Evidence for Policymakers

July 1 & 2, 2020
The Hague, The Netherlands

**An international conference on generating evidence and data
for improved policymaking**

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**

Organized by

Partners

Evidence for Policymakers

Background
In the past few years "post truth" has become such a widespread phenomenon, making it seem that *realpolitik* is the new standard for policymaking. At the same time the 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 behavior insights in order to enhance the effectiveness of policy instruments.

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 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....

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	Erwin Muller (Chair)
Alliance for Useful Evidence/NESTA	Jonathan Breckon
The Netherlands Scientific Council for Government Policy (WRR)	Frans Brom
Consortium for Science, Policy & Outcome	Daniel Sarewitz
Ministry of Finance	Julien Spliet
International Network for Government Science Advice	Peter Gluckman
Results for America	David Medina
OECD Unit for Evidence, Monitoring and Policy Evaluation	Stephane Jacobzone
Unit Science Advice to Policy, EU	David Mair
Sense about Science	Sile Lane
Evidence & Policy Journal	Katherine Smith
Dutch Association of Universities (VSNU)	Pieter Duisenberg
USA Data Coalition	Nick Hart
Africa Center for Evidence	Ruth Stewart
Dutch Association for Policy Evaluators (Vide)/SWOV	Peter van der Knaap
Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO)	Peter Werkhoven
University of Twente	Barend van der Meulen
Science Advice Initiative of Finland	Jaakko Kuosmanen
Science Advice for Policy by European Academies	Toby Wardman
Transforming Evidence	Kathryn Oliver
Campbell Collaboration	Howard White
Leiden University	Jaap van den Herik
Leiden University	Bernard Steunenberg
Research Policy Online	Peter van Hoesel
Rathenau Institute	Patricia Faasse
Statistics Netherlands (CBS)	Bert Kroese
Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment	Niels-Ingvar Boer
Data for Policy	Zeynep Engin
Dutch Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)	Jeanet Bruil

Social Programme

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.

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.

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.

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.

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Draft Programme
Wednesday July 1 - Structuring Evidence

08.45 - 09.00	**Registration**

09.00 - 09.15	Welcome by: **Erwin Muller**, Dean of Governance and Global Affairs, Leiden University, and the **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**

09.15	**Wopke Hoekstra**	Minister of Finance of The Netherlands
09.30	**Patricia Atkinson***	Director of the Results & Delivery Unit, Global Affairs, Canada
09.45	**Danièle Lamarque**	President of the European Evaluation Society
10.00	**Nick Hart**	CEO of the USA Data Coalition
10.15	**Jennifer Gold***	Head of the What Works Team, Cabinet Office United Kingdom
10.30	**Peter Gluckman**	Chair of International Network of Government Science Advisors (INGSA) & incoming President of the International Council of Science
10.45	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:** *The Nature of Evidence in the Public Arena*
Chair: **Marie Gaarder** Executive Director, International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3IE)	Chair: **Jonathan Breckon** Director, Alliance for Useful Evidence, UK	Chair: **What Works Cities (US)** Position	Chair: **Justin Parkhurst** Associate Professor of Global Health Policy in the LSE Department of Health Policy
Laurenz Langer Evidence Synthesis Specialist, Africa Centre for Evidence (ACE)	**Rachel Tuffin** Executive Lead for the What Works Centre for Crime Reduction, UK	**Ellen Stewart** Guest Editor, Evidence & Policy Journal	**Barend van der Meulen** Director of the Center for Higher Education Policy Studies, University of Twente
Stephane Jacobzone Head of Unit, Evidence Monitoring and policy Evaluation, OECD	**Jeanne van Loon** Head of Unit, Knowledge, Ministry of Education, Culture and Science	**Jeroen van Vught*** Head 'Verkenning & Monitoring', Province of South Holland	**Name** Position
	Representative National Research Council (NWO)		

12.45-13.45	**Lunch**

* = to be confirmed

Draft Programme
Wednesday July 1 - 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: *Policy Based Evidence*
Chair: **Peter Gluckman** President, International Government of Science Advice (INGSA)	Chair: **Jaakko Kuosmanen** Secretary of Academy, Science Advice Initiative of Finland (SOFI)	Chair: **Representative** Province of South Holland	Chair: **Jeroen Kerseboom** Head of Research Department at the Netherlands House of Representatives
Representative Science Advice for Policy by European Academies (SAPEA)	**Frans Brom** Director, The Netherlands Scientific Council for Government Policy (WRR)	**Representative*** Municipality of The Hague	**Frans Leeuw** Former Director, Research and Documentation Centre (WODC), Ministry of Justice
Anne-Greet Keizer Research Fellow and International Liaison, The Netherlands Scientific Council for Government Policy (WRR)	**Tarmo Soomere** President, Estonian Academy of Sciences	**Scott Douglas** Prof. Public management, Utrecht University School of Governance	**Name** Position

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.)**

* = to be confirmed

Draft Programme
Thursday July 2 - 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	Melanie Peters	Director of Rathenau Instituut
09.20 - 09.30	Bert Kroese	Acting Director General of Statistics Netherlands (CBS)
09.30 - 09.40	Barbara Ubaldi	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: *How Dark are Data?*
Chair: **Zeynep Engin** Founder of the Data for Policy, UK	Chair: **Nick Hart** Chief Executive Officer, Data Coalition, USA	Chair: **Representative** Statistics Netherlands (CBS)	Chair: **Jaap van den Herik** Professor Data Science FGGA/ LCDS, Leiden University
Barbara Ubaldi Digital Government Lead, OECD	**Marieke van Putten** Senior Innovation Manager, Ministry of Interior, The Netherlands	**Jan van Ginkel*** Deputy Secretary, Province of South Holland	**Representative*** Bellingcat
Robert Kirkpatrick* Director, United Nations Global Pulse	**Maarja-Leena Saar*** Projectmanager, Estonian Open Government Data Portal	**Name** Position	**Name** Position

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: **Stephane Jacobzone** Head of Unit, Evidence Monitoring and policy Evaluation, OECD.	Chair: **Gerty Lensvelt-Mulders** Director, Research and Documentation Centre **(**WODC), Ministry of Justice	Chair: **Tom van Yperen*,** Professor Monitoring & Innovation Youth Services	Chair: **Julien Spliet*** Program Director, Operation Insight into Quality, Ministry of Finance
Nynke de Witte Deputy Head of the Strategic Analysis Unit, Inspectorate of the Budget, Ministry of Finance	**Representative Deloitte***	**Stefan Bogaerts**, Full Professor Forensic Psychology, Tilburg University & Chair of the Supervisory Commision on Effective Judicial Interventions	**David Mair** Head of Unit Science Advice to Policy, European Union
Peter Bex Founder/Director, Sira Consulting	**Name** Position	**Name** Position	**Name** Position

12.45 - 13.45	Lunch

* = to be confirmed

Draft Programme
Thursday July 2 - 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:

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

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

16.30	*Recap and closing remarks by: Peter van der Knaap*

16.45	**Reception**

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