

# „Building capacity for evidence informed policymaking in the post-pandemic Europe”

International Science Council – European members

Annual meeting 21 November 2024

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Unit S.2 Science for Democracy and Evidence-Informed Policymaking

- ❖ About the JRC
- ❖ Why science for policy?
- ❖ The TSI project – 1.0 and 2.0
- ❖ Lessons and tips

# About the JRC

# The Joint Research Centre (JRC)

- Science and knowledge service in support of EU policies
- Directorate General under Commissioner responsible for Research and Innovation
- Board of Member States Governors
- 2000+ scientists, across 6 sites and different Knowledge Centres and Competency Centres
- Yearly over 2800 peer-reviewed publications



# Over 50 JRC facilities – some examples

Virtual tour at <https://visitors-centre.jrc.ec.europa.eu/en/media?type=8>

European  
Laboratory for  
Structural  
Assessment  
(ELSA)



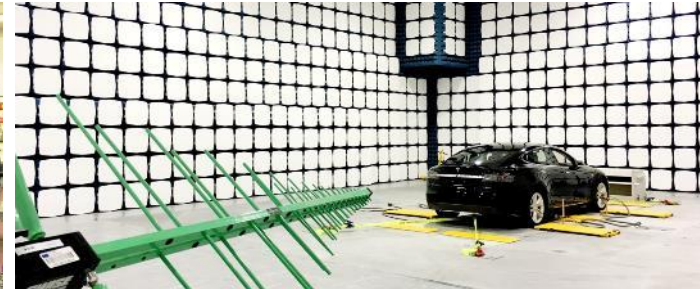
Hopkinson  
Bar facility  
(HOPLAB)



Vehicle Emission  
Laboratory (VELA)+  
vehicle Market  
Surveillance  
Laboratory



European  
Interoperability  
Centre for Electric  
Vehicles and  
Smart Grids



Battery Testing  
Facility Laboratory



Nuclear Forensic  
Laboratory





# Science for policy – the JRC's mission



ANTICIPATE



INTEGRATE



IMPACT

## Our purpose

The Joint Research Centre provides independent, evidence-based knowledge and science, supporting EU policies to positively impact society.

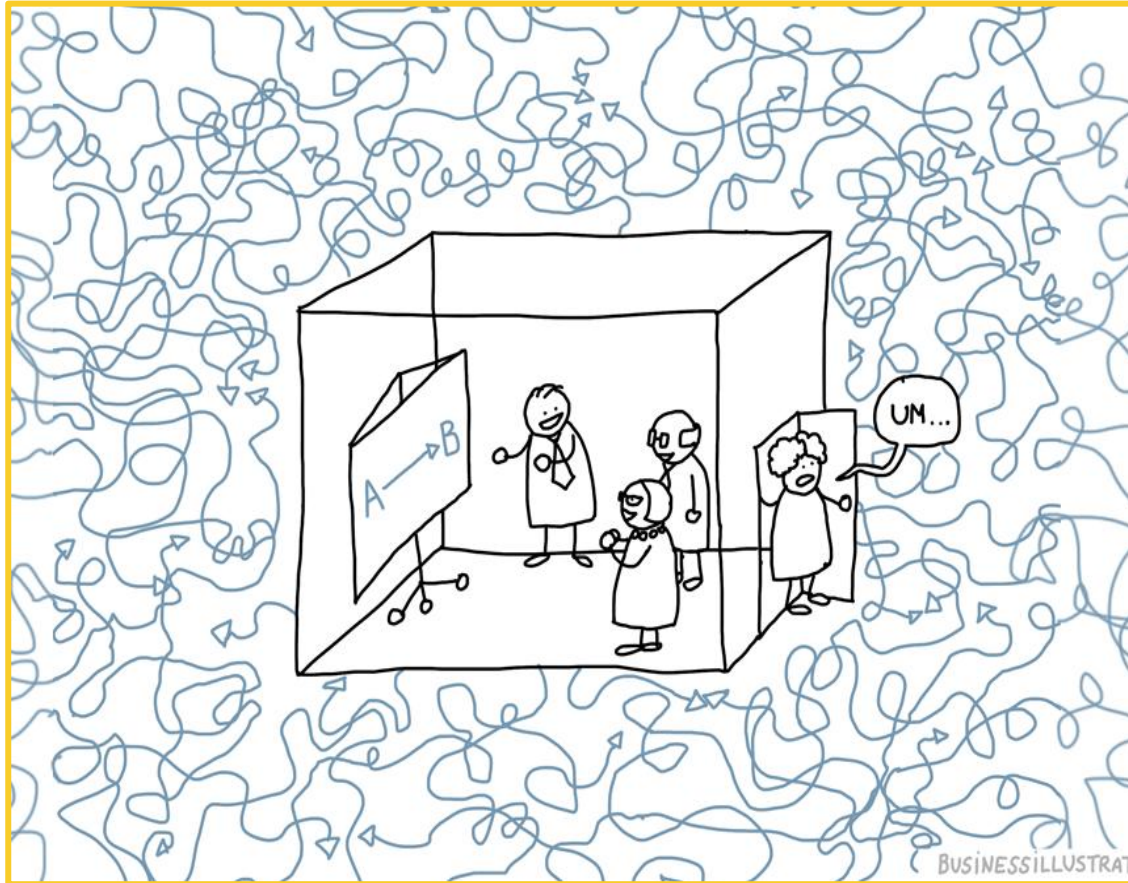
# Why science for policy?

- evidence and governance hand in hand

*“If I have a thousand ideas  
and only one turns out to be good,  
I am satisfied.”*

– Alfred Nobel

# Why do we need evidence-informed policymaking?



We live in **complex** societies, with multiple crises and **diverse perspectives** on how to address policy challenges

Evidence provides us with the **best available picture of reality** to make informed and robust policy choices

**Evidence can help inform our policy decisions** at different stages of the policymaking process and make more robust decisions

Source: <https://www.businessillustrator.com/product/complexity-cartoon/>



# Evidence use good for democracy

## Citizen demand for evidence-informed policymaking



Almost 7 out of 10 European citizens (68%) agree:

“Scientists should intervene in political debate to ensure that decisions take into account scientific evidence”

Eurobarometer of Science and Technology, Sept 2021

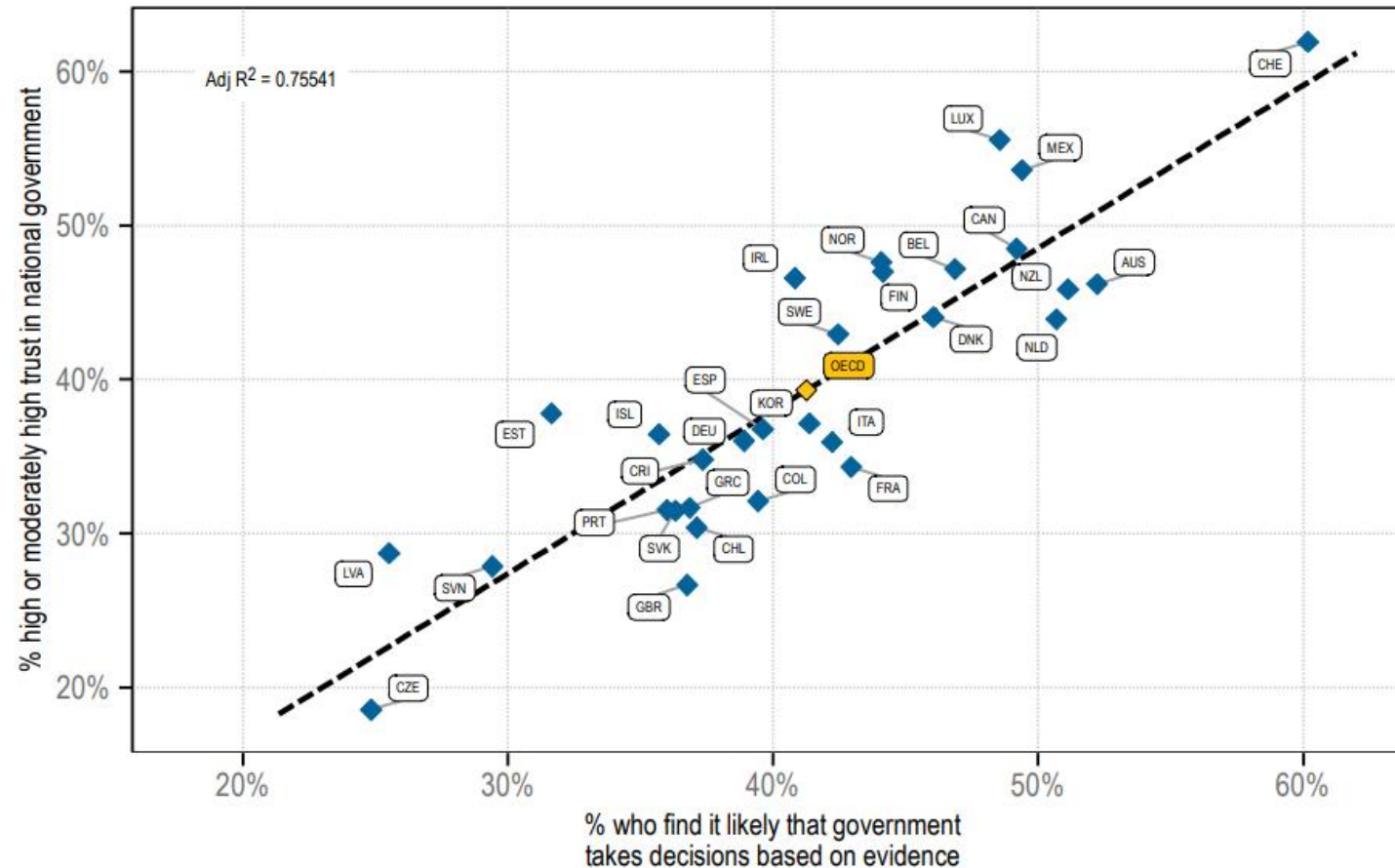
## Fake news and misinformation



Almost 4 out of 10 respondents (37%) come across *fake news* every day or almost everyday

Flash Eurobarometer 464, 2018

# Evidence use – building trust in governments

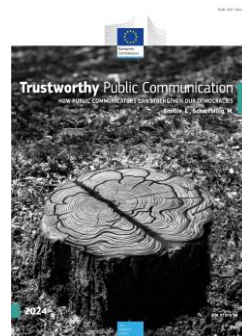
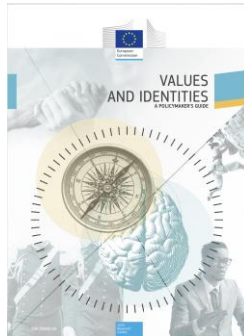
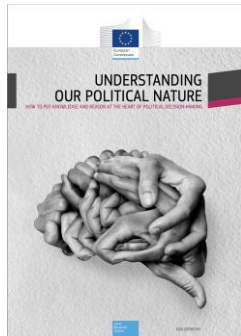


Note: The scatterplot presents the share of “high to moderately high trust” responses to the question “On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is not at all and 10 is completely, how much do you trust the national government?” on the y-axis. The y-axis presents the share of “likely” responses to the question “If the national government takes a decision, how likely do you think it is that it will draw on the best available evidence, research, and statistical data?”. Both high or moderately high trust and ‘likely’ correspond to the 6-10 responses on the 0-10 scale.

Source: OECD Trust Survey 2023.

# The importance of building trust in democratic settings

- **The principle of informing policy** through evidence corresponds to democratic principles. It is not technocratic
- **Recognise the importance of** identity, values, worldviews, and behavior – influence political choices
- **Science for Policy enhances transparency, public scrutiny and accountability**
- **Mobilise evidence in the consultation process, engaging in informed deliberation with citizens** on pressing issues provides clarity on policy decisions and their impact.
- **Providing a solid justification** for the direction of policies, rooted in transparent evidence enhances citizens' trust



## Further readings:

- *Understanding our Political Nature: How to put knowledge and reason at the heart of political decision-making* (JRC, 2019)
- *Values and Identities: a policymaker's guide* (JRC, 2021).
- *Trustworthy Public Communication* (JRC, 2024)

# Science-for-policy – product of the entire ecosystems



# The TSI project – 1.0 and 2.0

- From theory & policy to implementation



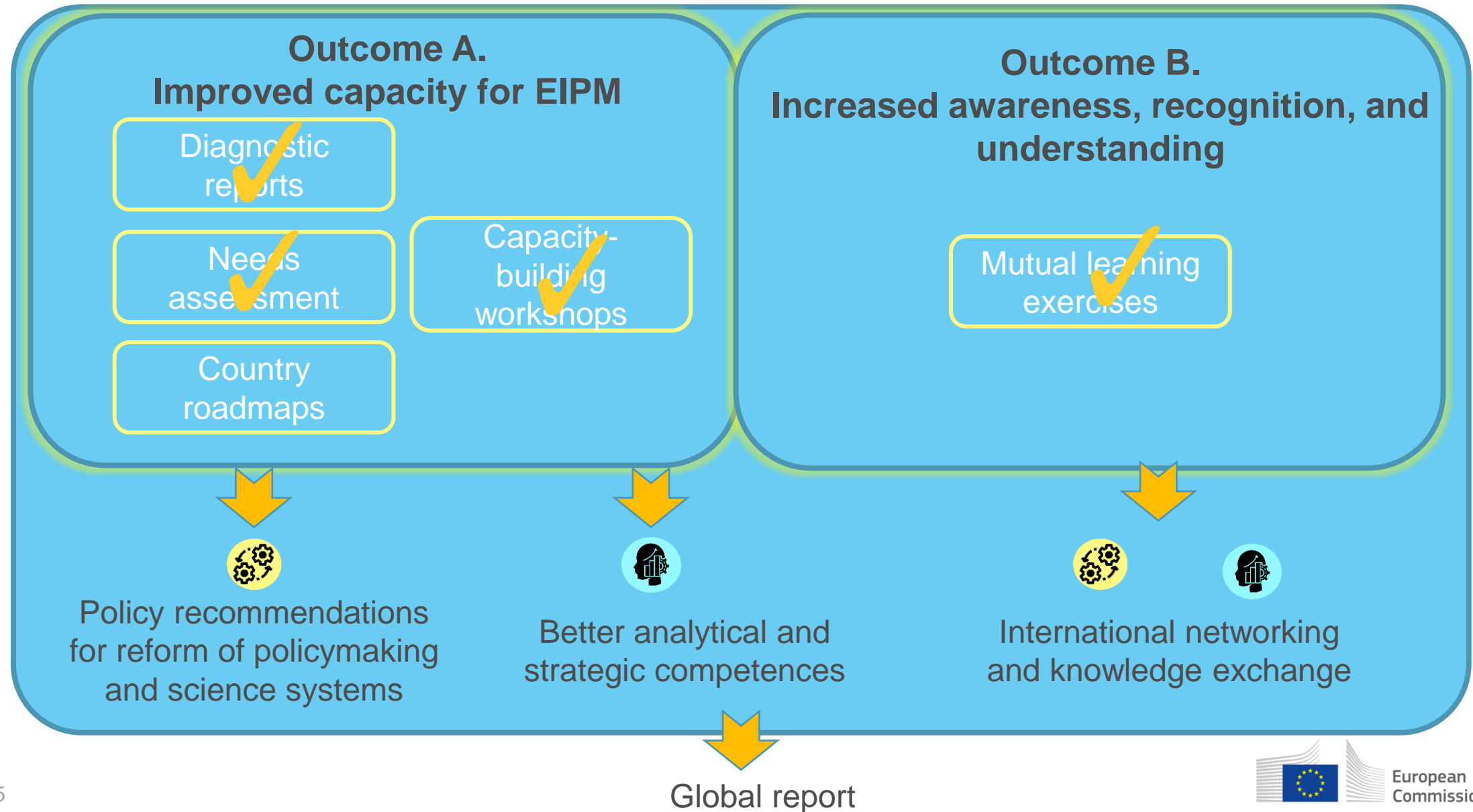
# TSI 1.0

## Technical Support Instrument (TSI) project on Science for Policy in 7 EU Member States



- TSI project funded by DG REFORM, delivered by the JRC and OECD (2022-2024)
- Wide range of beneficiary organisations (demand and supply) – it brings together **all relevant stakeholders** of the ecosystem
- Aims to **improve capacity** for evidence-informed policymaking
  - **Country analysis** of organisations, processes and interconnections
  - **Capacity-building workshops** for professionals
  - **Mutual learning** exchange (foresight, policy evaluation, AI in policymaking)
- At the end... roadmap with **recommendations for reforms**
  - Better inter-ministerial coordination (networks of science advisers)
  - Proposals for the institutionalisation of the EIPM networks and communities
  - Improving the weight of scientific evidence, policy evaluation, foresight, etc.)

# Process and impact



# Insights

- **political commitment** is essential – using science to inform policy is a political choice, not a technocratic one
- **Multi-country project** – wider insights, build on what already exists, learn from others
- **Robust supply** side, while the **demand side does not have enough time to prepare** policy decisions
- Governments should articulate its **research and evidence needs** timely and clearly
- Better **use of scientific knowledge** in policymaking is key
- The eco-system will not self-organise – **critical role for knowledge brokers with specific skills**

# Insights

- Focus on **long-term and cross-departmental knowledge agenda**,
- Strengthen **collaboration** within and between ministries and academia, work on reducing siloes
- **Provide incentives** for both scientists and civil servants to unlock collaboration potential
- **Trusted relationships and networks** matter as much as good science.
- Not all academies or research council actually do S4P themselves – mainly **focus on policy for science**
- Do not use science advice to lobby for research funding!



# Technical Support Instrument project on Science for Policy – second edition (TSI 2.0)



## TSI Multicountry Application on Evidence-Informed Policymaking

This presentation outlines the 4th Preparatory Meeting for the TSI Multicountry application on evidence-informed policymaking. It covers project document changes, participating Member States' status, and next steps. The initiative aims to strengthen the use of scientific evidence in policymaking across six European countries.



# TSI 2.0 on S4P

- TSI project funded by DG REFORM and to be delivered by the JRC and OECD in 2025-2027
- Mixed group of beneficiary organisations – wide range from demand and supply
- Based on **ComPAct Initiative**:
  - Pillar 1. The public administration **skills** agenda.
  - Pillar 3. **Capacity to lead the green transition** - a sectorial approach, with some of participating Member States interested in building capacity for evidence-informed policymaking for the green transition.
- The expected long-term impact of this project is:
  - **reinforced institutional integration of the use of evidence,**
  - **science and evaluation for policymaking**
  - **>> reinforced trust in public administration and governments.**

# TSI 2.0 on S4P – the coalition



## National Office for Science Advice, Prime Minister Office

- Ministry for Science, Innovation and Universities
- the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)
- The Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT)
- The Ministry of Digital Transformation and Public Service
- The National Institute for Public Administration (INAP).



## Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research

- The Austrian Council for Sciences, Technology and Innovation
- The Austrian Academy of Sciences
- Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK)
- Statistics Austria
- The Science Office of Austrian Parliament
- Ministry for Arts, Culture, Civil Service and Sport (BMKÖS)



## Secretariat for the Coordination and Support of the Government Programme

- Research and Innovation Foundation
- Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance
- General Directorate for Growth, Ministry of Finance



## L'Institut national de recherche pour l'agriculture, l'alimentation et l'environnement

- Interministerial Directorate for Public Transformation (DITP)
- Ministry of Tertiary Education and Research
- L'Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques (INSEE)
- General Commission for Sustainable Development (CGDD)
- Ministry of Ecological Transition



## Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS)

- The Central Statistics Office (CSO)
- The Irish Government Economic and Evaluation Service (IGEES)
- The Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC)



## Ministry of Science and Higher Education

- The Chancellery of the Prime Minister
- Ministry of Industry
- Ministry of Infrastructure
- Ministry of Climate and Environment
- The Polish Academy of Science



## Competence Centre for Planning, Policy and Foresight of the Public Administration (PlanAPP)

- Ministry of Economy
- Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security
- Ministry of Environment and Energy
- Portuguese Agency of Environment
- Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT)
- National Agency of Innovation (ANI)

# TSI 2.0 on S4P - Projected short/medium term outputs

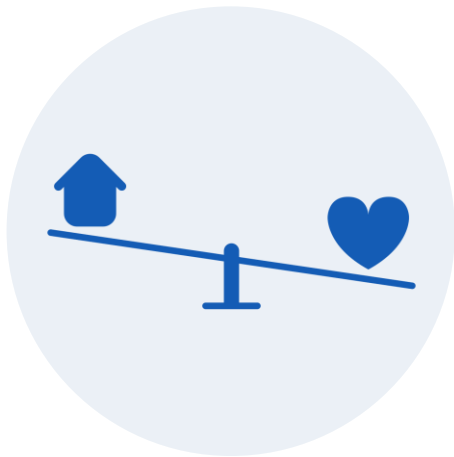
- **Increased institutional capacity in governance and public administration** for the integration, use and influence of scientific evidence in policymaking.
- **Improved professional capacity and collaboration:** Increased professional competences in the scientific community and policymakers for evidence-informed policymaking, raising awareness about the value of knowledge exchange and innovative practices in policy.
- **Facilitating an international platform** for practitioners, scientists and policymakers to exchange practices, mutual learning, and nurture ideas for policy development at the European and national level.
- **Nurturing political impact and normative development.** Ensuring awareness, recognition, understanding, and commitment at the political level for follow-up actions that would consolidate ongoing and future reforms independently of political cycles and regain public trust in governments and public administrations.

# Lessons and tips

# 5 LESSONS LEARNED



**Different skills  
needed**



**Values & facts  
Are real**



**It takes  
effort**



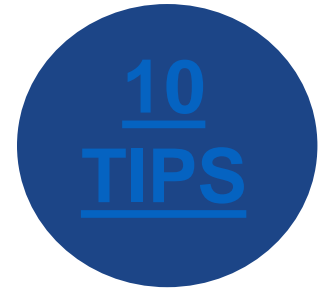
**Other forms of  
evidence exist**



**Help to  
make sense**



# 10 tips to follow... to achieve better impact on policy?



Understand policy-making



Question the questions



Plan for policy impact early



Policy impact is a team sport



Build trust



Network beyond scientific circles



Become bilingual in science and policy



Contextualise, provide synthesis, provide options



Be aware of your values and background



Be clear about uncertainties and limitations

# Paving the way forward...



- **Support communities for knowledge brokering** to professionalize and scale up this critical function
- **Organize interdisciplinary training** for policymakers and researchers to bridge communication gaps and align their timelines and priorities
- Launch collaborative research platforms to **align evidence production with policy needs**, ensuring accessible and actionable outputs.
- Promote **science diplomacy** to foster cross-border knowledge-sharing and address global challenges through coordinated efforts.



# Thank you!

[https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/evidence-informed-policy-making\\_en](https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/evidence-informed-policy-making_en)



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