



From evidence-informed policymaking to Science for Policy ecosystems

*David Mair, Joint Research Centre
Unit S.2 Science for democracy and evidence-informed policymaking*

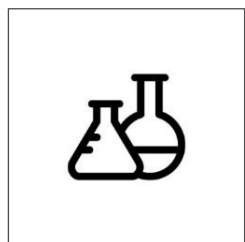
Why (better) evidence for policy?



What is evidence-informed policymaking?

Evidence-informed policymaking: an approach to policymaking that informs policy deliberations and decisions with the **best available evidence**.

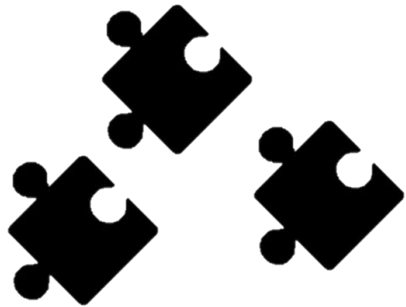
Research
communities



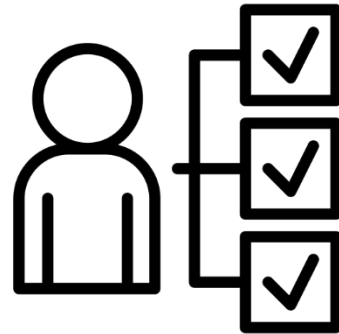
Evidence in general refers to “*data, information, and knowledge from multiple sources, including quantitative data such as statistics and measurements, qualitative data such as opinions, stakeholder input, conclusions of evaluations, as well as scientific and expert advice*”



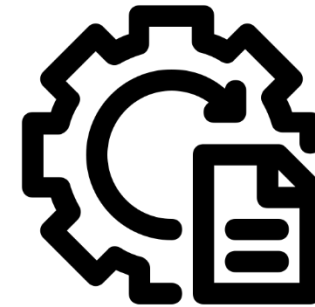
Three challenges to EIPM



Institutional environment:
connections & coordination



Individual capacities:
competences and inter-sectoral understanding



Good governance of evidence use:
Limits of science and policymaking

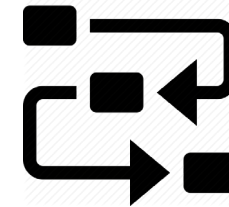
Need for a system's perspective – actors



System's perspective – policies, processes, and principles



Sectoral policies
Better Regulation
Research policies
Public Administration Reform...



Impact Assessment
Training Foresight
Recruitment Research funding
Consultation Evaluation...



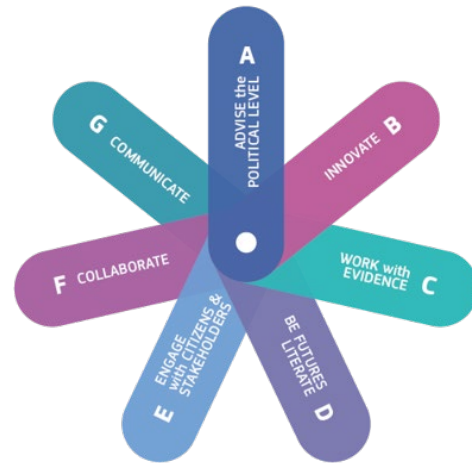
Recognizing the limitations of EIPM
Identifying normative foundations of EIPM
Embedding EIPM in democratic processes...

JRC support for science-for-policy systems

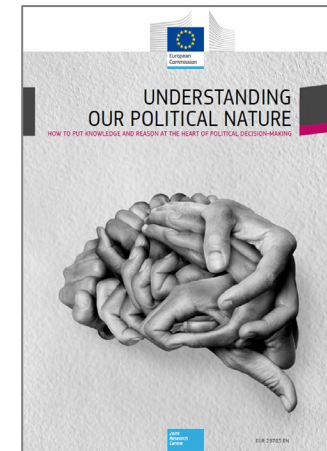
Institutions, e.g.



Individuals, e.g.



Research, e.g.

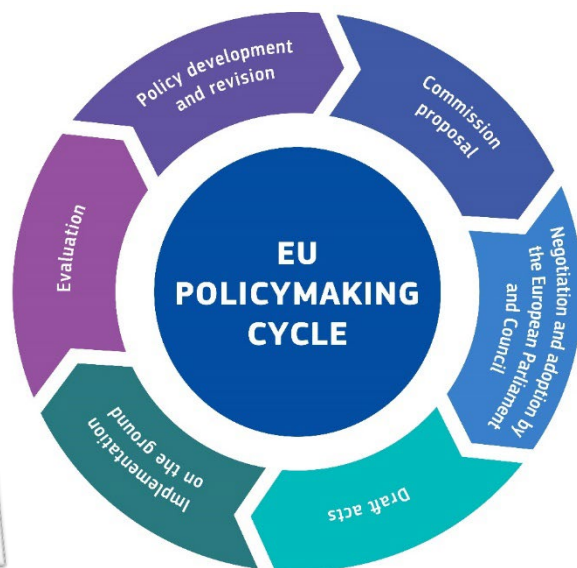


Society, e.g.



JRC support for specific EIPM practices

- Innovating the policy making process – EU Policy Lab
- Data, methods and tools for robust evidence
- Helping policy departments making better laws more efficiently



Composite Indicators & Scoreboards

2016



Microeconomic Evaluation



Modelling



Text Mining & analysis



Technology Transfer



Foresight



Behavioural Insights

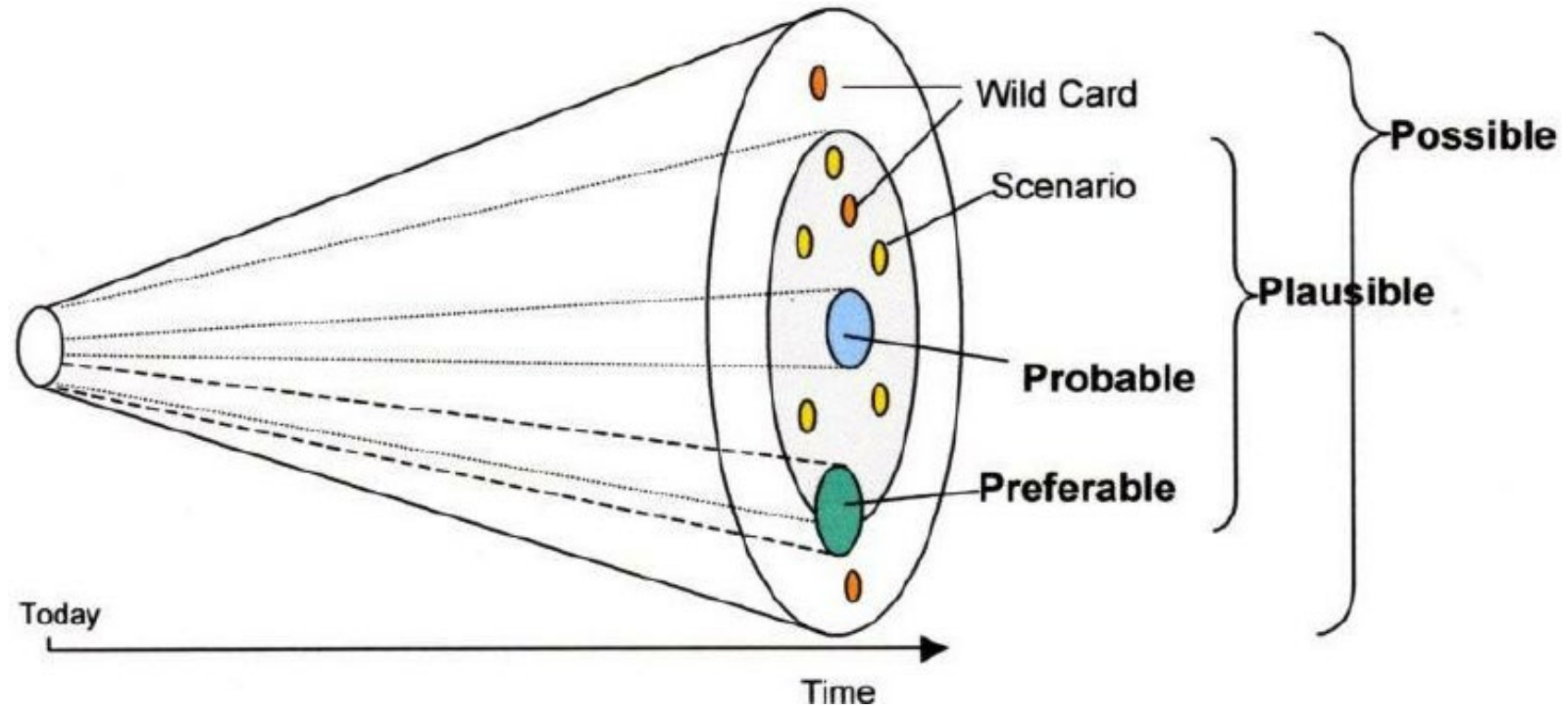
2020



Participatory and Deliberative Democracy

Specific EIPM practices #1: Foresight

- **Systematic participatory process**
- Looks forward into the **medium- to long-term future**
- Creates **collective intelligence** about the future
- Builds **plausible rationales** of possible future developments



Source: J. Voros, A generic foresight process framework

Key actors at a glance in the EU foresight process

Executive Vice-President Šefčovič

Leading EC work on strategic foresight



EU Policy Lab JRC.S1

Competence Centre on Foresight



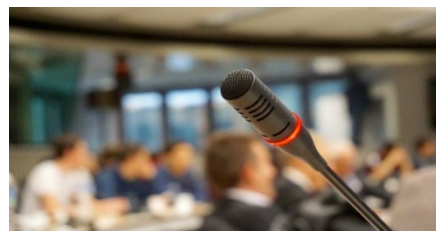
Strategic Foresight SG.A5

Coordination and Strategic Foresight Report



Strategic Foresight Network

Network of directors and experts across EC

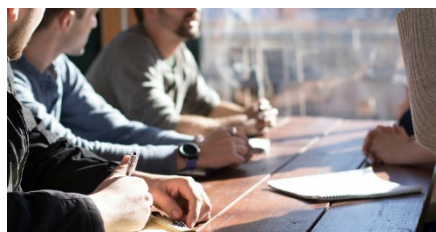


European Strategy and Policy Analysis System

ESPAS: inter-institutional foresight network

EU-wide Foresight Network

Network of ministers from each Member State



Citizens, businesses, think tanks

Involved in foresight process, Call for Evidence, consultations

Strategic Foresight Report(s)

Underpinned by Science for Policy Report



2020



2021



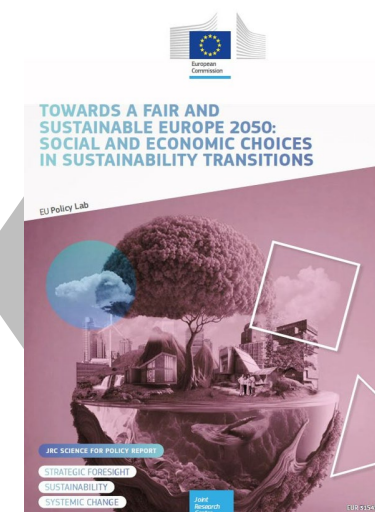
2022

Commission
Communication

Science for
Policy Report



2023



Foresight tools - Reference foresight scenarios

- A set of four foresight scenarios
- Explore possible world developments & the EU standing by 2040
- Developed through desk research + participatory workshops + interviews
- Used for stress-testing policies, discussing implications for specific issues such as food security
- Available online:
<https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC132943>

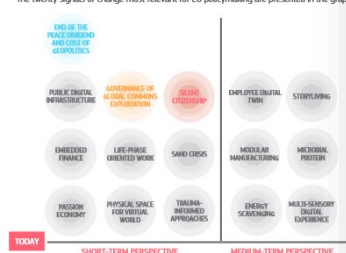


Foresight tools - Horizon Scanning

Discover all the bulletins on the [ESPAS website](https://ec.europa.eu/espas/).

HORIZON SCANNING EMERGING ISSUES FOR EU POLICYMAKING

The ESPAS network (European Strategy and Policy Analysis System) launched a horizon scanning process in 2022. This process, led by the Joint Research Centre and European Parliamentary Research Service, looks at the signals of change that may appear marginal today but could become important for the EU in the future. The horizon scanning process identified 23 signals of change most relevant for EU policymaking which are presented in the graph below and detailed in the Annex.



Three emerging issues with perceived most policy impact were selected through a survey of policymakers and have been analysed in more depth:



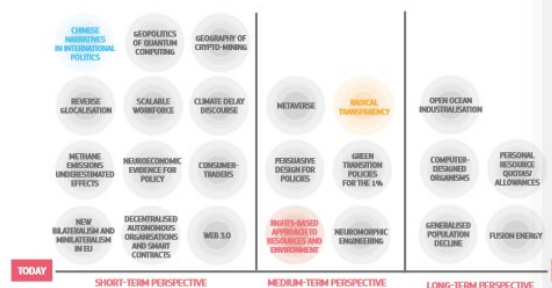
The following pages offer a first exploration of questions, problems or new solutions that can emerge from these three selected emerging trends. They are not meant to be exhaustive, merely an indication of issues that may merit further examination, always based on existing sources and references.

HORIZON SCANNING EMERGING ISSUES FOR EU POLICYMAKING

The ESPAS network (European Strategy and Policy Analysis System) launched a horizon scanning process in 2022. This process, led by the Joint Research Centre and European Parliamentary Research Service, looks at the signals of change that may appear marginal today but could become important for the EU in the future. The horizon scanning process identified 23 signals of change most relevant for EU policymaking which are presented in the graph below and detailed in the Annex.

These emerging issues were recognized and developed via a series of workshops with participants from members including several EU institutions. They may be considered as new lenses through which we can see the EU is facing now and in the coming years.

The horizon scanning process identified the 23 signals of changes most relevant for EU policymaking which are presented in the graph below and detailed in the Annex.



Three signals of change with most policy impact were selected among the list and have been analysed in more depth. The following pages offer a first exploration of questions, problems or new solutions that can emerge from these three selected emerging trends.



The following pages offer a first exploration of questions, problems or new solutions that can emerge from these three selected emerging trends. They are not meant to be exhaustive, merely an indication of issues that may merit further examination, always based on existing sources and references.

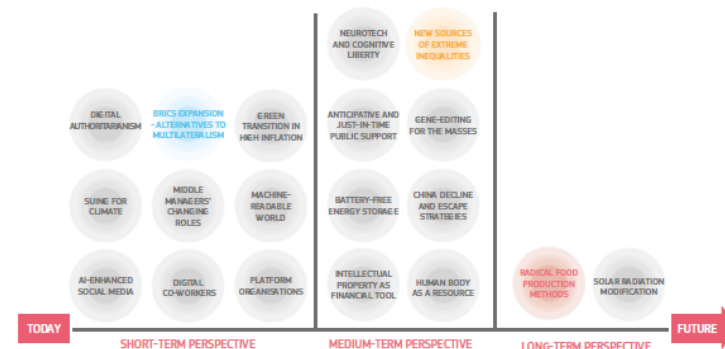
HORIZON SCANNING

EMERGING ISSUES FOR EU POLICYMAKING

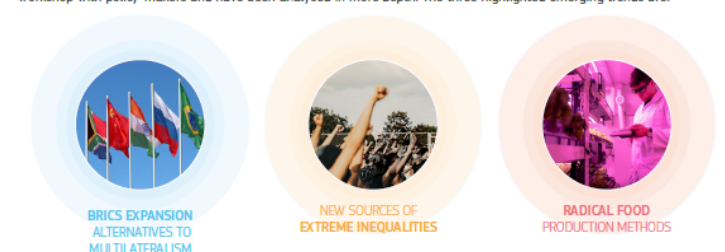
Issue 03

This is the third report resulting from an ESPAS horizon scanning process which looks at "signals of change" - emerging trends and issues that may appear marginal today but could become important for the EU in the future. The ESPAS network (European Strategy and Policy Analysis System) launched the process, led by the Joint Research Centre and European Parliamentary Research Service, in 2022. These emerging issues (signals of change) were identified and developed via a series of workshops with participants from across the EU institutions and bodies digging into the recent developments in various domains. These may be considered as new lenses through which we can get a different perspective on the challenges and opportunities the EU is facing now and in the coming years. Over three months of scanning and sense-making workshops, participants identified nineteen signals of change most relevant for EU policymaking. These are presented in the graph below and detailed in the Annex.

Figure 1: Overview of the selected signals of change



Secondly, from the list of nineteen signals of change, three emerging issues were selected. These three have been perceived to have the greatest policy impact from the list. They were selected through a survey followed by a prioritisation workshop with policy-makers and have been analysed in more depth. The three highlighted emerging trends are:



The following brief analysis offers a first exploration of questions, problems or new solutions that can emerge from the three selected emerging trends. They are not meant to be exhaustive, merely an indication of issues that may merit further examination, always based on existing sources and references.



Visit ed.ted.com/future-forward

Foresight Capacity Building

- Online foresight training: **Futures Ministries** – Foresight Skills development, accessible via EU Academy (to be developed in 2024)
- **Future Forward** – 20 online lessons to support (young) people in their exploration of the future (in collaboration with DG EAC and RTD) and TED-Education)
- **Futures4Europe platform** for information and interaction
- CC Foresight website with information and tools

Visit: www.futures4europe.eu and knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/foresight

Specific EIPM Practice #2: How behavioural insights (BI) inform EU policy

When we identify a **behavioural element**, can we afford to ignore **BI**?

JRC SCIENTIFIC AND POLICY REPORTS

Applying Behavioural Sciences
to EU Policy-making

2013

René van Bavel
Benedikt Herrmann
Gabriele Espósito
Antonios Proestakis

EUR 26033 EN

©EU

No Vax



No Mask



European Commission @EU_Commission · 1h

Bye, bye:
A+
A++
A+++

And welcome: a new, simpler A to G scale for [#EnergyLabels](#)! They will make it easier for you to choose the household appliances that consume less and reduce energy bills. ❤️

[#EUGreenDeal](#) [@Energy4Europe](#)

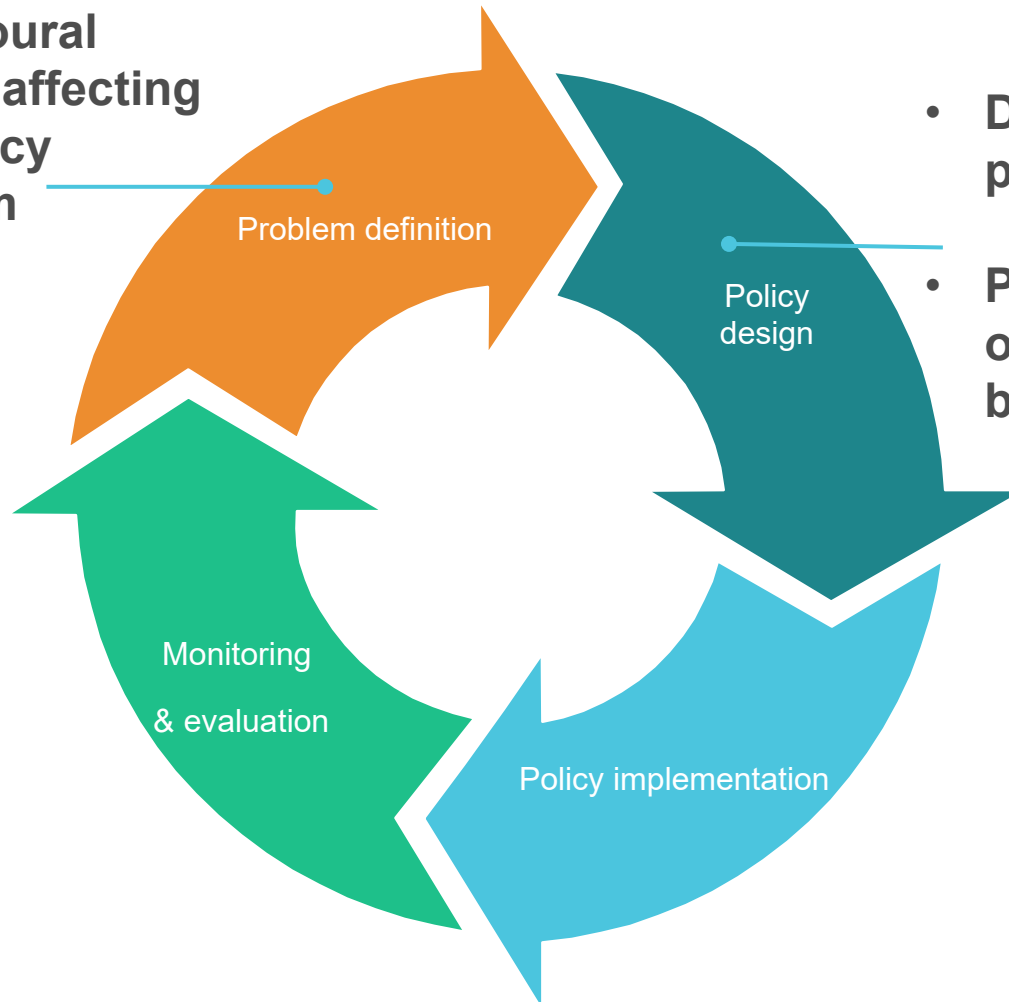


A NEW
GENERATION OF
EU ENERGY LABELS

European Commission

How do we inform policymaking?

Understand the behavioural factors affecting the policy problem



- Design BI-informed policy options
- Pre-test their impact on people's behaviour

Main challenges:

- Be informed and involved early on in the process
- Be able to provide timely support to policy DGs

About the Competence Centre on Behavioural Insights:
https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/behavioural-insights_en

If you wish to contact us: JRC-CCBI@ec.europa.eu

Specific EIPM Practice #3: Policy evaluation



Tools for policy evaluation:

- Ch 3: Identifying impacts in evaluations, fitness checks, and impact assessments
- Ch 6: How to carry out an evaluation and fitness check
- Ch 8: Methodologies for analysing impacts in impact assessments, evaluations, and fitness checks



JRC support to policy DGs and others working in the field.

E.g. the **Competence Centre on Micro-economic Evaluation (CC-ME)**

- Focus on data-driven micro-econometric analysis and causal evidence on what works
- Provides advice and capacity building on data collection, evaluation design and methodology



Better Regulation
TOOLBOX

July 2023



European
Commission

Counterfactual Impact Evaluation (CIE): why is this needed?

- Counterfactual impact evaluation is a particular type of evaluation that allows to establish a **causal link** between policies and their effects.
 - Informs on whether a program has **achieved** its desired outcomes
 - Assesses whether the changes can be **attributed** to the policy under scrutiny
- CIE compares the outcome for units who benefitted from a programme (the “**treated group**”) with the one of similar units (the “**comparison/control group**”), not participating in the programme.
- This addresses the question: “***what would have happened to the treated had they not participated to the programme?***”, known as the counterfactual.

Key take aways

1. EIPM relies on a broad set of actors and mechanisms. A system's perspective allows for coordination among different activities and initiatives, increasing effectiveness and transparency.
2. We support EIPM not only for better policymaking but also to reinforce democracy. It is important to build normative foundations into capacity building work.
3. Europe is full of innovations as regards EIPM. Let's foster exchange and connect activities.

Key questions

- To what extent has your Member State identified the evidence-informed policy-making as a priority for public administration? To what extent do you view EIPM as a systemic challenge?
- Could you share any relevant practices and/or experiences, especially those linked to the presented specific practices?



Thank you

E-mail: David.Mair@ec.europa.eu



© European Union 2022

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the [CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.

