



How to translate evidence into policy action?

Event: **ETF Skills Lab Network of Experts meeting**

The Social Hub, Florence, Italy

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The concept, the need, the
framework for **Evidence Informed
Policy Making (EIPM)**
and the **Joint Research Centre
(JRC)**

The term: Evidence-informed Policymaking



“Evidence-informed policy” is more accurate than “evidence-based policy”.



Evidence-informed policymaking (EIPM) results in better policies.



Evidence-informed policy-making refers to a principle and an approach to policymaking, aimed at enhancing the quality and outcomes of policy.



The framing of policy problems is not a purely technical matter: how a problem is framed determines what research is needed, what evidence counts and what should be ignored.



The shifting context of evidence use in policymaking

Growing demand of policy-specific (direct, primary) research and **institutionalization of EIPM** processes to procure evidence and **feed policy-making processes**.

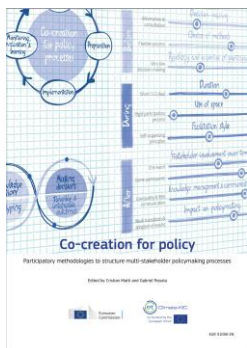
Unprecedented challenges and crisis (climate change, covid19..) highlighting limitations of reactive “policies”, leading to greater infrastructures to support **systematic collection of evidence to inform decisions**.

Democratic principles that inform the use of evidence in policy making

- **Appropriateness:** appropriate evidence for addressing policy concerns and understanding the context;
- **Accountability:** evidence-informed policies for fostering accountability and responsiveness in decision-making aligned with democratic values;
- **Transparency:** visible, understandable and open (evidence) to public scrutiny;
- **Trust and deliberation:** evidence to build public trust in democratic processes through greater deliberation about competing values, interests and concerns;

The importance of reaching out for better informed policies

- Stakeholders and citizens contribute nuanced insights for implementation challenges
- Engagement benefits:
 - diverse perspectives,
 - reality-based policies,
 - accountability and local empowerment,
 - acts as early warning for policy flaws
- Acknowledgment of uncertainty: "Sometimes we don't know what we don't know"

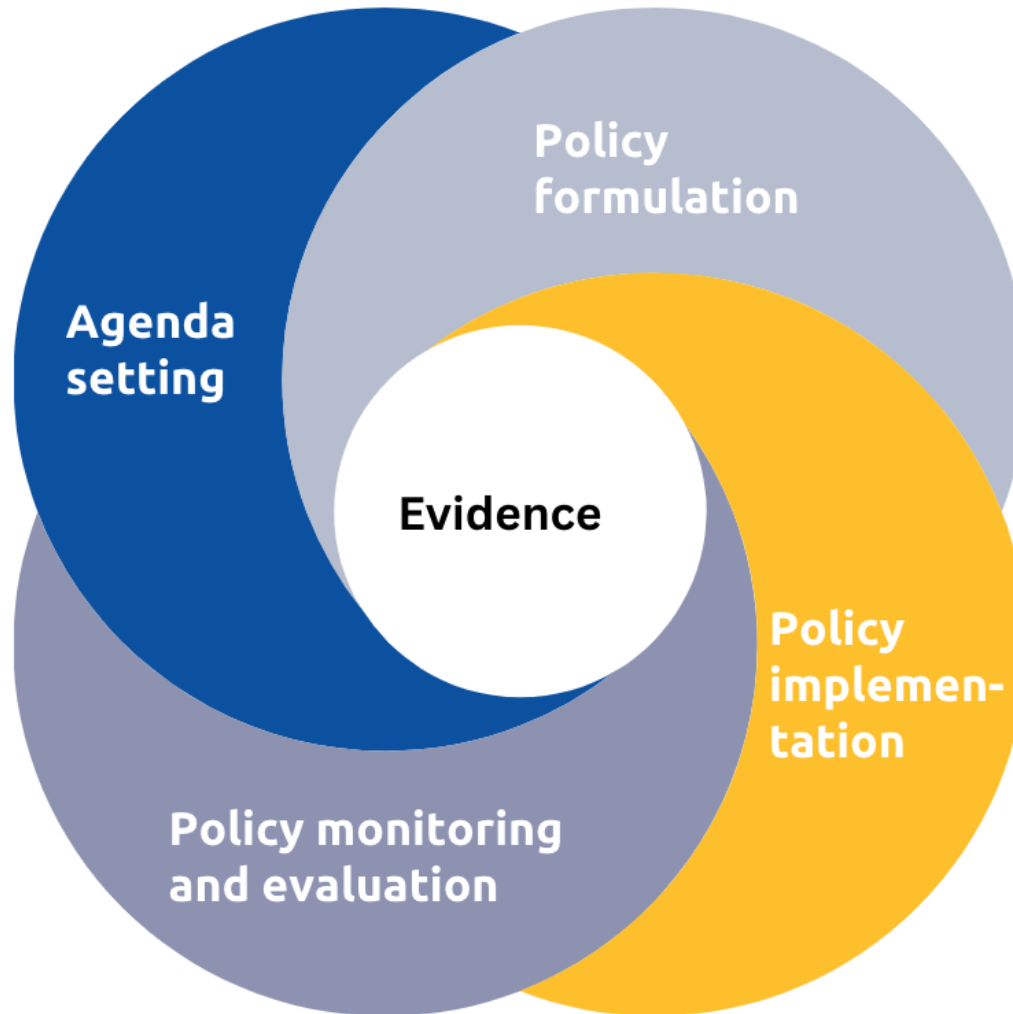


Further reading:

- "Co-Creation Handbook" developed by Climate KIC and JRC

Evidence within the policy cycle

Evidence to identify priorities for government action



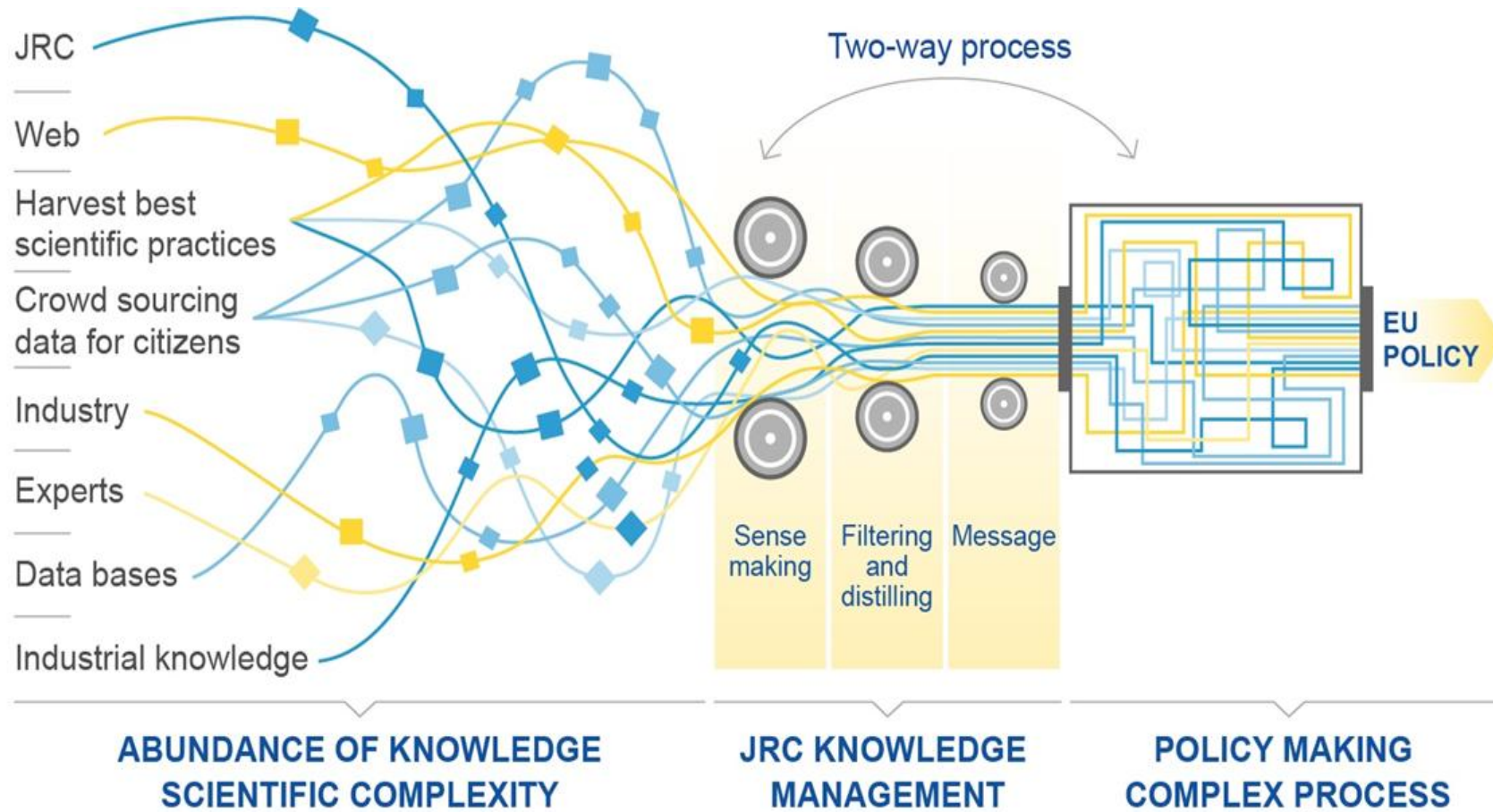
Evidence to better understand the policy challenge

Evidence to evaluate the effectiveness of the policy

Evidence to support policy implementation

Evidence Informed Policy Making (EIPM) and the Joint Research Centre (JRC), tools and the European Commission framework

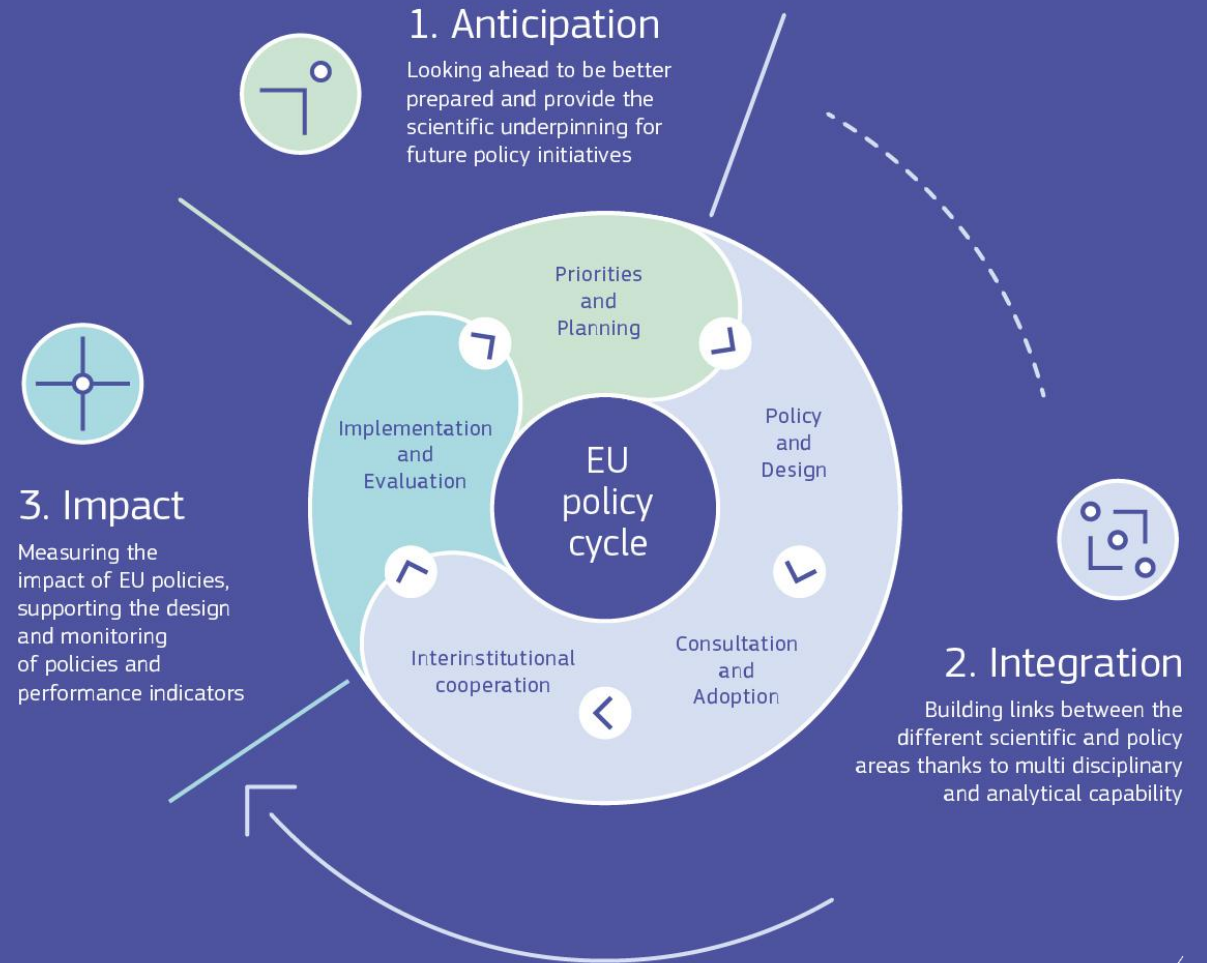
JRC, A KNOWLEDGE HUB



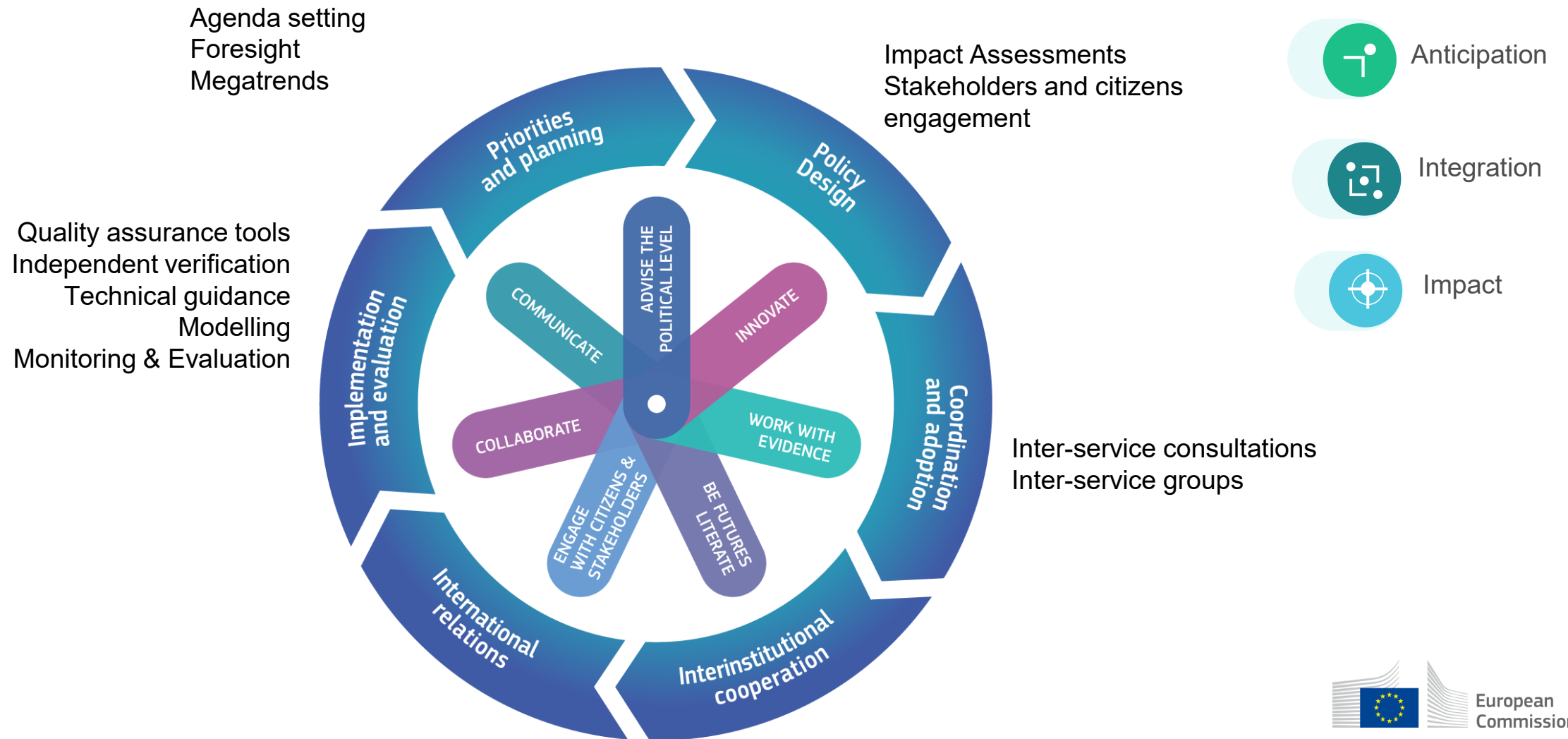
The mission of JRC:

The Joint Research Centre provides independent, evidence-based knowledge and science, supporting EU policies *to positively impact society*

The JRC's three core strengths underpin the full EU policy cycle



JRC support across the policy cycle



ComPAct- October 2023 Enhancing the European Administrative Space

- **PILLAR 1: The Public Administration Skills Agenda**

Foster administrative cooperation between public administrations at all levels to help develop their workforces for current and future challenges.

- **PILLAR 2: Capacity for Europe's Digital Decade**

Strengthen the capacity of public administrations for their digital transformation.

- **PILLAR 3: Capacity to lead the Green Transition**

Strengthen the capacity of public administrations to lead the green transition and build resilience.



A shared commitment by Member States to strengthening science for policy

8 Dec 2023: EU-27 governments (via research ministers) agreed to Council Conclusions on R&I use for public policies.

Key principles

Science-informed policies of higher quality

All fields of science can and should play a role in policymaking

R&I policy measures positively impact society and resilience of democracy

Call for joint EC-MS actions, incl

...foster a European science-for-policy ecosystem connecting science and policymaking

...develop tools for training, dialogues and mobility of staff between science and administration

...foster the use of TSI to support public policymakers in science for policy

2021 Better Regulation Communication

The Commission pledged to



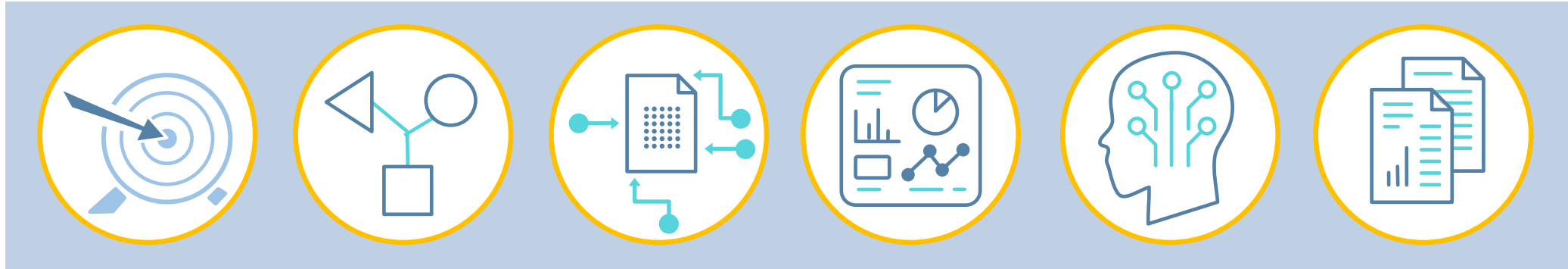
improve access to the evidence behind every legislative proposal <...> to ensure that, for any legislative act, all related published studies, evaluations, datasets, etc. will be **easy to find and access**.

COM(2021) 219



Better Regulation Toolbox, tool #4

Evidence-informed policymaking (EIPM)



Understand

Ensure a widely accepted and comprehensive understanding of the policy problem
Define success
Broaden the perspective on the problem at hand in a foresight exercise

Map

Draw on the internal and external expertise

Collect

Identify the sources, approaches and methods
Use a variety of methods and approaches
Draw on knowledge and expertise from several disciplines
Give preference to FAIR evidence

Analyse

Identify baseline assumptions and a baseline scenario consistent with other assessments
Critically assess the analysis

Interpret

Check whether the results support the conclusions
Integrate insights from all types of evidence
Make the interpretation explicit

Present

Share the approach and explain the choices
Tailor the language
Ensure evidence availability and traceability



START

*“I cannot teach
anybody anything.
I can only make
them think.”*

Socrates

SOCRATES

SOcial Multi-CRiteria Assessment of European Policies

START

Multicriteria analysis

Equity analysis

Local Sensitivity analysis

Global Sensitivity analysis

https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/modelling/topic/social-multi-criteria-evaluation-policy-options_en/socrates_en

EUROMOD

EUROMOD

EUROMOD is a tax-benefit microsimulation model for the European Union that enables researchers and policy analysts to calculate, in a comparable manner, the effects of taxes and benefits on household incomes and work incentives for the population of each country and for the EU as a whole.

The work of JRC on Labour policies

JRC research on employment & skills



Algorithmic management & AI at work

Prevalence and characteristics of algorithmic management, digital monitoring and AI at work



Employment dimension of the Green transition

Measuring green jobs in the EU



Synergies between the digital & green transition

Assessment of synergies in the world of work, pan-European survey on work in the twin transition



Changes in occupational structures & working times

JRC research on employment & skills



Labour market projections

Dynamic projections of the EU labour force, simulation of effects of different forms of labour force activation (e.g. underrepresented groups)



Skills intelligence

Contribution to the new European Skills Observatory (e.g. collecting and analysing data on skills sources), analysis of digital skills and gaps



Economic Modelling & Analysis

Modelling of the impact of labour market policies, assessment of the impact of shocks affecting the labour market

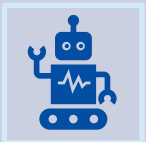
Supporting EU labour market policy

- JRC research can be sometimes less immediately relevant for policy (long-term focus, more experimental), but often ends up being equally important (examples: studies on robots and employment, telework, AI and occupational tasks)
- JRC is contributing mainly through published research, often cited in policy papers and proposals, but we have also contributed directly to EC steering committees, EP hearings, etc.
- Our support to policy has been of three main types:
 - **Challenging misleading narratives** around employment trends: for instance, we have argued that robots have had no negative impact on employment, or that technology does not polarise labour markets. This helps directly the policy debate around employment in Europe.
 - **Providing better concepts and methods:** for instance, we contributed to a better conceptualisation of platform work or the green transition at work, discussing the problems of existing measures (green jobs) and proposing better measurement tools (teleworkability, digital monitoring and algorithmic management, twin transition at work).
 - **Providing comparative evidence:** for instance, we developed surveys to measure the prevalence of platform work, digital monitoring, algorithmic management. Also, abundant qualitative evidence on the implications of new technologies at the workplace level.

JRC research on the changing nature of work and skills



Focus so far on the **digital revolution** as the driving force, but considering also other factors such as regulation or demographic change.



Research programme structured by three main vectors of change:

Automation and structural change: robots and employment, job polarization, artificial intelligence and occupational tasks

Digitisation of work: telework, digital monitoring, routinisation

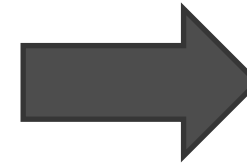
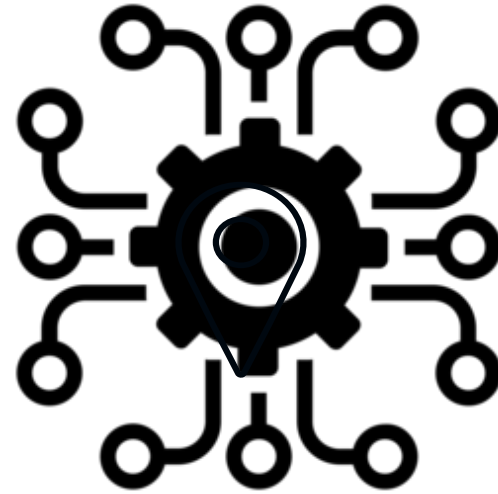
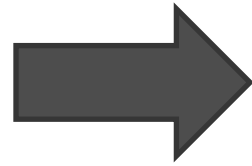
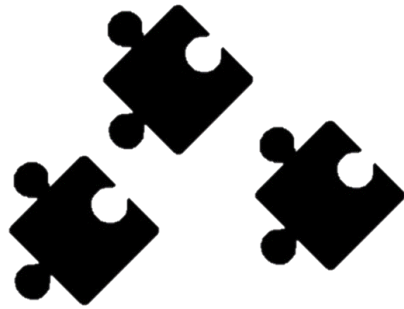
Platforms and algorithmic management



Recently, we have also looked at the green transition and employment, discussing how to measure green employment and how to collect evidence on the green transition at the workplace level

Working with Member States on building capacity on EIPM

From single elements to a systems approach



Single elements

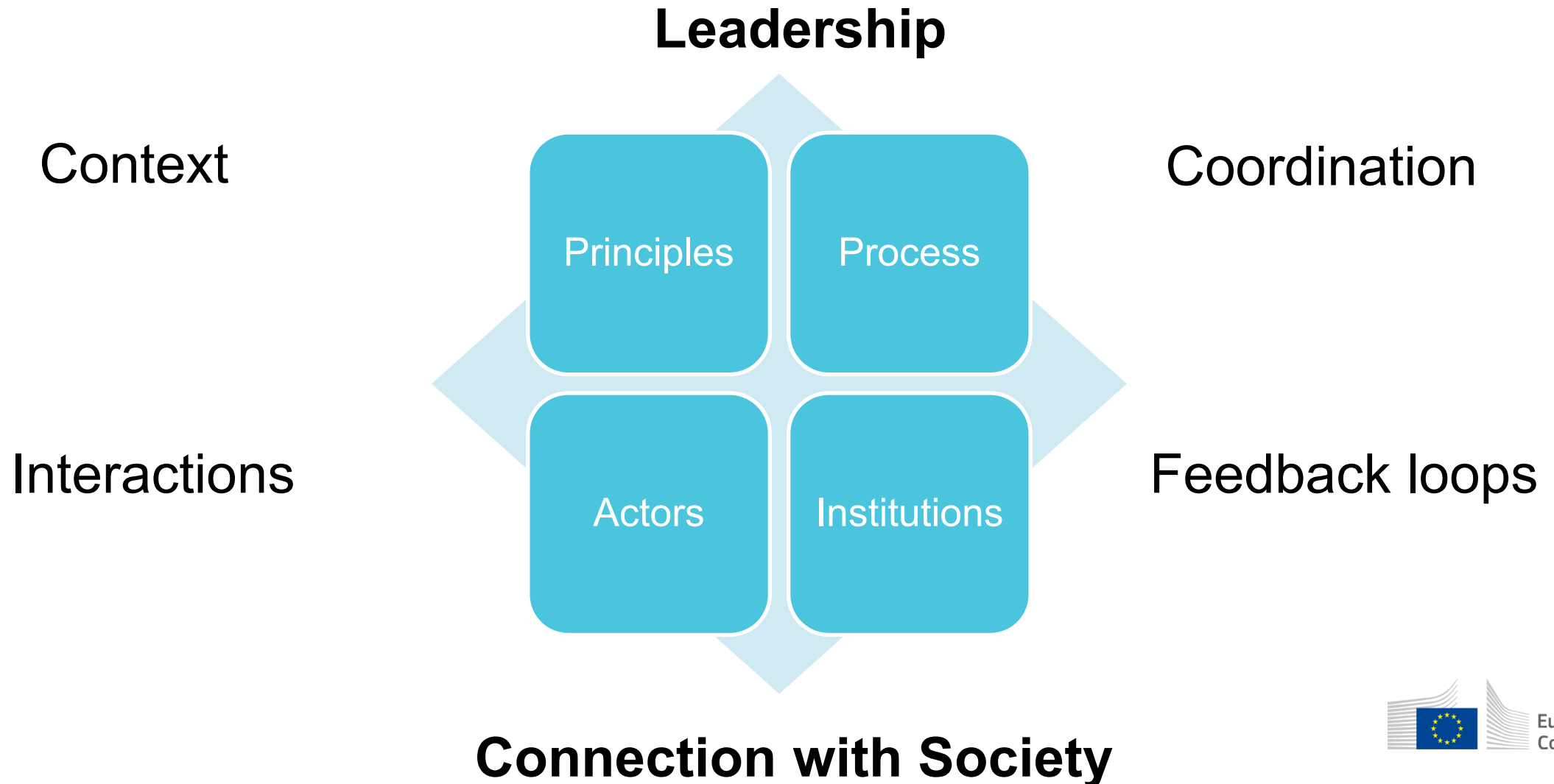
National ecosystems

European ecosystem

Analytical blind spots
Interconnectedness?
Missing the big picture
Systems analysis

Knowledge coverage and flows
Need for mutual learning
Develop a European EIPM ecosystem

The ecosystem approach in Science4Policy



Technical Support Instrument (TSI 2022-2025)

Title of the project – Building capacity for evidence-informed policymaking in public administration and governance in post-pandemic Europe

Duration: 30 months (November 2022 – March 2025)

Funding: SG REFORM

Implementation: JRC and OECD

Beneficiaries: Centres of Government, Ministries and Councils, Strategic decision -making centres, science, research and academic institutions



Lessons learnt



- **Shared language and networks**
 - common vocabulary and framework
 - trusted relationships and networks matter as much as good science!
 - incentives for both scientists and civil servants to unlock collaboration potential
- **Coordination is key**
 - EIPM doesn't happen by accident, it requires leadership, incentives, and structures that actively encourage its use.
- **Skills and capacity-building make the difference**
 - It's not just about having data – it's about training policymakers to ask the right questions and researchers to present evidence in ways that can drive action.
 - Professional knowledge brokers can help bridge the gap.
- **Tone-from the top**
 - **political commitment** is essential
 - if there is no demand from the leadership for evidence, then it will not happen



Technical Support Instrument (TSI 2025-2027)

Title of the project – “Evidence-informed policymaking for the twin transition (Green and Digital)”

Duration: 30 months

Start of the project: September 2025

Funding: SG Reform / Implementation: JRC

Kick-off event: 22 October (Brussels)

Enriched L&D content and deliverables (Trainings + Learning and Development plans)



The L&D angle of the projects



Capacity building workshops for Scientists on Science4Policy



Capacity Building workshops for Policymakers in Evidence Informed Policymaking (EIPM)



Mutual Learning Exercises (MLEs) on timely topics (i.e. policy evaluation, AI)



ToT (training of trainers) community- CoP (Community of Practice)



New activity: L&D plans tailored for each country



Learn more!



Final country reports:

- Greece: <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC141465>
- Belgium: <https://doi.org/10.1787/223b01a8-en>
- Czechia: <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC140040>
- Estonia: <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC139946>
- Latvia: <https://doi.org/10.1787/2b43bc19-en>
- Lithuania: <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC141125>
- Netherlands: <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC139581>



Reflection papers on the future of EIPM and trust in S4P by the JRC:

- <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/eb3b20e7-03b5-11f0-9503-01aa75ed71a1> -
- [JRC Publications Repository - Trust in Science for Policy Nexus](#)



Final TSI conference materials:

- [Recording of the livestream](#)
- [Knowledge for Policy article](#)



Useful links for labour policies research in JRC

https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/microeconomic-evaluation_en

https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/projects-activities/centre-research-impact-evaluation-crie_en

https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/projects-and-activities/employment/jrc-labour-education-and-technology-working-paper-series_en

https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/projects-and-activities/employment_en

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Thank you



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