

# Expert Meeting

Ensuring the good Governance of evidence  
What standards of evidence are needed for  
policy design, implementation and evaluation?

## AGENDA

20 June 2019



**EXPERT MEETING -**

**ENSURING THE GOOD GOVERNANCE OF EVIDENCE - WHAT STANDARDS OF EVIDENCE ARE NEEDED FOR POLICY DESIGN, IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION?**

**20TH JUNE, ROOM BB2, OECD Boulogne Site, 46 Quai Alphonse le Gallo, 92100 Boulogne-Billancourt.**

*Draft Annotated Agenda*

**CONTEXT**

Fostering evidence-informed policy making in a post-truth context is challenging. Governments recognise the importance of 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 requires attention to how best to ensure the good governance of evidence and decision making.

The discussions will benefit from existing mapping by the Secretariat of existing approaches to standards, also covering aspects of the good governance of evidence.

**GOAL OF THE MEETING**

The goal of the meeting is to review a first draft proposal on what standards of evidence are needed for policy design, implementation and evaluation. A draft will be circulated beforehand. The draft will cover both the good governance of evidence to inform policy making and the substantive aspects of standards of evidence. This will help to identify a good practice guide that could be helpful to drive whole of government efforts in this area and improve the quality of policy making.

9.00 – 9.30 Arrival/coffee

9.30 – 9.40 Welcome and introduction

*This introduction will set the stage for the day's discussions.*

- **Opening Remarks: Ms. Irene Hors.** Deputy Director of Public Governance.

9.40 – 11.10 Session 1 - Ensuring the good governance of evidence

*This session will focus on four of the guiding principles for the good governance of evidence. The goal will be to discuss and agree on the draft text for the following principles. Each principle will have a lead discussant.*

- **Appropriateness.** *Is the evidence useful and appropriate to the context?*
  - **Dr Kasey Treadwell-Shine**, Dept. of Children and Youth Affairs, Ireland
- **Integrity.** *(honest brokerage) how can we ensure that evidence is not questioned from a conflict of interest or undue influence perspective?*
  - **Sir Peter Gluckman**, President Elect for the International Science Council and Chair of the International Network for Government Science Advice, New Zealand
- **Accountability.** *Is evidence contributing to public accountability?*
  - **Professor Takeshi Fukaya**, Advisor, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan.

*Coffee break*

11.20- 12.50 Session 2 - Ensuring the good governance of evidence

*This session will focus on a further three of the guiding principles for the good governance of evidence. The goal will be to discuss and agree on the draft text for the following principles:*

- **Contestability.** *Can evidence be challenged?*
  - **Dr Marta Hugas**, Chief Scientist, European Food Safety Agency.
- **Transparency.** *Is the evidence informing decisions publicly available and transparent?*
  - **Artur Heim**, Expert in public policy evaluation, France Stratégie. (TBC)
- **Deliberation.** *Is there an opportunity to voice concern in the evidence utilisation process?*
  - **Jonathan Breckon**, Director, The Alliance for Useful Evidence, UK.

12.50– 13.45 Lunch

**13.45 – 15.30 Session 3: Key standards of evidence: What are the lessons from the approaches to standards that exist across OECD jurisdictions?**

*The goal of this session is to discuss principles related to quality, rigour and effective resource management. These issues are discussed and developed in detail in approaches to 'standards of evidence'. The OECD secretariat has mapped over forty of these. The goal of this session will be to discuss and agree on draft text for the following standards.*

1. *Evidence synthesis* – What is the evidence base for the policy?
  - **Dr Howard White**, CEO, The Campbell Collaboration.
2. *Theory of Change/Logic Model* – Should the intervention work?
  - **David Mair**, Head of Unit, DG Joint Research Centre, European Commission. (TBC)
3. *Design and development* – Can the intervention work?
  - **Dr Knut Sundell**, Senior Advisor for Social Affairs, Swedish Agency for Health Technology Assessment and Assessment of Social Services.

**15.30 – 17.00 Session 4: Key standards of evidence: What are the lessons from the approaches to standards that exist across OECD jurisdictions?**

*The goal of this session will be to discuss and agree on draft text for the following standards, related to effectiveness, cost and benefits as well as the implementation aspects.*

4. *Efficacy and Effectiveness* – Does the intervention work in the real world?
  - **Dr Diana Epstein**, Evidence Team Lead, Office for Management and Budget
5. *Costs & Benefits* – Is the policy worth it?
  - **Paul O'Connell**, Director, Social Investment Agency, New Zealand.
6. *Implementation* – Can it work here? How will it work here?
  - **Dr Robyn Mildon**, Executive Director, Centre for Evidence and Implementation

**17.15-17.30 Session 5: Key challenges ahead**

*This session will offer an opportunity to take stock of the discussions held during the day, to identify the key challenges ahead and remaining gaps. The goal is to ensure that the proposed standards are analytically sound and can have some relevant impact, so that they could be brought to attention at official level, with some form of endorsement.*

Moderator: **Dr. Daniel Acquah**, OECD Public Governance Directorate.

**17.45 : Closing and next steps**

**Stephane Jacobzone**, Head of Unit, OECD Public Governance Directorate,

## ANNEX

### **Draft Principles for the good governance of evidence – potential building blocks.**

The discussions will benefit from a mapping by the Secretariat of existing approaches to standards and principles for the ‘good governance’ of evidence. This mapping uses OECD’s existing work on Evidence Informed Policy Making and related governance workstreams, and academic references (Parkhurst 2016)<sup>1</sup>, using this as a framework to synthesise other approaches to the good governance of evidence. These principles will be further refined once the mapping is completed.

- *Appropriateness*: Evidence should be selected to address multiple political considerations, useful to achieve policy goals, and consider the local context.
- *Integrity (honest brokerage)* – Individuals and organisations providing evidence for policy making need processes to ensure the integrity for such advice, including managing conflicts of interest, ethical conduct and the influence of lobbying.
- *Accountability*: those setting the rules and shape of official evidence advisory systems used to inform policymaking should have a formal public mandate, and the final decision authority for policies informed by evidence should lie with publicly accountable officials.
- *Contestability*: Evidence must be open to critical questioning and appeal, can include enabling challenges over decisions about which evidence to use.
- *Transparency*: Information should be clearly visible and open to public scrutiny. The public should be able to see how the evidence bases informing a decision are identified and utilised. Transparency is also part of the OECD principles for regulatory quality and governance, as well as Open Government
- *Deliberation*: There should be space for engagement that enables members of the public to bring their multiple competing values and concerns to be considered in the evidence utilisation process. This is also about co-design and co-creation of policies and participation from an Open Government perspective that contributes to evidence.

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<sup>1</sup> See Justin Parkhurst (2016) The politics of evidence, from evidence-based policy to the good governance of evidence. Routledge. Open access: [www.taylorfrancis.com/books/9781317380870](http://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/9781317380870)