

Programme

# Evidence for Policymakers

An international conference on generating evidence and data  
for improved policymaking

December 15 & 16, 2020  
The Hague, The Netherlands

## Target groups

Strategic Policy Makers on international, national and sub-national level  
Policy Oriented Scientists  
Coordinators of Policy Research  
Governmental Science Advisors  
Governmental Data Scientists  
Policy Evaluators

## Organised by



Universiteit  
Leiden  
Governance and  
Global Affairs



## Partners



Rijksoverheid



Rathenau Instituut



## Evidence for Policymakers

### Background

The Corona Crisis is proving the complexity of connecting scientific evidence and policymaking day by day. The need for international exchange of reliable data and insights in effective policy interventions has never been more urgent in times of peace. These insights need to be both profound and directly available. Such instruments for creating evidence for policymakers have tremendously grown with the introduction of Big Data and the development of algorithms for generating new insights. Another widespread development is the use of Randomised Controlled Trials (RCT's) in order to enhance the effectiveness of policy instruments and the growth of new standards for experimental policies.

Evidence for the effectiveness of new policy interventions is often related to the *evaluation* of policymaking. National Statistical Offices and many other governmental agencies play a role here. Evidence may also - especially in crisis situations - be used for the *prediction* of the effectiveness of new policies. In the Netherlands, the Policy Analysis Agencies (Plan Bureaus) have gained a special reputation to generate broadly accepted calculations which predict the effectiveness of political programs. Behavior Insight Teams in different parts of the world also have gained a reputation in creating well substantiated instruments to predict and enhance the effectiveness of policy interventions.

In all of these processes of shaping *evidence informed policymaking*, scientists from all kind of disciplines, whether it is data science, statistics, policy research, behavioral sciences or a structured way of fact checking, play a crucial role to substantiate the development of policies. These processes for a sound substantiation for policymaking are a main contribution to more effective and predictable policies, if well organized.

### Organizing evidence for policy

The way that evidence for policy is organized, differs strongly per country or region in the world. In the Anglo-Saxon culture we see Chief Government scientists, organizing the impact of science form inside the Ministries. In 2010, the UK Prime Minister has successfully launched its What Works Networks with their related Behavior Insight Teams. In the US, we have seen What Works Cities and the “data for evidence” initiatives, started at the White House. Moreover, in January 2019, the US federal government has signed into law the “Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act”. In the European Union in 2016, the Science Advice mechanism has evolved and Joint Research Centres play a role. The Netherlands has its Central Policy Analysis Agencies. In Singapore we see a National Research Council, housed at the Prime Minister’s Office.

Evidence for effective policies needs to be robust and preferably universal. Bringing together the managers of these processes will create new insights and mutual benefits. This conference has the aim to bring together these experts worldwide to learn which methods and instruments can be applied for which situations and how they may improve the quality of evidence provided.

### The Conference in The Hague

The Netherlands Government has structured its ambitions to create insights and instruments to enhance the effectiveness of policies in all Ministries and—if possible—also on subnational level. Besides, the city of The Hague has recently welcomed the Department for Governance and Global Affairs from Leiden University, the oldest university of the Netherlands. The Hague also houses many international institutes, including several international organizations for research and statistics. Leiden University and ScienceWorks are the organizers of this event.

The Hague is a unique city one of the very few Government cities based on a sandy beach. Next to this, The Hague has gained a global reputation as the Legal Capital of the World. The conference will offer ample opportunities to the conference participants to experience this special venue during the social program.

*The Hague Peace Palace,  
Icon of International Law, peace and  
security...*



## Topics

The conference will treat a range of issues that influence our capacity to enhance the development and practical use of evidence for policymakers. Our PAC (see hereunder) will advise us in defining them. A short list of issues includes:

- Definitions of “evidence” and “evidence informed policymaking”
- The correlation between evidence and more effective policymaking
- How to convince policymakers to use evidence
- Internal and external organization of evidence for government
- Utilizing evidence for politicians and parliaments
- Enhancing the usability of research from universities and other knowledge institutes
- Ex post evidence and ex ante evidence
- Structured data for policymakers and researchers
- Effective use of algorithms for policymakers
- RCT’s to develop methods for nudging
- Applying research evidence to societal challenges

## Organization

The Conference is organized jointly by Leiden University, Faculty for Governance and Global Affairs (FGGA) and ScienceWorks. ScienceWorks will coordinate the full organization of the event, while the content and supervision will be coordinated by the PAC, Chaired by the Dean of FGGA, Erwin Muller.

## Program Advisory Committee (PAC)

Leiden University

Alliance for Useful Evidence/NESTA

The Netherlands Scientific Council for Government Policy (WRR)

Consortium for Science, Policy & Outcome

Ministry of Finance

International Network for Government Science Advice

Results for America

OECD Unit for Evidence, Monitoring and Policy Evaluation

Unit Science Advice to Policy, EU

Evidence & Policy Journal

Dutch Association of Universities (VSNU)

USA Data Coalition

Africa Center for Evidence

Dutch Association for Policy Evaluators (Vide)/SWOV

Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO)

University of Twente

Science Advice Initiative of Finland

Science Advice for Policy by European Academies

Transforming Evidence

Campbell Collaboration

Leiden Centre for Datascience

Leiden University

Research Policy Online

Rathenau Institute

Statistics Netherlands (CBS)

Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment

Data for Policy

Dutch Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)

Erwin Muller (Chair)

Jonathan Breckon

Frans Brom

Daniel Sarewitz

Julien Spliet

Peter Gluckman

David Medina

Stephane Jacobzone

David Mair

Katherine Smith

Pieter Duisenberg

Nick Hart

Ruth Stewart

Peter van der Knaap

Peter Werkhoven

Barend van der Meulen

Jaakko Kuosmanen

Toby Wardman

Kathryn Oliver

Howard White

Jaap van den Herik

Bernard Steunenberg

Peter van Hoesel

Patricia Faasse

Bert Kroese

Niels-Ingvar Boer

Zeynep Engin

Jeanet Bruil

# Social Programme



Monday 14 December: 14.00—16.00

## City Tour The Hague

Prior to the conference we offer you a tour in the inspiring city of The Hague. Starting at the Campus The Hague of Leiden University, we will visit various iconic sights, including the Mauritshuis Museum, Binnenhof and the royal Noordeinde Palace. In addition to the historical tour, we will visit various Dutch ministries, where you will be informed about their policies and how they are related to Leiden University.

Monday 14 December: 16.00—17.00

## Debate on the Arena of Policy, Politics and Evidence

After the tour, we will organise an interactive discussion on how the connections between evidence and policymaking are organised; and how we may strengthen the relationship between evidence and policymaking.



Monday 14 December: 17.00

## Welcome Drink & Reception

After the interactive discussion you are welcome to the conference kick-off reception. The perfect opportunity to get to know each other and share first expectations regarding the conference. There will be an opening speech by one of the government partners of the conference.

Tuesday 15 December: 18.00

## Conference Dinner

After wrapping up our first conference day, we will make our way to a restaurant right at the beautiful Scheveningen Beach of The Hague, where we will enjoy the conference dinner. There will be plenty of time to share your own experiences from the first conference day with each other and looking forward to the second and final day of the conference.



# *Draft Programme*

## *Tuesday December 15 - Structuring Evidence*

**08.45 - 09.00 Registration**

Welcome by:

**09.00 - 09.15** **Erwin Muller**, Dean of Governance and Global Affairs, Leiden University,  
**Conference Co-chair: Pieter Duisenberg**, Chair of 'The Association of Universities in the Netherlands (VSNU)

**09.15 - 11.00** **I Plenary opening - Approaches to structure insights in the effectiveness of policies before they are implemented**

<b>09.15</b>	<b>Wopke Hoekstra</b>	Minister of Finance of The Netherlands
<b>09.30</b>	<b>Patricia Atkinson*</b>	Director of the Results & Delivery Unit, Global Affairs, Canada
<b>09.45</b>	<b>Danièle Lamarque</b>	President of the European Evaluation Society
<b>10.00</b>	<b>Nick Hart</b>	CEO of the USA Data Coalition
<b>10.15</b>	<b>Jennifer Gold*</b>	Head of the What Works Team, Cabinet Office United Kingdom
<b>10.30</b>	<b>Peter Gluckman</b>	Chair of International Network of Government Science Advisors (INGSA) & incoming President of the International Council of Science
<b>10.45</b>	Panel discussion and Q&A led by the conference co-chair: Pieter Duisenberg	

**11.00-11.30 Group picture & break**

**11.30-12.45** **II Parallel sessions - What Works Where and When: How can we systemize the development, sharing and use of evidence for policymakers?**

What Works Internationally?	National (What Works) Initiatives	Regional/Local Initiatives	'Behind Closed Doors' Sessions: <i>The Nature of Evidence in the Public Arena</i>
Chair: <b>Marie Gaarder</b> Executive Director, International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3IE)	Chair: <b>Jonathan Breckon</b> Director, Alliance for Useful Evidence, UK	Chair: <b>What Works Cities (US)</b> Position	Chair: <b>Justin Parkhurst</b> Associate Professor of Global Health Policy in the LSE Department of Health Policy
<b>Laurenz Langer</b> Evidence Synthesis Specialist, Africa Centre for Evidence (ACE)	<b>Rachel Tuffin</b> Executive Lead for the What Works Centre for Crime Reduction, UK	<b>Ellen Stewart</b> Guest Editor, Evidence & Policy Journal	<b>Barend van der Meulen</b> Director of the Center for Higher Education Policy Studies, University of Twente
<b>Stephane Jacobzone</b> Head of Unit, Evidence Monitoring and policy Evaluation, OECD	<b>Jeanne van Loon</b> Head of Unit, Knowledge, Ministry of Education, Culture and Science	<b>Jeroen van Vught*</b> Head 'Verkenning & Monitoring', Province of South Holland	<b>Name</b> Position
	<b>Representative</b> National Research Council		

**12.45-13.45 Lunch**

# *Draft Programme*

## *Tuesday December 15 - Structuring Evidence*

**13.45-15.00** III Parallel sessions - External and internal evidence-systems for policymaking: *How can we optimize the dissemination and use of evidence by policymakers? What role do distance and appropriateness play in this process?*

International	National	Regional/ Local	‘Behind Closed Doors’ Sessions: <i>Policy Based Evidence</i>
<p>Chair: <b>Peter Gluckman</b> President, International Government of Science Advice (INGSA)</p> <p><b>Representative</b> Science Advice for Policy by European Academies (SAPEA)</p> <p><b>Anne-Greet Keizer</b> Research Fellow and International Liaison, The Netherlands Scientific Council for Government Policy (WRR) &amp; Executive Secretary of European Science Advisors Forum (ESAF)</p>	<p>Chair: <b>Jaakko Kuosmanen</b> Secretary of Academy, Science Advice Initiative of Finland (SOFI)</p> <p><b>Frans Brom</b> Director, The Netherlands Scientific Council for Government Policy (WRR)</p> <p><b>Tarmo Soomere</b> President, Estonian Academy of Sciences</p>	<p>Chair: <b>Representative</b> Province of South Holland</p> <p><b>Representative*</b> Municipality of The Hague</p> <p><b>Scott Douglas</b> Prof. Public management, Utrecht University School of Governance</p>	<p>Chair: <b>Jeroen Kerseboom</b> Head of Research Department at the Netherlands House of Representatives</p> <p><b>Frans Leeuw</b> Former Director, Research and Documentation Centre (WODC), Ministry of Justice</p> <p><b>Name</b> Position</p>

**15.00-15.30** Break

**15.30** Recommendations from the parallel sessions

**15.45-17.00** IV Interactive panel - Positioning Science and policy-research towards policymakers

**15.45** Introduction of the panel by:

**Vivian Tseng\*** Senior Vice President, Program, William T. Grant Foundation, US

**16.00** Moderator:

**Peter van der Knaap** Chairman of the Dutch Association for Policy Evaluation (Vide)

Panel Members:

**Melanie Peters** Director of Rathenau Instituut

**David Mair** Head of Unit Science Advice to Policy, European Union

**Vivian Tseng\*** Senior Vice President, Program, William T. Grant Foundation, US

**Howard White** Chief Executive Officer of Campbell Collaboration, Norway

**Sander Klous** Prof. Dr. Big Data Ecosystems for Business and Society, University of Amsterdam

**16.45** Recap *and closing remarks by the conference co-chair: Danièle Lamarque*

**17.00** Reception and Dinner (Location T.B.A.)

# Draft Programme

## Wednesday December 16 - Analyzing Evidence

08.45 - 09.00 Registration

09.00 - 09.10 Welcome by the **Conference Chair: Peter van der Knaap**, Chairman of the Dutch Association for Policy Evaluation (Vide) - *What we achieved at the first day and how it relates to the 2nd day programme*

09.10 - 09.45 Plenary Opening: How can we create better tools for utilizing evidence?

09.10 - 09.20	<b>Melanie Peters</b>	Director of Rathenau Instituut
09.20 - 09.30	<b>Bert Kroese</b>	Acting Director General of Statistics Netherlands (CBS)
09.30 - 09.40	<b>Barbara Ubaldi</b>	Digital Government Lead, OECD

09.40 - 09.45 Move to sessions

09.45 - 11.00 V Parallel sessions - Data & algorithms for better policies: *How can we be both responsible and effective?*

International	National	Regional/Local	'Behind Closed Doors' Sessions: <i>How Dark are Data?</i>
Chair: <b>Zeynep Engin</b> Founder of the Data for Policy, UK	Chair: <b>Nick Hart</b> Chief Executive Officer, Data Coalition, USA	Chair: <b>Representative</b> Statistics Netherlands (CBS)	Chair: <b>Jaap van den Herik</b> Professor Data Science FGGA/LCDS, Leiden University
<b>Barbara Ubaldi</b> Digital Government Lead, OECD	<b>Marieke van Putten</b> Senior Innovation Manager, Ministry of Interior, The Netherlands	<b>Jan van Ginkel*</b> Deputy Secretary, Province of South Holland	<b>Representative*</b> Bellingcat
<b>Robert Kirkpatrick*</b> Director, United Nations Global Pulse	<b>Anne Fleur van Veenstra</b> Senior Researcher ICT policy, TNO	<b>Name</b> Position	<b>Name</b> Position
<b>Sigrit Siht*</b> Policy Advisor, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Estonia			

11.00 - 11.30 Break

11.30-12.45 VI Parallel sessions - Assessing evidence for policymakers: *How can we generate evidence on the effectiveness of new policies, before they have started?*

Evaluation	Big Data	Intervention Data Bases	Setting the Agenda for Structured Evidence
Chair: <b>Stephane Jacobzone</b> Head of Unit, Evidence Monitoring and policy Evaluation, OECD	Chair: <b>Gerty Lensvelt-Mulders</b> Director, Research and Documentation Centre (WODC), Ministry of Justice	Chair: <b>Tom van Yperen*</b> , Professor Monitoring & Innovation Youth Services	Chair: <b>Julien Spliet*</b> Program Director, Operation Insight into Quality, Ministry of Finance
<b>Nynke de Witte</b> Deputy Head of the Strategic Analysis Unit, Inspectorate of the Budget, Ministry of Finance	<b>Representative KPMG*</b>	<b>Stefan Bogaerts</b> , Full Professor Forensic Psychology, Tilburg University & Chair of the Supervisory Commission on Effective Judicial Interventions	<b>David Mair</b> Head of Unit Science Advice to Policy, European Union
<b>Peter Bex</b> Founder/Director, Sira Consulting	<b>Name</b> Position	<b>Godfried Engbersen*</b> , Council Member, WRR and Professor of Sociology, Erasmus University Rotterdam	<b>Name</b> Position

12.45 - 13.45 Lunch

# *Draft Programme*

## *Wednesday December 16 - Applying Evidence*

13.45-14.45

VII Roundtables - Group discussions on: *How can we effectively develop and share evidence for thematic policies?*

Behavioural Insights

Health

Security

Education

*Coordinator: Thomas Dirkmaat\**  
Chair BINN

*Coordinator: Ellen Stewart*  
Guest Editor, Evidence & Policy Journal

*Coordinator: Name*  
Position

*Coordinator: Rien Rouw*  
Senior Advisor Strategy and Knowledge Based Policy, Ministry of Education, Culture and Science

*Coordinator: Name*  
Position

*Coordinator: Name*  
Position

*Coordinator: Name*  
Position

*Coordinator: Name*  
Position

Mobility

Sustainability

Development

*Coordinator: Representative\**  
Rijkswaterstaat

*Coordinator: Eva Kunseler*  
Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL)

*Coordinator: Marie Gaarder*  
Executive Director, International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3IE)

*Coordinator: Name*  
Position

*Coordinator: Name*  
Position

*Coordinator: Name*  
Position

14.45-15.15 Break

15.15-15.45 Recommendations from the Parallel sessions

15.45-16.30

VIII Interactive closing panel - *How can we structure the use of evidence for policymakers and politicians?*

Moderator:**Pieter Duisenberg, Conference chair**

Chair of The Association of Universities in the Netherlands (VSNU)

Panel Members:**Joost Sneller**

Member of the House of Representatives, Democrats 66 (D66)

**Roald van der Linde**

Member of the House of Representatives, People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD)

**Jonathan Breckon**

Director, Alliance for Useful Evidence, UK

**Rachel Tuffin**

Executive Lead for the What Works Centre for Crime Reduction, UK

**Bart Snels\***

Member of the House of Representatives, GroenLinks

16.30

*Recap and closing remarks by: Pieter Duisenberg*

16.45

Reception