EXECUTIVE TRAINING SEMINAR

GLOBAL GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME & SCHOOL OF TRANSNATIONAL GOVERNANCE

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

Scientific Coordinators: Gaby Umbach | Director GlobalStat, Global Governance Programme, European University Institute, Caterina Francesca Guidi | European University Institute

Sala Europa
Villa Schifanoia, Via Boccaccio 121 - Florence

12-14 JUNE 2019

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, maybe more than ever, depends on its effective capacity to successfully deliver good and targeted outcomes as a policy-shaper and lawmaker based on facts. These outcomes have to be based on reliable data in order to make political decisions understandable, assessable, sustainable and future-oriented.

Within the preparatory and scrutiny processes of policy-making, policy proposals, legislative acts and implementation arrangements are increasingly 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 that resulted from changing governance patterns supranationalisation and globalisation. Therefore, evidence-based policy-making reflects the need to re-structure the interaction of political actors of different institutional origins 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 hence grown enormously, the landscape of data sources and the ways how to best inject evidence into policy-making have grown exuberantly and become easily confusing for any non-data scientist. The present Executive Training Seminar will 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 the 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, attendees will gain a greater appreciation and understanding of main issues related to evidence-based policy-making.

**DRAFT PROGRAMME**

**12 JUNE**

09.00 - 09.15 Opening

**Gaby Umbach** | Director, GlobalStat, European University Institute

**Caterina Francesca Guidi** | Coordinator, GlobalStat, European University Institute

09.15 - 10.15 **Keynote Speech** ‘The Science-Policy Interface – How can Evidence-based Policy-Making link Communities of Practice?’

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

10.15 - 11.15 The ‘Evidence and Behavioural Turn’ in Policy-Making I (input session)

**Holger Straßheim** | Professor of Political Sociology, University of Bielefeld

*This session informs about ‘governance’ consequences of evidence-based policy-making; behavioural public policies as an example for the (re-)alignment of evidence-based policy and modes of steering and governance; questions of political steering and regulation; and (expert) knowledge-sharing.*

11.15 - 11.30 Coffee break

11.30 - 13.30 The ‘Evidence and Behavioural Turn’ in Policy-Making II (training session)

**Holger Straßheim** | Professor of Political Sociology, University of Bielefeld

*Critical assessment – Discussion of pros, cons, challenges and limitations in groups*

13.30 - 14.30 Lunch break

14.30 - 15.30 Capacity-building at the Science-Policy Interface I (input session)

**Jonathan Breckon** | Director, Alliance for Useful Evidence

*The session will be introduced by insight into how to improve skills for using evidence in policy-making. He will touch upon different skills features related to the identification, selection and use of evidence for informed policy-making.*

15.30 - 16.00 Coffee break
16.00 - 17.30 Capacity-building at the Science-Policy Interface II (training session)

Jonathan Breckon | Director, Alliance for Useful Evidence

The training session will focus on different skills features and training requirements relevant for your interest, experience and knowledge. The training session will be guided by insight into best strategies to build capacities on evidence-informed policy-making in public service; current trainings and good practices to develop and strengthen these skills; variation and customisation of capacity building exercises.

19.30 Dinner

13 JUNE

09.30 - 10.30 Legitimacy and Accountability of Evidence-based Policy-Making I (input session)

Tracey Brown | Director, Sense about Science

This 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 Strategic foresight I (input session)

Ricardo Borges De Castro | Adviser on Strategic Foresight to the European Political Strategy Centre (European Commission)

This session turns towards strategic foresight. It will inform about relatively new forms of prospective policy development and their impact on policy-makers and public officials.

15.00 - 15.30 Coffee break

15.30 - 17.30 Strategic foresight II (training session)

Ricardo Borges De Castro | Adviser on Strategic Foresight to the European Political Strategy Centre (European Commission)

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

09.30 - 10.30  Good Evidence Synthesis for Development Policies I (input session)
Sandy Oliver | University College London

This session moves to systematic reviews of research evidence that are a core component of evidence-informed policy-making. The principles and practices of systematic reviewing and engaging stakeholders will be illustrated largely with examples drawn from the development literature about the global south. This session will introduce: (i) the logic of systematic reviews to clarify an evidence base; (ii) the stages of systematic reviews; (iii) how reviews vary; (iv) judging their quality and relevance; and (v) engaging stakeholders in doing and using them.

10.30 - 11.00  Coffee break

11.00 - 13.00  Good Evidence Synthesis for Development Policies II (training session)
Sandy Oliver | University College London

Extrapolation of the ideas in the input session to: (i) choose between different approaches to conducting systematic reviews and engaging stakeholders to guide the work; and (ii) judge the relevance of available systematic reviews and engaging stakeholders to make use of them.

13.00 - 14.00  Lunch break

14.00 - 15.00  Visualising Data for Evidence-based Policy-Making I (input session)
Christian Dietrich | European Union Institute for Security Studies
Giulio Sabbati | European Parliamentary Research Service

The 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  Visualising Data for Evidence-based Policy-Making II (training session)
Christian Dietrich | European Union Institute for Security Studies
Giulio Sabbati | European Parliamentary Research Service

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

17.30  Distribution of participation diploma
SPEAKERS

Ricardo Borges de Castro  European Commission, Belgium
Jonathan Breckon  Alliance for Useful Evidence, United Kingdom
Tracey Brown  Sense about Science, United Kingdom
Christian Dietrich  European Union Institute for Security Studies, France
Caterina Francesca Guidi  European University Institute, Italy
Sandy Oliver  University College London, United Kingdom
Giulio Sabbati  European Parliament Research Service, Belgium
Holger Straßheim  University of Bielefeld, Germany
Gaby Umbach  European University Institute, Italy
Barend van der Meulen  Leiden University, Netherlands