

Science and Education for Society (SEFS) Working Group

How to bridge the gap between researchers and policy makers?

20 April | 10.00-12.00





Agenda

10:00	Opening of the meeting Caroline Sundberg and Mikael Vainio SEFS Working Group Leaders
10:05	Presentation of the European Commission's Staff Working Document Alessandro Allegra, Policy Assistant to the Deputy Director General, DG RTD
10:20	Evidence-based and evidence-informed policy in practice Pitch presentations from ERRIN members <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>City of Gothenburg</i>• <i>NEXA, Regional Agency for Development, Investment and Innovation in La Réunion</i>• <i>Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council</i>• <i>Representation of the State of Hessen to the European Union</i>
10:50	Science meets Regions Initiative: where can regions play a role? Stijn Verleyen, <i>Coordinator for inter-institutional Relations</i> , DG JRC
11.10	Q&A
11:45	Conclusions
12:00	End of the meeting

Our Framework

- We do our best to respect and enforce timing.
- After the meeting, the **presentations will be available** on the ERRIN website.
- Please **raise your hand** or type your **questions in the chat**.
- Please keep your **mic and camera off** during the presentations.
- Please note that the meeting is not recorded.
- No pressure to contribute, but all welcome to talk in the Q&A.
- All experiences and perspectives are valued, including challenges and lessons-learned, not only good practices.





Presentation of the European Commission's Staff Working Document

Alessandro Allegra, Policy Assistant to the Deputy Director General DG RTD

The Commission's Staff Working Document on Science for Policy in the Member States – Analysis and opportunities

ERRIN | 20 April 2023

Alessandro Allegra (RTD)

#Science4Policy



What is this document about?

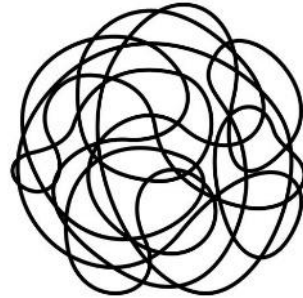
- Analytical reflection to identify challenges at the science and policy interface
- Summary of the support offered from the Commission to Member States
- Written by the JRC and DG RTD, with political support of DG REFORM
- Input from other Commission services and a participatory workshop with stakeholders and practitioners

- **Aim: promote national and European debate on improving science for policy**
- Download link: <https://europa.eu/!fwYr7f>

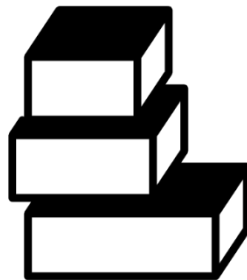
5 reasons why we need this document

“Wicked” problems

Robust democracy



EU policy environment

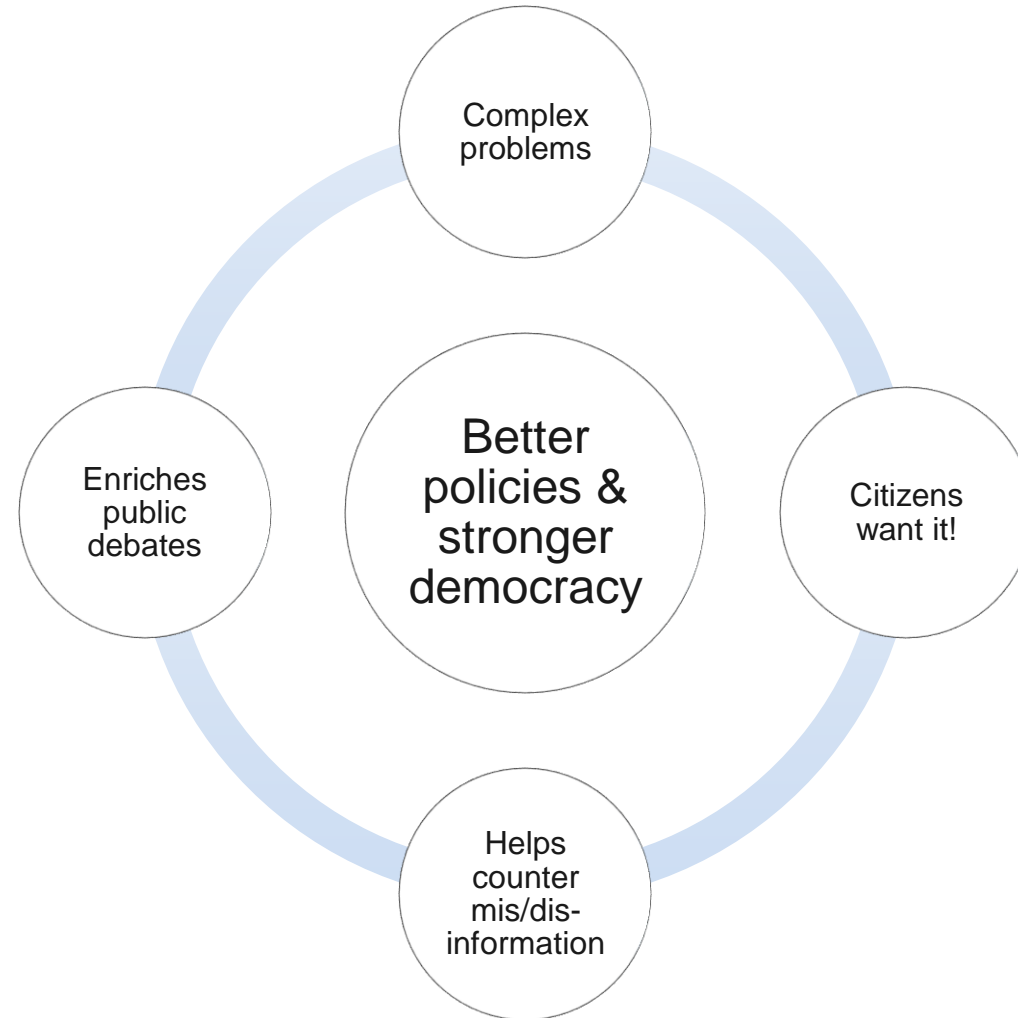


Wider initiative to raise awareness for science for policy

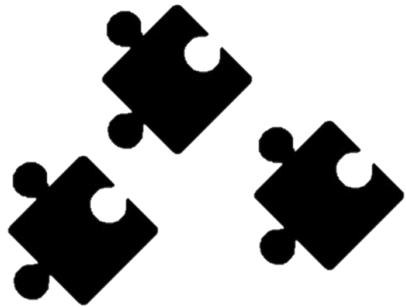


Dynamism in the Member States

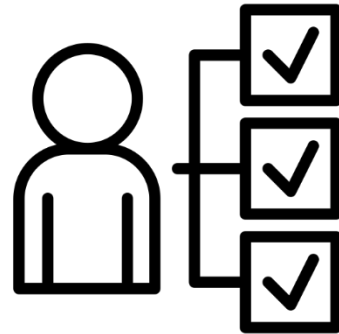
Why better science for policy?



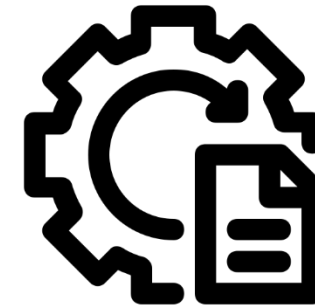
3 challenges to science for policy



Institutional environment:
missing connections
& coordination



Individual capacities:
missing
competences and
inter-sectoral
understanding

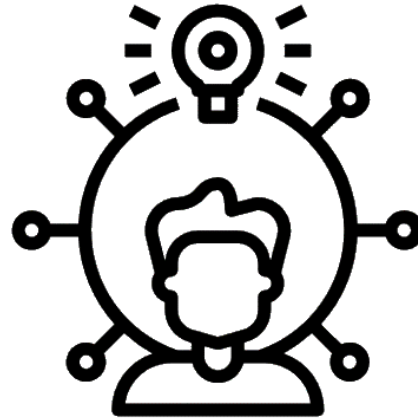


Good governance of evidence use:
Limits of science
and policymaking

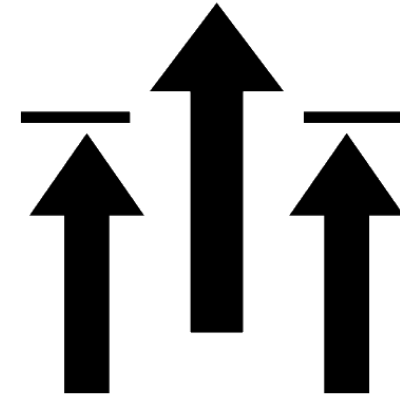
3 types of EU support to address challenges



Institutional
capacity &
professional
network building



Professional
competence &
inter-sectoral
professional
schemes for
knowledge
exchange



Knowledge on
science-for-policy
ecosystems,
practices, and
capacity & limits

Focus: EU support from the R&I policy area

- Knowledge valorisation
- Research assessment
- Policy support facility & multi-country mutual learning exercises
- Inter-sectoral career mobility
- Global approach to R&I and science diplomacy
- Policy units at scientific organisations

Stock-taking and promoting debate on Science for Policy for Member States

Commission Document (Oct'22)



<https://europa.eu/!fwYr7f>

COMPET Council Debate (Dec'22)

- Interventions by EU-27 ministers of science or delegates
- *“Commission should play a key role in providing coordination, expertise, and support for policy development in the EU”.*
- Consider discussing science for policy in other Council configurations, e.g. sectoral, where evidence users are present.
- <https://video.consilium.europa.eu/event/en/26331>

Session on Science for Policy Making
“Open Science – from Policy to Practice
(17 May 23)

ERAC Debate
(Jun' 23)

International Science for Policy conference in Brussels
(Oct' 23)

Council Conclusions
ES Presidency (Dec' 23)

Presidential event under
BE presidency
Q1/2024

Of interest for ERRIN

- Are policies informed by scientific and other evidence in your region? If not, why not?
- What is the level of institutionalisation of science for policy in your region?
- What are the challenges at the level of regional science-for-policy ecosystems?
- How can the Commission better support you?
- Do you want to contribute to the emerging debates on science-for-policy capacity in Europe? Join our projects, events, community of professionals!

Thank you!

Visit our website:

https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/evidence-informed-policy-making_en

Supporting and connecting
policymaking in the Member States
with scientific research



#Science4Policy





Evidence-based and evidence-informed policy in practice

Pitch presentations from ERRIN members

- How to bridge the gap between researchers and policy makers – experiences from the City of Gothenburg, *Lars Ekberg, Policy Advisor at City of Göteborg*
- La Reunion RIS3 hubs, *Dr Philippe Holstein, Responsible Intelligence Territoriale at NEXA, Regional Agency for Development, Investment and Innovation*
- Science Meets Regions: learnings from the Helsinki-Uusimaa Region, *Venla Virkamäki Senior Adviser, EU & Innovations*
- The Mercator Science-Policy Fellowship-Programme, *Tome Sandevski, Director Science Policy Dialogue Projects at Goethe University Frankfurt*



How to bridge the gap between researchers and policy makers – experiences from the City of Gothenburg

Lars Ekberg, Policy Advisor at City of Göteborg

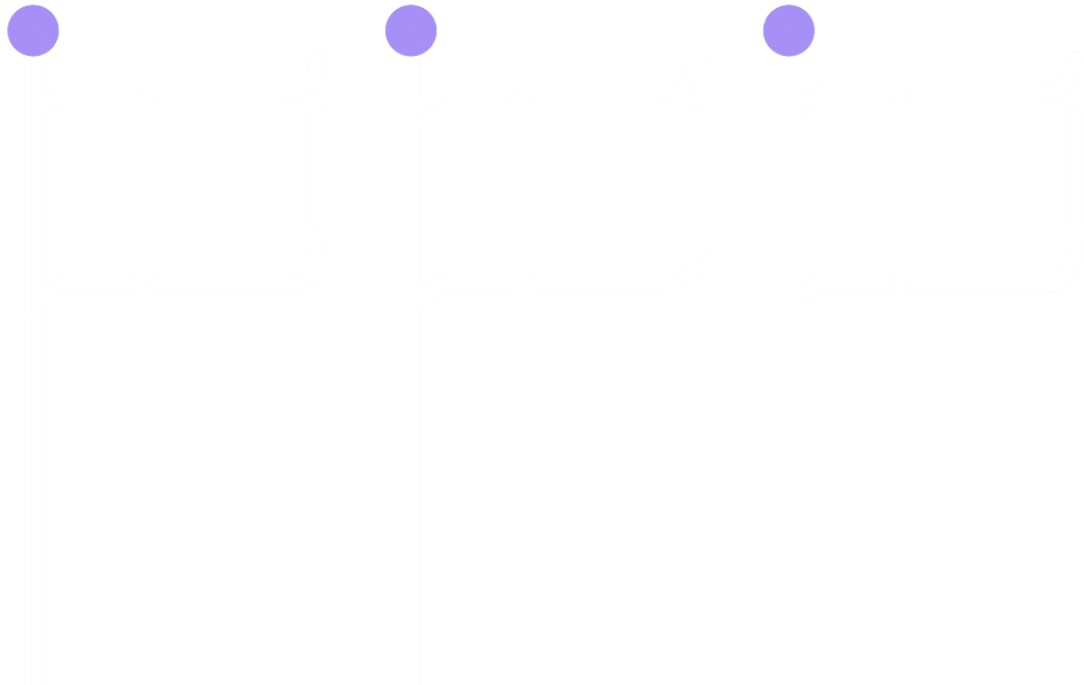
How to bridge the gap between researchers and policy makers – experiences from the City of Gothenburg

”Fact Sheet”



- The City employs 60 000 people and is responsible for delivering public services to its inhabitants, visitors and business’
- Welfare, education, elderly care, spatial planning, housing, water, sewage...
- The City has since long an extensive cooperation with the Chalmers University of Technology and the University of Gothenburg
- The cooperation has developed within “local agreements”, there was a lack of a common City strategy
- The results from different cooperation projects often stayed within the local organisation
- The University of Gothenburg
 - 8 faculties, 38 departments
 - 49 000 students, 6 000 employees
- The Chalmers University of Technology
 - 13 departments
 - 11 000 students, 3 000 employees

#EUSci4Regio



Göteborgs
Stad



CHALMERS



GÖTEBORGS UNIVERSITET



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Commission

Conclusions

- Funding the time of the representatives from the academia
- Takes time to understand each other – same language, but different
- Understanding of different organisational logics
- Develop structure for exchange between science and politicians
- Results from research, useful for the City, often needs “translation”
- Down to basics, easy to get stuck in proclamations
- Support people that have the ability to be “border crossers”
- “Student employees”

Contact

Lars Ekberg

lars.ekberg@stadshuset.goteborg.se

City of Gothenburg, City Hall

City Executive Office



La Reunion RIS3, Interdisciplinary & intersectorial knowledge communities for island challenges

Dr Philippe Holstein, Responsible Intelligence Territoriale at NEXA,
Regional Agency for Development, Investment and Innovation

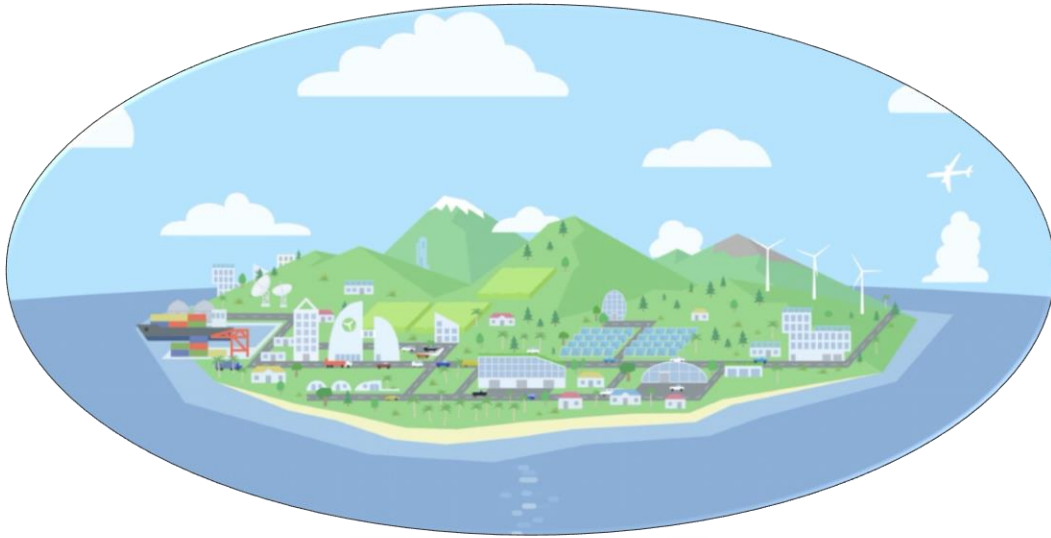


La Reunion: bridging Research & Policy to address island challenges

philippe.holstein@nexa.re



Our Horizon : Building a knowledge society in La Reunion



Our strategy - La Reunion RIS3 :
Turn island challenges into
opportunities to produce
knowledge-based solutions for the
ecological transition

RIS3 hubs : 8 knowledge communities



Post-colonial,
multicultural, inclusive
societies

Tropical
Housing &
Building

Tropical health for
vulnerable people

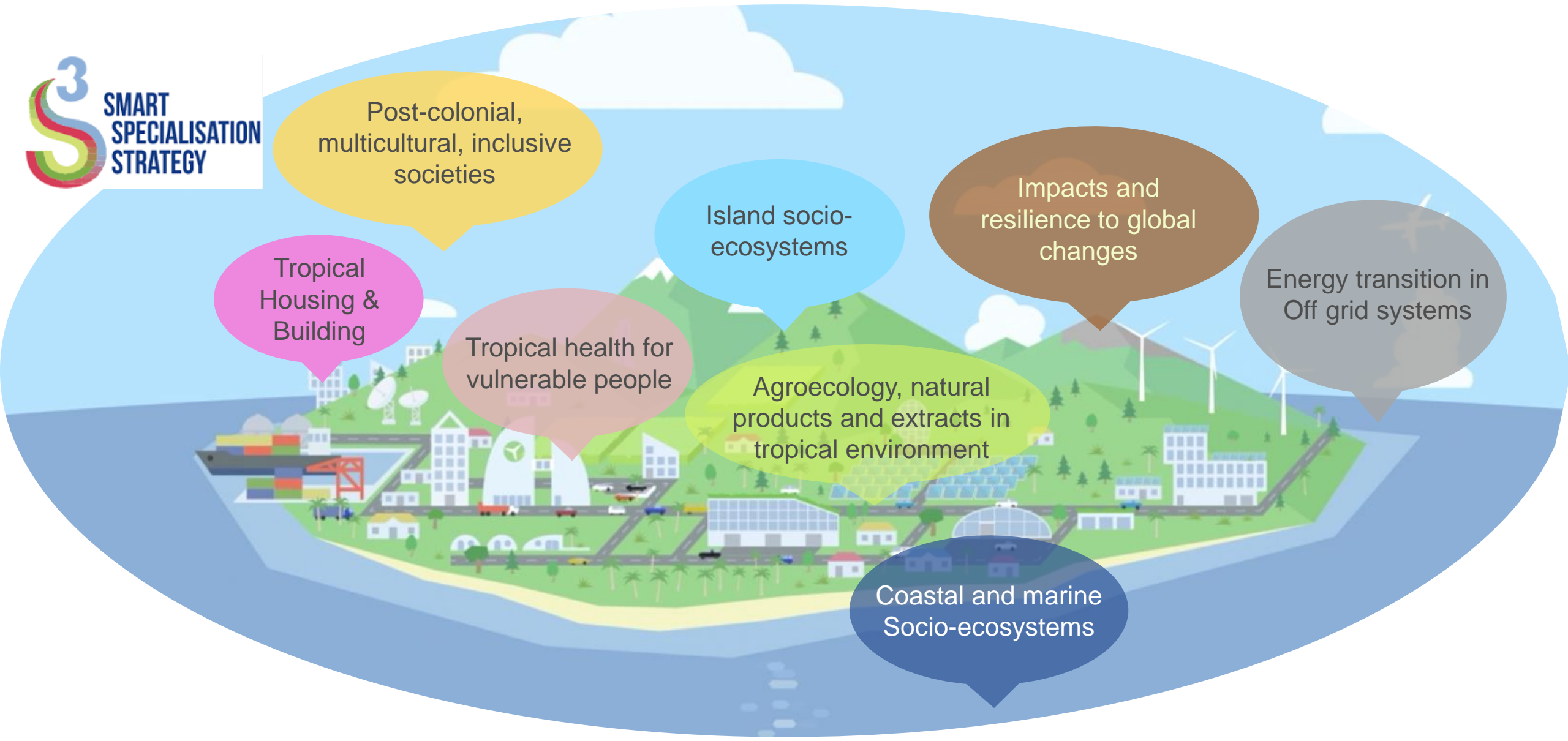
Island socio-
ecosystems

Agroecology, natural
products and extracts in
tropical environment

Impacts and
resilience to global
changes

Energy transition in
Off grid systems

Coastal and marine
Socio-ecosystems





Ongoing experiments on levers to support the science-policy dialogue

1

Building acquaintance and trust

Participation of policy makers in the regional R&I roadmaps

Participation of researchers in the regional consultative committees

2

Orienting research and innovation activities

Setup users committee to identify and address challenges/needs in research activities

Participatory action research projects to tackle public issues

Common pilot tests of innovative solutions

3

Producing decision support tools

Production & presentation of policy briefs on key challenges

Production of dashboards / open data

Setup early stage alert system

Organization of thematic events on common challenges

4

Improving public policies design

Discussion of research results during municipal and regional councils

Integrate action research principles in public enquiry methods



Merci !

Contacts :

philippe.holstein@nexa.re



Science Meets Regions: learnings from the Helsinki-Uusimaa Region

Venla Virkamäki Senior Adviser, EU & Innovations



Uudenmaan
**science
meets
regions**

**Science Meets Regions: learnings from the
Helsinki-Uusimaa Region**

Venla Virkamäki
Senior Adviser, EU & Innovations



Uudenmaan liitto
Nylands förbund



European
Commission

SMR process in Nutshell

Innovation camp 2

**Climate Neutral
Region 2030**



Innovation camp 1

**RDI 5 % of
regional GDP**



Innovation camp 3

**80 % of
employment 2030**



- Took place in 2022, organised by the Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council and EU Joint Research Center
- Main events:
 - Opening Seminar 4.4.2022
 - Three innovation camps (4.5, 1.6 ja 17.8.2022)
 - Final Conference 6.10.2022



Uudenmaan liitto
Nylands förbund



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Key learnings

- SMR is a good process to bring parties together
-> However it is quite ad hoc –method in this way
- System change is needed and that calls for better understanding of the systems and path dependencies also at regional and local level (e.g transport, food, energy)
 - Many path dependencies are related to the local or regional conditions, so that knowledge is needed at the regional level
 - Scientific knowledge has to be used at policy making also at regional level
 - Overall stakeholder dialogue is needed more than ever
- Leadership!



The Mercator Science-Policy Fellowship-Programme

Tome Sandevski, Director Science Policy Dialogue Projects at
Goethe University Frankfurt

Supporting evidence-informed policymaking by establishing networks

- Initiatives of the Alliance of the Rhine-Main-Universities: Goethe-University Frankfurt, Technical University Darmstadt and Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz.
- Pairing schemes bringing policymakers and researchers together: Mercator Science-Policy Fellowship-Programme; Science meets Regions pairing scheme.
- Record:
 - 192 policymaking professionals, NGO staff, journalists.
 - > 2,200 face-to-face meetings with almost 700 researchers in the Frankfurt/Rhine-Main-region.
 - Added value: Multidisciplinary perspectives on policy challenges.
 - Unexplored potential: About 50% of policymakers and researcher have not been in touch with the other side before.

Evidence needs at local and regional level compared to the national level? How could national level ecosystems of science for policy better take into account these specific evidence needs?

- Regional and local dimension requires particular expertise: Challenges of bridging the gap between policy-oriented research and academic research (i.e. peer-reviewed journals).
- Issue of the lack of reward mechanisms.
- Showcase benefits of policy-engagement for academic research. Experience at Rhine-Main-University. 60% of researchers derive ideas for research.
- Increase visibility of policy-engagement.
- Promote spaces for face-to-face meetings => time-efficient way of bringing policymakers and researchers together!

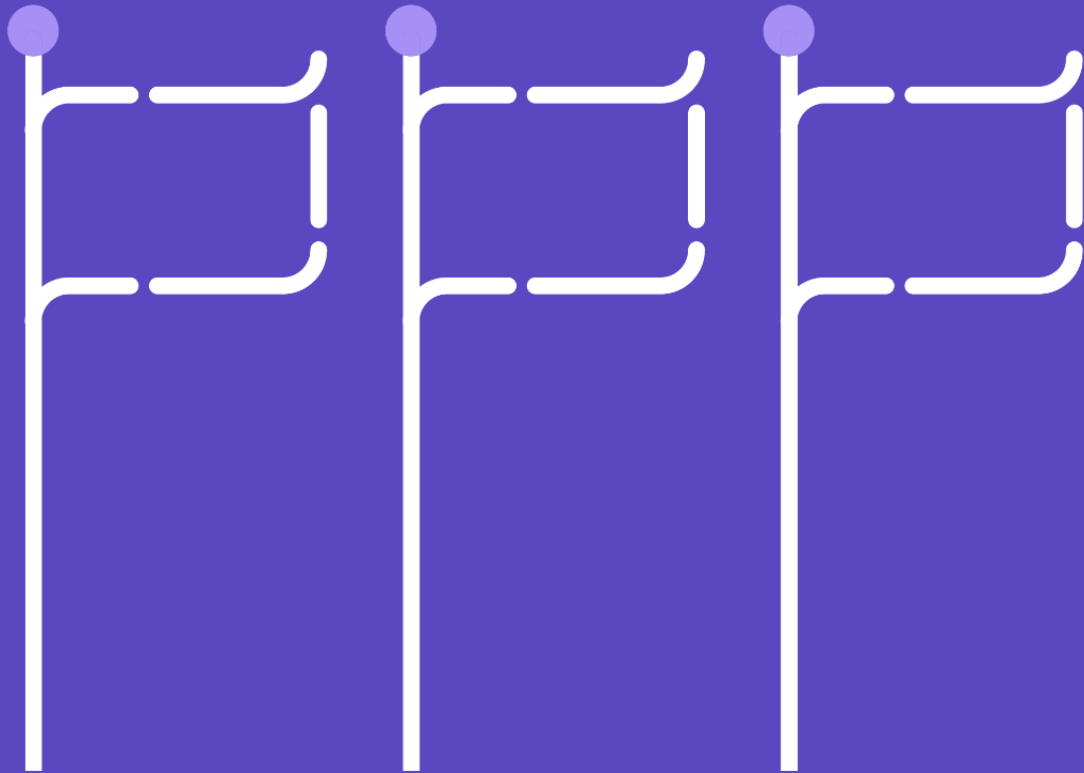


Science meets Regions Initiative: where can regions play a role?

Stijn Verleyen, *Coordinator for inter-institutional Relations*, DG JRC

science
meets
regions

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ERRIN SEFS Working group
20 April 2023

Science meets Regions:
advancing evidence for policy at
local and regional level

Stijn Verleyen, JRC

Antecedents

- 2015: Science meets Parliaments in EP – annual high level event
- 2016-2017: *Science meets Regions*
- 2018-2020: Pilot Project adopted by EP and implemented by JRC
- December 2020: EP adopts Preparatory Action
- 2021-2023: *Science meets Regions 2.0*



Objectives

- bring **scientists and policymakers** together
- encourage **mutual understanding**
- discuss a **locally relevant policy issue** using scientific evidence
- bring **science closer to citizens**
- increase citizens' **trust in science** by showing its key contributions to society



SMR 2.0: Key recommendations from the pilot phase

1. Stronger link with **structural processes and local knowledge “ecosystems”**
2. **Explore synergies** with other EU instruments (regional funds, RTD/KEP, ...)
3. Build a **community of practice** on EIPM at local and regional level

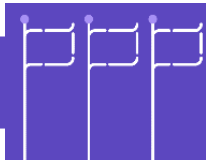
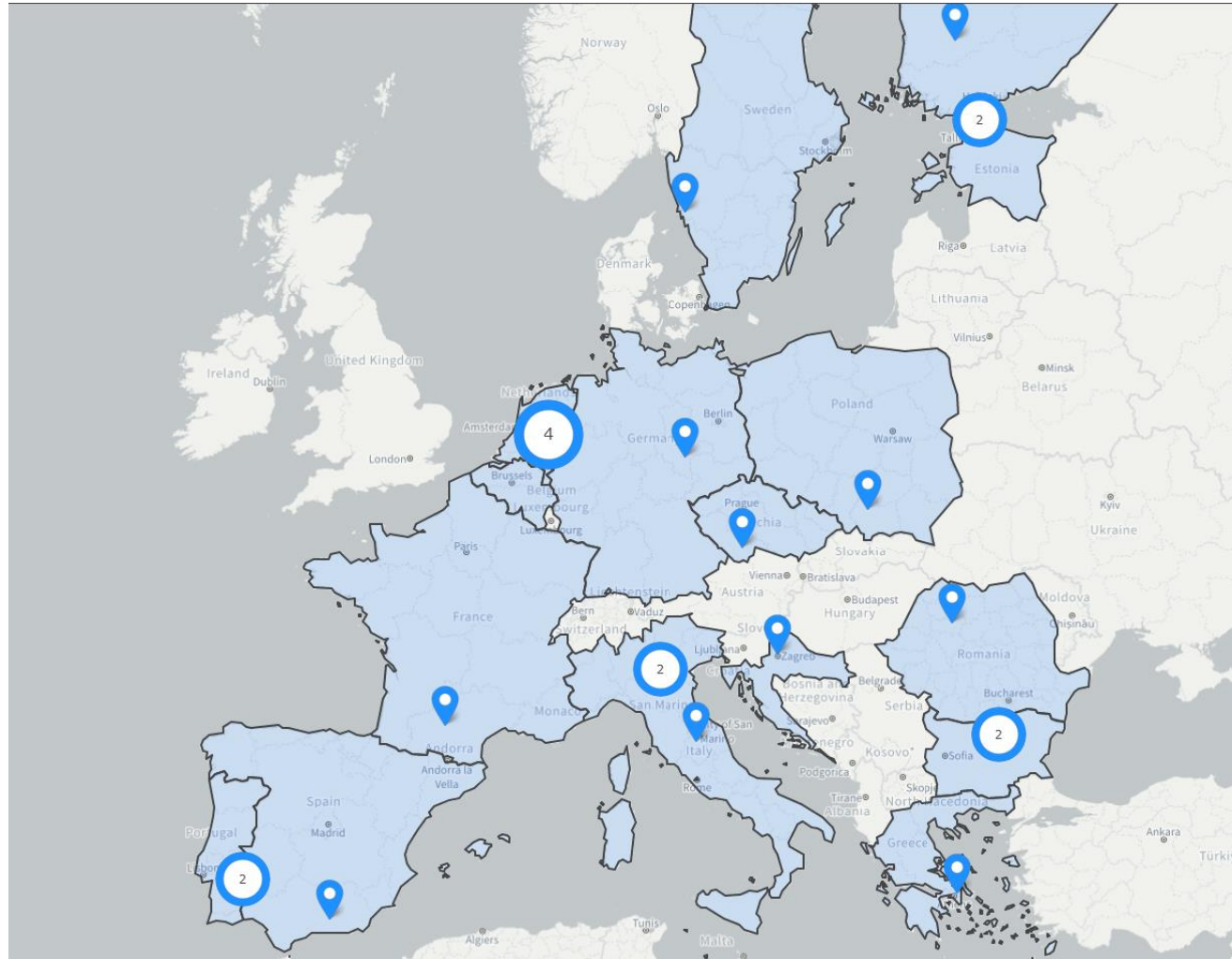


Key components

- **Overall budget: 1.5 million EUR**
- **Strand #1 Participatory events**: organisation of **innovation camps and events** on policy issues connected to the EC priorities – must be embedded in wider process, avoid ad hoc and one off – single beneficiary + interregional
- **Strand #2 Pairing schemes**: researchers x regional and local policymakers
- **Strand #3: Skills training**: dedicated training course on **EIPM** for policymakers



Events and innovation camps across Europe



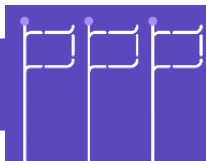
Pairing schemes for policymakers and researchers

- Call for expression of interest (2022): **9 entities in 6 MS** selected
- Pairing schemes to be implemented in the course of 2023
- Variable geometry:
 - Classic one on one pairing schemes
 - Site visits by groups of policymakers
 - Stakeholder workshops around specific topics of interest to the region



Skills training for policymakers

- Training course under development with ZOE – Institute for Future-Fit Economies
- How to **find, assess and use evidence** at various stages of the policymaking cycle
- Including a thematic module on the **Green & Digital** Transitions
- Second pilot run to take place **23 June – 4 July** (online – blocks of 2.5 hrs) – applications warmly welcomed



Linkages with other JRC work: the TSI project

- The largest multi-country reform project by DG REFORM's **Technical Support Instrument**



- A 2-year project delivered by the JRC and the OECD



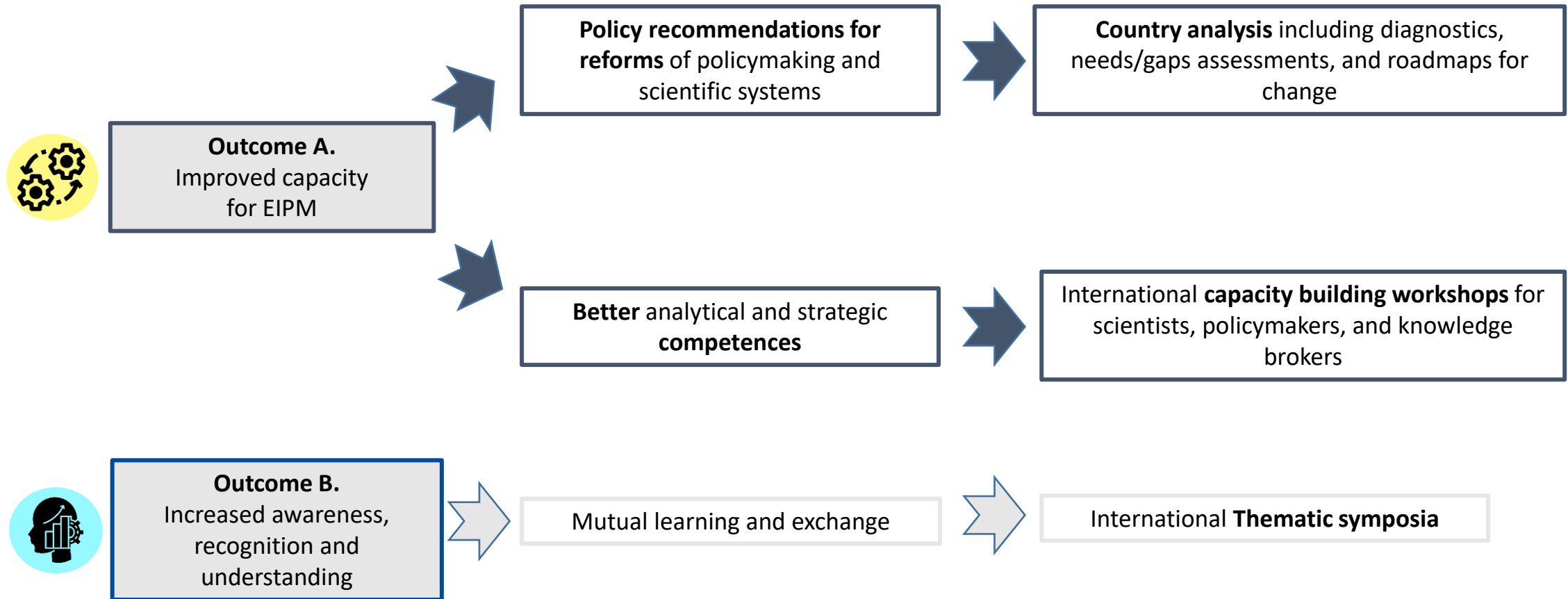
- Seven Member States



- Beneficiary organisations ranging from centres of governments, sectorial ministries, research councils and other research and innovation bodies



Multi-country reform project for building evidence-informed policymaking capacity



SMR final event at CoR – 27-28 September

- Poster exhibition of participating regions
- High-level opening session
- Thematic sessions on various SMR strands
- Back to back with the Knowledge Exchange Platform (KEP) event on 28 September

SAVE THE DATE! – registrations will open soon



Thank you!

JRC-INFO-SMR@EC.EUROPA.EU

science
meets



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Q&A

Please raise your hand and wait to be given the floor to unmute yourself and turn on your camera.

Of interest for ERRIN

- Are policies informed by scientific and other evidence in your region? If not, why not?
- What is the level of institutionalisation of science for policy in your region?
- What are the challenges at the level of regional science-for-policy ecosystems?
- How can the Commission better support you?
- Do you want to contribute to the emerging debates on science-for-policy capacity in Europe? Join our projects, events, community of professionals!

Forthcoming SEFS WG Meetings

- Where do the European Network of Innovative Higher Education Institutions and the European Innovation Agenda come together?– 30 May 10:30-12.00 co-organised with the Policy WG
- Get ready for the last Erasmus+ call for European Universities: first lessons learned, main challenges and perspectives how they can thrive regional innovation forward – September 2023
- Wrapping up ERRIN's Skills 2023 roadmap and future perspectives – December 2023

SEFS WG Leaders & ERRIN Secretariat Support

Working Group Leaders

Representatives of Brussels-based offices leading the work of the Science & Education for Society Working Group.



Berwyn Davies
Welsh Higher Education
Brussels - Welsh Government



Mikael Vainio
Helsinki EU Office



Caroline Sundberg
Lärosäten Syd (Universities in
South Sweden)



Leonardo Lorusso
Regione Lombardia



Astrid Hannes



Francesca Pozzebon