Good Advice for (Young) Science-Policy Advisors

Side event of the SAPEA Conference on Science Advice Under Pressure
Friday 29 April, 10.00–11.30 CEST

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, making the importance of science-informed policy advice even more evident. Since the start of this crisis in 2019, politicians and policymakers were under high pressure and turned to scientific experts to better understand the challenge and make quick decisions in complex situations. Every country established different types of science-policy interfaces to have science-informed advice for decision-makers at all levels (national, regional and local governments as well as European and international ones).

The panel 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, considering both 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. The panellists will propose their 1-line advice to be voted by the audience. Then the experts will explain each advice more in-depth, discussing the importance, rationale, and implications of these lessons learnt with the participants. In the end, the audience will have 10-12 take-home messages on pursuing engagement in science-policy advice.

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Draft Programme

All times are in CEST.

10.00–10.10  WELCOME
  • Dr. Lidia BORRELL-DAMIÁN, Secretary General of Science Europe

10.10–11.10  INTERACTIVE PANEL SESSION
  • Dr. Véronique HALLOIN, Secretary General of the Fund for Scientific Research (F.R.S.-FNRS)
  • Prof. Dr. Zbigniew Władysław KUNDZEWICZ, Professor of Earth Sciences at the Polish Academy of Sciences
  • Dr. Fernanda BAJANCA, Chair of Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA)
  • Dr. Mairéad O’DRISCOLL, Chief Executive Officer of the Health Research Board of Ireland

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  OPEN DEBATE WITH THE AUDIENCE

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

11.20–11.30  PANEL CLOSE