

Guide to workbook 1

The aim

Workbook 1 introduces you to the concepts of evidence-based policymaking. We discuss the role of science in the policymaking context. You will learn about methods and tools to improve the science-policy dialogue.

Competencies

- You understand the concept of evidence-based policymaking.
- You know other factors that interplay in policymaking aside from evidence.
- You can formulate and implement criteria for good policy advice in your daily work.
- You can formulate a policy brief or fact sheet.

How to read this workbook

INTRODUCTION

The introduction to the workbook series explains important concepts from policy sciences: First, it introduces the elements of the political system. It elaborates on some of the guiding principles of modern democracies and governance.

THEORY

Setting the scene

We make you aware of how the role of scientific evidence in policymaking is seen differently by scientists and policymakers. We present statements of their points of view and controversial examples where scientific evidence has or has not been implemented in the decision-making process.

Self-reflection

How do you as a scientist define your role in the decision-making context? Is it Pure Scientist,

Issue Advocate, Science Arbiter or Honest Broker? Whatever role you have chosen: it can drive the types of interaction that you will engage in: is it individual engagement or community engagement through boundary organizations?

Knowledge about types of evidence

What evidence is used in the policymaking process? You will learn how to use different types of knowledge, including systems knowledge, target knowledge, transformation knowledge and evaluation knowledge.

Key principles for giving policy advice

How will research evidence be validated within the policymaking process? Validation in society should follow the principles of credibility, salience and legitimacy.

The policy environment

You will analyze factors that interact with policymaking by considering the example of genetically modified organisms. You will understand how scientists and policymakers can work together.

COMMENT

Trends and challenges of environmental governance we explain in more detail.

TOOLS

Scientific evidence can be produced with different tools, from experimentation to interviews. Quantitative and qualitative interviews are regularly used to get some insight into stakeholders' perspectives. Scientific evidence needs to be communicated in forms that are accepted by policymakers. We provide two instruments that can facilitate the communication process in a timely manner: the policy brief and a fact sheet.

EXAMPLES

We present three case studies from Switzerland that explain at what stages and in what forms scientific evidence was implemented in the policymaking process.