

Virtual International Conference

Evidence for Policymakers 2021

Creating a Learning Government through a better use of Public Research & 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



**Universiteit
Leiden**
Governance and
Global Affairs

Partners

Rathenau Instituut



Rijksoverheid



**DATA
COALITION**



**EUROPEAN
EVALUATION
SOCIETY**



Universities
Policy
Engagement
Network



**Transforming
Evidence**
for policy and practice



Preceded by the 30/11 STEPPS seminar
'Better Algorithms for Better Policies'

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 Words of welcome: **Erwin Muller**, Dean of the Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs, Leiden University

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

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

09.30 **Hans Brug**, Director– General, National Institute for Public Health and Environment (RIVM), The Netherlands

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

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

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

10.30 **John Lavis**, Founder Global Commission on Evidence to Address Societal Challenges

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

How to generate better insights for policymakers through the use of AI?

Chair: **Sunil Choenni**, Head Statistical Information & Policy Analysis at the Scientific Research and Documentation Centre (WODC), The Netherlands

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

Euan Adie, CEO at Overton and Founder of Altmetric, UK

Designing Labs for Experimental Policies

How can scientists help in generating experiments to make policy interventions more effective?

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

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

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

How to improve evidence-informed politics

Generating knowledge services for parliaments and parliamentarians

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

Peter Bex, Founder and Director at Sira Consulting, The Netherlands

Martin Kowarsch, Leader of the Scientific Assesments, Ethics and Politics workgroup, MCC, Germany

13.00– 14.00 Lunch

Programme Wednesday December 1

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

From research synthesis to evidence

How to generate concrete and usable evidence for policymakers out of public research

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

Mansi Wadhwa, Researcher in Public Policy and Administration, George Washington University, USA

National Initiatives for Evidence-Informed Policies

Successful national initiatives for improving policies through a better use of public research

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

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

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

James Canton, Deputy Director for Public Policy and Engagement, Economic and Social Research Council, UK

Establishing a Research-Policy-Politics Ecosystem

Generating pools of usable public knowledge for both policymakers and politicians

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

Johan Christensen, Assistant Professor at the Institute of Public Administration. University Leiden

15.15 - 15.45 **Break**

15.45 - 16.45 *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:

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:

Nick Rodriguez, CEO of the Delivery Associates, USA

Roger Pielke, Professor of Environmental Studies, University of Colorado, USA

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

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

16.45 **Closing remarks & reception**

Programme Thursday December 2

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
- 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 Break

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 within government for better informed policies

Coping with paradigm shifts on public value

How to start your evaluation strategy?

Supporting a complex evaluation ambition?

Who can help and how can we implement it?

Fundamental challenges for substantiating your policies

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

Chair: **Patricia Paskov**, Consultant at the World Bank Group & PhD Researcher at European University Institute

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

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

Odette van de Riet, Head of the Strategic Analysis Office, Ministry of Finance, The Netherlands

Ashraf Bakr Al-Shareef, Consultant in Monitoring and Evaluation and the institutionalization of RBM, Egypt

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

Tom Kecskemethy, Executive Director at the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences, US

Elianne Koch, Coordinating Advisor, Ministry of Defense, The Netherlands

Carolien Klein Haarhuis, Senior Consultant, Ministry of Finance, The Netherlands

Ben Taylor, Deputy Head, Open Innovation Team, UK

Nick Rodriguez, CEO of the Delivery Associates, USA

John Connolly, Chair in Public Policy, University of the West of Scotland, Scotland

12.45- 13.45 Lunch

Programme Thursday December 2

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

International / regional

Creating international alliances to bring in the citizens

Coordinators:

Ângela Guimaraes Pereira,

Team Leader, Centre on Participatory and Deliberative Democracy, JRC

Silvio Funtowicz, Guest Researcher, Centre for the Study of the Sciences and the Humanities, University of Bergen, Norway

National

National initiatives for involving citizens in evidence based policy

Coordinators:

Mariëtte Oosterwegel,

Projectleader Samenweten, Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences

Tracey Brown, Director Sense about Science, UK

Policy Labs

How can we engage citizens and other stakeholders to bring evidence to policymaking?

Coordinators:

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

Niek Mouter, Assistant Professor, Delft University of Technology

Data and Democracy

How algorithms and AI can influence democratic processes

Coordinators:

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

Alexander Pleijter, factchecking expert, FactRank, University Leiden

Assessing public value

A systematic approach for measuring public benefits and public value

Coordinators:

Evelien den Boer, Senior Consultant at Sira Consulting, The Netherlands

Michel Bloemheuvel, Senior Consultant at Sira Consulting, The Netherlands

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, 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**