

29 April 2022

Good Advice for (Young) Science-Policy Advisors

Side event of the SAPEA Conference on
Science Advice Under Pressure



FORMAS 





Introduction

How to become an effective science-policy advisor? Top experts and early career researchers discuss careers, skills, training, organisations, and lessons learnt between policy engagement and scientific integrity.

The COVID pandemic has brought science-policy advice to the forefront, highlighting the importance of science-informed policy advice. Since the start of this crisis in 2019, politicians and policy makers under pressure turned to scientific experts to better understand the challenge and to inform quick decisions in complex situations. Every country established different types of science-policy interfaces for science-informed advice to decision makers at all levels.

This panel event will discuss 'lessons learnt' for researchers who may consider becoming science-policy advisors. Top experts and early-career researchers will present their views and experiences on career perspectives for science-policy advisors. They will consider individual skills, competencies, and training needed, as well as the possible professional paths and different organisations involved. A specific focus will be the nexus between scientific integrity and autonomy at personal and institutional levels.

The panel will present and discuss advice for researchers interested in pursuing this career in a highly interactive way. Panellists will put their advice to the vote of the audience, followed by a more in-depth explanation that takes into account the importance, rationale, and implications of the lessons learned. Participants will take home 10 to 12 messages on pursuing engagement in science-policy advice.

Good Advice for (Young) Science-Policy Advisors

Programme

All times in CEST

FRIDAY 29 APRIL 2022

10.00–10.10

Welcome

- Dr. Lidia BORRELL-DAMIÁN, Secretary General of Science Europe

10.10–11.10

Interactive Panel Session

- Dr. Mostafa Moonir SHAWRAV, Former Chair of the Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA)
- Dr. Véronique HALLOIN, Secretary General of the Fund for Scientific Research (F.R.S.-FNRS)
- Prof. Dr. Zbigniew Władysław KUNDZEWICZ, Poznan University of Life Sciences, Poland
- Dr. Mairéad O'DRISCOLL, Chief Executive Officer of the Health Research Board of Ireland (HRB)

Chaired by Dr. Malin MOBJÖRK, Senior Policy Officer at Formas and Chair of the Science Europe Working Group on the Green and Digital Transition

11.10–11.20

Q&A Session with the Audience

11.20–11.30

Concluding Remarks

- Dr. Mostafa Moonir SHAWRAV, Former Chair of the Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA)
- Dr. Nicola Francesco DOTTI, Senior Policy Officer at Science Europe

Biographies of Speakers & Moderators

In order of appearance on the programme:



Lidia Borrell-Damián

SECRETARY GENERAL OF SCIENCE EUROPE

Lidia Borrell-Damián is Secretary General of Science Europe, the association representing major public organisations that fund or perform excellent, ground-breaking research in Europe. Previously, she worked for the European University Association (EUA) (2006–2019), serving the last five years as the Director for Research and Innovation (R&I).

Her areas of experience cover a wide range of European and global R&I priorities, namely EU Framework Programme; European Research Area; research infrastructures; research ethics and integrity; research assessment processes; university-business co-operation; regional innovation; gender and diversity; Open Science; doctoral education; energy science policy. She was a member of the EOSC Executive Committee between September 2019 and December 2020, and co-chair of the related Sustainability Working Group.

Lidia Borrell-Damián holds a Doctorate in Chemistry (Chemical Engineering Specialty; Solar Energy) from the University of Barcelona (1995). She was Director of Research at Universitat Pompeu Fabra (2003–2005). Formerly, she was a Visiting Scholar at the University of Western Ontario (Canada, 1999–2001) at North Carolina State University (USA, 1997–1998) and an Assistant Professor at the University of Barcelona (1990–1998).



Mostafa Moonir Shawrav

FORMER CHAIR OF THE MARIE CURIE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (MCAA)

Mostafa Moonir Shawrav was the Chair of Marie Curie Alumni Association from 2020 until 2022. He was a Vice-Chair of the association between 2018 and 2020. After working over 10 years in an academic environment in Austria, Belgium, and the Netherlands, he moved into the semiconductor industry and currently manages several European R&D Projects.

His involvement in MCAA since its establishment helped him understand the challenges faced by researchers from different career stages and various scientific and geographical backgrounds. This inspired him to become active and organise trainings for mobile researchers. Over the past 4 years, he was involved in several policy initiatives including the Knowledge Ecosystem project, MSCA Supervision Guidelines, Researcher Assessment initiative, and many others. In the past three years, he has spoken at more than 50 events focusing on topics including policy, sustainable research careers, careers outside academia, science diplomacy and entrepreneurship, among many others. He is a fellow of the Royal Microscopical Society.



Véronique Halloin

SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE 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 ULB in 2000, heading the chemical engineering research group. Her research themes were more specifically modelling of transport phenomena in multiphase processes of chemical, biological, food and environmental industries (multiscale approach).

She held the position of vice-director and director of the school of bio-engineering from 2000 to 2006, and vice-rector in charge of research and development from 2006 to 2008. She is honorary full professor since 2017.

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. In addition, she is a Belgian delegate to the Finance Committee and the General Council of CERN, as well as to the Global Science Forum (OECD).

Since March 2020 she is President of the ESF-Science Connect. Since March 2022, she is member of the *Académie Royale de Belgique (Classe Technologie et Société)*.



Zbigniew Władysław Kundzewicz

POZNAN UNIVERSITY OF LIFE SCIENCES, CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, MEMBER OF ACADEMIA EUROPAEA

Zbigniew W. Kundzewicz is a Professor of Earth Sciences (since 1993), a Corresponding Member of Polish Academy of Sciences (since 2010) and a Member of Academia Europaea (since 2017). He works part time in the Meteorology Lab, Faculty of Environmental Engineering and Mechanical Engineering, Poznan University of Life Sciences, Poland.

In last 20 years, he has worked full-time in the Agricultural and Forest Environment, Polish Academy of Sciences in Poznan, Poland (1990–2021), and part-time in the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) in Potsdam, Germany (2001–2016) and in the Nanjing University of Information Science & Technology (NUIST), China since 2018. His principal research interests embrace climate change impact on water resources; hydrometeorological extremes, and risk analysis.

He has been a four-fold Coordinating Lead Author of publications of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Now, he is a Member of the Assembly of the Horizon Europe (European Commission). He has led and participated in many national and international research projects. His H-index after Web of Science is equal to 47.



Mairéad O'Driscoll

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE HEALTH RESEARCH BOARD OF IRELAND (HRB)

Mairéad O'Driscoll was appointed Chief Executive Officer of the HRB in 2020. She oversees an annual investment of €45m in health research activity, an awards portfolio of approximately €200m and leads a staff of 75 people.

Before being appointed CEO, Mairéad held a number of different roles in the HRB, including Director of Funding, as well as Head of Policy, Evaluation and External Relations. Prior to joining the HRB, Mairéad worked as a researcher 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, including the Executive Committee of International Consortium for Personalised Medicine (ICPerMed), which she chaired for two years. Mairéad is a graduate of both Trinity College Dublin and the University of London.



Malin Mobjörk

SENIOR POLICY OFFICER AT FORMAS, CHAIR OF THE SCIENCE EUROPE WORKING GROUP ON THE GREEN AND DIGITAL TRANSITION

Malin Mobjörk is Senior Policy Officer at the Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development, Formas. Malin co-ordinates the Swedish national research programme on climate, which aims to support climate transformation. Furthermore, she is engaged in Formas' international climate work.

Before joining Formas in March 2021, Malin was the Director of the Climate Change and Risk programme at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, SIPRI. Over the past decade, her research has focused on different aspects of the climate change and security debate. It has entailed work on the linkages between climate change and violent conflict, as well as research examining how policy organisations frame and respond to climate-related security risks. Additionally, she is interested in interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research, and has predominantly been working at the interface between academic research and policy making.

In spring 2018, she was a Public Policy Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Centre in Washington DC, US. She has a PhD in Environmental Change from Linköping University, Sweden.



Nicola Francesco Dotti

SENIOR POLICY OFFICER 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.



Marie Curie Alumni Association

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