

International Conference

Evidence for Policymakers 2021

*Creating a Learning Government by
substantiating Public Values*

December 1 & 2, 2021

The Hague, The Netherlands

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

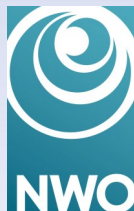
Organized by

STEPPS
Strengthening & Transferring Evidence
for Policies & Politics Society



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Rijksoverheid



EUROPEAN
EVALUATION
SOCIETY

DATA
COALITION

Rathenau Instituut

Evidence for Policymakers

Background

After its first edition last December (which was inspired by the [Hague Recommendations](#) 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 [STEPPS](#) (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 **Representatives of International Best Practices from:**

Mondli Gungubele, Minister of the Departement Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation of the Republic of South Africa

Reporting on the “Data for Policy conference”: **Nick Hart***, President US Data Foundation

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: Sana Khareghani, Head of the UK Government Office for Artificial Intelligence

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

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

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

Chair:

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

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 Ecosystem within
Governments

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

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

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

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

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 Environmental Studies, University of Colorado, USA

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

16.45 Closing remarks & reception

Programme Thursday December 2

Times in CET

08.45 - 09.15 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

10.30 Panel discussion and Q&A

11.00-11.30 Lunch

11.30 - 12.45 Parallel sessions - Creating a solid foundation for evidence-informed policy

The Basics: What is a Strategic Evaluation Plan, what is its added value, and how to start

The Practice: Strategic hurdles and dilemma's for structured evaluations

Organising evidence 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

Representative Dutch Ministry

Chair: **Anna Needs***, Associate Director, Delivery Associates, Australia

Matthew Flinders*, Chair of the University Policy Engagement Network (UPEN), UK

Chair: **Matthijs Janssen***, Principal Scientist, Dialogic, The Netherlands

Krista Brower, CES Chair, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Environmental Sustainability Committee (2021-2022), Canadian Evaluation Society

12.45– 13.45 Lunch

13.45– 14.30 XII Roundtables - Group discussions: *Involving citizens and other stakeholders in evidence-informed*

International

National

Regional/Local

Coordinators:

David Mair*,

Head of Unit, Knowledge for Policy,
Joint Research Centre,
European Commission

Coordinators:

Mariëtte Oosterwegel*,

Projectleader Samenweten, Royal
Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences

Tracey Brown, Director Sense about
Science, UK

Coordinators:

Claudia Niessen, Mayor of Eupen,
Belgium

Policy Labs

Data and Democracy

Assessing public benefits

Coordinators:

Saba Hinrichs-Krapels*, Assistant
Professor, Delft University of
Technology

Coordinators:

David Budtz Pedersen*,
Knowledge Broker for Algorithms, Data &
Democracy (ADD), Denmark

Coordinators:

Representative SIRA Consulting

14.30 – 15.00 Break

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

Joost Sneller*, Member of the House of Representatives, NL (D66)

Tracey Brown, Director Sense about Science, UK

16.00 Closing remarks & reception