

Programme

# Evidence for Policymakers

An international conference on structuring evidence and data  
for improved policymaking

December 15 - 18, 2020  
The Hague, The Netherlands

## Target groups

Strategic Policymakers on international, national and sub-national level  
Policy Oriented Scientists, Coordinators of Policy Research  
Governmental Science Advisors, Governmental Data Scientists  
Policy Evaluators

## Organised by



Universiteit  
Leiden  
Governance and  
Global Affairs



## Partners



Alliance for  
Useful Evidence



VSNU



Rijksoverheid



APPAM

ASSOCIATION FOR  
PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS  
& MANAGEMENT



EVIDENCE  
& POLICY



SIRA  
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VERENIGING VOOR  
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provincie  
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ZUID



Den Haag



Rathenau Instituut



Centraal Planbureau  
Planbureau voor de Leefomgeving



Vereniging voor Bestuurskunde



NWO



CampbellCollaboration



EUROPEAN  
EVALUATION  
SOCIETY

AESIS

NETWORK FOR  
ADVANCING & EVALUATING THE SOCIETAL IMPACT OF SCIENCE

SAPEA



Academia  
Europaea  
-1988-

TNO

## Evidence for Policymakers

### Background

In times of crisis, the relationship between evidence and policymaking may change dramatically. The current Covid-19 Crisis generated manifestations of “evidence based policymaking” in an unprecedented way, both internationally and nationally. It also showed that the need to use internationally organized reliable data for effective policy interventions has never been more urgent in times of peace. This information needs to be both profound and directly available.

This conference treats the outcomes of the current crisis as input for the process for professionalizing the structured interaction between evidence and policymaking. The current learning processes and challenges will be analyzed in the context of the existing knowledge infrastructure for policymakers. Instruments for creating evidence for policymakers have tremendously grown with the introduction of Big Data and the development of algorithms for generating new insights. Another widespread development is the use of Randomised Controlled Trials (RCT's) in order to enhance the effectiveness of policy instruments and the growth of new standards for experimental policies.

Evidence for the effectiveness of new policy interventions is often related to the *evaluation* of policymaking. National Statistical Offices and many other governmental agencies play a role here. Evidence may also - especially in crisis situations - be used for the *prediction* of the effectiveness of new policies. In the Netherlands, the Policy Analysis Agencies (Plan Bureaus) have gained a special reputation to generate broadly accepted calculations which predict the effectiveness of political programs. Behavior Insight Teams in different parts of the world also have gained a reputation in creating well substantiated instruments to predict and enhance the effectiveness of policy interventions.

In all of these processes of shaping *evidence informed policymaking*, scientists from all kind of disciplines, whether it is data science, statistics, policy research, behavioral sciences or a structured way of fact checking, play a crucial role to substantiate the development of policies. These processes for a sound substantiation for policymaking are a main contribution to more effective and predictable policies, if well organized.

### Organizing evidence for policy

The way that evidence for policy is organized, differs strongly per country or region in the world. In the Anglo-Saxon culture we see Chief Government scientists, organizing the impact of science form inside the Ministries. In 2010, the UK Prime Minister has successfully launched its What Works Networks with their related Behavior Insight Teams. In the US, we have seen What Works Cities and the “data for evidence” initiatives, started at the White House. Moreover, in January 2019, the US federal government has signed into law the “Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act”. In the European Union in 2016, the Science Advice mechanism has evolved and Joint Research Centres play a role. The Netherlands has its Central Policy Analysis Agencies. In Singapore we see a National Research Council, housed at the Prime Minister’s Office.

Evidence for effective policies needs to be robust and preferably universal. Bringing together the managers of these processes will create new insights and mutual benefits. This conference has the aim to bring together these experts worldwide to learn which methods and instruments can be applied for which situations and how they may improve the quality of evidence provided.



*The Parliament buildings in The Hague,  
next to the conference venue*

## Topics

The conference will treat a range of issues that influence our capacity to enhance the development and practical use of evidence for policymakers. The topics that will be addressed are:

- Policies and Strategies for Evidence Informed Policymaking (**Tuesday December 15**)
  - Which structures do we need to implement for the effectiveness of policies?
  - How can we systemize the development, sharing and use of evidence for policymakers?
  - How can we optimize the development and dissemination of evidence for policymakers?
  - Activating public research from Evidence Informed Policy
- Creating and Using Evidence in the Policy Cycle (**Wednesday December 16**)
  - Generating evidence before policies have started
  - Recommendations for using Ex-ante evidence for policies and politics
- Data and Algorithms for Better Policy (**Thursday December 17**)
  - How can we be both responsible and effective?
  - How can providers and users of AI create more substantiated policies
- Structuring Evidence in Government and Politics (**Friday December 18**)
  - How can we effectively develop and share evidence for thematic policies?
  - How can we structure the use of evidence for policymakers and politicians?

## Organization

The Conference is organized jointly by Leiden University, Faculty for Governance and Global Affairs (FGGA) and ScienceWorks. ScienceWorks will coordinate the full organization of the event, while the content and supervision will be coordinated by the PAC, Chaired by the Dean of FGGA, Erwin Muller.

## Program Advisory Committee (PAC)

Leiden University

Alliance for Useful Evidence/NESTA

The Netherlands Scientific Council for Government Policy (WRR)

Consortium for Science, Policy & Outcome

Ministry of Finance

International Network for Government Science Advice

Results for America

OECD Unit for Evidence, Monitoring and Policy Evaluation

Joint Research Centre, European Commission

Evidence & Policy Journal

Dutch Association of Universities (VSNU)

USA Data Coalition

Africa Center for Evidence

Dutch Association for Policy Evaluators (Vide)/SWOV

Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO)

University of Twente

Science Advice Initiative of Finland

Science Advice for Policy by European Academies

Transforming Evidence

Campbell Collaboration

Leiden Centre for Datascience

Leiden University

Research Policy Online

Rathenau Institute

Statistics Netherlands (CBS)

Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment

Data for Policy

Dutch Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)

Leiden University

Erwin Muller (Chair)

Jonathan Breckon

Frans Brom

Daniel Sarewitz

Nynke de Witte

Peter Gluckman

David Medina

Stephane Jacobzone

David Mair

Katherine Smith

Pieter Duisenberg

Nick Hart

Ruth Stewart

Peter van der Knaap

Peter Werkhoven

Barend van der Meulen

Jaakko Kuosmanen

Toby Wardman

Kathryn Oliver

Howard White

Jaap van den Herik

Bernard Steunenbergh

Peter van Hoesel

Patricia Faasse

Bert Kroese

Niels-Ingvar Boer

Zeynep Engin

Jeanet Bruil

Valérie Pattyn

# Draft Programme Tuesday December 15

## *Policies and Strategies for Evidence Informed Policymaking*

Times in CET

### 10.30 - 11.00 Registration

Welcome by:

11.00 - 11.15 **Erwin Muller**, Dean of Governance and Global Affairs, Leiden University,  
**Conference Chair: Pieter Duisenberg**, Chair of The Association of Universities in the Netherlands (VSNU)

### 11.15 - 12.30 I Plenary opening - How can evidence enforce more effective policies?

- 11.15 **Ingrid van Engelshoven** Minister of Education, Culture and Science, The Netherlands
- 11.30 **David Mair** Head of Unit, Knowledge for Policy, Joint Research Centre, European Commission
- 11.45 **Kathryn Newcomer** Former President of the American Evaluation Association & Professor in the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration at the George Washington University, USA
- 12.00 **Peter Gluckman** Chair of International Network of Government Science Advisors (INGSA) & incoming President of the International Council of Science, New Zealand
- 12.15 Panel discussion and Q&A led by the conference co-chair: Pieter Duisenberg

### 12:30 - 13.15 Lunch

### 13.15-14.30 II Parallel sessions - What Works Where and When: How can we systemize the development, sharing and use of evidence for policymakers?

What Works Internationally?	National (What Works) Initiatives	Regional/Local Initiatives	'Behind Closed Doors' Sessions: <i>The Nature of Evidence in the Public Arena</i> (Chatham house rules apply)
<p>Chair: <b>Marie Gaarder</b> Executive Director, International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3IE)</p> <p><b>Laurenz Langer</b> Evidence Synthesis Specialist, Africa Centre for Evidence (ACE)</p> <p><b>Stephane Jacobzone</b> Head of Unit, Evidence Monitoring and policy Evaluation, OECD</p> <p><b>Patricia Rose Paskov</b> Impact Evaluation Analyst, World Bank</p>	<p>Chair: <b>Jonathan Breckon</b> Director, Alliance for Useful Evidence, UK</p> <p><b>Rachel Tuffin</b> Executive Lead for the What Works Centre for Crime Reduction, UK</p> <p><b>Jeanne van Loon</b> Head of Unit, Knowledge, Ministry of Education, Culture and Science</p> <p><b>Jeanet Bruil</b> Head of the Dutch Research Agenda, Dutch Research Council (NWO)</p>	<p>Chair: <b>Arwin van Buuren</b> Professor of Public Administration, Erasmus University Rotterdam</p> <p><b>David Medina</b> COO and Co-Founder, Results for America</p> <p><b>Glen Steyn</b> Business Economist, Western Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism</p>	<p>Chair: <b>Justin Parkhurst</b> Associate Professor of Global Health Policy in the LSE Department of Health Policy</p> <p><b>Barend van der Meulen</b> Director of the Center for Higher Education Policy Studies &amp; Full Professor Evidence and Policy, University of Twente</p> <p><b>Takahiro Ueyama*</b> Executive Member, Council for Science, Technology and Innovation, Japan</p>

### 14.30 - 15.00 Break

# Draft Programme Tuesday December 15

## *Policies and Strategies for Evidence Informed Policymaking*

Times in CET

15.00- 16.15

III Parallel sessions - External or internal organisation of evidence: *How can we optimize the development and dissemination of evidence for policymakers?*

International	National	Regional/ Local	'Behind Closed Doors' Sessions: <i>Policy Based Evidence</i> ( <u>Chatham house rules</u> apply)
<p>Chair: <b>Peter Gluckman</b> President, International Government of Science Advice (INGSA), New Zealand</p> <p><b>Sierd Cloetingh</b> SAPEA Board</p> <p><b>Anne-Greet Keizer</b> Research Fellow and International Liaison, The Netherlands Scientific Council for Government Policy (WRR) &amp; Executive Secretary of European Science Advisors Forum (ESAF), The Netherlands</p> <p><b>Dirk-Jan Koch</b> Chief Science Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands</p>	<p>Chair: <b>Jaakko Kuosmanen</b> Secretary of Academy, Science Advice Initiative of Finland (SOFI), Finland</p> <p><b>Frank Zwetsloot</b> Director, ScienceWorks, The Netherlands</p> <p><b>Tarmo Soomere</b> President, Estonian Academy of Sciences, Estonia</p> <p><b>Patricia Atkinson</b> Director of the Results &amp; Delivery Unit, Global Affairs, Canada</p>	<p>Chair: <b>Sarah Morton</b> Director, Matter of Focus, United Kingdom</p> <p><b>Michel Bloemheuvel</b> Advisor and researcher, Sira Consulting &amp; <b>Leo Ancher</b> Coordinating Account Manager and Strategic Advisor, Province of South Holland</p> <p><b>Scott Douglas</b> Prof. Public management, Utrecht University School of Governance, The Netherlands</p>	<p>Chair: <b>Jeroen Kerseboom</b> Head of Research Department at the Netherlands House of Representatives, The Netherlands</p> <p><b>Frans Leeuw</b> Former Director, Research and Documentation Centre (WODC), Ministry of Justice, The Netherlands</p> <p><b>Sarah Foxen</b> Knowledge Exchange Lead, POST, UK Parliament, United Kingdom</p> <p><b>Ole Petersen</b> Vice-President, Academia Europaea</p>

16.15 - 16.45 Break

16.45 - 17.05 Recommendations for the closing panel

17.05-18.00 IV Interactive panel - Activating Research for Evidence Informed Policy

Introductions of the panel by:

**Thom de Graaf** Vice-President at the Netherlands Council of State, The Netherlands

**Patricia Atkinson** Director of the Results & Delivery Unit, Global Affairs, Canada

Moderator:

**Pieter Duisenberg** Chair of The Association of Universities in the Netherlands (VSNU)

Panel Members:

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

**Vivian Tseng** Senior Vice President, Program, William T. Grant Foundation, USA

**Patricia Atkinson** Director of the Results & Delivery Unit, Global Affairs, Canada

**Howard White** Chief Executive Officer of Campbell Collaboration, Norway

18:30 Conference Dinner (Location T.B.A.)

# Draft Programme Wednesday December 16

\* = to be confirmed

Times in CET

## *Creating and Using Evidence in the Policy Cycle*

13.45 - 14.00 Registration

14.00 - 15.00 V Plenary opening - Strategies for Creating Ex-ante Evidence

14.00	<b>Conference co-Chair: Peter van der Knaap</b>	Chairman of the Dutch Association for Policy Evaluation (Vide)
14.15	<b>Howard White</b>	Chief Executive Officer of Campbell Collaboration, Norway
14.30	<b>Danièle Lamarque</b>	President of the European Evaluation Society
14.45	<b>Jon Baron</b>	Vice-President of Evidence Based Policy, Laura and John Arnold Foundation

15.00 - 15.15 Break

15.15-16.30 VI Parallel sessions - Assessing evidence for policymakers: *Generating evidence for early use*

Evaluation	Big Data	Structuring Insights in Effective Policy Interventions	Structuring Ex-ante Impact Assessment
<p>Chair: <b>Stephane Jacobzone</b> Head of Unit, Evidence Monitoring and policy Evaluation, OECD</p> <p><b>Nynke de Witte</b> Deputy Head of the Strategic Analysis Unit, Inspectorate of the Budget, Ministry of Finance, The Netherlands</p> <p><b>Peter Bex</b> Founder/Director, Sira Consulting, The Netherlands</p>	<p>Chair: <b>Gerty Lensvelt-Mulders</b> Director, Research and Documentation Centre (WODC), Ministry of Justice, The Netherlands</p> <p><b>Sherry Bennett</b> Chief Data Scientist, DLT Solutions, USA</p>	<p>Chair: <b>Djoeke van Dale</b> Senior Advisor, National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, The Netherlands</p> <p><b>Pierre Arwidson</b> Directeur adjoint de la prévention chargé des affaires scientifiques, France</p> <p><b>Olivia O'Sullivan</b> Senior Policy Advisor of Open Innovation Team, Cabinet Office, UK</p>	<p>Chair: <b>Peter van der Knaap</b> Chairman of the Dutch Association for Policy Evaluation (Vide), The Netherlands</p> <p><b>Daniel Trnka</b> Senior Policy Analyst, OECD</p> <p><b>Valérie Pattyn</b> Assistant Professor, the Institute of Public Administration of Leiden University, The Netherlands</p> <p><b>Harsha Dayal</b> Research Director, Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Government of South Africa</p>

16.30 - 16.45 Break

16.45 - 17.00 Recommendations for the closing panel

17.00 - 17.30 VII Interactive Panel - Recommendations for using Ex-ante evidence for policies and politics

Moderator:

**Peter van der Knaap** Chairman of the Dutch Association for Policy Evaluation (Vide), The Netherlands

Panel members:

**Danièle Lamarque** President of the European Evaluation Society

**Joost Sneller** Member of the House of Representatives, Democrats 66 (D66), The Netherlands

**Bart Snels** Member of the House of Representatives, GroenLinks, The Netherlands

**Kathryn Newcomer** Former President of the American Evaluation Association & Professor in the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration at the George Washington University, USA

17:30 Closing Remarks and (virtual) reception

# Draft Programme Thursday December 17

## *Data and Algorithms for Better Policy*

Times in CET

13.45 - 14.00 Registration

14.00 - 15.00 VIII Plenary opening - Strategies for connecting Data and Policy Evidence

14.00	<b>Peter van der Knaap</b>	Conference co-chair and Chairman of the Dutch Association for Policy Evaluation (Vide)
14.05	<b>Nick Hart</b>	President, Data Foundation, USA
14.20	<b>Barbara Ubaldi</b>	Digital Government Lead, OECD
14.35	<b>Angelique Berg</b>	Director General of Statistics Netherlands (CBS)
14.50	<b>Paul Strijp*</b>	Strategist New Technologies & Data, Province of North Holland

15.05 - 15.15 Break

15.15 - 16.30 IX Parallel sessions - Data & algorithms for better policies: *How can we be both responsible and effective?*

International	National	Regional/Local	'Behind Closed Doors' Sessions: <i>How Dark are Data?</i> (Chatham house rules apply)
Chair: <b>Zeynep Engin</b> Founder of the Data for Policy Journal, UK	Chair: <b>Nick Hart</b> President, Data Foundation, USA	Chair: <b>Jeroen van Velzen</b> Chief Director of the Directorate of Data Services, Research and Innovation, Statistics Netherlands (CBS)	Chair: <b>Jaap van den Herik</b> Professor Data Science FGGA/LCDS, Leiden University, The Netherlands
<b>Barbara Ubaldi</b> Digital Government Lead, OECD	<b>Marieke van Putten</b> Senior Innovation Manager, Ministry of Interior, The Netherlands	<b>Marten Tilstra</b> Programme Manager IDA, Interprovincial Consultation (IPO), The Netherlands	<b>Bram Klievink</b> Full Professor of Public Administration & Digitalisation, Leiden University, The Netherlands
<b>EPPI Representative*</b>	<b>Anne Fleur van Veenstra</b> Senior Researcher ICT policy, TNO, The Netherlands	<b>Claar Schouwenaar</b> Project leader Digital Innovation and Participation, Province of Utrecht, The Netherlands	<b>Massimo Craglia</b> Senior Scientist in AI, European Commission
	<b>Dmitri Burnashev*</b> Deputy Strategy Director, Government Office of Estonia	<b>Zachary Markovits</b> Vice President of Local Government & Managing Director of What Works Cities at Results for America, USA	

16.30 - 16.45 Break

16.45 - 17.00 Recommendations for the closing panel

17.00 - 17.30 IV Interactive panel - How can providers and users of AI create more substantiated policies

Moderator:

**Peter van der Knaap** Chairman of the Dutch Association for Policy Evaluation (Vide), The Netherlands

Panel Members:

**Sander Klous** Prof. Big Data Ecosystems for Business and Society, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

**Barbara Ubaldi** Digital Government Lead, OECD

**Nick Hart** President, Data Foundation, USA

17:30 Closing Remarks and (virtual) reception

# Draft Programme Friday December 18

## *Structuring Evidence in Government and Politics*

### Times in CET

13.45 - 14.00 Registration

14.00 - 15.00 IX Plenary opening - Strategies for Structuring the Use of Evidence

14.00	<b>Wopke Hoekstra</b>	Minister of Finance, the Netherlands
14.15	<b>Pieter Duisenberg</b>	Chair of the Association of Universities in the Netherlands (VSNU)
14.30	<b>Jonathan Breckon</b>	Director, Alliance for Useful Evidence, UK
14.45	<b>Melanie Peters</b>	Director of Rathenau Institute

15.00 - 15.15 Move to sessions

15.15 - 16.15 X Roundtables - Group discussions: *How to effectively develop and share evidence for thematic policies?*

#### Behavioural Insights

#### Health

#### Security

#### Education

##### *Coordinators:*

##### **Semiha Denktas**

Prof. Psychology and Behaviour change, Academic Director BIG'R

##### **Bianca Albers**

Associate Director, Centre for Evidence and Implementation, Germany

##### *Coordinators:*

##### **Peter van der Graaf**

AskFuse Research Manager, UK

##### **Caroline Baan**

Chief Science Officer, Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, The Netherlands

##### *Coordinators:*

##### **Laura Menenti**

Chief Science Officer, Ministry of Security and Justice

##### **Jon Baron**

Vice-President of Evidence Based Policy, Laura and John Arnold Foundation, USA

##### *Coordinators:*

##### **Rien Rouw**

Senior Advisor Strategy and Knowledge Based Policy, Ministry of Education, Culture and Science

##### **Claire Shewbridge**

Project Leader, Education Directorate OECD

#### Mobility

#### Sustainability

#### Development

##### *Coordinators:*

##### **Rutger Krans**

Infrastructure Expert, Department of Waterways and Public Works (RWS), The Netherlands

##### **Howard White,**

CEO, Campbell Collaboration, Norway

##### *Coordinators:*

##### **Eva Kunseler**

Researcher, Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL)

##### **Pauline Rioussel**

Researcher at the Office of Technology Assessment, Germany

##### *Coordinators:*

##### **Marie Gaarder**

Executive Director, International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3IE)

##### **Natascha Wagner**

Associate professor of Development Economics, International Institute of Social Studies (ISS), The Netherlands

16.15 - 16.30 Break

16.30 - 16.45 Recommendations for the closing panel

16.45 - 17.30 XI Interactive closing panel - *How can we structure the use of evidence for policymakers and politicians?*

### Introduction to the closing Panel:

#### Moderator:

**Pieter Duisenberg** Conference Co-Chair and Chair of the Association of Universities in the Netherlands (VSNU)

#### Panel Members:

**Ruben Brekelmans** Programme Director Operation 'Inzicht in Kwaliteit', Ministry of Finance, The Netherlands

**Rachel Tuffin** Executive Lead for the What Works Centre for Crime Reduction, UK

**Jonathan Breckon** Director, Alliance for Useful Evidence, UK

**Harsha Dayal** Research Director, Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Government of South Africa

**Roald van der Linde** Member of the House of Representatives, VVD, The Netherlands

*Recap and closing remarks by: Pieter Duisenberg*