



EU for facts

Evidence for policy in a post-fact world

Annual conference of the Joint Research Centre

26 September 2017
Brussels, Charlemagne

Programme

#EU4Facts



JRC@60



The interaction between science and policy has never been straightforward. But this relationship has been further complicated by the current post-fact debate. This is a challenge for the whole of society, not only scientists, experts, the media and policymakers, but also for politicians.

We need to learn from past success and failures in building policy on evidence, to understand the causes of this crisis and to chart a new course for organisations operating at the inter-section of facts, politics and the media.

Policy making needs to find the balance between facts and values. Linear thinking cannot be applied to the relationship between science, society and policy anymore. Scientists, politicians and citizens need new models and processes to connect, to develop new thinking and to communicate new narratives.

The process needs to become more open, involving all stakeholders (scientists, policymakers and society) from the design and production to the delivery phase.

The conference aims to produce a set of clear recommendations for successful evidence-informed policy making institutions, processes and individuals. It will offer a frank encounter between leading experts from the fields of science, policy and media. Economists, psychologists, philosophers, sociologists and natural scientists will have an opportunity to have an honest, public discussion with practising politicians, policymakers and journalists.

In addition to listening to speeches and discussions between leading scientists and politicians, the participants will have a possibility to interact with the speakers via live apps during sessions, as well as meet them in person during dedicated time slots after each session.

Tuesday 26 September 2017

Brussels, Charlemagne building

Registration opens at 08.00

08.30 – 08.50 Breakfast with speakers

Possibility to meet with the speakers and discuss in advance the themes of the conference.

De Gasperi Room

08.50 – 09.00 Award ceremony

Announcing and displaying the videos of the winners of the video competition.

09.00 – 10.00 Opening session

Host: Vladimír Šucha, Director-General, Directorate-General Joint Research Centre, European Commission

Welcoming remarks: Tibor Navracsics, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport

Opening speech: Jyrki Katainen, Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness (tbc)

Key-note Speech - The Scientist's Perspective: George Lakoff, American cognitive linguist, has written on idea framing, metaphors, and the brain.

10.00 – 11.00 Session I. Why should we trust science? Audio-visual content and panelists discussions

Why is the authority of expertise being challenged as never before? Is it merely a symptom of a wider decline in trust in authority and government or has the

proliferation of fake news and 'filter bubbles' exacerbated the problem? Or is it because scientists have failed to communicate and engage with the general public? Or is the reproducibility/replicability crisis in science the underlying source of its loss of authority? Is citizen science the key to greater engagement between science and society? The session will explore these questions and identify solutions such as online fact-checking, greater transparency, pre-registration before publication and better communication through more personalised story-telling and appealing to values and emotions.

Audio-visual content

Opening remarks: Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation

Moderator: Paul Rübiger, MEP, First vice-chair of the Science and Technology Options Assessment (STOA), European Parliament

Jonathan Kimmelman, Associate Professor in the Biomedical Ethics Unit/ Social Studies of Medicine at McGill. His research revolves around the ethical, social and policy dimensions of translational research.

Johannes Vogel, Director General of the Museum of Natural History in Berlin and Professor of Biodiversity and Public Science at the Humboldt University, a renowned expert in science communication and open science.



Tracey Brown, Director of Sense about Science, independent charity that challenges misrepresentation of science and evidence in public life .

Rolf-Dieter Heuer, Chair of European Commission's Scientific Advice Mechanism and former Head of CERN.

11.00 – 11.40 Session I. Why should we trust science? Be interactive!

Speakers answer the three most popular questions from the audience

11.40 – 12.10 Coffee break & 'meet the speakers'

12.10 – 12.30 Key note

Pascal Lamy, former European Commissioner, former Director-General of the World Trade Organization.

Speakers answer the three most popular questions from the audience

12.30 – 13.30 Lunch break & 'meet the speakers'

12.30 – 13.30 Thierry Courvoisier, EASAC President, will discuss his Manifesto for Science in Society

13.30 – 14.00 Key-note: The science advisor perspective

Sir Peter Gluckman, Chief Science Advisor to the New Zealand Prime Minister, Chair International Network for Science Advice to Governments (INGSA)

14.00 – 14.35 The politician's perspective - Audio-visual content and panelists discussions

Roundtable discussion hosted by **Commissioner Tibor Navracsics** with former Commissioners responsible for science and research.

Máire Geoghegan-Quinn
Janez Potočnik
Philippe Busquin

14.35 – 15.00 The politician's perspective. Be interactive!

Speakers answer the three most popular questions from the audience

15.00 – 15.45 Session II. Re-designing policymaking using behavioural and decision science - Audio-visual content gathered through crowd-sourcing call before the conference and panelists discussions

Research from the cognitive and decision sciences has exposed the complexity of the relationship between facts, values, emotions, perceptions and decisions. The traditional linear model of human decision-making based on a prior consideration of the facts has shown to be incomplete at best. Motivated reasoning, confirmation bias, the backfire effect, wilful blindness and cognitive dissonance are becoming more widely understood as natural phenomena that have a profound influence on how facts and evidence are used in decision-making and politics. This session will

bring together cutting edge experts in these fields together with policy practitioners innovating in the ways policy analysis and decision-making processes are designed, whether through policy labs, “red-teaming”, de-bunking techniques, using narratives, impact assessment etc. The objective is to search for new ideas on how evidence and data can be effectively balanced with values and emotions when policy decisions are taken.

Moderator: Meglena Kuneva, Former EU Commissioner and politician

Steven Sloman, Professor, Department of Cognitive, Linguistic, & Psychological Sciences, Brown University

Stephan Lewandowsky, Psychologist, Chair in cognitive psychology at the School of Experimental Psychology of the University of Bristol

Françoise Waintrop, Head of Insight and Innovation in the Secretariat General for Modernisation of Public Action in France (part of PM’s office)

15.45 – 16.30 Session II. Re-designing policymaking using behavioural and decision science. Be Interactive!

Speakers answer the three most popular questions from the audience

16.30 – 17.00 Coffee break & ‘meet the speakers’

17.00 – 17.40 The way forward

Moderator: Jean-Eric Paquet, Deputy Secretary-General, European Commission

Anne Bucher, RSB Chair

Rush Holt, AAAS CEO, scientist and politician

Mariana Kotzeva, Acting Director-General, Eurostat

Ann Mettler, Director General of the European Political Strategy Centre (EPSC)

17.40 – 18.40 Wrap up & cocktail at the Berlaymont Plaza - visit of JRC@60 exhibition

