

Invited Expert Meeting

What standards of evidence
are needed for policy design,
implementation and evaluation?

AGENDA



9.30 – 10.00 **Arrival/coffee**

10.00 – 10.15 **Welcome and introduction**

This introduction will set the stage for the day's discussions. The Secretariat will offer a short introduction to set out the purpose of this meeting and outline the approach. The goal is to maximise the value of shared standards for evidence to inform policy making in countries, building on existing approaches and identifying critical factors of success. Introductory remarks may also be given by representatives from the EC, or organisations with extensive experience in the area.

10.15 – 11.00 **Why standards of evidence? Keynote introduction on international experiences**

Fostering evidence-informed policy making in a post-truth context is challenging. Governments recognise the importance using evidence in the policy making process: but not all evidence is equal. Some evidence is more robust and trustworthy and deserves to be given more weight in decision making. Furthermore, ensuring evidence is used in decision making is not a one off, but requires persistent interaction with decision makers, which may require attention to the integrity, integrity, transparency and legitimacy of the interface between evidence producers and decision making.

The keynote introduction will offer an overview of the challenges faced at the international level and highlight the value of shared standards of evidence.

- **Sir Peter Gluckman** (New Zealand, President Elect for the International Science Council and Chair of the International Network for Government Science Advice)

A short coffee break at 11.00 at the Chair's discretion

11.15 – 13:00 **Experiences with standards of evidence: where we are now and where should we go next?**

Specific approaches have now been developed at country level to foster greater consistency in policy making and to review standards of evidence used by a range of organisations at domestic level. The session will offer an opportunity to review the dimensions that have been explored, including who the lead actors are, which questions they address, and how they are used. The session will also discuss the need for coherence to improve the value of government programmes and the design of policy interventions.

Questions for discussion:

- *What current approaches to standards of evidence exist across OECD jurisdictions?*
- *What key questions and issues do the standards address?*
- *How have the standards been used and what have been the successes and the challenges?*

Speakers

- **Jonathan Breckon** (UK, Director of The Alliance for Useful Evidence): Mapping the Standards of Evidence Used in UK social policy.
- **Diana Epstein** (US, Evidence Team Lead at the Office for Management and Budget): Integrating standards for evidence at the Federal Level.
- **Knut Sundell** (Sweden, Senior Advisor for Social Affairs at Swedish Agency for Health Technology Assessment and Assessment of Social Services)

Discussant: **David Gough**, Professor of Evidence Informed Policy and Practice & Director EPPI-Centre, UCL Institute of Education.

During the discussion, delegates will also have the opportunity to share experience from their jurisdiction or organisation.

13.00 – 13.45 Lunch

13.45 – 15.15 Session 2: What could an international approach to standards of evidence cover?

In light of the review of existing initiatives, this session will focus on the potential scope for shared international standards for evidence. There is scope for this to cover a range of interconnected issues. This can concern the content, in terms of quantitative data underpinning, the methods used, the identification of costs and benefits including key parameters (e.g. the implied value of human life for example), and the plans for testing and evaluation, measuring the impact. This may also involve the process and the role of knowledge brokerage, in terms of transparency, consultation, addressing conflicts of interest, and also addressing policy implementation issues. Finally, standards need to be designed so that it can be actually used in the public sector, recognising that different stakeholders will have different needs.

The session will be organised as a moderated roundtable structured around the questions below.

Questions for discussion:

- *Is there value in bringing together technical considerations of research methodology and costs and benefits of policies with wider considerations such as of the process of knowledge brokerage and policy implementation?*
- *What is the demand and the role for shared standards of evidence to promote greater coherence in policy making and performance in programme delivery?*
- *What do policymakers, commissioners, funding bodies etc. want and need from evidence standards?*

Roundtable participants:

- **Paolo Paruolo** (Head of the Competence Centre on Microeconomic Evaluation, European Commission)
- **Arthur Heim** (France, Expert in public policy evaluation, France Strategie)
- **Dr. Kasey Treadwell Shine** (Ireland, Research and Evaluation Unit at Department of Children and Youth Affairs)

Discussant: Justin O. Parkhurst, (UK, Associate Professor of Global Health Policy at the London School of Economics)

15.15 – 15.30 Coffee break

15.30 – 17.00 Session 3: How can we get to an international approach to standards?

This session will discuss potential next steps to develop a shared international approach for standards for evidence in an OECD context. This can benefit from the extensive stock of knowledge built in the research community, as well as from international initiatives such as Cochrane, Campbell or INGSA, yet will need to be practical, accessible and action oriented to facilitate actual use in policy making. The discussion will benefit from a presentation of some OECD mapping of existing approaches to standards which offers a gap analysis, as well as from initial proposals by the Secretariat including a potential timeline, and the development of various modules. After a brief introduction by experts from the Secretariat participants will be invited to address the following questions in a tour de table format.

Introductory presentations

- **Daniel Acquah** (Policy analyst, OECD)
- **Eva Beuselinck** (Counsellor, OECD)

Questions for discussion:

- *What would be the added value of an OECD approach to standards, and how to leverage opportunities for collaborative networking with existing stakeholders ?*
- *Are there any gaps in provision that the OECD and partners can help to address?*
- *What capacity building initiatives would be necessary for standards to become more effective in policy making?*

Moderator: Stephane Jacobzone, OECD Secretariat, Acting Head of Division, Reform of the Public Sector, Public Governance Directorate

17.00-17.15 Closing and next steps