on merrit

Results on WP 5:
"Policy-Making and Societal Actors"

TU Graz: Stefan Reichmann, Bernhard Wieser
UMinho: Antónia Correia, Eloy Rodrigues, Pedro Principe
Know Center: Nicki Lisa Cole, Tony Ross-Hellauer

22. March 2022

Goals and Questions of Work Package 5

Work Package 5 investigated

- the role of Open Science resources and public participation
  in policy-making
  to aid understanding of Matthew effects of policy-advice
  and to suggest ways to mitigate these effects.

Work Package 5 research questions

- how Open Science outputs are used in policy-making and
- which societal actors have influence in public participation in policy-making

on merrit

Task Overview

Task 5.1

- A review of existing literature on the uptake of Open Science outputs in the policy domain (Scoping report)

Task 5.2

- A survey on information seeking behaviours amongst European policy-makers complemented with an interview-based country case study (Portugal)

Task 5.3

- Mapping participation in RRI policy-making (workshops)

on merrit

Task 5.1 Results

The role of OS in relation to policy making is under-researched

- However, the "science-policy gap" has been addressed in the public health literature

Main findings

- Researchers and policymakers inhabit frequently incompatible worlds (two logics)
- Policymakers
  - seek information that is timely, relevant, credible, and available,
  - but prefer receiving information through personal networks rather than academic publications
- Availability of information in the form of academic publications is of secondary concern
- Critical observers note that this literature often holds naïve assumptions of policy making
  - Assuming knowledge transfer to the policy domain as a linear process
    and merely a matter of communication skills

Task 5.2: Survey and Interviews

Objective

- A survey on information seeking behaviours amongst European policy-makers complemented with an interview-based country case study (Portugal)

Methodology

- online survey with Members of Parliament, ministers and secretaries from European countries (EU-27) plus the United Kingdom
- National Use Case - Interviews of Portuguese members of Government and Parliamentarians on the uptake of Open Science in information seeking practices in policy-making

on merrit

Task 5.2 Results

Perception of Open Science

- considered as beneficial, but some reservations regarding data literacy and IPR issues as potential pitfalls of the OS transition

Science-Policy interface

- policymakers prefer receiving information through personal networks rather than scientific literature (corroborating findings from the lit-review)

Portuguese national use case

- contradicts the "evidence-policy gap" framing, due to high proportion of politicians recruited from academia
- These policy-makers are often able to search for, find and use scientific information (including primary literature), which they consider key for developing policies, and make use of several procedures of expert consultation, involving, but not limited to, academic institutions.

on merrit

Aims of Task 5.3

Research questions

- how Science outputs are used in policy-making and
- which societal actors have influence in public participation in policy-making

Methodology

- qualitative research (interviews and workshops) with researchers experienced with policy relevant research
- Three workshops on climate, agriculture and health
- ex-ante interviews with the participants

on merrit

Task 3: Key Findings

Uptake is more likely if research answers to defined policy goals (congruence)
- Especially if defined by supranational organisations (UN, OECD, EU, etc.)

Cognitive accessibility of research outputs is important (confirms lit. review)
- Open Access literature is not enough; oral communication was considered more effective

Upstream engagement
- Research is effective if researchers, policy makers and relevant stakeholders are brought together from the beginning and engage throughout the entire process

Relationships based on trust and credibility are vital for effective policy advice
- This implies a certain type of "matthew effect", prestige, reputation, previous experiences

Social inclusion is best achieved with participatory approaches
- Highlights the importance of research design and methods
- Representation during knowledge production and if invited as stakeholder

Researchers and funders influence participation
- Via choices of research design and methods

on merrit

Where to find our results

- [D5.1 Scoping report of previous research on the role of Open Science resources in deliberative policy-making](#)

- [D5.2 Results of a survey on the uptake of Open Science in information seeking practices in policymaking](#)

- [D5.3 Networks of engagement in deliberative policymaking: Expert reflections on barriers to participation](#)

Preprint:

- [Open Science at the Science-policy Interface: Bringing in the Evidence?](#)

People involved

Bernhard Wieser, TU Graz

Stefan Reichmann, TU Graz

Nicki Lisa Cole, KNOW

Pedro Principe, UMINHO

Eloy Rodrigues, UMINHO

Antonia Correia, UMINHO

Tony Ross-Hellauer, KNOW

on merrit

Thank you for your attention!

@onmerrit