



INVITATION

SCIENCE FOR POLICY ACTIVITIES

Enabling Dialogues for Decision Making

When

Thursday 4 April 2024
Presentation 17.00–18.45
Reception 18.45–19.30
All times CET

Where

**Research Foundation
Flanders (FWO)**
Hoek38
Leuvenseweg /
Rue de Louvain 38
1000 Brussels

Register

Please register via:
scieur.org/2024-s4p-launch

Background

Scientific research can and should support policy makers in navigating how to tackle societal challenges. Decision makers must deal with complex, knowledge-demanding challenges for which simple solutions do not exist. In this context, science can provide rigorous evidence of the challenge at hand enabling a better understanding of the problem as well as assessing the likely implications of available options. This type of science-based contribution is able to improve the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of policy making. Enabling the bidirectional interactions between the policy and scientific communities is a challenge that requires trust, commitment and collective engagement.

In the [2021–2026 Strategy Plan](#), Science Europe set the priority to “strengthen the role and contribution of science in tackling societal challenges.” Supporting research–policy interactions and promoting science-based policy making is part of this challenge. This event follows the 2023 report [Science Policy in Action. Insights for the Green and Digital Transition](#), which presented guidance, principles, and examples for research funding organisations and research performing organisations.

The new Guidance on Science for Policy aims to provide relevant definitions, principles, actions, and examples for Science Europe Members and other similar research organisations, who want to engage in research–policy dialogues. The institutional mandate, the principles of quality, integrity, transparency, the need for dedicated resources, and the goal of providing science-based options (rather than advice) were identified as fundamental principles for guiding research organisations.

Objective

This event aims to present the Science Europe Guidance on Science for Policy activities. Based on the 2023 report [Science Policy in Action: Insights for the Green and Digital Transition](#), the Guidance aims to :

1. define Science for Policy activities in the case of Science Europe Member Organisations.
2. present the principles and values.
3. propose actions for designing and operating Science for Policy Activities.
4. provide examples.
5. discuss cross-cutting challenges.

The Guidance will be discussed with a high-level panel of research organisations' leaders directly engaged in science for policy activities.

Roundtable discussion

The discussion with high level representatives of research organisations will address the following questions:

1. What specific actions can research funding organisations and research performing organisations take to strengthen the role of science in supporting policy making?
2. Reflecting on the current landscape of science for policy activities, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic and the EU Council Conclusions in December 2023, what are the most notable examples of science for policy activities in your countries? What lessons have you learnt that might inspire other countries?
3. In a context of rising geopolitical tensions and polycrisis, how do you see international co-operation in science for policy making?
4. How should ethical considerations weigh in the debate when scientific research is used to inform policy making? And how can policy makers ensure that ethical principles are upheld?
5. In light of the growing digitalisation and emergence of Artificial Intelligence, how can research organisations leverage technology and data-driven approaches to enhance the impact of science on policy making?
6. Looking ahead, what are the emerging trends or areas of focus that research organisations should prioritise to further strengthen the nexus between science and policy making in the coming years?

Participants

Invited participants correspond to the following main profiles:

- Policy makers interested in developing science for policy activities.
- Research organisations that aim to support policy making.
- Researchers interested in the organisational support to develop science-based policy advice.
- Knowledge brokers acting 'in-between' policy and research organisations.

Programme

Thursday 4 April 2024

Research Foundation Flanders, Leuvenseweg/Rue de Louvain 38, 1000 Brussels

17.00–17.10

Welcome and Introduction

Mari Sundli Tveit, President of Science Europe

17.10–17.50

Keynote Speeches

EU Activities on Science for Policy

Joanna Drake, Deputy Director-General for Planet, People, and Science for Policy at the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission

Science–Policy Interactions

David Butz Pedersen, Professor of Science Communication at the Department of Communication and Psychology, Aalborg University, Denmark (*to be confirmed*)

17.50–18.40

Presentation of Guidance on Science for Policy

Nicola Francesco Dotti, Senior Policy Officer for the Green and Digital Transition at Science Europe

Margarida Prado, Scientific Officer at the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), and co-Chair of the SE Working Group on the Green and Digital Transition

Roundtable Discussion

Joanna Drake, Deputy Director-General for Planet, People, and Science for Policy at the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission

Alberto Mercado, Strategic Project Manager for the Vice-Presidency, co-ordinator of the ‘Science4Policy’ collection at the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)

Margarida Prado, Scientific Officer at the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), and co-Chair of the SE Working Group on the Green and Digital Transition

Mari Sundli Tveit, President of Science Europe

Moderator:

Hans Willems, Secretary General of the Research Foundation Flanders (FWO)

18.40–18.45

Conclusions

Lidia Borrell-Damián, Secretary General of Science Europe

18.45–19.30

Networking Reception