



EXECUTIVE TRAINING SEMINAR

GLOBAL GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME & SCHOOL OF TRANSNATIONAL GOVERNANCE

EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY-MAKING: FROM DATA TO DECISION-MAKING

Scientific Coordinator: **Gaby Umbach** | Director Globalstat, Global Governance Programme, European University Institute

Cappella

Villa Schifanoia, Via Boccaccio 121 - Florence

 [@GlobGovProgram](#) [#evidencebased](#)

7-9 JUNE 2018

■ INTRODUCTION

In times of increasing populism and contestation of politics, reliable information plays a vital role for well-informed policy-making based on evidence rather than emotions and fake news. The popular legitimacy of any political system around the world today, perhaps more than ever, thus depends on its effective capacity to successfully deliver good and targeted outcomes as a policy-shaper and law-maker based on facts. These outcomes have to be based on reliable data in order to make political decisions understandable, assessable, sustainable and future-proof.

Within the preparatory and scrutinising processes of policy-making, policy proposals, legislative acts and implementation arrangements are increasingly being assessed and evaluated on the basis of factual evidence and statistical data. Such evidence-based monitoring is increasingly recognised as a complex steering mode in itself resulting from changing governance patterns, supranationalisation and globalisation. In this view, evidence-based policy-making reflects the need to re-structure the interaction between the political actors of different institutional origin and political levels, and represents an influential policy instrument at the border of the politics and policy dimensions of multilevel political systems.

While the demand for independent sources of evidence and expertise in policy-making has therefore grown enormously in the past, the landscape of data sources and the ways in which best to inject evidence into policy-making have increased exuberantly and can easily become confusing for any non-data scientist. The present *Executive Training Seminar* aims to contribute to a better understanding of different modes and instruments of evidence-based policy-making. It will examine recent developments in evidence-based policy-making, data science and policy evaluation, including various

tools of impact and implementation assessment, scientific evaluation, strategic foresight, the policy-oriented use of large data resources and data visualisation. The main purpose of this *Executive Training Seminar* is to provide fresh ideas on how to develop a convincing toolbox for providing evidence for policy-makers, including critical assessments of the limits of empirical and data evidence in defining new policies. Through presentations, case studies, and 'hands on' work, participants will gain a greater appreciation and understanding of main issues related to evidence-based policy-making.

■ DRAFT PROGRAMME

7 JUNE

- 14.00 - 14.30 Opening
Brigid Laffan | Director, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies & Global Governance Programme, European University Institute
Gaby Umbach | Director, GlobalStat, European University Institute
- 14.30 - 15.30 Keynote Speech
Xavier Troussard | Director, Directorate I - Competences, Joint Research Centre, European Commission (TBC)
- 15.30 - 16.00 Coffee break
- 16.00 - 17.00 'Evidence Turn' in Policy-Making I (input session)
Paul Cairney | Professor of Politics and Public Policy, Department of History and Politics, University of Stirling
The first training session provides information on 'evidence-based measuring' and 'measuring as governance instrument'. It focuses on 'governance' consequences created by evidence-based policy-making; aspects of policy-learning and learning ahead of crises; questions of political steering and regulation; epistemic community-building, and (expert) knowledge-sharing for policy innovation.
- 17.00 - 19.00 'Evidence Turn' in Policy-Making II (training session)
Paul Cairney | Professor of Politics and Public Policy, Department of History and Politics, University of Stirling
Critical assessment - Discussion of pros, cons, challenges and limitations in groups
- 20.00 Dinner

8 JUNE

- 09.30 - 10.30 Legitimacy and Accountability of Evidence-based Policy-Making I (input session)
Barend van der Meulen | Head of Science System Assessment, Rathenau Instituut/The Hague and Professor Evidence for Science Policy at Leiden University (TBC)
The second training session deals with the impact of evidence- and data-based policy-making as a rather recent development in politics. It focuses on important

normative questions of the support of public authority through evidence-based processes and the legitimacy and accountability of these processes. It will seek to shed light on the democratic quality of these processes and on their influence on democratic legitimacy as well as participation.

10.30 - 11.00

Coffee break

11.00 - 13.00

Legitimacy and Accountability of Evidence-based Policy-Making II (training session)

Barend van der Meulen | Head of Science System Assessment, Rathenau Instituut/The Hague and Professor Evidence for Science Policy at Leiden University (TBC)

Contextualisation - Discussion of limitations from the respective national backgrounds; identification of patterns across systems

13.00 - 14.00

Lunch break

14.00 - 15.00

Strategic Foresight and Impact Assessment I (input session)

Angela Wilkinson | Senior Director, Scenarios and Business Insights, World Energy Council (TBC)

The third training session turns towards impact assessment and strategic foresight as key instruments to “engage tacit knowledge, make assumptions explicit, forge new shared understanding..., and anticipate and prepare for what has yet to happen” [1]. It will provide information on relatively new forms of policy evaluation and prospective policy development and their impact on policy-makers and public officials.

[1] Wilkinson (2017): *Strategic Foresight Primer*, Brussels, p. 3.

15.00 - 15.30

Coffee break

15.30 - 17.30

Strategic Foresight and Impact Assessment II (training session)

Angela Wilkinson | Senior Director, Scenarios and Business Insights, World Energy Council (TBC)

Strategic planning and assessment - Differences to ‘classic’ policy-making; requirements for public administrations; demand for evidence and data quality; key techniques and learning processes

9 JUNE

09.30 - 11.00

Communication of Data: From Figures to Users I (input session)

Mitja Brus | European Parliamentary Research Service (TBC)

Matthias Rumpf | OECD (TBC)

The fourth training session targets the ways data and evidence are communicated to policy-makers and decision-takers. Data visualisation is one of the key support tools used to make data and evidence easily accessible for the end user. They help grasp complex concepts and new approaches more easily and quickly. As interactive and dynamic visualisations, they also facilitate step-by-step deep learning of complicated and interlinked matters. Different forms of data management and data visualisation to support evidence-based policy-

making will be discussed during this session.

11.00 - 11.30	Coffee break
11.30 - 13.00	Communication of Data: From Figures to Users II (training session) Mitja Brus European Parliamentary Research Service (TBC) Matthias Rumpf OECD (TBC) <i>Operationalisation – Identification of relevant data on particular topics and development of communication tools and strategies</i>
13.00 - 14.00	Lunch break
14.00 - 15.00	Capacity-building at the Science-Policy Interface I (input session) Elena Oyon Learning Services Manager, Alliance for Useful Evidence (TBC) <i>The fifth training session focusses on essential elements of capacity-building for evidence-based policy-planning and -making. Key questions to be discussed centre around the core qualifications required to use evidence to prepare, make and assess public policies. Moreover, the session will dive deep into aspects of silo linkage ‘politics-expertise’ and of demand stimulus for the use of research evidence in politics in times of fake news.</i>
15.00 - 15.30	Coffee break
15.30 - 17.30	Capacity-building at the Science-Policy Interface II (training session) Elena Oyon Learning Services Manager, Alliance for Useful Evidence (TBC) <i>Extrapolation – Identification of key qualifications and training demands</i>
17.30	Distribution of participation diploma and farewell cocktail

■ **SPEAKERS**

Mitja Brus (TBC)	European Parliamentary Research Service, Belgium
Paul Cairney	University of Stirling, United Kingdom
Xavier Troussard (TBC)	European Commission, Belgium
Matthias Rumpf (TBC)	OECD, France
Gaby Umbach	European University Institute, Italy
Barend van der Meulen (TBC)	Rathenau Instituut The Hague and University of Leiden, Netherlands
Angela Wilkinson (TBC)	World Energy Council, United Kingdom