



Science for Policy *in Europe* Conference

*“Building forward better science for
policy ecosystem in Europe”*

10-11 October 2023

[Register now!](#)

Scientific
Advice
Mechanism



SCOPE

Scientific knowledge and evidence are vital to inform policymaking, to help us identify and analyse problems, and to design effective interventions.

However, in the current poly-crisis landscape, facts are uncertain, values are in dispute, stakes are high, and decisions are urgent. So, a simple statement of scientific evidence is not enough. Instead, we need a systemic approach that engages with complex, cross-cutting policy challenges — which means science advice systems must make use of interdisciplinary evidence and expertise, a good understanding of policy needs, and the ability to communicate across policy sectors.

Policy challenges arise across various time horizons, and different challenges require different responses. Modes of scientific advice that are useful in emergency situations — floods, volcanic ash clouds, public health emergencies or energy crises — are rarely the same as those required for long-term foresight and horizon-scanning.

In a world where governance and scientific expertise are both under close scrutiny, policies that are based on solid scientific advice — generated from the best available evidence, by well-functioning science-for-policy ecosystems — also offer something more: the prospect of rebuilding public confidence in science. This confidence will be vital if we are to respond effectively to the complex problems that our societies face, both today and in the future.





ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

“Science for Policy ecosystems should bolster our capacity to take on the complex challenges of our time in a comprehensive and efficient manner”

Marc Lemaître

Director-General for Research and Innovation European Commission

This major public conference is designed to answer the following questions:

- What are the trends, challenges, and opportunities for the future of evidence-informed policymaking?
- How can we build stronger science-for-policy institutions, networks, and ecosystems in Europe?
- How can we develop the competencies and skills needed for effective science-for-policy mechanisms?
- How can we improve the governance of science for policy?

While there is broad agreement that policies should be informed by the best available scientific knowledge, the uptake of science into policymaking remains patchy and often ad hoc across different policy fields and member states.

Following the publication of the European Commission’s Staff Working Document on ‘Supporting and connecting policymaking in the Member States with scientific research’ in October 2022, the COMPET Council of December 2022 welcomed the discussion on the role of science in member states’ policymaking, acknowledging that the subject is important and timely in view of current and emerging challenges. The European Commission therefore has an important role to play in supporting EU member states to improve the uptake of science into policymaking.

Who should attend?

The conference will bring together policymakers, science advisors, researchers, ethics experts, and other professionals in science-for-policy ecosystems.

Event format

This will be a hybrid event, with participation possible both in person and online. The physical part will be held in Brussels at the hotel nhow Brussels Bloom (Rue Royale / Koningsstraat 250, 1210 Brussels).



Sessions will be interactive and allow for participants to join in the debates.

SESSION FORMATS

Café session A café session is a creative process designed to generate a lively dialogue and exchange of knowledge on a specified topic. The participants are split into smaller groups of 5 to 7 people to discuss the topic whilst seated around individual tables. The composition of the group changes as each participant moves to another table after a short period of time. One person always remains at the table as host and, by doing so, ensures that exchange of knowledge is captured. The results of all the discussions are presented at the end of the session by the table hosts.

Fishbowls Fishbowls help to facilitate discussion in large groups. Between 3 and 6 people can talk at any one time. Those individuals are seated in the centre of the room, while the rest of the participants sit around the outside and observe. There are also several extra chairs. During the discussion, when a chair is free, any member of the audience can join the group to ask questions or make comments. Although largely self-organising once the discussion gets underway, the fishbowl process usually has a facilitator or moderator.

Ideas market In this session, small groups of participants meet a speaker presenting their experiences and ideas. Each presentation takes no more than five minutes and is followed by fifteen minutes of interaction with the audience before participants move to another speaker.

Barometer debate This is a twist on a traditional panel discussion which allows participants to explore multiple dimensions of a complex or controversial topic. The moderator presents a series of 'barometers', continuums representing different possible positions on a specific dimension. Both panellists and members of the audience are invited to position themselves anywhere along the continuum, and the reasons for different positionings are explored.



PROGRAMME

Sessions will be:

Hybrid	In-person only	Remote only
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DAY 1 - 10 October 2023

09:15 *Welcome coffee*

10:00

OPENING

The importance of Science for Policy for the European Commission and EU Member States

- **Marc Lemaître**, Director-General, European Commission Directorate-General for Research and Innovation
- **David Edvardsson**, Director General for the Research Policy Unit, Ministry of Education and Research, Sweden
- **Raquel Yotti**, Secretary-General for Research, Ministry of Science and Innovation, Spain
- **Barbara Weitgruber**, Director General for Scientific Research and International Relations, Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research, Austria, and Co-Chair of the European Research and Innovation Area Committee

Moderator: Karen Coleman

Inspire room and online

11:00 *Break*

11:15

Science for Policy: What are the trends, challenges, and opportunities for the future of science informed policymaking?

PANEL

Challenges, trends, and opportunities for the future of Science for Policy in Europe

Speakers:

- **Maria Leptin**
(President of the European Research Council)
- **Nicole Grobert**
(Chair of the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors and Professor of Nanomaterials, Department of Materials, University of Oxford)
- **Maria da Graça Carvalho**
(Member of the European Parliament) - To be confirmed
- **Leena Sarvaranta**
(Lead of the Science for Policy Foresight Expert Group)
- **Jolita Butkeviciene**
(Director, European Commission Joint Research Centre, Innovation in Science and Policymaking)

Moderator:

Karen Coleman

Inspire room and online

CAFÉ SESSION

Collective brainstorming on Science for Policy challenges, trends, and opportunities

Introducer:

Pearl Dykstra
(Scientific Director of the Open Data Infrastructure for Social Science and Economic Innovations, Netherlands, Group of Chief Scientific Advisors alumna)

Facilitator:

Gilles Laroche
(Head of Science Policy, Advice and Ethics Unit, European Commission Directorate-General for Research and Innovation)

In the Box room

CAFÉ SESSION

Collective brainstorming on Science for Policy challenges, trends, and opportunities

Introducer:

Janusz Bujnicki
(Group of Chief Scientific Advisors alumnus and Professor at International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology in Warsaw)

Facilitator:

Agnieszka Gadzina-Kolodziejska (Deputy Head of the Science for Democracy and Evidence-informed Policy Making Unit, European Commission Joint Research Centre)

Online

PANEL

Challenges and opportunities for Science for Policy in crises

Speakers:

- **Maarja Kruusmaa**
(Member of the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors and Professor of Biorobotics at the Chalmers University of Technology)
- **Barbara Prainsack**
(Chair of the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies and Professor at the Department of Political Science at the University of Vienna)
- **Tina Comes**
(Member of the Crisis Working Group at the Science Advice for Policy by European Academies and Professor at the School of Business and Economics, Maastricht)
- **Daniela di Bucci**
(Geologist for the Italian Government, Department of Civil Protection)

Moderator:

Toby Wardman
(SAPEA Head of Communications, Scientific Advice Mechanism)

Creative room 2 and online

12:30 **Lunch**

14:00

How to build stronger Science for Policy institutions and networks?

PANEL

Science for parliamentary policymaking

Speakers:

- **Marcus Scheuren** (Head of Unit, European Parliament, Panel for the Future of Science and Technology (STOA))
- **Ana Elorza** (Coordinator of the Office of Science and Technology Office of the Congress of Deputies, Spain)
- **Racha El Herfi** (Member of the Parliamentary Scientific Services of the Chamber of Deputies, Luxembourg)
- **Chris Tyler** (Director of Research and Policy, University College London, Department of Science, Technology, Engineering and Public Policy)

Moderator:

Karen Coleman

Inspire room and online

IDEAS MARKET

Building Science for Policy institutions and networks: examples from across Europe

Speakers:

- **Anne-Greet Keizer** (Research fellow and international liaison officer, Scientific Council for Government Policy, Netherlands)
- **Jaakko Kuosmanen** (Chief Coordinator of the Science Advice Initiative of Finland)
- **Filipa Vala** (Strategy Adviser at the Portuguese Competence Centre for Planning, Policy and Foresight in Public Administration)
- **Liina Eek** (Head of the Field of Science Politics at the Estonian Research Council)
- **Patrick Flammarion** (Deputy Director General for Expertise and Public Policy Support, National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment, France)

Facilitator:

David Mair (Head of the Science for Democracy and Evidence-informed Policymaking Unit, European Commission Joint Research Centre)

In the Box room

PANEL

Science for global and inter-governmental policymaking

Speakers:

- **Salvatore Aricò** (Chief Executive Officer of the International Science Council)
- **Andrea Hinwood** (Chief Scientist, United Nations Environment Programme, and Associate Professor at Edith Cowan University) - To be confirmed
- **Anne Larigauderie** (Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem)
- **Hongwei Gao** (Principal Advisor, Executive Office of the Secretary General, United Nations)
- **Scott L. Sellars** (Senior Policy Adviser, U.S. Department of State) - To be confirmed

Moderator:

Olaf Bruns

Online

PANEL

Science advice in contested complexity: lessons from food policy

Speakers:

- **Eric Lambin** (Member of the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors and Professor of Geography and Sustainability Science at the Catholic University of Louvain and Stanford University)
- **Jacqueline Broerse** (Professor at the Athena Institute, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and member of the Expert Group on International Platform for Food System Science)
- **Carlos Gonçalo das Neves** (Chief Scientist, European Food Safety Authority)
- **Olivier De Schutter** (Professor at Université catholique de Louvain/SciencesPo and former UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food) - To be confirmed

Moderator:

Toby Wardman (SAPEA Head of Communications, Scientific Advice Mechanism)

Creative room 2 and online

15:15 **Coffee break**

15:45 **How to build Science for Policy competencies and skills?**

<p>PANEL</p> <p>Policies and instruments to build capacity and skills</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr Lisa Higgins (Head of Challenge Research, Education and Public Engagement in Science Foundation Ireland)• Chloe Hill (Policy Manager of the European Geosciences Union)• Tome Sandevski (Head of the Mercator Science-Policy Fellowship-Programme, Goethe University Frankfurt) <p><i>Moderator:</i> Olaf Bruns</p> <p><i>Inspire room and online</i></p>	<p>CAFÉ SESSION</p> <p>How to build Science for Policy competences for early-career researchers?</p> <p><i>Introducer:</i> YASAS – to be confirmed</p> <p>Anastasia Deligkiaouri (Policy Analyst at the Science for Democracy and Evidence-informed Policymaking Unit of the European Commission Joint Research Centre)</p> <p><i>Facilitator:</i> Stephany Mazon (Scientific Policy Officer, Young Academies Science Advice Structure)</p> <p><i>In the Box room</i></p>	<p>CAFÉ SESSION</p> <p>How to train the next generation of Knowledge brokers?</p> <p><i>Introducer:</i> Gun Rudquist (Head of Policy at the Baltic Sea Centre, Stockholm University)</p> <p><i>Facilitator:</i> Kristian Krieger (Policy analyst at the Science for Democracy and Evidence-informed Policymaking Unit, European Commission Joint Research Centre)</p> <p><i>Online</i></p>	<p>PANEL</p> <p>How to build Science for Policy capacity in national public administrations?</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stéphane Jacobzone (Senior Advisor for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development)• Agnieszka Gadzina (Deputy Head of the Democracy and Evidence-informed Policymaking Unit, European Commission Joint Research Centre) <p><i>Moderator:</i> Daniele Dotto (Head of the Governance and Public Administration Unit, European Commission Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support)</p> <p><i>Creative room 2 and online</i></p>
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17:00 **Break**

17:15 **PLENARY**
Take away with rapporteurs from each parallel session

Moderator: Olaf Bruns

Inspire room and online

18:00 **Networking cocktail**

DAY 2 - 11 October 2023

08:45 *Welcome coffee*

09:15

OPENING

Reforming policymaking: What changes are needed to bring science and public administration closer together?

Mario Nava, Director-General, European Commission Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support

Moderator: Olaf Bruns

Inspire room and online

09:30

PANEL

What can research policy do to support science for policy?

Speakers:

- **Magda de Carli** (Head of the European Semester & Country Intelligence Unit, European Commission Directorate-General for Research and Innovation)
- **Maria Chiara Carrozza** (President of the National Research Council, Italy)
- **Javier Moreno Fuentes** (Vice-President for International Affairs, National Research Council (CSIC), Spain)
- **Nora van der Wenden** (Director for research and science policy, Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, Netherlands)

Moderator: Olaf Bruns

Inspire room and online

10:30 *Coffee Break*

PANEL**Incentivising and measuring Science for Policy impact****Speakers:**

- **Gaby Umbach** (Co-Principal of the Interdisciplinary Research Cluster on 'Crisis of Expert Knowledge and Authority' at the European University Institute)
- **Barbara Albiger** (Principal expert in Scientific Quality at European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control)
- **Kathryn Oliver** (Associate Professor of Sociology and Public Health London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and Co-Lead of the community 'Transforming Evidence')

Moderator:

Olaf Bruns

*Inspire room and online***CAFÉ SESSION****Co-designing a code of practice on the uptake of scientific knowledge in policymaking****Introducer:**

Kirsi Haavisto
(Head of the Valorisation Policies & IPR Unit, European Commission Directorate-General for Research and Innovation)

Facilitator:

Jacques Verraes
(Deputy Head of the Science Policy, Advice and Ethics Unit, European Commission Directorate-General for Research and Innovation)

*In the Box room***BAROMETER DEBATE****Ethics and values in science for policy****Speakers:**

- **Heather Douglas** (Associate Professor, Michigan State University, Center for Philosophy of Science)
- **Marcel Jeroen van den Hoven** (Member of the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies, and Professor of Ethics and Technology at Delft University)
- **Ron Iphofen** (Principal Investigator of PRO-RES: ethical evidence for policymaking)
- **Siobhán O'Sullivan** (Executive Director of the Royal Irish Academy and chair of the Steering Committee for Human Rights in the fields of Biomedicine and Health, Council of Europe)
- **Steven Van Gucht** (Government advisor, Head of the Division of Viral Diseases in humans at Sciensano, Belgium)

Moderator:

Toby Wardman
(SAPEA Head of Communications, Scientific Advice Mechanism)

*Online***PANEL****What are the ingredients for a successful advisory body?****Speakers:**

- **Malin Mobjörk** (Deputy Head of Department for Environment at the Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development, and chair of the Science Europe Working Group on the Green and Digital Transition)
- **Cathrine Holst** (Professor at the Department of Philosophy, University of Oslo and leader of the research project 'The influence of experts on public policy')
- **Antonio Loprieno** (Chair of the SAPEA Board, president of ALLEA)
- **David Budtz Pedersen** (Professor of science communication and science policy studies, Aalborg University, Denmark)

Moderator:

Karen Coleman

Creative room 2 and online

12:30

PLENARY

Take away messages from the parallel sessions

Moderator: Olaf Bruns

Inspire room and online

13:00

Lunch

14:00

The way forward

14:30

Fishbowls: How can we build better Science for Policy ecosystems in Europe?

Moderator: Karen Coleman

Inspire room and online

15:15

Break

15:30

CLOSING

What next?

Speakers:

- **Stephen Quest**, Director-General, European Commission Joint Research Centre
- **Joanna Drake**, Deputy Director-General, European Commission Directorate-General for Research and Innovation
- **Lionel Bonjean**, Director General, Service Public Wallon Economie, Emploi, Recherche

Moderator: Karen Coleman

Inspire room and online

16:00

End of the Conference

Conference website:

<https://science-for-policy-europe-conference.blumm.it/s4p-conference>