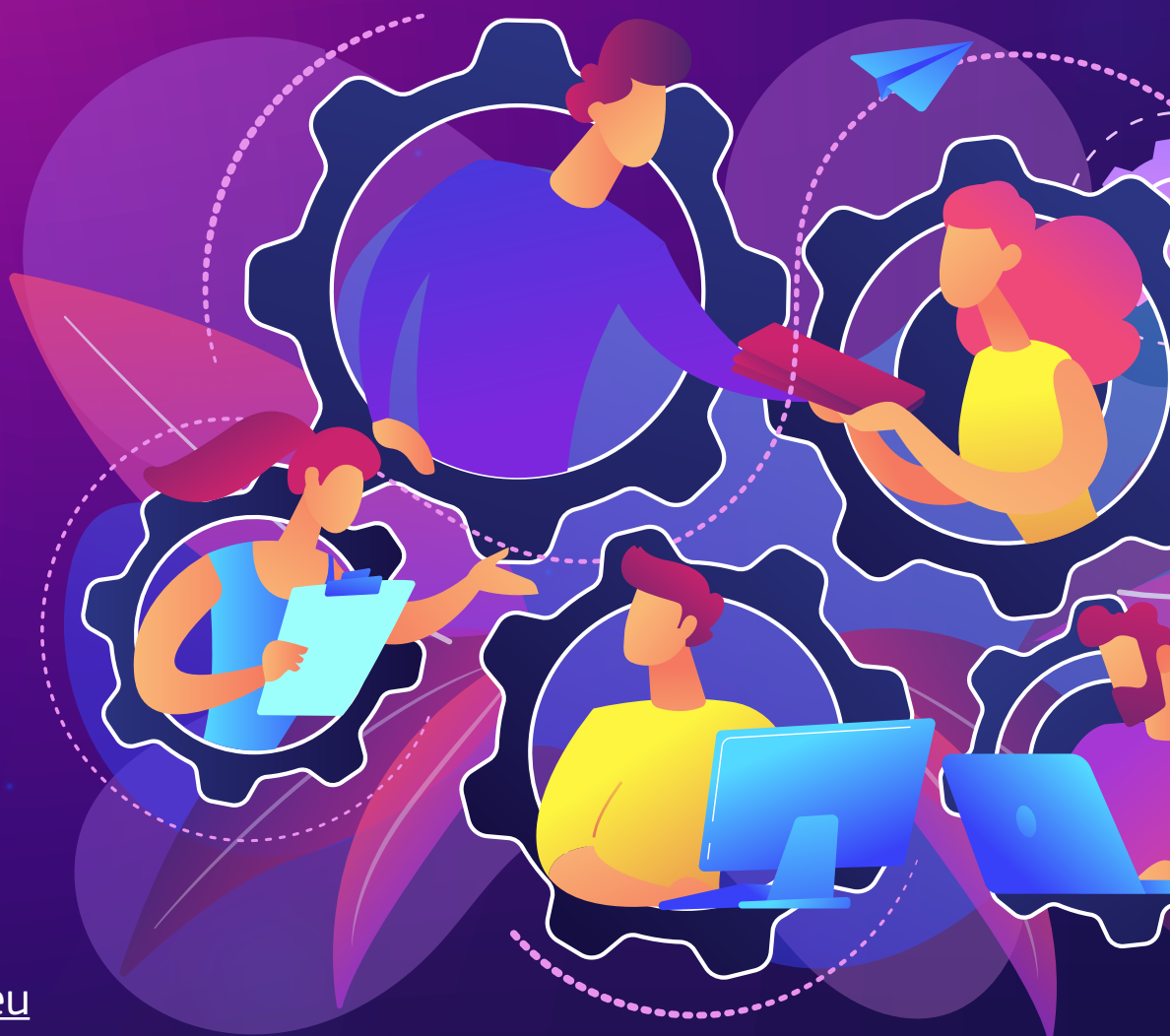


Sharing scientific evidence with policymakers

A starter kit for
EU funded
research & innovation (R&I) projects





What is the purpose of a starter kit on sharing scientific evidence with policymakers¹?

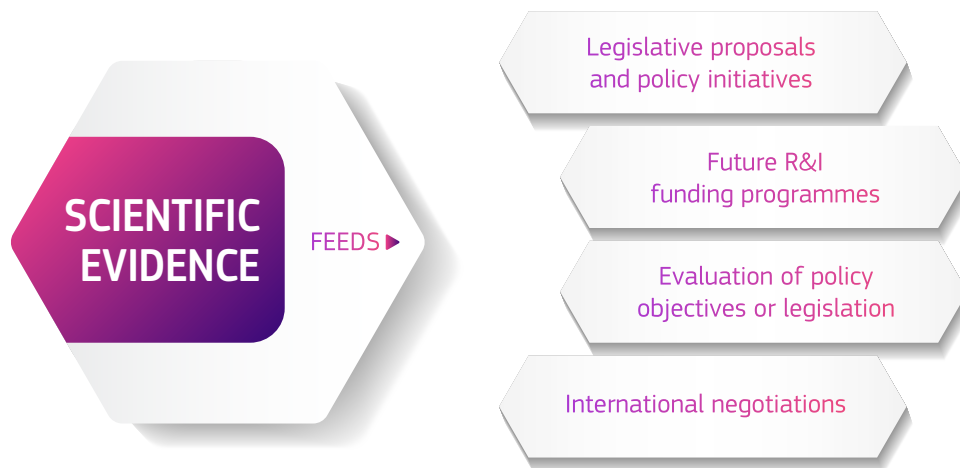
This starter kit explains how EU funded research and innovation projects can share scientific evidence with policymakers at the European, national, regional or local level.

What does sharing scientific evidence with policymakers mean?

Throughout their lifetime and beyond, **projects can inform** European, national, regional and/or local **policymakers** about their **results** or **make recommendations** relevant for a specific policy field.

Why is it important?

Scientific evidence resulting from projects like yours can help inform policymakers of the issues at stake in different policy fields. It can provide insights for legislative initiatives, the design of future research and innovation funding programmes as well as evaluations or international negotiations. This is what citizens expect². We invite you to be part of efforts to **ensure policymaking is evidence-informed**, ultimately leading to better legislation and policies for society.



Where to start when sharing scientific evidence with policymakers?

There are three **main principles** for projects to effectively feed their results into policymaking:

1. Understand the policy context

Monitor policy developments relevant to your field. Aim to understand the **needs of policymakers** at various levels and identify **which project results** are most pertinent and by **when**.

¹Disclaimer: while policymakers are keen to be informed of scientific evidence, they consider multiple inputs in policymaking, with evidence from projects being a valuable source.

²Special Eurobarometer 557: 68% of Europeans agree that scientists should intervene in political debate to ensure decisions take into account scientific evidence.

At the EU level, the European Commission sets policy objectives for the period 2024-2029 and beyond, guided by [seven key priorities](#). These priorities form the basis of its annual [work programme](#). Reach out to your **project officer** who can connect you with relevant policymakers and direct you to information on ongoing policy debates and legislative and/or other initiatives. The call/topic under which your project is funded may be a relevant starting point. For policymaking at the national, regional or local level, examine strategic policy documents to identify policy priorities or ongoing initiatives and debates.



2. Join forces with other stakeholders

Establish relationships with a diverse range of researchers and stakeholders, such as academic institutions, industry, citizens/civil society organisations in similar or complementary fields to **enrich your findings** or join forces to inform policymaking. At the EU level, use the tools outlined in point 7 below to find out about the activities of others in your field.

3. Plan for policy impact

Plan early for policy impact considering these seven questions to ensure your project results get to the right policymakers at the right time, thereby boosting your chance of success.

Why are you engaging?

Identify the issue at stake and define the purpose of sharing your results (e.g. evidence to support legislation being drafted).

Who to inform?

Identify who you want to inform. Understand expectations, needs & barriers. Establish contact, if possible. For European policymakers, your project officer may put you in touch with relevant policy officer.

Who to collaborate with?

Collaborate with stakeholders/projects to maximise synergies and impact.

What are your key messages?

Focus on linking results and their impact to issues being addressed and make your recommendation(s) relevant (e.g. highlighting gaps), understandable and credible.

What type of supporting evidence?

Present supporting evidence in a format easily transferred to the policy question: clear data or figures, best practices, examples, counterfactual scenarios, models etc.

When to share results?

Start early & plan for timely inputs to the identified policy initiative. Assess & adapt to changing context.

Which channel?

Choose the right channel (e.g. at the EU level: project meeting, EU event, policy brief, project reporting) depending on your target audience, policy context & timing:



Where can I find out more?

There are several resources, aside from this starter kit, which can guide you on how best to share scientific evidence with policymakers. Here are steps you can take:

1. Familiarise yourself with the basics of science for policy

[10 steps to reach and inform policymakers](#)

[10 Tips for Researchers: How to achieve impact on policy](#)

[Smart4Policy | My profile](#): get to know your science-for-policy competences

2. Take inspiration from others

The **European Joint Programme on Soil (EJP SOIL)**, funded under Horizon 2020, mobilised more than 400 scientists across 24 European countries through its national hubs, transposing research findings into actionable recommendations for policymakers, contributing to the [Soil Monitoring Law](#) proposal and other legislative packages on soil health.

3. Find out about relevant initiatives

At EU level, public and stakeholder consultations are organised via [Have your say - Public Consultations and Feedback](#), where all calls for evidence related to EU policy initiatives are listed.

4. Connect with EU initiatives for informing policy

Join networks, fora, knowledge hubs, or science-policy interfaces in your field e.g. EU partnerships, EU and [JRC knowledge hubs and services](#), EU platforms e.g. [EU Platform on Animal Welfare](#), or well-established communities in your field, e.g. Community for European R&I for Security [CERIS](#).

[Expert groups](#): assisting the European Commission in policy and legislative initiatives

[Evidence-Informed Policy Making](#): join the community

[Projects for Policy \(P4P\)](#): an initiative which aims to use R&I project results to shape policy

5. Join a training

[EU academy: science for policy – maximise your policy impact](#)

6. Delve into a useful handbook

[JRC science for policy handbook](#)

7. Explore EU tools

Discover EU tools to connect with stakeholders and enhance the impact of your results:

[CORDIS](#): comprehensive information about EU R&I projects

[Horizon dashboard](#): interactive reporting and visualisation tool of EU R&I project data

[EU's research and innovation community platform](#): gateway to EU's R&I community

[Horizon results platform](#): a repository for projects to valorise key exploitable results

[Knowledge valorisation platform](#): for R&I community to engage and collaborate on turning results into sustainable products and solutions

[The booster](#): services offered to ongoing and completed EU projects to boost results impact

ISBN: 978-92-95234-64-2

Catalog number: JW-01-25-020-EN-N

DOI: 10.2848/8625431

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