International Conference

Evidence for Policymakers 2021

Creating a Learning Government by substantiating Public Values

December 1 & 2, 2021, The Hague, The Netherlands

Preceded by the 'Better Algorithms for Better Policies' seminar, Nov. 30

Target groups

Strategists in governments on international, national and sub-national and local level

Policy oriented academia, coordinators of policy research

Governmental science advisors, governmental data scientists

Policy evaluators, knowledge mobilizers

Organized by





Partners



Evidence for Policymakers

Background

After its first edition last December (which was inspired by the <u>Hague Recommendations</u> and was visited by 330 attendees from 22 countries), the Evidence for Policymakers conference invites policymakers, evaluators, academia, research managers, science advisers and knowledge brokers to continue the discussion on issues that influence our capacity to enhance the development and practical use of evidence for policymakers. The conference is organized back to back with the seminar on Better Algorithms for Better Policy, where on November 30 we will explore how governmental institutions can better organize data driven policymaking including the use of Artificial Intelligence for the public good.

The momentum for evidence informed policymaking remains high around the globe; the COVID-19 pandemic has generated clear-cut illustrations of the importance of reliable and accessible data of multidisciplinary research to improve the robustness of policymaking. More and less related to those manifestations, actors from both the academic field and governmental bodies have started ambitious initiatives to structure and intensify the interaction between research and policy. In The Netherlands, to name one example, the interdepartmental operation 'Insight into Quality' has led to the adoption of Strategic Evaluation Agenda's (an agenda for evaluating policy-effectiveness and -efficiency during the whole policy cycle) for all ministries.

On 1 and 2 December, the recently launched global network of <u>STEPPS</u> (Strengthening and Transferring Evidence for Policy and Politics *Society*) assembles and shares inspiring initiatives on regional, local and international level. **On the first day**, we aim to position the (potential) role of research for policymakers. Overall, topics that we will address include:

Building Evidence for Effective Policy Interventions

- The role of academics and public research to develop evidence for more effective policies
- What are the requirements for the responsible yet targeted uses of algorithms, Artificial Intelligence and big data?
- How can we set up RCT's and experimental policies to assess the effectiveness of policies?
- How can we substantiate evidence informed politics?

Mobilizing evidence from research to policymaking

- Making evidence more accessible on a regional, national and international level
- What role can evidence-databases play?
- Developing user-friendly research ecosystems within governments.

On the second day, we will explore how governmental institutions can be organized best to stimulate the uptake and application of relevant research, and become a *learning government*. Topics we will address include:

- The role of evaluation; positioning ex-ante, -durante and -post evaluation; and the use of Big Data in these methods
- Strategic Evaluation Agenda's; what are they, how do we substantiate them and how do we address strategic hurdles?
- How to set and meet evidence based policy targets through the Deliverology methodology
- (Re)defining, assessing and delivering the public value of governments
- Involving citizens in stimulating evidence informed policymaking.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to The Hague for two inspiring and impactful days!

Programme Wednesday December 1

08.45 - 9.15 Registration

09.15-09.30

Welcome by:

Conference Chair: Pieter Duisenberg*, Chair of The Association of Universities in the Netherlands (VSNU)

9.30-11.15 Plenary opening - Structuring the use of Public Research for better Policies

09.30 Dutch Minister

09.45 Representative Public Research organisation

Kathryn Newcomer*, Chair of STEPPS Advisory Board, Professor of Public Policy, George Washington University, and Board Member US Data Coalition, USA

Kristiann Allen*, Secretary International Network for Government Science Advice INGSA

David Mair*, Head of Unit, Knowledge for Policy, European Commission

10.45 Panel discussion and Q&A

11.15-11.45 Break

11.45-13.00 Parallel session - Building Evidence for effective policy interventions

Big data & AI for Evidence

Designing Labs for Experimental Policies

How to improve evidence-informed politics

Chair: Dan Chenok, Executive Director at IBM Center for the Business of Government, US

Timothy Persons*, Chief Scientist and Managing Director, Science, Technology Assessment, and Analytics at GAO, US

Euan Adie*, CEO at Overton.io, UK

Chair: Jaakko Kuosmanen*, Founder & Chief Coordinator Science Advice Initiative of Finland

Niels-Ingvar Boer*, Chief Science Officer, Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, NL

Koenraad Debackere*, Professor Technology– and Innovationmanagement & Innovation Policy, KU Leuven

Jean-Claude Burgelman*, Editor-in-Chief of the Frontiers Policy Labs, Switserland

Chair:

Haroon Bhorat*, Director of Policy Research Unit, University of Cape Town & Member of the Presidential Economic Advisory Council, South Africa

Sarah Foxen*, Knowledge Exchange Lead at the Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology, UK

Hans Rijs*, Director XI Region, IIMC, NL

13.00- 14.00 Lunch

Programme Wednesday December 1

Times in CET

14.00–15.15 Parallel sessions - Mobilising Knowledge: Transferring evidence from research to policymaking

From research synthesis to evidence

National initiatives

Establishing a Research-Policy-Politics Ecosystem

Chair: **David Gough***, Director of the EPPI-Centre and Professor of Evidence-Informed Policy, University College London, UK

Tamara Lotfi, coordinator, Global Evidence Synthesis Initiative, Canada

Chair: Roger Pielke*, Professor Environmental Studies, University of Colorado, USA

Jeanet Bruil*, Head of the Dutch Research Agenda (NWA), Dutch Research Council, Netherlands

James Canton*, Deputy Director for Public Policy and Engagement, Economic and Social Research Council, UK Chair: **Jonathan Breckon*,** Visiting Fellow King's College London & Founder of the Alliance for Useful Evidence, UK

Rien Rouw*, Strategic Advisor, Ministry of Education, Culture & Science, the Netherlands

Maria Höyssä, Senior Advisor, Committee for the Future, Parliament of Finland

Nina Hobbhahn, Scientific Policy Officer, Sapea, Germany

15.15-15.45 Break

15.45 - 16.45 X Interactive panel - Optimising Evidence-informed Policymaking through research

15.45 - 16.05 Recommendations for the closing panel, presented by the chairs of the parallel sessions

Moderator:

Pieter Duisenberg*, Chair of The Association of Universities in the Netherlands (VSNU)

Panel Members

Nick Rodriguez*, CEO of the Delivery Associates, USA

Roger Pielke*, Professor of Environmental Studies, University of Collerado, USA

Laurens Hessels*, Senior Researcher and coordinator research quality, Rathenau Instituut, the Netherlands

Paul Cairney*, Professor of Politics and Public Policy, University of Stirling

16.45 Closing remarks & reception

Programme Thursday December 2

Times in CET

| Times in CE I | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| 08.45 - 09.15 | Registration | Registration | | | | | | |
| 09.15- 9.30 | Welcome by the Conference Co-Chair: Peter van der Knaap* , Director of the International Research & Policy Evaluation Directorate, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chair of the Dutch Association for Policy Evaluation (Vide) | | | | | | | |
| 9.30- 11.00 | Plenary opening - Redefining, Realising and Assessing Public Value | | | | | | | |
| 09.30 | Sir Geoff Mulgan* | | Professor of Collective Intelligence, Public Policy and Social Innovation at University College London, UK | | | | | |
| 09.50 Sir Michael Barber* | | Former Head of the Prime Ministry's Delivery Unit, UK & Founder and Chairman, Delivery Associates, USA | | | | | | |
| 10.10 | Pieter Hasekamp* | | Director at the Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis (CPB) | | | | | |
| 10.30 | Panel discussion and Q&A | | | | | | | |
| 11.00-11.30 | 0-11.30 Lunch | | | | | | | |
| 11.30 - 12.45 Parallel sessions - Creating a solid foundation for evidence-informed policy | | | | | | | | |
| what is its added value. | | The Practice hurdles and d structured e | ilemma's for | Organising evidence internally for better informed policies | Coping with paradigm shifts on public value | | | |
| Chair: Kathryn Newcomer*, Chair of STEPPS Advisory Board, Professor in the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration at the George Washington University, USA Odette van de Riet*, Head of the Strategic Analysis Office, Ministry of Finance, the Netherlands | | Chair: Patricia Paskov*, Consultant at the World Bank Group & PhD Researcher at European University Institute Ashraf Bakr Al-Shareef*, Consultant in Monitoring and Evaluation and the institutionalization of RBM, Egypt Representative SIRA Consulting* | | Chair: Anna Needs*, Associate Director, Delivery Associates, Australia Matthew Flinders*, Chair of the University Policy Engagement Network (UPEN), UK Ben Taylor*, Deputy Head, Open Innovation Team, UK | Chair: Matthijs Janssen*, Principal Scientist, Dialogic, The Netherlands Tom Kecskemethy, Executive Director at the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences, US John Connolly*, Chair in Public Policy, University of the West of Scotland, Scotland | | | |
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Ministry

Times in CET

Programme Thursday December 2

XII Roundtables - Group discussions: Involving citizens and other stakeholders in evidence-informed

| 13.45–14.30 <i>policy</i> | | |
|--|--|--|
| International / regional | National | Coping with alternative facts |
| Coordinators: | Coordinators: | Coordinators: |
| Ângela Guimaraes Pereira*, | Mariëtte Oosterwegel*, | Alexander Pleijter, factchecking expert, |
| Team Leader, Centre on Participatory | Projectleader Samenweten, Royal | FactRank, Universiteit Leiden |
| and Deliberative Democracy, JRC | Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences | Bettina Berendt, professor for Internet |
| Silvio Funtowicz*, Guest Researcher, | Tracey Brown*, Director Sense about | and Society, TU Berlin |
| Centre for the Study of the Sciences and the Humanities, University of Bergen, | Science, UK | |

| Data and Democracy | Assessing public benefits | |
|--|--|--|
| Coordinators: | Coordinators: | |
| David Budtz Pedersen*, edge Broker for Algorithms, Data & Democracy (ADD), Denmark | Representative SIRA Consulting* | |
| | | |
| | Coordinators: David Budtz Pedersen*, edge Broker for Algorithms, Data & | |

Norway

15.00 - 16.00 Closing panel - Recommendations for becoming and/or improving a learning government

15.00 - 15.20 Recommendations for the closing panel, presented by the chairs of the parallel sessions

15.20 - 16.00 Closing debate

Moderator:

Kathryn Newcomer*, Chair of STEPPS Advisory Board, Professor in the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration at the George Washington University, USA

Panel Members:

Barend van der Meulen*, Full Professor Institutional Aspects of Higher Education, University of Twente, NL

Joost Sneller*, Member of the House of Representatives for D66, NL

Tracey Brown*, Director Sense about Science, UK

Beth Snow*, Vice President of the Canadian Evaluation Society (CES), Canada

16.00 Closing remarks & reception

*=Confirmed