



EXECUTIVE TRAINING SEMINAR

SCHOOL OF TRANSNATIONAL GOVERNANCE

EVIDENCE INFORMED POLICY MAKING: KNOWLEDGE AND INSTRUMENTS

Course Instructors:

Claudio Radaelli | School of Transnational Governance, European University Institute, Italy

Gaia Taffoni | School of Transnational Governance, European University Institute, Italy

Tracey Brown | Sense for Science, United Kingdom

Theatre

Badia Fiesolana, Via della Badia dei Roccettini 9 - San Domenico di Fiesole (Fiesole, Florence)

4-5 OCTOBER 2021

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This Executive Training focuses on the pathways to a robust evidence-base for policy choice, taking into consideration the reality of policy processes, the dynamics of political attention and crisis management as 'the new normal'.

In the Covid-19 pandemic governments have taken decisions supposedly 'based on science'. The Fridays for Future movement and the Agenda 2030 goals signal a strong demand for robust evidence in decision-making processes. In April 2020 the United Nations published a general comment on the right to science as human right of individuals. But what is the role of evidence in real-world public policy? How can public managers utilize policy instruments to produce decisions that are value-balanced and supported by robust evidence? What is the room of science, expertise and evidence in decisional contexts characterized by limited political attention and crisis?

Four main thematic trajectories will assist participants in drawing lessons and become familiar with the know-how in the field: the impact of individuals, types of actors, organizational behavior and political-administrative context in the science-policy interface; the pathways in which expert knowledge, science and evidence are utilized in the policy process – and when they are ignored, or deployed symbolically; new approaches to the utilization of tools and policy instruments for evidence-informed policy; the normative implications (that is, the standards of good governance such as transparency and accountability) to meet when bringing evidence and science to bear on public



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

decisions.

This training delivers the best available and most realistic knowledge on how individuals and organizations make decisions in public policy processes with a range of approaches and instruments designed to make the voice of evidence heard when policies are formulated, designed and implemented. The participants will actively work on a suite of case studies and testimonies from the field, including original testimonies from activists who have deployed civil disobedience for the right to science.

What you will learn

- How to effectively produce and communicate evidence to decision-makers and more generally in the policy process
- A selection of cases showing different modes of learning from evidence and the different roles that experts and expertise play in public policy processes
- How to leverage evidence in situations dominated by organizational ambiguity and limited attention to science and evidence
- How to deploy different tools and policy instruments based on evidence and science under conditions of crisis management

Who should attend

- Public managers working directly with evidence-based instruments in international organizations, domestic contexts, regions and urban governance.
- Scientists who participate in advisory bodies, EU committees, inquiries, parliamentary hearings or produce research and reports for public organizations in their country or the European Commission.
- Officers dealing with the design of appraisal and evaluation programs in the OECD member states or developing countries, in governments or independent regulators.
- Researchers working in independent think tanks and advisory bodies, civil society organizations engaged in advocacy and development cooperation, where the impact of funding made available by donors is an important dimension of activity
- European Commission's officers that design tenders for studies, evaluations, impact assessments as well as those who utilize the evidence-informed tools in supporting the decision-making process within their DG.

How you will learn

- Interaction among participants (peer-to-peer)
- Co-creation of usable knowledge with the instructors
- Testimonies
- Case studies
- Reflective learning sessions with appropriate tools

DRAFT PROGRAMME

4 OCTOBER

9.00 - 9.30

Introductory Remarks

Claudio Radaelli | School of Transnational Governance, European University Institute, Italy

Gaia Taffoni | School of Transnational Governance, European University Institute, Italy

9.30 - 12.00

Individuals, Organizations, Decisions

12.00 - 13.00

Lunch

13.00 - 15.30

Knowledge Utilization

15.30 - 16.00

Coffee Break

16.00 - 18.30

Managing the Toolbox

5 OCTOBER

9.30 - 12.00

Value-Balanced and Evidence-Informed Policy

12.00 - 13.00

Lunch

13.00 - 15.30

Case Studies

15.30 - 16.00

Coffee Break

16.00 - 17.00

Testimonies from Policy-Makers, Scientists and Advocacy Organizations

17.00 - 17.30

Concluding Remarks and Way Forward