

1st Joint JRC-IIASA Summer School 2015

Evidence and Policy

Wednesday 2nd – Friday 4th September 2015

Laxenburg, Austria

(Version 8: 30th April 2015)

1. Aim

To hold a three-day Summer School bringing together scientists and policymakers to learn how to better use evidence for policy-making. Scientists and policymakers will learn together new general skills in using evidence for policy.

In order for the students to have a common basis of knowledge upon which to build science-policy competencies, this year the students will come from among those conducting research and developing policy in the field of energy.

2. Target Audience

- For the whole three days, up to 50 junior to middle level (split 50:50):
 - policy officers (from EU Institutions and from Member States), plus
 - scientists (from across the EU)working in the area of energy.
- Joined, on the first day, by senior EU policymakers and world-renowned scientists from the energy field.

Other participants will include the speakers plus, as facilitators, renowned practitioners in evidence for policy.

3. Rationale

The science-policy interface is well-known to be challenging. We have the means to understand the challenges we face and to make more effective policies. Yet, despite living in an age with so much scientific knowledge available and easily accessible, the practice of how scientific evidence is actually used in policy development is at best mixed.

In their research activities, IIASA and DG JRC each face the challenge of gathering knowledge and providing advice that is not only relevant to the policy process, but is then taken into account by policymakers. Whilst this focus has made them leaders in “science and policy,” it has also highlighted the widespread need for a better understanding of the effective use of scientific evidence and advice – both by scientists and by policymakers.

This Summer School is aimed at building a common understanding of that shared responsibility. Its uniqueness is to bring together both policy officers and scientists to consider and understand better the constraints and demands from both the scientific and the policymaking perspective. Expert practitioners in the field of science advice to policy will also participate to share their knowledge and experience with the Summer School students.

4. Format

The draft Programme is enclosed. The Summer School comes immediately after the Alpbach Laxenburg Group meeting (28th August – 1st September 2015), so that some of the Alpbach Laxenburg Group members can participate in the first day.

This will be a highly participatory event. Whilst there will be some lectures to set the scene, most of the time will be spent working together on working practices, skills, behaviours and methods, in both the scientific and policy-making domains. The aim being to have better mutual understanding on the use of scientific evidence, models and scenarios in the process of policy development.

On the first day, students will be joined by senior EU policymakers and world-renowned scientists. This will provide an opportunity for Summer School students to interact with them and to learn more about the high-level science-policy challenge in the energy field.

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Draft Programme

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[*Note: Those panellists/speakers/facilitators marked with an "*" are to be confirmed.*]

Tuesday 1st September 2015

Arrival of senior policymakers and scientists, including some Alpbach Laxenburg Group members, plus Summer School students.

Wednesday 2nd September 2015

09h00 **Opening of Summer School** by Prof. dr. Pavel Kabat, Director-General IIASA and Vladimír Šucha, Director-General DG JRC, European Commission

09h30 **High-Level Discussion Panel**

The panel will be invited to address the following questions:

- What are the key energy policy evidence gaps?
- How can we better apply existing knowledge to urgent policy problems?
- How can we build a real two-way evidence – policy relationship in the energy field?

Moderator:

Jos Delbeke,* Director-General, DG Climate Action, European Commission

Panel Members:

Paul Rübiger,* MEP, European Parliament

Dominique Ristori,* Director-General, DG Energy, European Commission

Gordon McBean,* President, International Council for Science

Maria van der Hoeven,* Executive Director of the IEA

Jeffrey D. Sachs,* Director, The Earth Institute, Columbia University, USA

11h00 *Pause café*

11h30 **Discussion Tables**

Discussions addressing these questions will continue, this time directly with Summer School students. The Moderator and Panel Members from the first session and the discussants given below will each host their own discussion table with students.

A plenary session will then follow, where the panellists plus the discussants will give their reflections on the discussions. Closing remarks from the Moderator summing up take-home points from the discussions will close the session.

Moderator:

Manuel Szapiro,* Member of Cabinet for Commission Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič responsible for Energy Union

Discussants:

Hans Joachim Schellnhuber,* Director, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research

Jean-Michel Glachant,* Director, Florence School of Regulation

Laurence Tubiana,* Director, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations

Nebojsa Nakicenovic, Deputy Director and Deputy CEO, IIASA

Silvia Bartolini,* Member of Cabinet for Commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete responsible Climate Action & Energy

13h00 *Lunch, with Poster Session whereby Summer School students display, on one (A3 size) pre-prepared poster, their work. Departure of some senior participants.*

15h00 **Lecture:** *What are the challenges faced by scientists when working with policymakers?* by Sir Peter Gluckman* (20mins)

Lecture: *Why should scientists work with policymakers?* by Yandeh Yumkella,* Sustainable Energy for All (20mins)

followed by Q&A

16h30 **Reflections** by Vladimír Šucha, Director-General DG JRC, European Commission

17h00 **Drinks Reception**

Thursday 3rd September 2015

08h30 **Welcome and ice-breaker** by David Mair, DG JRC, European Commission

09h00 **Science and Policy Masterclasses (1st Session)**

Parallel sessions on the topics listed below with the Summer School students cycling through each one, changing every 45mins. The experts running each session will be required to introduce the topic, seek the views of the Summer School students and have them undertake activities which were designed in advance, e.g. analysing, in small groups, energy-related case studies and then presenting their analysis to the group.

Topics are:

- 1) *Perils and pitfalls of working at the science-policy interface* by Markus Amann, IIASA
- 2) *Policy and the evidence beast – how evidence fits into wider considerations of policymaking* by Jan Staman,* ex-Rathenau Institute
- 3) *Using and Challenging Modelling – how to gain confidence in what models say* by Andrea Saltelli,* ex-DG JRC, now University of Bergen and Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
- 4) *Learning to accept uncertainty, risk and hazard* by David Wilkinson, DG JRC
- 5) *Effective communicating and presenting –dialogue is always better than monologue* by Chris Tyler,* UK Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST)

- 6) *Shaping what may come – using foresight and horizon scanning to anticipate policy challenges* by Xavier Troussard,* DG JRC, European Commission
- 7) *Informed policy with big data – the potential benefits to be gained from our knowledge-rich world* by Marta Nagy-Rothengass,* DG CNCT, European Commission

11h15 *Pause café*

11h30 **Marketplace of ideas: Identifying evidence needs**

Students are asked to self-organise into small groups to identify what new evidence is needed in order to be able to address a policy challenge. Groups (of up to four) must comprise both scientists and policy officers who will then work together on the idea and, in the session tomorrow, produce a poster.

12h30 *Lunch*

14h00 **Excursion**

19h00 *Dinner*

Friday 4th September 2015

08h30 **Science and Policy Masterclasses (2nd Session)**

Continuation of further four cycles of sessions from previous day.

11h30 **Poster Preparation Session**

Summer School students to use this time to produce their (A3 size) posters of their need for evidence proposals.

13h00 *Lunch*

14h00 **Poster Presentation Session**

Summer School students to review and discuss the proposals presented as posters. Students will be asked to indicate (vote for) their (up to 3) preferred ones.

15h30 **World Café: *What are the Do's and Don'ts for evidence-informed policymaking?***

Working in 12 groups of four (two policy officers and two scientists), each group is asked to identify up to three Do's and up to three Don'ts for the effective use of evidence to inform policy. Responses should then be posted on a wall with facilitators to cluster the different responses.

16h30 **Wrap-up Session**

To review outcomes of Do's and Don'ts suggestions, acknowledge the top three poster proposals identified plus have the students give their take home messages.

17h00 **Closing of Summer School** by Prof. dr. Pavel Kabat, Director-General IIASA and Vladimír Šucha, Director-General, DG JRC, European Commission

17h30 Departure of Students