



PROGRAMME

SCIENCE-POLICY IN ACTION

Insights for the Green and Digital Transition

When

Wednesday 29/03/2023

Roundtable 18.00–19.30

All times are in CEST.

Where

Zoom (online)

Connection details are shared with all registered participants.

Background

Scientific research plays a crucial role in identifying and understanding climate change and, more broadly, environmental and social changes, mobilising decision makers for today's most important societal challenge. More recently, digitalisation has emerged, radically changing our societies. Both societal challenges are interconnected: digital technologies can reduce climate impacts by providing, for instance, online meetings instead of air travelling, but the extensive use of digital equipment and data centres radically increases energy consumption.

These complex, intertwined challenges of the so-called 'Twin Transition' requires concurrent scientific research to understand their implications and policy actions to support positive changes and reduce (or minimise) adverse effects. For these particularly complex problems, dialogue between researchers and policy makers is needed.

In its [Strategy Plan 2021–2026](#), Science Europe set itself 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. At this event, Science Europe will present the report 'Science Policy in Action: Insights for the Green and Digital Transition', a survey-based study on national research funding and performing organisations. The focus on the green and digital transition aims to orient the debate towards the most pressing societal challenges with complex dynamics and need for systemic change.

Objective

Science Europe will present the report 'Science Policy in Action: Insights for the Green and Digital Transition'. Based on a survey among Science Europe Member Organisations, the study has three fundamental objectives:

1. Understanding science–policy interfaces as activities promoting and facilitating science-informed policy making.
2. Mapping the science-policy activities of SE member organisations with a specific angle on the green and digital transition.
3. Proposing recommendations to improve science–policy interactions.

The findings from the report will be discussed with a high-level panel of research organisations' leaders directly engaged on science-policy interactions or working to promote them at the organisational level.

Roundtable Discussion

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

- How do you see the role that scientists should play when informing policy-making processes? What are the strengths and weaknesses of science's current contribution to solving societal issues (by way of policy)?
- How can we best deal with challenges that arise from international co-operation in scientific research and policy making (such as compatibility of interests and foreign interference)?
- How should ethical considerations weigh into the debate when scientific research is used to inform policy making? And how can policy makers ensure that ethical principles are upheld?
- We have seen that political considerations on how science relates to society have gone through different phases, from post-truth politics to the tumultuous COVID-19 episodes. Based on these experiences, how can research funding and performing organisations mainstream the 'science for policy' perspective in the design of their respective mid- to long-term (3-5 years) future research programmes and projects?

Participants

Invited participants correspond to the following main profiles:

- Policy makers interested in developing science-informed policy
- Research organisations aiming 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

Wednesday 29 March 2023

University Foundation, Brussels

18.00–18.20 CEST

Welcome and Keynote

Welcome and Introduction

Marc SCHILTZ, President of Science Europe

Keynote speech on Science-Policy Interactions

Marc LEMAITRE, Director General, European Commission, DG RTD

18.20–18.40

Presentation of the Report

Science-Policy in Action: Insights for the Green and Digital Transition

- **Malin MOBJÖRK**, Senior Research Officer, Formas, and Chair of the Science Europe Working Group for the Green and Digital Transition
- **Nicola Francesco DOTTI**, Senior Policy Officer for the Green and Digital Transition, Science Europe

Moderator and Q&A

Lidia BORRELL-DAMIÁN, Secretary General, Science Europe

18.40–19.25

Roundtable

Roundtable Discussion

- **Véronique HALLOIN**, Secretary General, Belgian Fund for Scientific Research (F.R.S.-FNRS)
- **Francisco Javier MORENO FUENTES**, Vice-President, Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)
- **Mairéad O'DRISCOLL**, Chief Executive Officer, Health Research Board Ireland (HRB)
- **Marc SCHILTZ**, President, Science Europe, and Chief Executive Officer, Luxembourg National Research Fund (FNR)
- **Mari SUNDLI TVEIT**, Chief Executive, Research Council of Norway (RCN)
- **Moniek TROMP**, Chair, Young Academies Science Advice Structure (YASAS)

Moderator and Q&A

Hayet ZEGHICHE, Freelance Journalist

19.25–19.30

Conclusions

Speakers and Moderators

Speakers and moderators are listed in order of appearance on the programme.



Marc SCHILTZ

President of Science Europe and Chief Executive Officer of the Luxembourg National Research Fund (FNR)

Marc Schiltz has significantly contributed to enhancing the quality of the Luxembourg research system over the past ten years, as well as to building bridges with the international research community and the private sector. In his term as Chief Executive Officer, the Luxembourg National Research Fund (FNR) has developed programme lines to attract scientific talent to the country and to link the business ecosystem to research innovation. As President of Science Europe, he has since 2017 been setting the European agenda to foster Open Science. In addition, he chairs the cOAlition S Executive Steering Group and sits on the Governing Board of the Global Research Council. He is also the founding Chairman of the Luxembourg Agency for Research Integrity.



Marc LEMAITRE

Director General at the European Commission Directorate-General for Research and Innovation

Marc Lemaître studied at Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) and Bruges (College of Europe) and holds a Master in European Economics. He brings 25 years of profound experience in European Affairs, both in the European Commission and in the diplomatic service of Luxembourg. Between 1996 and 2006, he worked in the Permanent Representation of Luxembourg to the European Union, dealing with budgetary, trade and general affairs issues.

He joined the Commission in 2007 as Head of the private office of Regional Policy Commissioner, Danuta Hübner, and then her successor, Paweł Samecki. Between 2010 and 2013, he led the private office of Budget Commissioner Janusz Lewandowski. Between 2013 and 2016, he managed, as Director, the Office for Administration and Payment of individual entitlements (PMO). Between 2016 and January 2023, he was Director-General for Regional and Urban Policy (REGIO). Since February 2023 he is Director-General for Research and Innovation (RTD).



Malin MOBJÖRK

Senior Research Officer at Formas, and Chair of the Science Europe Working Group on the Green and Digital Transition

Dr Malin Mobjörk is Senior Policy Officer at the Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development, Formas. Malin is coordinating the Swedish national research programme on climate, and she is engaged in Formas international climate work with focus on Horizon Europe. Before joining Formas in March 2021, Malin was the Director of the Climate Change and Risk programme at Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, SIPRI. During the past decade, her research focused on the climate and security debate that includes, but is not limited to, how

policy organisations frame and respond to climate-related security risks. She is also interested in inter- and transdisciplinary research, and she has predominantly been working at the interface between academic research and policymaking. Malin has a PhD in Environmental Change, Linköping University, Sweden.



Nicola Francesco DOTTI

Senior Policy Officer for the Green and Digital Transition at Science Europe

Dr Nicola Francesco Dotti is Senior Policy Officer for the Green and Digital Transition. He graduated in urban planning and holds a Doctorate in regional economics and policy evaluation from the Polytechnic University of Milan. Before joining Science Europe in October 2021, he was a researcher on the European geography of research, EU Cohesion Policy, policy-knowledge brokerage, research-policy interactions, data-driven university governance, and assessment of the societal impact of university research. He also worked for the Brussels Capital Region on the economic impact of international and European institutions.



Lidia BORRELL-DAMIÁN

Secretary General of Science Europe

Dr Lidia Borrell-Damián has been Secretary General of Science Europe since 2019. Previously, she worked at the European University Association (EUA), where she was Director for Research and Innovation. Her areas of expertise cover a wide range of European and global R&I policies, including business R&I and energy. Prior to that she worked as Director of Research at Pompeu Fabra University, and as an assistant professor and visiting scholar in USA and Canada universities. She contributes to several international advisory committees including the Global Research Council. She holds a Doctorate in Chemistry, with a specialty in Chemical Engineering from the University of Barcelona.



Véronique HALLOIN

Secretary General of the Belgian Fund for Scientific Research (F.R.S.-FNRS)

Véronique Halloin obtained her civil engineering degree in chemistry in 1986 and a PhD in applied sciences in 1992. She became a full professor at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) in 2000, heading the chemical engineering research group. Since October 2008, she has been Secretary General of the F.R.S.-FNRS, the funding agency of the French-speaking part of Belgium that supports basic and strategic research in all scientific fields. The FNRS has an annual budget of approximately €200 million and is the employer of about 2,000 researchers at various career levels.

She is also a member of the Rectors' Conference of French-speaking Belgian Universities as well as of several councils and organisations, such as Science Europe, Academia Belgica, Welbio, the Queen Elisabeth Medical Foundation. Since March 2022, she is member of the Académie Royale de Belgique (Classe Technologie et Société). In addition, she is a Belgian delegate to the CERN Finance Committee and General Council, as well as to the Global Science Forum (OECD), and since March 2020, is president of ESF-Science Connect.



Francisco Javier MORENO FUENTES

Vice-President of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)

BA in Sociology at the Universidad Complutense of Madrid, MSc in Social Sciences at the Instituto Juan March of Madrid, MSc in Social Policy and Planning at the London School of Economics, and PhD in Political Science at the Universidad Autónoma of Madrid (2003). He received grants from the British Council, Fundación La Caixa, Fundación Juan March, Fullbright Commission and the Marie Curie programme. He has been visiting scholar at Wesleyan University (USA) (1995) and the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (2005).

His main areas of interest are centred in the comparative analysis of public policies within the European region, with a special focus in the study of welfare regimes and their transformation, as well as in immigration and urban policies. Between July 2018 and September 2019 he was Deputy Director of the Spanish High Commissioner Against Child Poverty. Member of the European Social Policy Network (ESPN) of independent experts on social protection and inclusion between 2014 and 2018.



Mairéad O'DRISCOLL

Chief Executive Officer of the Health Research Board Ireland (HRB)

Mairéad O'Driscoll was appointed Chief Executive Officer of the HRB in 2020. The HRB is the lead agency in Ireland for health research with an annual budget of €55m and an awards portfolio of approximately €200m. The organisation also provides an evidence service to Government, manages several national health information systems, and hosts the National Office for Research Ethics Committees. Before being appointed CEO, Mairéad held a number of different roles in the HRB, including Director of Strategy and Funding, and Head of Policy, Evaluation and External Relations. Prior to joining the HRB, Mairéad worked in both academia and industry before moving into policy research, initially with the Royal Society in London, and later with the Wellcome Trust. She also spent time in South Africa where she worked on the development of a national research and technology foresight study. She is a member of several national and international groups and is a graduate of Trinity College Dublin and the University of London.



Mari SUNDLI TVEIT

Chief Executive of the Research Council of Norway (RCN)

Mari Sundli Tveit was Deputy Director-General of the Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise before leading the Research Council of Norway (RCN). Prior to that, she was Professor of Landscape Architecture and Rector of the Norwegian University of Life Sciences. She has also held numerous elected positions, including as a board member at the European University Association and at the Centre for Advanced Studies at the Norwegian Academy for Science and Letters and at Chalmers Technical University in Gothenburg, as well that of president of Universities Norway. She is experienced in leading large mergers, organisational integration, strategic development, and working with a large international network within academia, the business sector, and government.



Moniek TROMP

Chair of the Young Academies Science Advice Structure (YASAS)

Moniek Tromp finished her MSc in Chemistry, with specialisations in spectroscopy and catalysis, and a PhD in the fields of homogeneous catalysis and time-resolved X-ray absorption spectroscopy at the University of Utrecht (NL). After finishing with distinction, she moved to the University of Southampton (UK) for a Post-Doctoral Research fellowship. She was awarded an EPSRC Advanced Research Fellowship to start her own independent academic career and became lecturer. She moved to Germany in 2010, where she took up a position as professor in Catalyst Characterisation at the Technical University Munich. In 2014, she decided to come back to the Netherlands, working at the University of Amsterdam. From July 2018 she has taken up the Chair of Materials Chemistry at the Zernike Institute of Advanced Materials at the University of Groningen. She serves as the institute's Scientific Director since January 2023. She is also the current chair of the Young Academy Europe.

She has been awarded prestigious fellowships/awards like the EPSRC Advanced Research Fellowship, NWO VIDI and the NWO Athena prize. She is active in numerous science advisory and review panels of large research facilities and universities internationally, part of a European Science Strategy team for large facilities, has published close to 100 papers in high profile journals and given over 80 invited lectures worldwide. Gender and diversity are important for her, and she has been active as Gender Equality Officer (D) and is now developing programs for primary school on science and engineering as well as gender bias issues. Additionally, she is chair of the Dutch Network for Female Professor (LNVH).



Hayet ZEGHICHE

Freelance Journalist

Hayet Zeghiche is a former broadcast Journalist with nearly twenty years of professional experience in the field of Journalism and Communication. She worked as EU Affairs Correspondent for round-the-clock international news outlets (such as Al Jazeera, BBC World), before collaborating with international civil society organisations with strong ties to the EU (such as the International Federation of Journalists, the Euro Mediterranean Human Rights Network, and so on). She has contributed to a very diverse range of EU institutional projects and now works as a Senior Consultant, offering mainly communication strategy advice to the EU institutions and other organisations.