confidence that the political system lets them have a say in government decision making (0-10 scale), 2021





# DEVELOPING EIPM TOOLS AND APPROACHES AT REGIONAL LEVEL

## A FEW EXAMPLES

- Regional development and place based policies: economic clusters, link with education and research, availability of local capital financing
- Developing relevant education infrastructure at regional level: partnerships with local universities
- Mobilising and investing in resilient infrastructure while delivering on the green deal: adaptation to the climate, transport and mobility
- Manage the digital transition : access to high speed internet, investing in digital literacy regional administrations
- Developing impact assessment for regulations in federal or semi federal countries in areas where regions hold regulatory competences

**How do we get there?**



## CONCRETE EXAMPLES OF TOOLS SUPPORTING EIPM

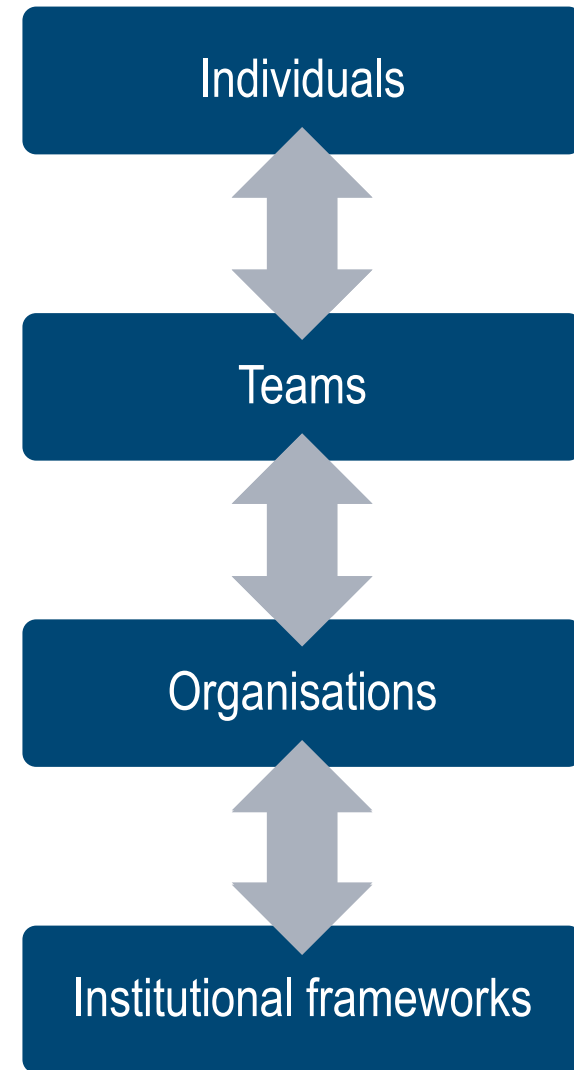
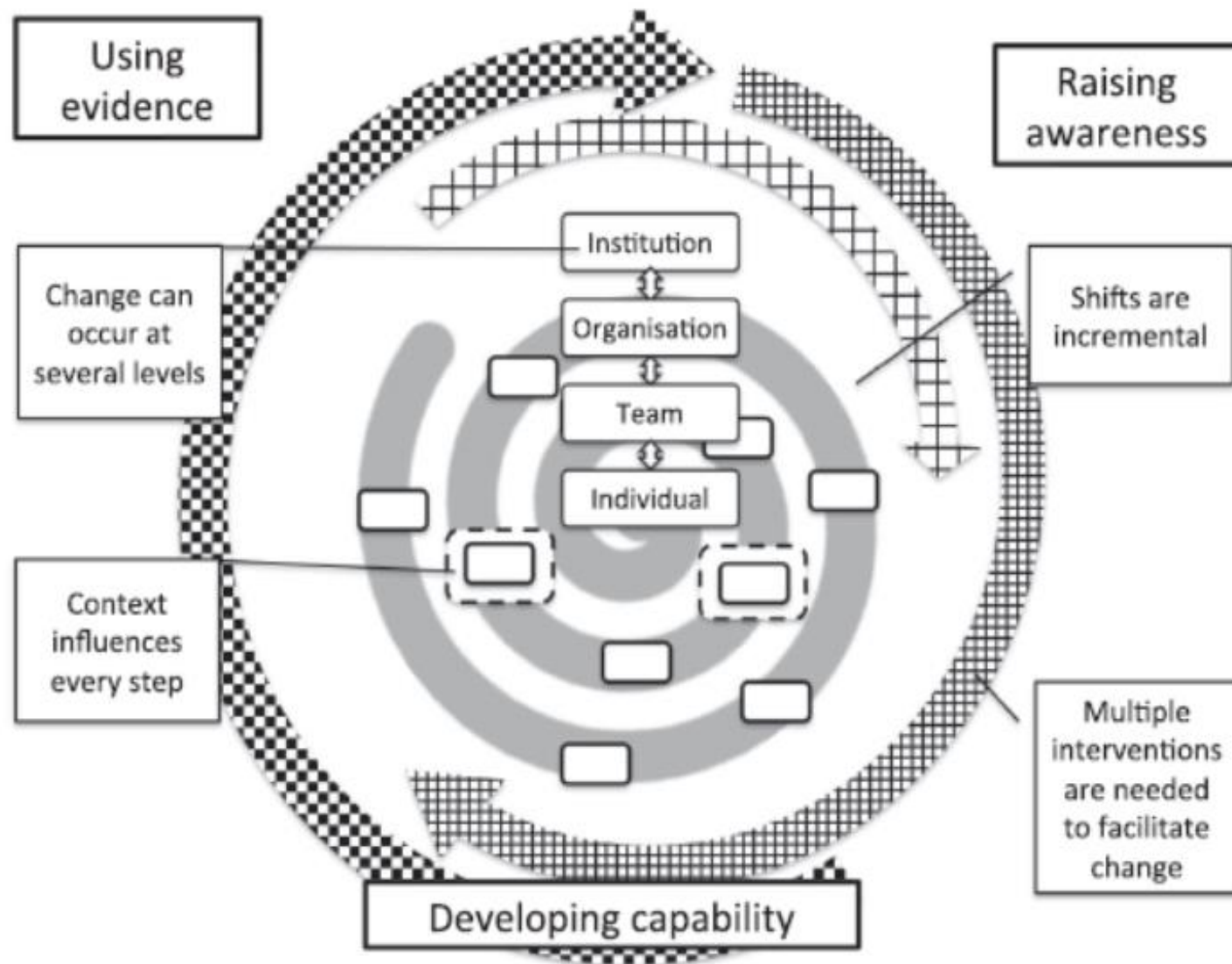
- Risk analytics, foresight, guide investment in preparedness
- Engage citizens and mobilise deliberative processes
- Invest in the administrative to political interface
  - « speak truth to power », bilateral trust challenges
- Equip governments with analytical skills and structures
- Address conflicts of interests

**BUT great heterogeneity exists across regions**

**How do we get there?**

- ✓ **Common tools and approaches**
- ✓ **Adapted for use at regional level**

# IMPROVING USE OF EVIDENCE AT MULTIPLE LEVELS







# WHAT IS THE SCOPE FOR POLICY ACTION?

- **Invest in competences, capacities**
  - > Governments, and science for policy ecosystems
  - > Strengthen leadership capacity in the civil service
- **Strengthen tools, processes and options for public engagement**
  - > Capacity to identify and frame the issues
  - > Talk to leaders
  - > Engage practices
  - > Manage the risk of capture, (integrity standards and conflicts of interest)
- **Invest in understanding the rationale for place based interventions**
  - > Economic models that simulate local impacts: data granularity
  - > Invest in geospatial data
  - > Listen to local communities



## Evidence Informed Policy Making, since 2016, partnerships with JRC

- Wide OECD agenda in Europe and beyond
  - > US Evidence Act, UK WW, Japan, Latin America, Australia, Canada)
- Improving Governance with evaluation, Comparison in over 44 countries
  - > +OECD projects: Belgium, Ireland Italy, Portugal, Lithuania, Czech Republic
  - > Multi country TSI project

## And many other relevant areas

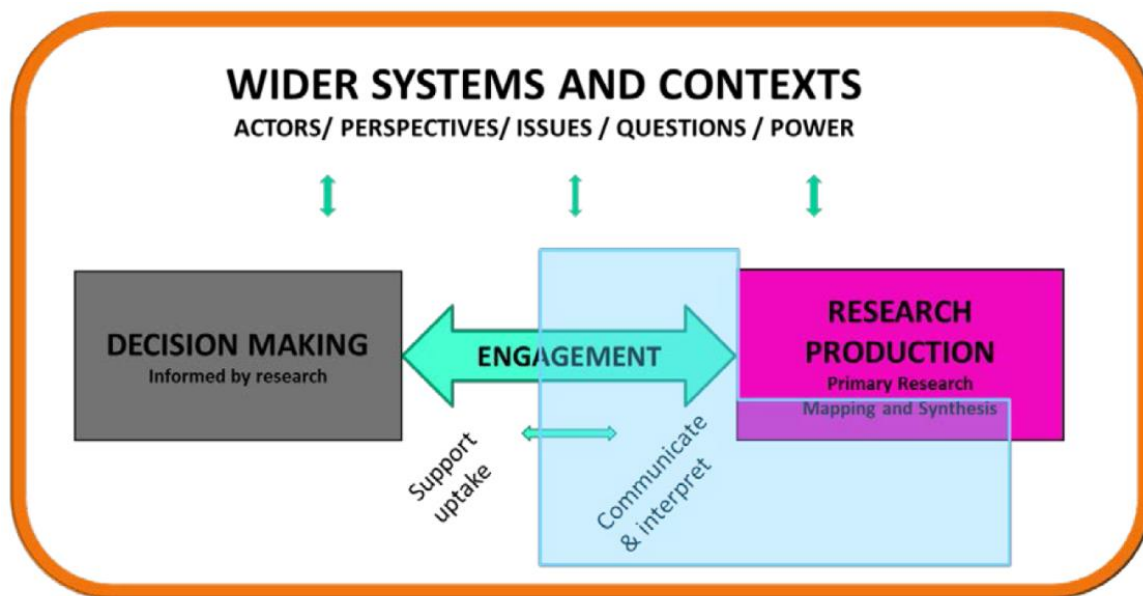
- Centres of Government, Better Regulation
- Senior civil service skills leadership, and public sector innovation
- Foresight/anticipatory governance
- Regional development / SMEs
- Science Technology and Innovation
- Etc....



# FACILITATE KNOWLEDGE BROKERAGE AT REGIONAL LEVEL

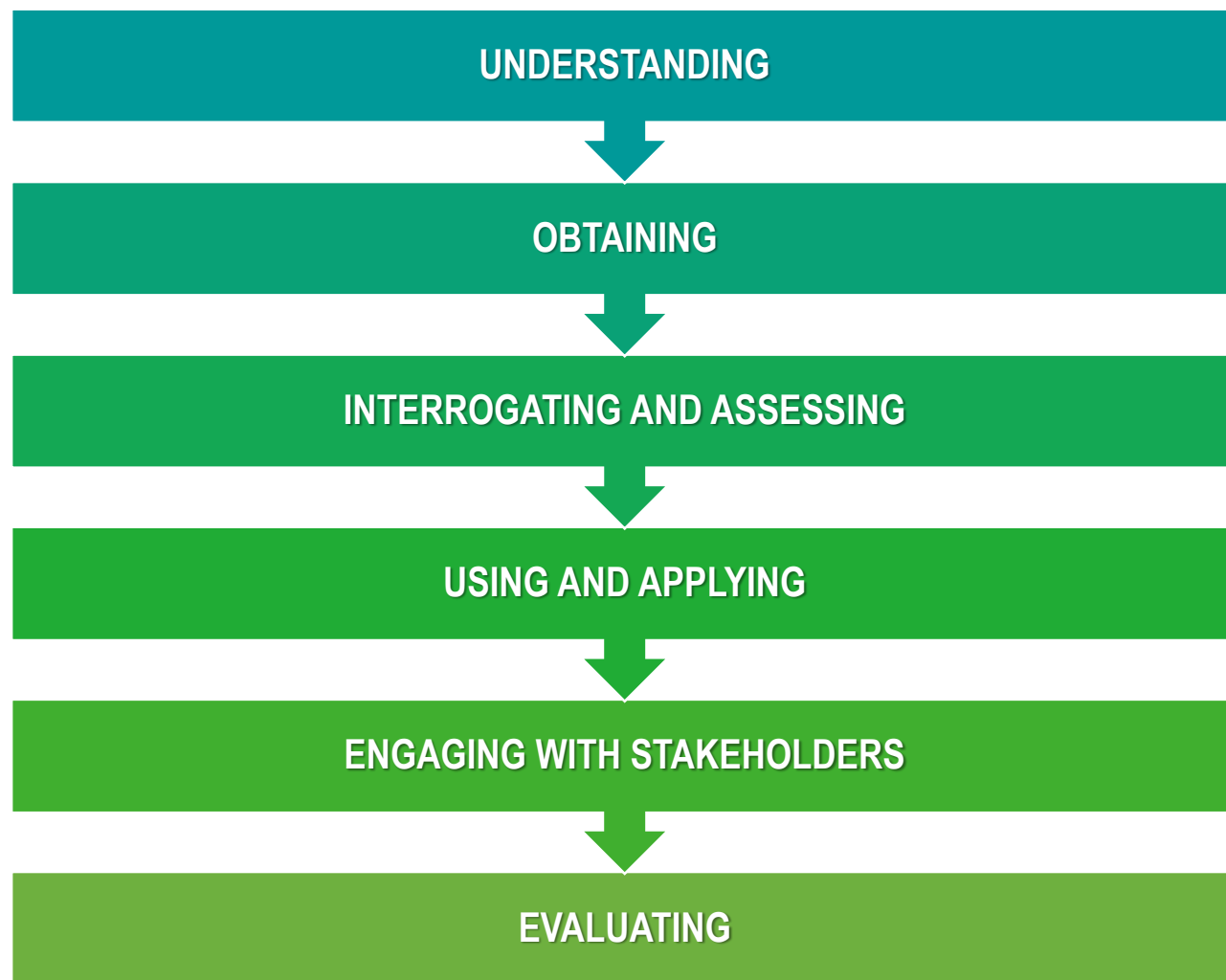
Working at the interface between knowledge production and decision making and practice, **knowledge brokers have great potential to support EIPM.**

Partnership with local academics  
Applied research organisations at regional level

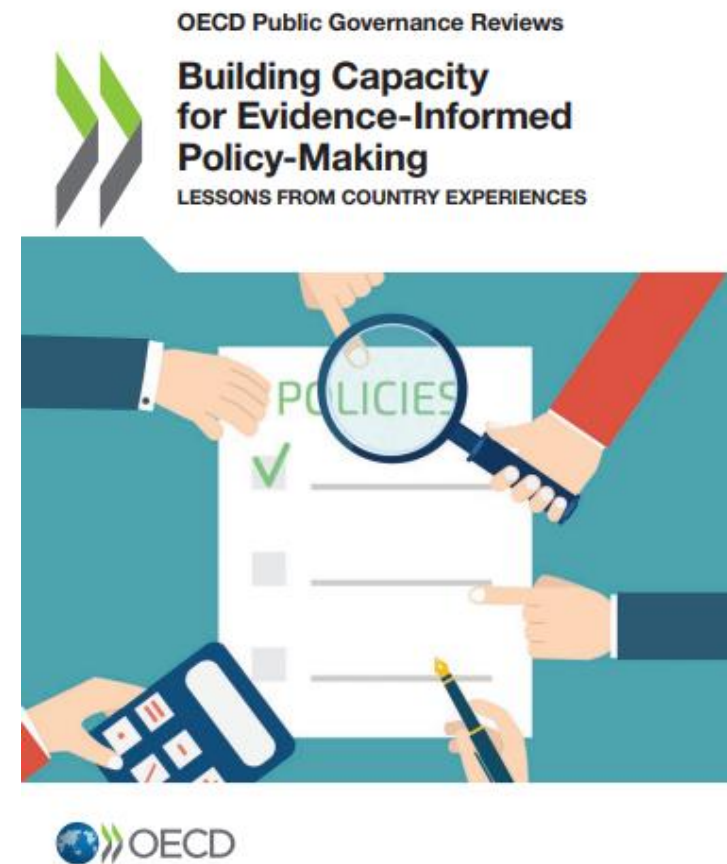




# WHAT SKILLS AND CAPACITY DO POLICY MAKERS NEED TO ADOPT EIPM?



**+ JRC Skills mapping**





## **COHESION POLICY : EVALUATION OF REGIONAL FUNDS SOCIAL FUNDS**

BEST EVALUATION PRACTICES REFLECTED IN THE EVALUATION  
OF THE USE OF SUCH FUNDS

Systematic evaluation

Transparency

Knowledge management

Balance the need to build some internal capacity in government while  
allowing flexibility in contracting out the evaluations



# BUILD AWARENESS FOR SOME QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCESSES

- Use of appropriate evidence
- Ensuring integrity/Honest brokerage
- Accountability
- Contestability
- Public representation in decision-making
- Transparency in the choice/use of evidence
- Building evidence with emerging technologies
- Mobilizing data



- Evidence synthesis
- Theory of change/logic model
- Design and development
- Efficacy
- Effectiveness
- Cost (value-for-money)
- Implementation and scale-up

**Principles are somewhat aspirational**



**But lack of attention may compromise outcome**



### **Articulating the space between political trade offs and expertise!**

- Politics, including regional politics will remain intrinsically and healthily messy!  
Shared OECD values and freedom!
- Build mechanisms to reduce the scope for entropy, errors and limit idiosyncrasies
- Strengthen local tools, local processes, local public and academic institutions to ensure robustness, validity and capacity for implementation
- Preserve space for actual dialogue

**THANK YOU!**

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