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 (TBC)
	Miguel Maduro| Director, School of Transnational Governance, European University Institute
	Gaby Umbach | Director, GlobalStat, European University Institute
14.30 - 15.30	Keynote Speech
	David Mair | Head of Unit 'Knowledge for Geographic Coordination', Directorate H 'Knowledge Management', 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)
	Tracey Brown | Director, Sense about Science

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)

Tracey Brown | Director, Sense about Science

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

13.00 - 14.00	Lunch break

14.00 - 15.00	Communication of data: From figures to users I (input session)

Christian Dietrich | European Union Institute for Security Studies

Matthias Rumpf | OECD

The third 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.

15.00 - 15.30	Coffee break

15.30 - 17.30	Communication of data: From figures to users II (training session)

Christian Dietrich | European Union Institute for Security Studies

Matthias Rumpf | OECD

Operationalisation – Identification of relevant data on particular topics and development of communication tools and strategies

9 JUNE

09.30 - 11.00	Impact assessment and Strategic foresight I (input session)

Erik Akse | Impact Assessment Institute

The fourth training session turns towards impact assessment and strategic foresight as key instruments to "engage tactic knowledge, make assumptions explicit, forge new shared understanding…, and anticipate and prepare for what has yet to happen" (Wilkinson 2017). It will inform about relatively new forms of policy evaluation and prospective policy development and their impact on policy-makers and public officials.

11.00 - 11.30	Coffee break
11.30 - 13.00	Impact assessment and Strategic foresight II (training session)
	Erik Akse | Impact Assessment Institute
	Impact assessment and strategic planning – Differences to 'classic' policy-making; requirements for public administrations; demand for evidence and data quality; key techniques and learning processes
13.00 - 14.00	Lunch break
14.00 - 15.00	Capacity-building at the Science-Policy Interface I (input session)
	Jonathan Breckon | Director, Alliance for Useful Evidence (TBC)
	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.
15.00 - 15.30	Coffee break
15.30 - 17.30	Capacity-building at the Science-Policy Interface II (training session)
	Jonathan Breckon | Director, Alliance for Useful Evidence (TBC)
	Extrapolation – Identification of key qualifications and training demands
17.30	Distribution of participation diploma and farewell cocktail

■ SPEAKERS

Erik Akse	Impact Assessment Institute, Belgium
Jonathan Breckon (TBC)	Alliance for Useful Evidence, United Kingdom
Tracey Brown	Sense about Science, United Kingdom
Paul Cairney	University of Stirling, United Kingdom
Christian Dietrich	European Union Institute for Security Studies, France
David Mair (TBC)	European Commission, Belgium
Matthias Rumpf	OECD, France
Gaby Umbach	European University Institute, Italy