



Building capacity for science for policy

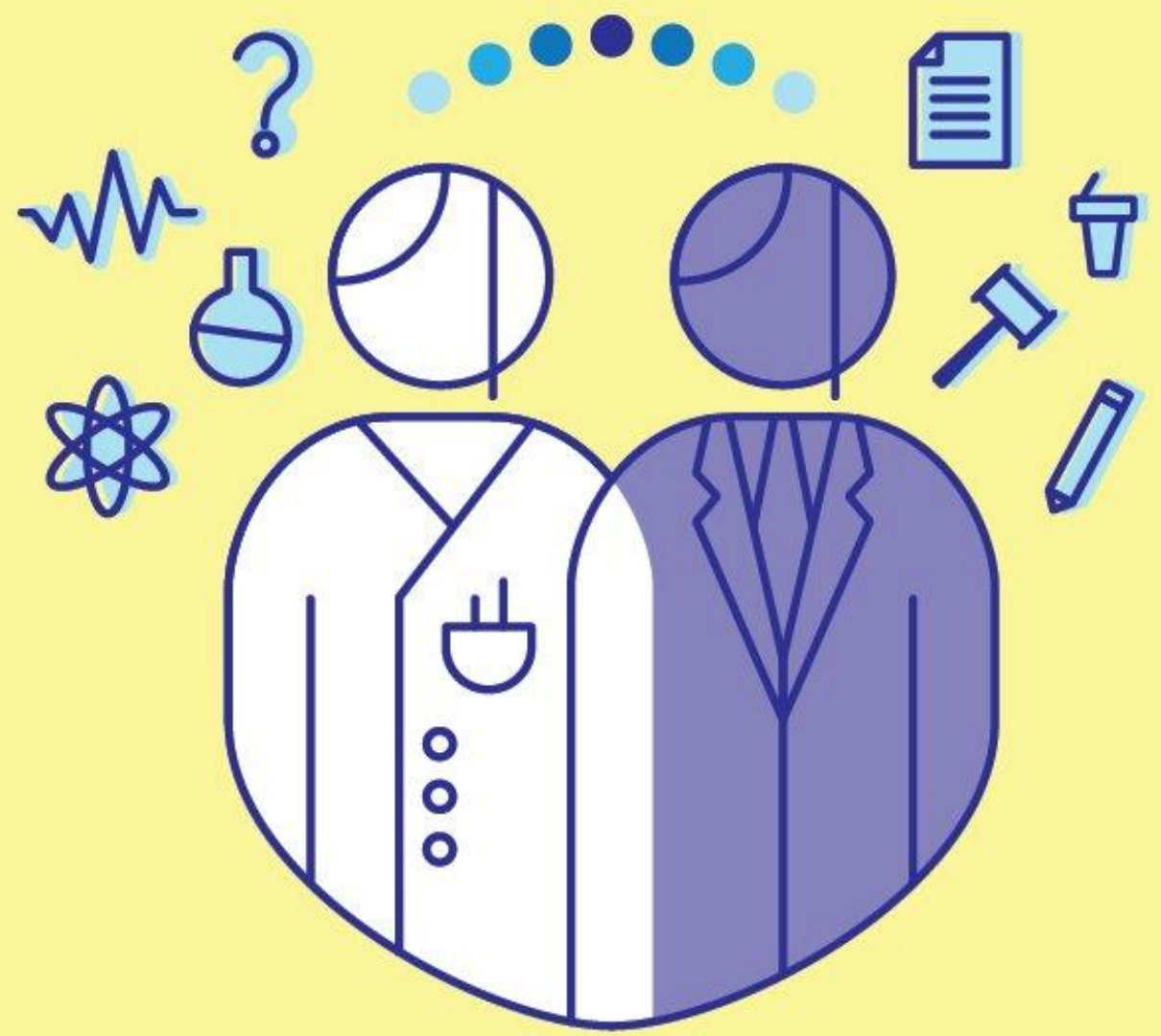
David Mair, Kristian Krieger, Lorenzo Melchor & Lene Topp

JRC, ESAF Annual Meeting, 30 Nov-1 Dec

Evidence-informed policymaking

Connecting researchers and policymakers

#Knowledge4Policy



European
Commission



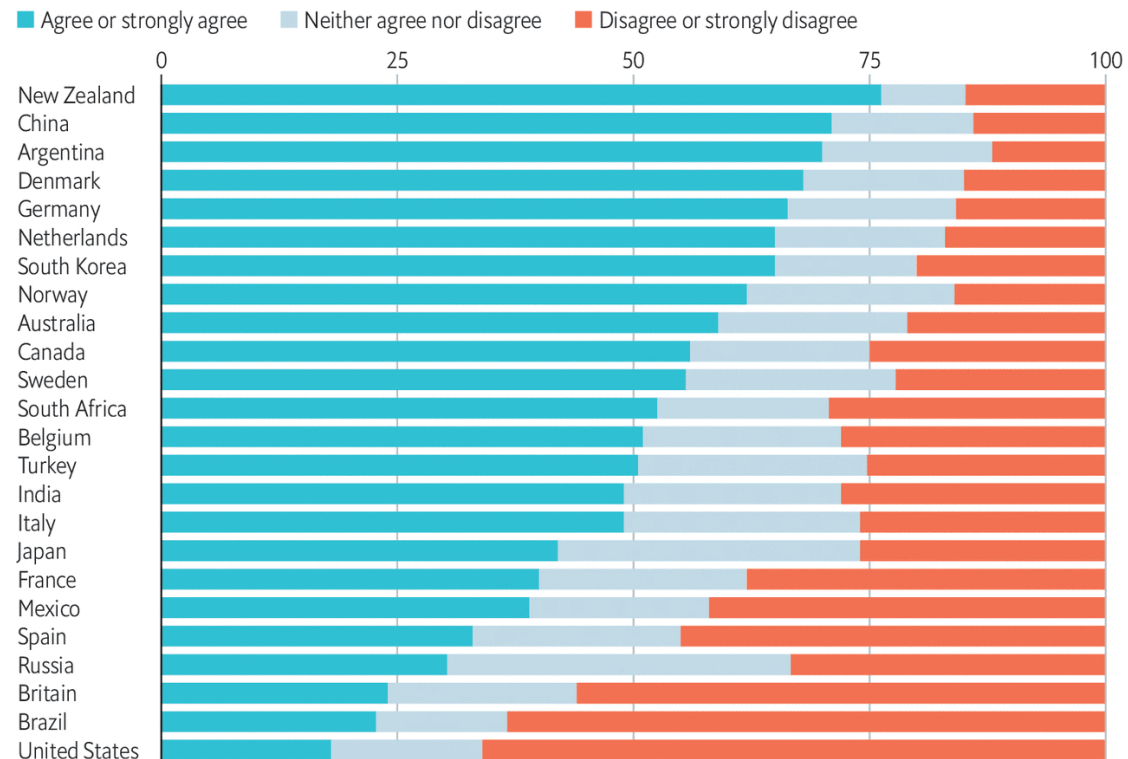
Covid-19: The role of science in policymaking

- Scientific evidence in high demand: epidemiological modelling, economic forecasting, testing kits, vaccines, behavioural science, and more



The scientific method?

Policy makers have taken scientific advice into account during covid-19, % responding
Survey of each country's scientists*, May-June 2020



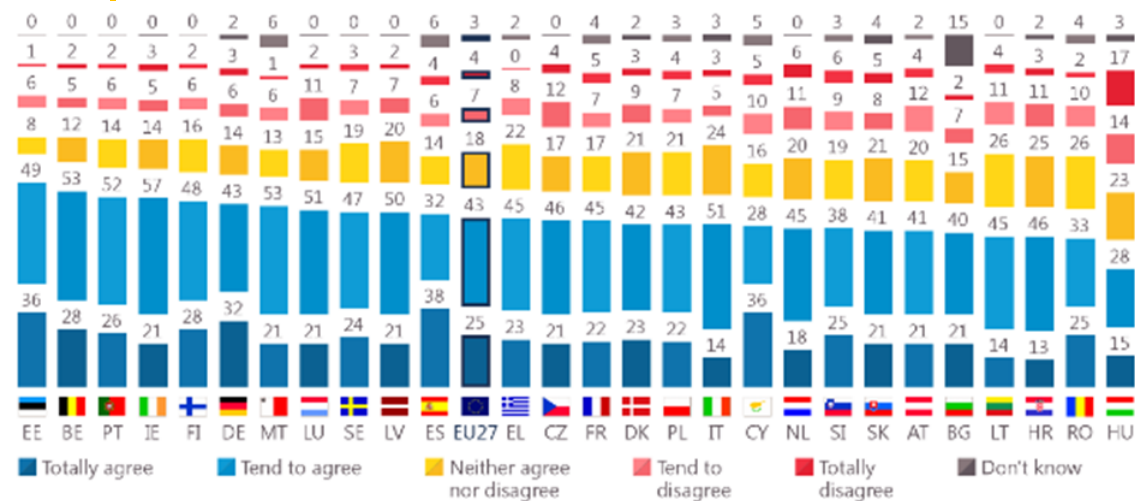
Source: Frontiers in Public Health

*25,307 researchers affiliated with Frontiers, a Swiss publisher of scientific journals

The Economist

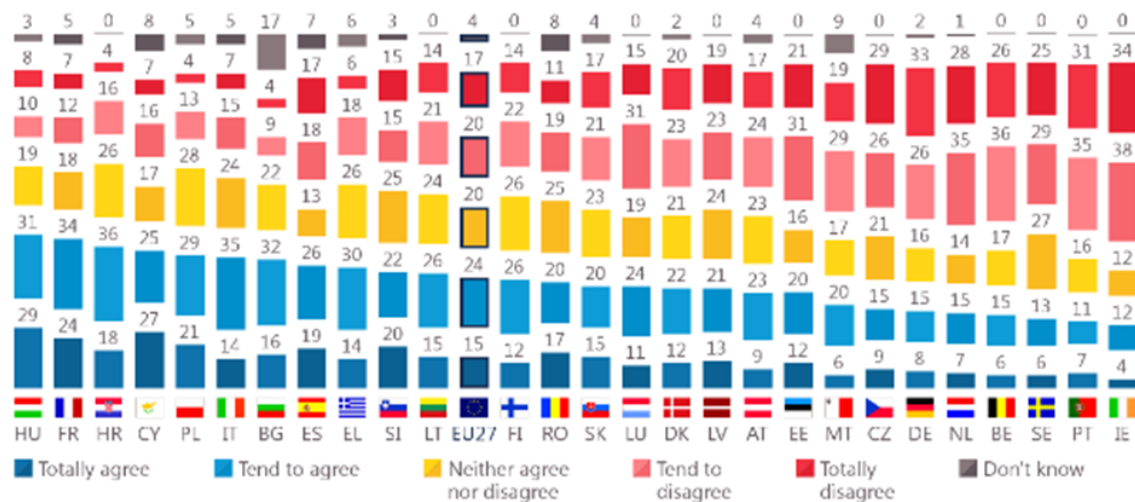


Public support: citizens want EIPM



68% of EU citizens agree with the sentence:

"Scientists should intervene in political debate to ensure that decisions take into account scientific evidence"



39% of EU citizens agree with the sentence:

"Scientists should not intervene in political debate when decisions ignore scientific evidence"



Momentum at the EU: demand & supply side



Better Regulation principles guiding EC policymaking

- Scientific evidence as “cornerstone”
- Research communities as partners to engage with early



Vision for public administration (PA) fit for future informing EC support for PA in MS

- Systematic consideration of scientific knowledge to address wicked problems



Co-creation with MS of policy framework for science and research

- Knowledge valorisation
- Inter-sectoral researcher mobility
- Feedback to policy



Favourable context meets real need for enhanced capacity?

“While policy making and public messaging during the COVID-19 pandemic continue to be informed by the latest scientific advice, the early months of the crisis exposed **the uneven level of research and advice in different Member States**, as well as the different approaches taken to providing and using that advice. This meant that **evidence was patchy, sometimes contradictory and often confusing** as a result of different messaging in different Member States.”

EC “Drawing early lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic”, COM(2021) 380



The need for robust and well-connected science for policy ecosystems

- Covid-19: Urgent call for multidisciplinary scientific input
- Robust, internally and externally connected eco-systems of science for policy in place to respond?
 - Quick mobilisation of expertise
 - Mutual trust
 - Knowledge brokerage across disciplines and between science & policy
- JRC: Covid-19 lesson learning and pan-EU 'ecosystem' mapping projects still ongoing at the JRC





Empirical understanding of institutions & competencies needed for science for policy in MS: *Science for Policy Ecosystems across EU*

e-workshop series

Science for Policy
across the EU

2020 – 2022



European
Commission



European
Commission



The need to look beyond science and policy

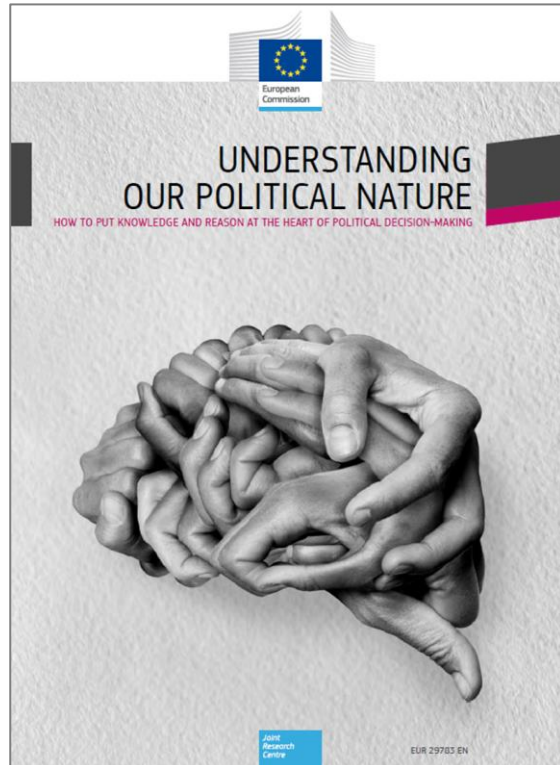


**Crises cannot be resolved
by “science for policy” alone**

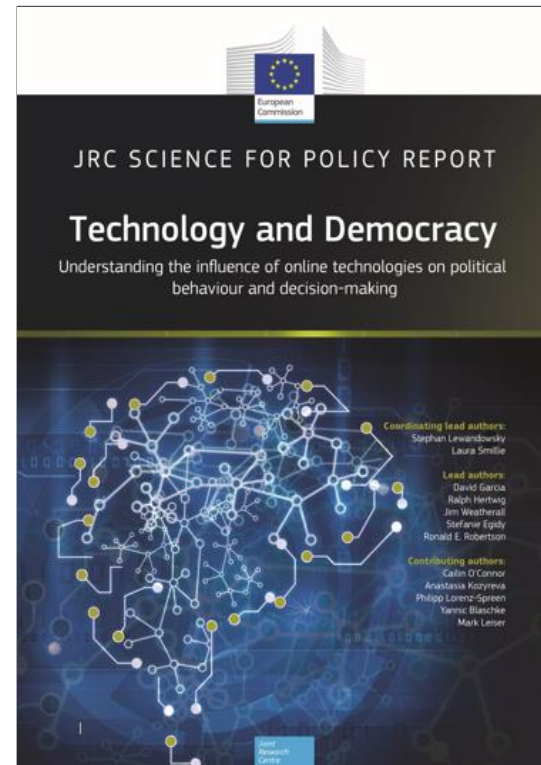


Conceptual understanding of context in which evidence informs (or not) policymaking:

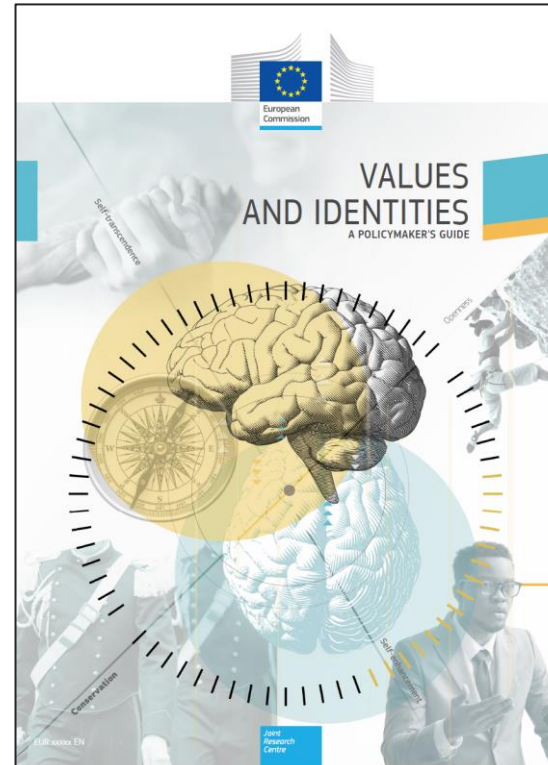
Enlightenment 2.0



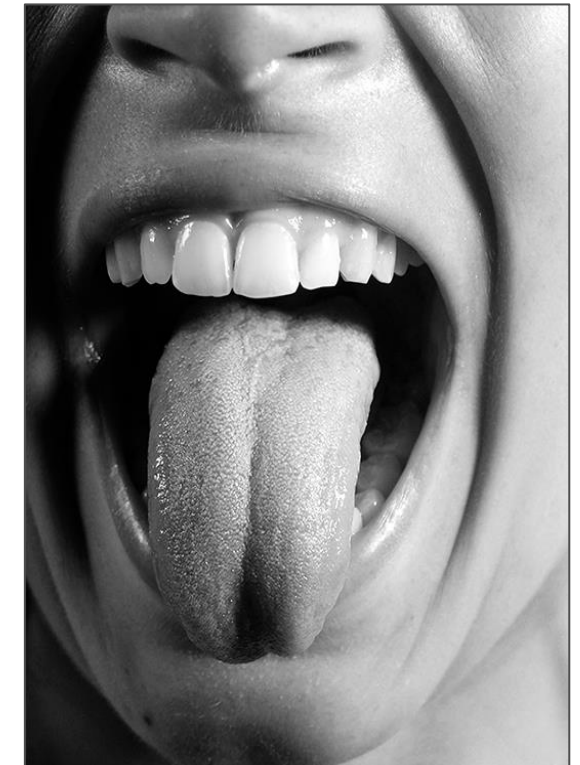
2019



**October
2020**



**November
2021**



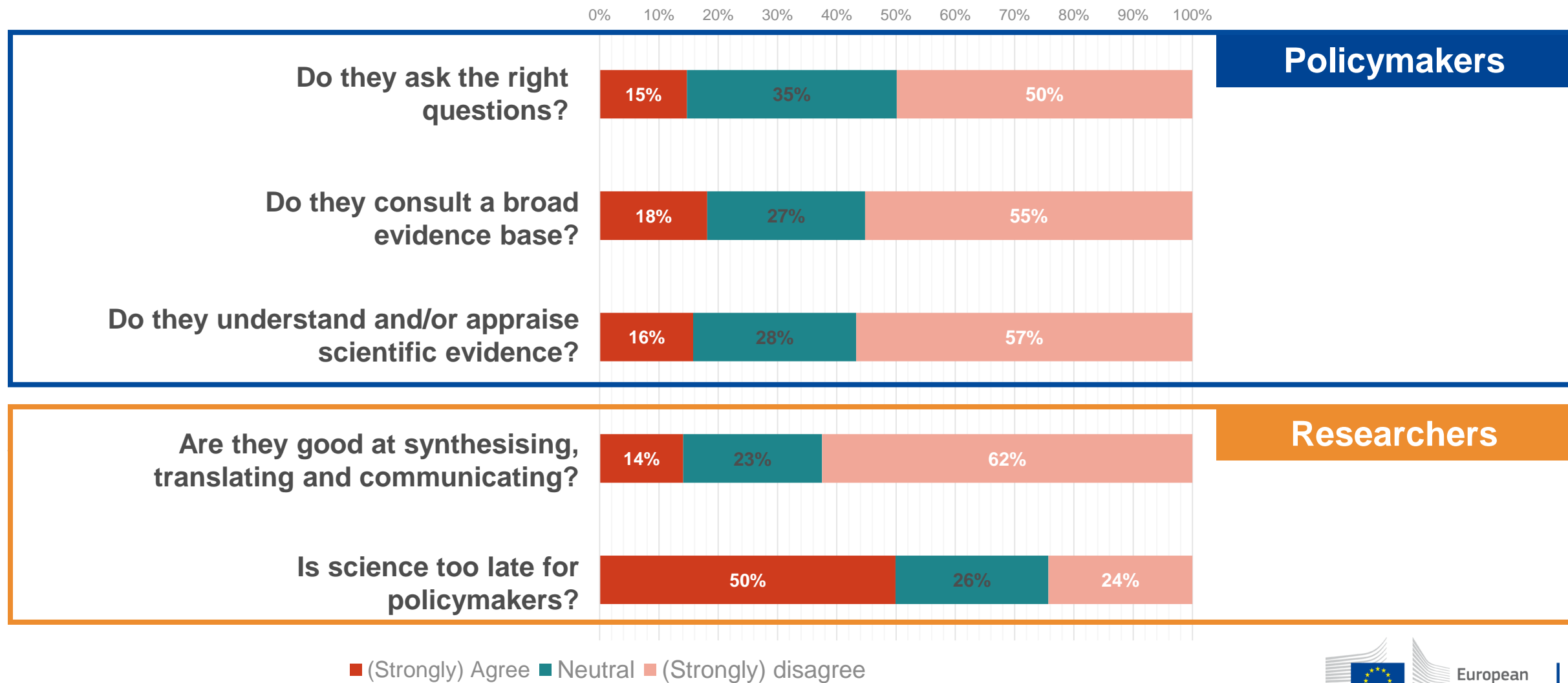
**Meaningful &
ethical
communications**

Building individual capacities for science for policy



Competencies for EIPM – a shared challenge?

Qualities of the EU Science for Policy Ecosystems (n=469)





Individual EIPM capacity-building

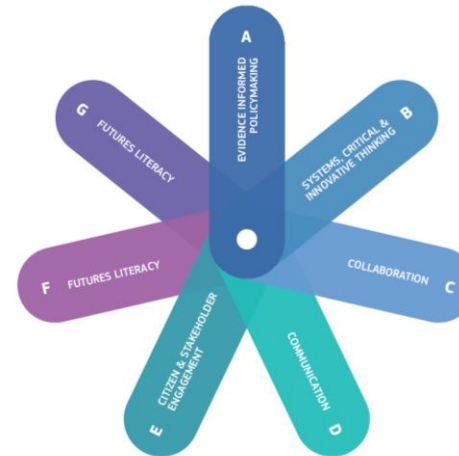
For researchers:

- Competence framework for scientists for knowledge mobilisation (Sci4Pol)

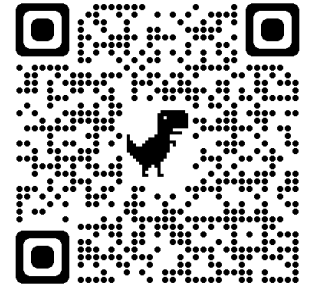


For policymakers:

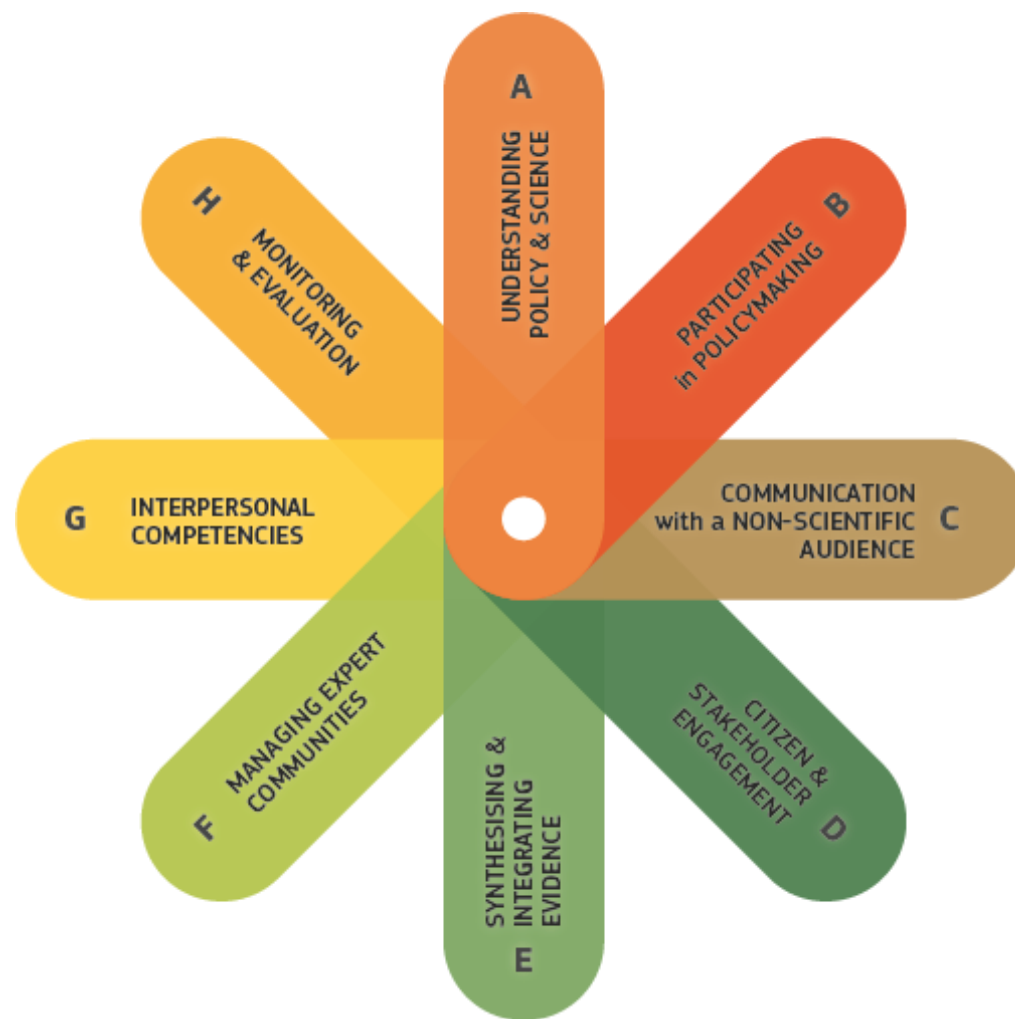
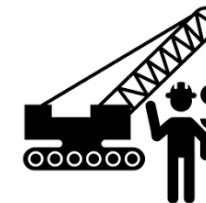
- Competence framework for policymakers (including competencies for evidence use)



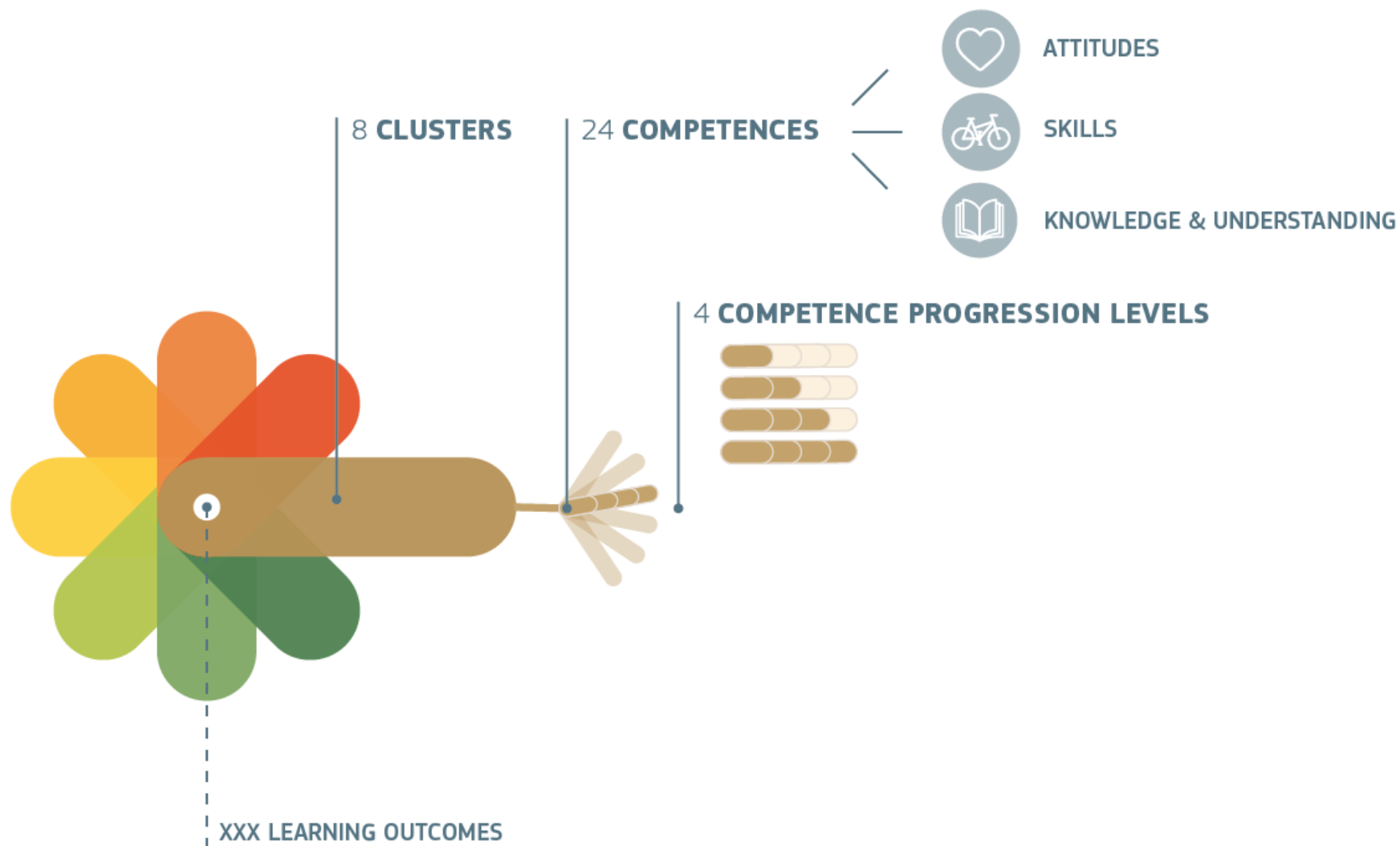
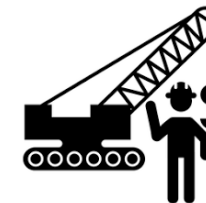
[EU Knowledge4Policy](#)



Sci4Pol Competence Framework



Sci4Pol Competence Framework



Strengthening and connecting science for policy ecosystems



Science for Policy Ecosystems across EU



13 workshops with 50-90 professionals each



Survey on qualities of ecosystems with ~470 responses

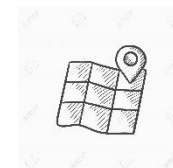


Discussion papers on country ecosystem



Community of 1,000+ science-policy professionals from across Europe

- ❑ What's in place, what works (not), and why
- ❑ Collectively create capacity and connections between and within ecosystems





Institutions for EIPM

Shared* challenges



Lack of intermediary
infrastructure

Fragmentation

Politics trumps
evidence use

Structures and
processes closed to
newcomers and
outsiders

Clarity, formalization
& transparency of
roles and processes

*>60% agreement among respondents



Institutions for EIPM

Shared* challenges but variable drivers



Politics trumps
evidence use



Political drivers:

- Level of polarisation/ controversy (DK)

Institutional drivers:

- Partisan/political advisors as gatekeepers (EL)

Informational drivers:

- Lack of awareness of value of science (EE)

Structures and
processes
closed to
outsiders



Political drivers:

- Partisan patronage (EL)

Institutional drivers:

- Sectoral set-up of commissioning (DK)

Structural issues:

- Small country – personal relations (EE)

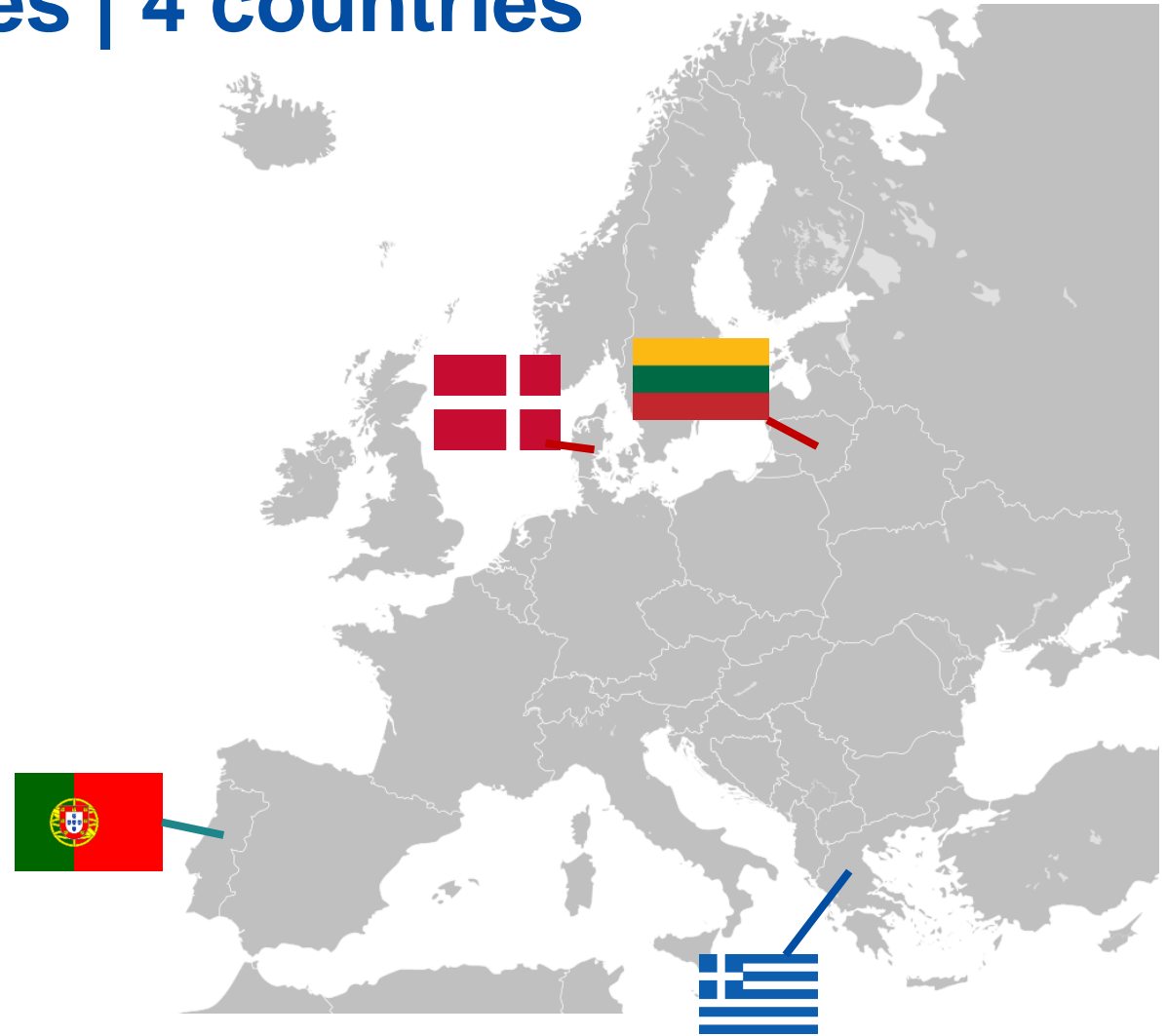


Institutions for EIPM – Country-specific challenges | 4 countries*



*Choice of MS

- Highest survey response
- Geographical spread





Denmark's case



Different directions in response to average

Formal &
transparent

Science's value
recognised

Familiar with
science supply

Dedicated
knowledge
broker on supply
side

Timely advice

Same direction but greater weight than average

High
mutual trust

Critical science for policy element:

- Competitive commissioning of research from universities by individual ministries



Lithuania's case



Different directions in response to average

Same direction but greater weight



Fragmented

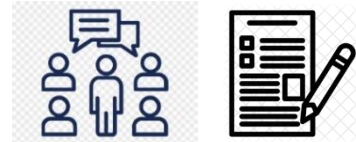
Evidence base
narrow

Specific value of
science not
recognised

Lack of
incentives for
science to
engage

Critical science for policy elements:

- EU funding triggers most policy demand for knowledge (evaluation)
- Polarisation between government and opposition
- Low salary and private competition for analysts inside/outside government



Greece's case

Different directions in response to average

Lack of
independence of
advising scientists

Same direction but greater weight

Lack of funding less
of a problem

PMs lack familiarity
with knowledge
supply and
brokerage landscape



Critical science for policy element:

- Perception of high degree of partisan politicisation of science and policy advisers



Portugal's case



Different directions in response to average

Same direction but greater weight

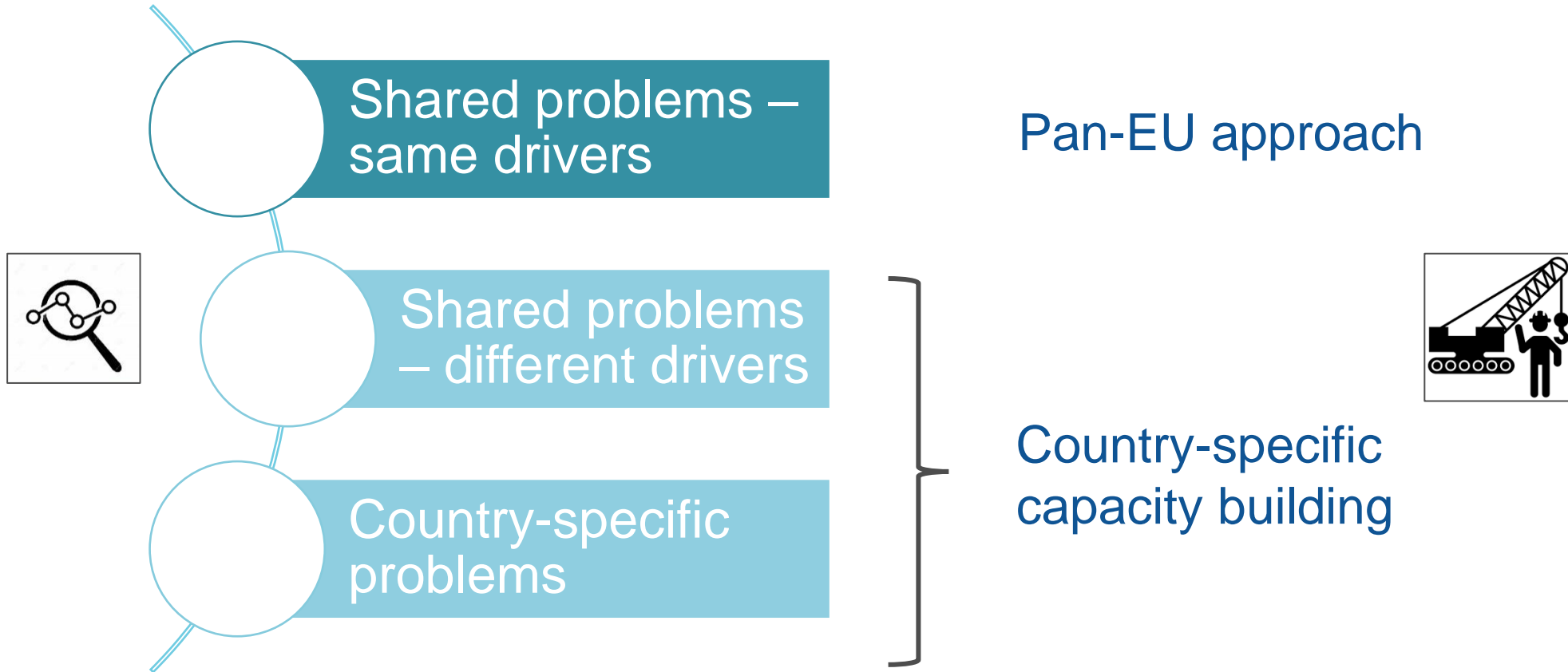


Lack of openness
of processes and
structures to new
actors

Critical science for policy element:

- Steps towards bigger institutionalising from the scientific side but lacking awareness within PA

Conclusions from early analysis and evolving mapping





Promoting public administration reforms



- A multi-country project application for DG REFORM's Technical Support Instrument



“Building capacity for evidence-informed policymaking in governance and public administration in a post-pandemic Europe”



- 8 Member States: EL, BE, CZ, EE, FI, LT, LV, NL



- **Breaking silos:** PMO, Ministries of Interior, Ministries of Public Admin, Ministries of Science and Education, Research Councils, National Academies...



- The project will entail: expert roadmap analysis, capacity building and thematic symposia

Conclusions

1. Covid-19 is offering interesting lessons for science for policy
2. Strong support to evidence-informed policymaking from the EC
3. EIPM requires:
 - Science for policy ecosystems with active mechanisms and processes
 - Key role of boundary organisations → need for institutional capacity building
 - Key role of knowledge mobilisers → need for individual capacity building
 - limits to what science can do to create more effective policies
4. The JRC works on building capacity and better understanding the process

Question

- We would like:
 - ✓ to continue and step up our mapping
 - ✓ to develop an EIPM capacity indicator framework
 - ✓ to develop other TSI-style coalitions
 - ✓ to pilot/test/adapt our skills work

➤ But what is missing?



Stay in touch

Join our community linked to the Science for Policy Ecosystems across Europe

<https://tinyurl.com/CommESAF>

Find news and information about ongoing work on our knowledge for policy website

<https://tinyurl.com/K4PESAF>

Thank you



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Creating connections and networks in support of EIPM

David Mair, Kristian Krieger, Lorenzo Melchor & Lene Topp

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Uneven/variable capacity for EIPM

“While policy making and public messaging during the COVID-19 pandemic continue to be informed by the latest scientific advice, the early months of the crisis exposed **the uneven level of research and advice in different Member States**, as well as the different approaches taken to providing and using that advice. This meant that **evidence was patchy, sometimes contradictory and often confusing** as a result of different messaging in different Member States.”

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Strengthen country-specific capacity inside MS



Connect ecosystems between MS & across governance levels

Networks of connecting actors in science for policy ecosystems



Empowering and activating networks



- **Creating a favourable and coherent policy framework:** the JRC and RTD work on joint Staff Working Document



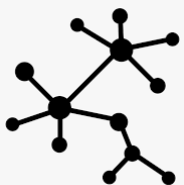
- **Mobilising financial resources:** the JRC seeks to assemble coalitions for multi-country projects (TSI, PSF) and explores further funding instruments for science for policy



- **Developing common instruments:** the JRC disseminates training materials, research, ecosystem maps and profiles, and more



- **Awareness raising & convening power:** the JRC organises multi-national workshops and ecosystem community; connects actors such as ESAF and INGSA; creating sectoral networks



- **Creating new networks:** Knowledge incubators; expert network on indicator construction for evidence use in policymaking



- Do we need a network of networks of science for policy to connect all existing networks?
- What is ESAF's role in all this?
- How can the JRC help?

Thank you



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