

JRC and Evidence Informed Policy Making (EIPM)

Amazon week

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The concept and the need for Evidence Informed Policy Making

What is evidence-informed policymaking?

- The “best available evidence”: robust evidence most pertinent to the issue on the table of the decision-maker, when (s)he needs it to decide, in a form (s)he can understand.



Why do we need evidence to inform policymaking?



“The science that policymakers say they want may not be what they need.

Policymakers risk focusing on noisy symptoms not underlying policy problems. Science finds out causes, so can help tackle underlying problems.”

“Myside bias” – a universal problem for democracy



•
“We don't see things as they are, we see them as we are.”

Anaïs Nin



“When we want to believe something, we ask ourselves, “Can I believe it?” Then, we search for supporting evidence, and if we find even a single piece of pseudo-evidence, we can stop thinking. We now have permission to believe. We have justification, in case anyone asks. In contrast, when we don't want to believe something, we ask ourselves, “Must I believe it?” Then we search for contrary evidence, and if we find a single reason to doubt the claim, we can dismiss it.”

– Jonathan Haidt, *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion*

Why do we need evidence-informed policymaking in democracies?

The principle of informing policy through evidence corresponds to democratic principles. It is not technocratic.

Building Trust and Legitimacy: EIPM, when designed with integrity, autonomy, and continuity, can help rebuild trust in both scientific and democratic institutions. EIPM serves as a bulwark against the erosion of truth in public discourse.

Enhancing Policy Effectiveness: By integrating scientific insights into the policymaking process, democracies can craft policies that are more effective and grounded in reality.



Why do we need evidence-informed policymaking in democracies?

Transparency and Accountability: Clear communication of use of science and other evidence and the rationale behind policy decisions enhances accountability and transparency in governance

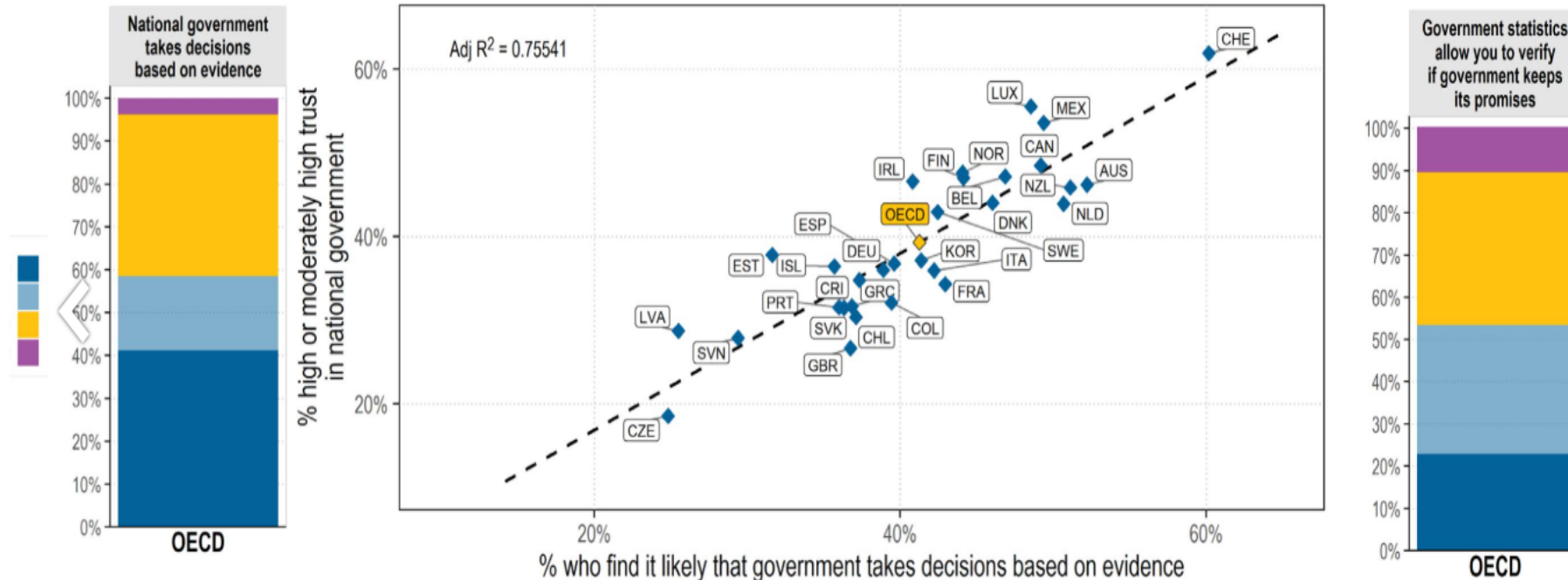
Inclusive Decision-Making: By incorporating diverse knowledge systems, such as indigenous knowledge and lay expertise, evidence can ensure that policies reflect the needs and rights of all community members.

Stimulating Public Engagement: The inclusion of scientific advice early in the policy framing process could invite public participation and deliberation.



Trust and the importance of using evidence

Share of population with high or moderately high trust in the national government (y-axis) and who find it likely that government takes decisions based on evidence (x-axis), 2023



OECD Survey on Drivers of Trust in Public Institutions - 2024 Results

https://issuu.com/oecd.publishing/docs/main_findings_2023_oecd_trust_survey_-_launch_107

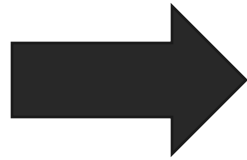
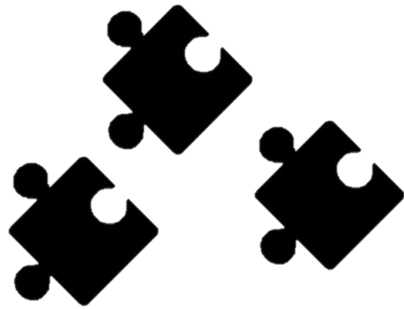


A political process in support of evidence for policy is in motion



Working with Member States on EIPM

A scale issue worth addressing



Single elements

National ecosystems

European ecosystem

Analytical blind spots
Interconnectedness?
Missing the big picture

Knowledge coverage
Need for mutual learning
Ensure input to Better Regulation at the EU



Member States obtaining TSI support to strengthen EIPM capacity

2022	Belgium, 	Czech Republic, 	Estonia, 	Greece , 	Latvia, 	Lithuania, 	The Netherlands 
2025	Austria, 	Cyprus, 	France, 	Ireland, 	Poland, 	Portugal, 	Spain 

Reviews, survey, interviews, focus groups, and workshops looking at 6 dimensions:

Competencies and skills training

Evidence use

Boundary work and people

Evidence production

System governance

Funding

- Ecosystems matter
- The importance of knowledge brokers
- Demand-side leadership
- Culture of evidence



Insights

Using science to inform policy is a political choice, not a technocratic one, so needs political commitment.

EIPM doesn't happen by accident. The eco-system will not self-organise. It requires leadership, incentives, structures that actively encourage its use and time!

Trusted relationships and networks matter as much as good science!

The power of connecting the whole EIPM community: these connections are important to keep the EIPM ecosystem sustainable and resilient



Insights

Better use of scientific evidence in government is the key. Most countries have a good supply – is there anyone inside government with the time to read the reports and ask questions?

Dynamic nature of EIPM – no simple linear development – EIPM needs systemic thinking, each phase comes with its own challenges.

There is no perfect model or "one-size-fits-all" solutions – common problems and success factors, common principles but context-specific solutions.





Learn more!



Final country reports:

- Greece: <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC141465>
- Belgium: <https://doi.org/10.1787/223b01a8-en>
- Czechia: <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC140040>
- Estonia: <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC139946>
- Latvia: <https://doi.org/10.1787/2b43bc19-en>
- Lithuania: <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC141125>
- Netherlands: <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC139581>



Reflection papers on the future of EIPM and trust in S4P by the JRC:

- <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/eb3b20e7-03b5-11f0-9503-01aa75ed71a1> -
- [JRC Publications Repository - Trust in Science for Policy Nexus](#)



Final TSI conference materials:

- [Recording of the livestream](#)
- [Knowledge for Policy article](#)



Capacity building on Evidence Informed PolicyMaking -JRC

The approach, the initiatives, the tools, the actions

The specifics of Evidence-Informed Policymaking



“Evidence-informed policy” is more accurate than “evidence-based policy”.



Evidence-informed policymaking (EIPM) improves decision making process and results to better policies.

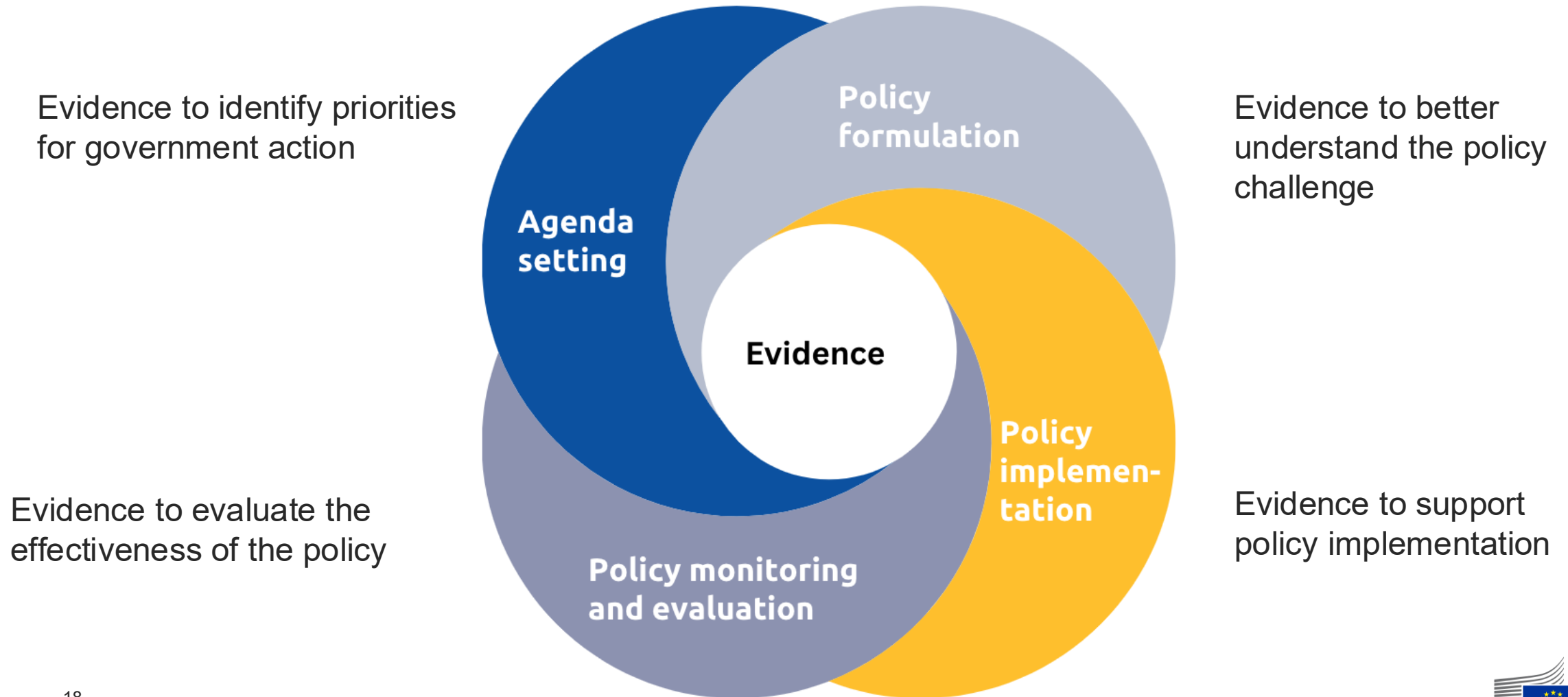


Evidence-informed policy-making refers to an approach, a framework and a set of principles to policymaking, aimed at enhancing the quality and outcomes of policy.



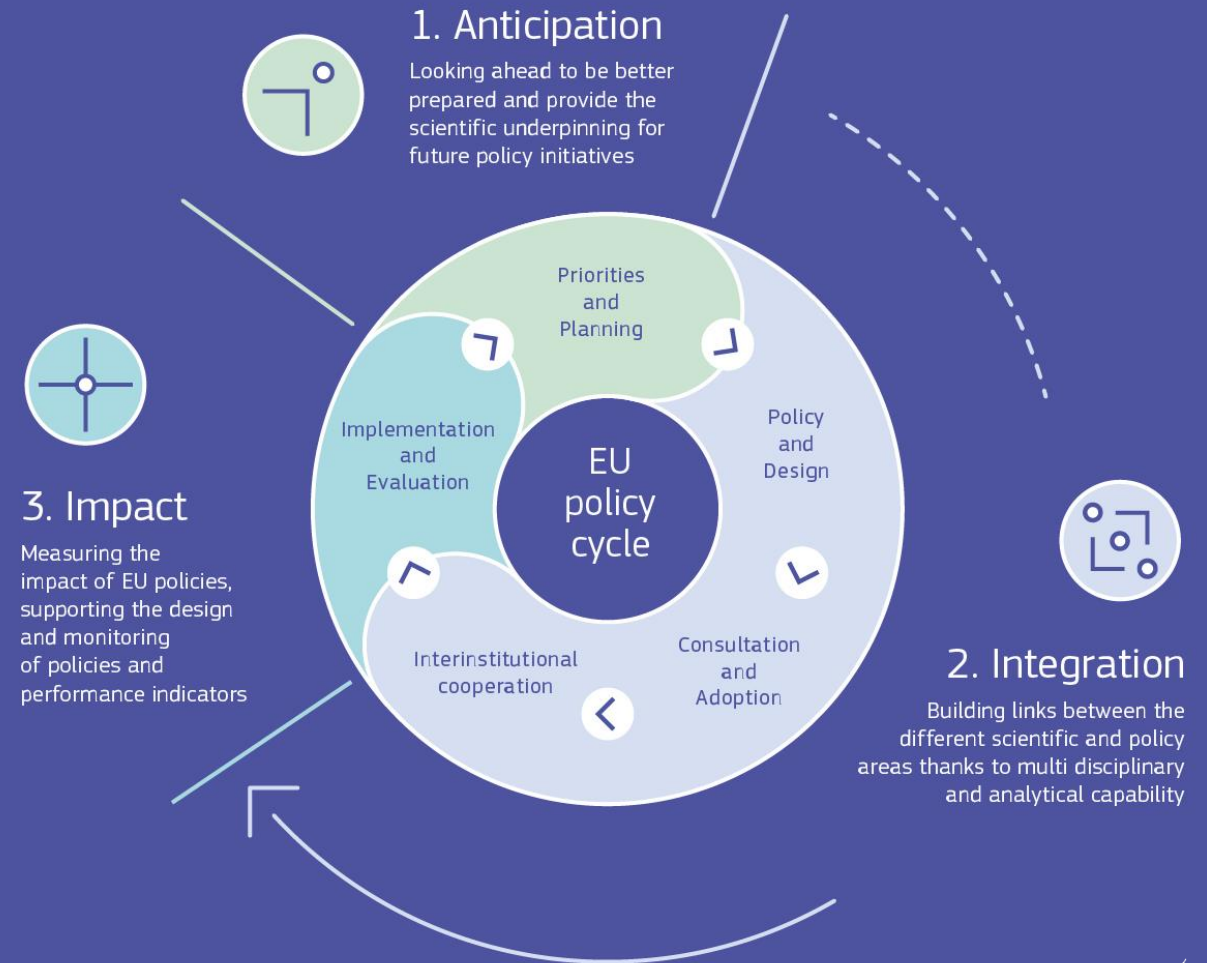
EIPM is not purely a technical matter: how a problem is framed determines what research is needed, what evidence counts and what should be ignored.

Evidence throughout the policy cycle



The JRC's three core strengths underpin the full EU policy cycle

The JRC's three core strengths underpin the full EU policy cycle



25 research portfolios to support Commission priorities

- A new plan for Europe's sustainable prosperity and competitiveness
- A new era for European Defence and Security
- Supporting people, strengthening our societies and our social model
- Sustaining our quality of life: food security, water and nature
- Protecting our democracy, upholding our values
- A global Europe: Leveraging our power and partnerships
- Delivering together and preparing our Union for the future

- | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| <p>1 Just, competitive and sustainable green transition</p> | <p>2 Energy solutions</p> | <p>3 Pathways to climate neutrality</p> | <p>4 Nuclear safety – technology and skills</p> | <p>5 Small modular reactors and innovative reactor systems</p> |
| <p>6 Future transport, mobility and related infrastructure</p> | <p>7 Sustainable materials and products for a circular, resilient and competitive Europe</p> | <p>8 Digital transformation: technologies, cybersecurity, and socio-economic impact</p> | <p>9 Artificial intelligence and data</p> | <p>10 Financial and economic drivers of competitiveness</p> |
| <p>11 Strategic technologies for economic security and innovative industrial ecosystems</p> | <p>12 Blueprints for a strong European Health Union</p> | <p>13 Synergies for a stronger EU in space, security and defence</p> | <p>14 Societal resilience, systemic disruptive events and risks: enhancing anticipation, preparedness, and response</p> | <p>15 Science for security and law enforcement</p> |
| <p>16 Nuclear safeguards</p> | <p>17 Demographic resilience and effective migration strategies</p> | <p>18 Economic, social and territorial intelligence and impact</p> | <p>19 Zero pollution, biodiversity restoration and natural capita accounting</p> | <p>20 Transition to more resilient and sustainable food systems in an EU and global context</p> |
| <p>21 Coherent policies through Earth observation intelligence</p> | <p>22 Climate adaptation and water resilience</p> | <p>23 Innovation for democracy and public governance</p> | <p>24 Science for Global Gateway and neighbourhood policy, including enlargement</p> | <p>25 Foresight, support to science and innovative policymaking</p> |



Innovation for democracy and public governance

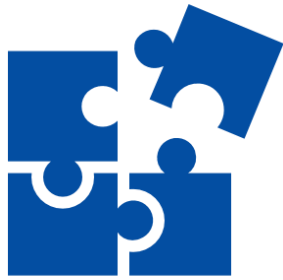


Scan the QR code to visit:

https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/scientific-portfolios/democracy-and-public-governance_en



EIPM main pillars



Institutional environment:
connections &
coordination



Individual capacities:
competences
and inter-
sectoral
understanding



Good governance of evidence use: Limits of science and policymaking

European Commission (2022), *COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT Supporting and connecting policymaking in the Member States with scientific Research*, SWD(2022) 346 final. Available at: <https://europa.eu/!8DwdnF>



Main objectives of the Competence Frameworks

WHY?



Create a comprehensive overview of competences



Inspire & provide orientation for policymakers

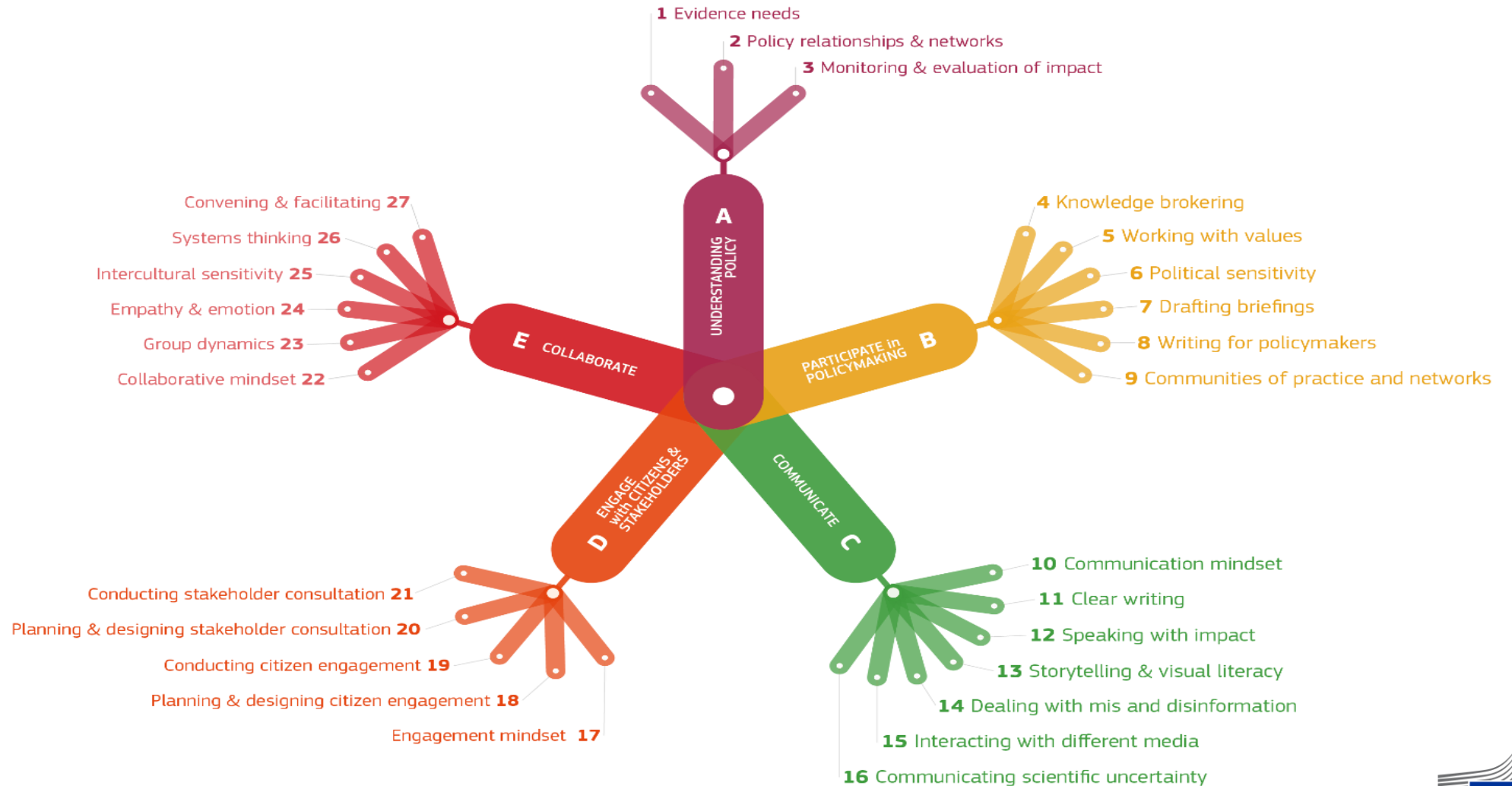


Provide actionable insights for capacity building

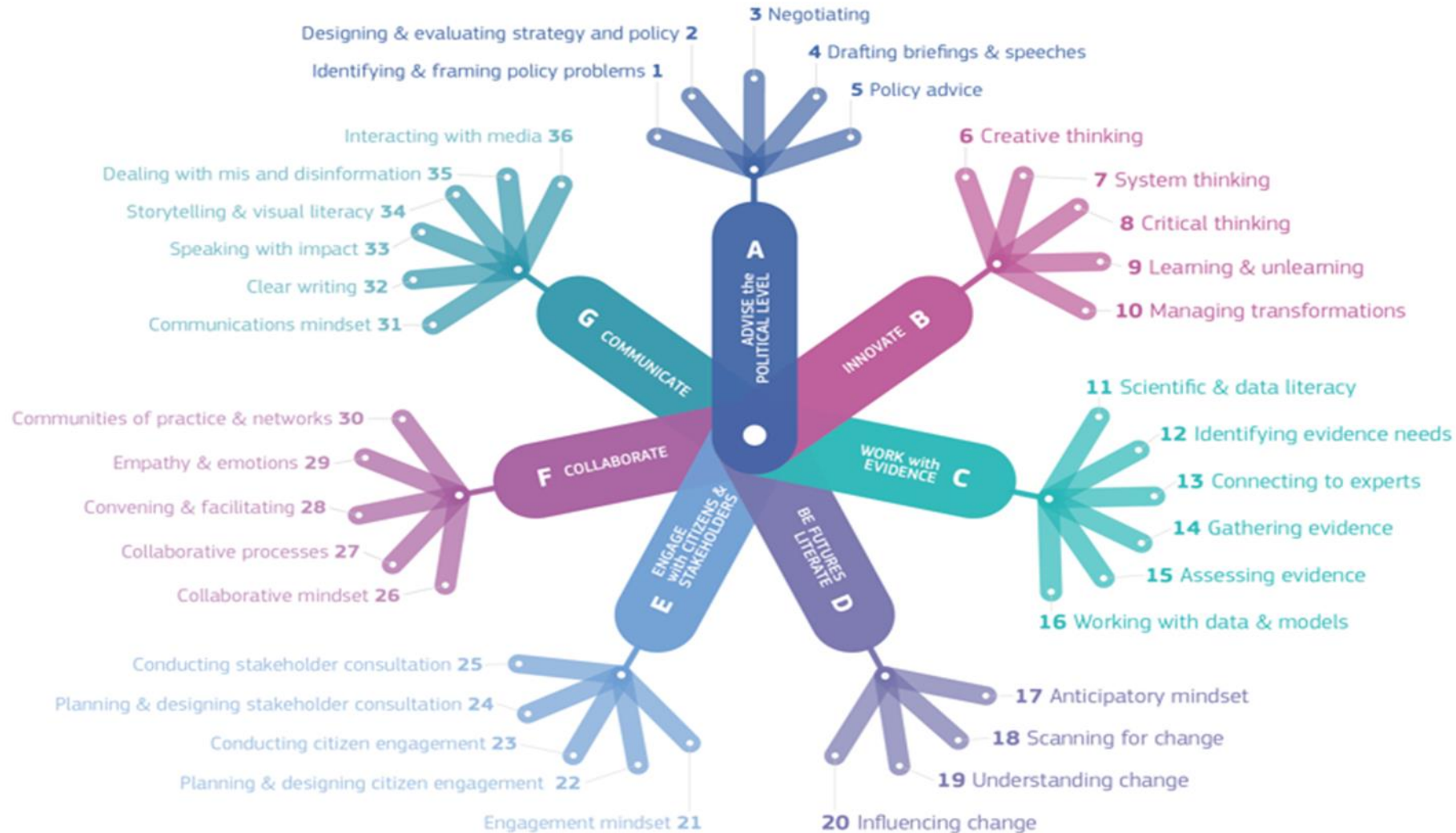


Highlight & mainstream novel and best practice

'Science for Policy' Competence Framework for Researchers



'Innovative Policymaking' Competence Framework for policymakers



A Competence Framework for knowledge brokers is under development which...



WILL MAP THE
RELEVANT
COMPETENCES



ESTABLISH THE
GROUND FOR A
RECOGNIZABLE
NEW PROFESSION



IDENTIFY, ASSESS
AND REWARD THE
SKILLS NEEDED
FOR THIS
PROFESSION



ALLOW THE
'DE FACTO'
KNOWLEDGE
BROKERS TO
IDENTIFY
THEMSELVES WITH
THIS JOB



CAN BE THE
BASIS FOR JOB
DESCRIPTION(S)

The Smart4Policy self reflection tool

Smart4Policy

European Commission > EU Science Hub > Smart4Policy >

Smart4Policy – Reflect about your work on policy!



- Smart4Policy is an online self-reflection tool. Its purpose is to help policymakers and researchers working in science-for-policy reflect on their level of competence in various fields.
- It helps understand the strengths and areas where improvement is needed.



How can the Smart4Policy tool be used?

Training needs analysis

Individual self assessment and teams assessment

Curriculum development

Projects – do we have the right competences?

Policy-Profession - Conversation starter

For EU institutions but also supporting Member States and Regions

- A group reflection component will be introduced soon!



JRC- S2 trainings offer on Evidence Informed Policymaking

Training for Scientists

- 2 full days training
 - Understand policy making process
 - Understand your audience
 - Be able to communicate your work
 - Be prepared for challenges
 - Speak with impact

Training for policy makers

- 3 half days training
 - Evidence Informed PolicyMaking (EIPM) throughout the policy cycle
 - Identifying evidence needs
 - Gathering evidence
 - Navigating and assessing evidence
 - Scientific/Systems thinking



A few reflections...



Ecosystem approach:
Actors, Institutions,
Procedures



Evidence works in a
different way across policy
areas (**evidence cultures**)



Its important to develop a
**common understanding
and language** on what
EIPM is



The **institutional
framework** affects the
(systematic or not) use of
evidence



Developing the **mindset
and skills** for EIPM is
essential in parallel of
developing the
infrastructures




Scientists and policymakers
need to understand and be
clear on the **challenges**

Science of EIPM: previous research



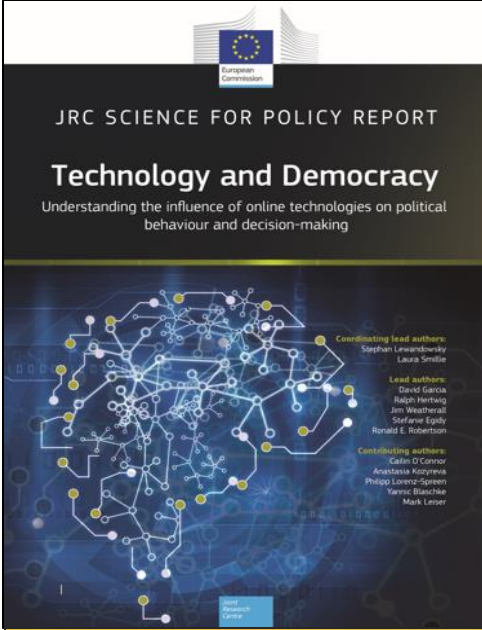
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UNDERSTANDING OUR POLITICAL NATURE
HOW TO PUT KNOWLEDGE AND REASON AT THE HEART OF POLITICAL DECISION-MAKING



Joint Research Centre
EUR 29703 EN


2019



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JRC SCIENCE FOR POLICY REPORT

Technology and Democracy
Understanding the influence of online technologies on political behaviour and decision-making



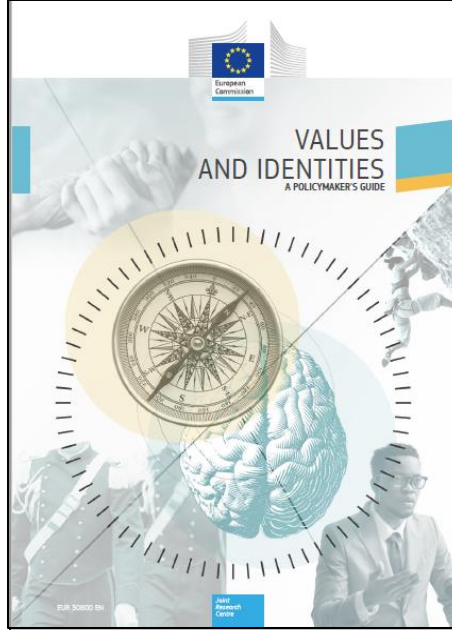
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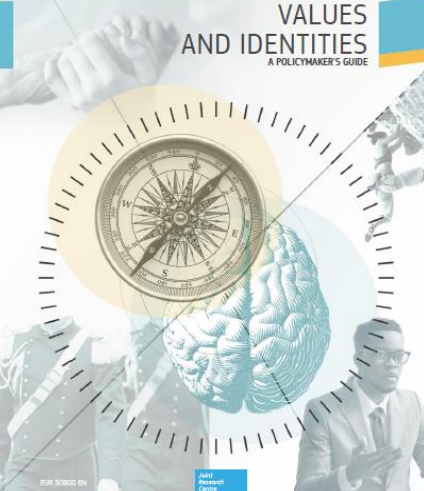
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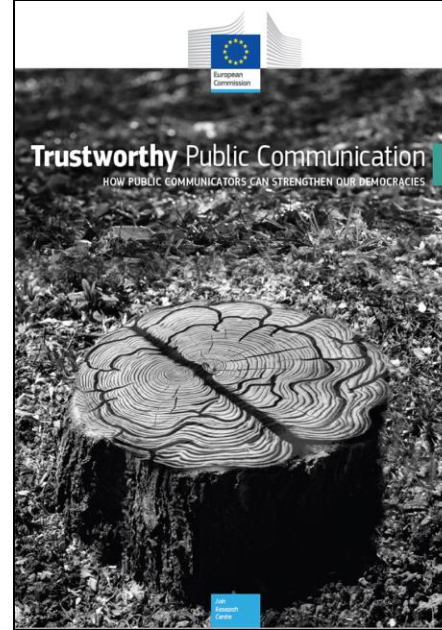
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VALUES AND IDENTITIES
A POLICYMAKER'S GUIDE



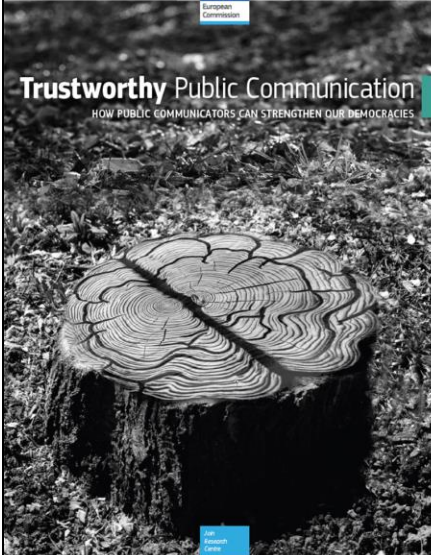
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Trustworthy Public Communication
HOW PUBLIC COMMUNICATORS CAN STRENGTHEN OUR DEMOCRACIES



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FRACTURED REALITY
HOW DEMOCRACY CAN WIN THE GLOBAL STRUGGLE OVER THE INFORMATION SPACE



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2026

2026



European Community of Practice on Evidence-informed Policymaking (EIPM)

Purpose

Supporting and connecting those who are at the forefront of building the institutional infrastructure and practical expertise needed to strengthen evidence-informed policymaking ecosystems in Europe (incl. science for policy).

Activities

- Member-led projects, e.g., building library of practical resources for knowledge brokers
- Webinars and online discussions on questions of common interest
- In-person events to build new and lasting connections



Links to materials

- [10 Tips for Researchers for Policy Impact](#)
- [Smart4Policy Self-assessment Tool](#)
- [Competence frameworks on Science4Policy \(both for scientists and policymakers\)](#)
- [Trainings: 2-day training course for scientists on “Science4Policy” \(materials\) and Training on ‘Working with Evidence’ for policymakers](#)
- [Staff Working Document on Science4Policy](#)
- [Council Conclusions on Science4Policy](#)
- [JRC’s portal to evidence-informed policymaking materials & community](#)

Thank you! Questions?



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