

Public Governance Seminar

What Works:
Towards Evidence Informed Policy Making

16 November 2016

Draft Agenda



DRAFT AGENDA

WHAT WORKS AND EVIDENCE INFORMED POLICY MAKING: EXPLORING THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

Context

In the 2015 OECD Public Governance Ministerial Meeting, Ministers acknowledged the importance of evidence as a critical underpinning of public policies and recognised the need for a continuous effort to develop policy-relevant evidence on government performance that is robust and comparable. “What Works” initiatives are an example of how to ensure systematic assessment and leverage the stock of information on good practices available at the international level on policy impact.

In late September of this year, researchers, foundations, NGOs and government officials converged in London to discuss the value and measures for evidence-informed policymaking, with the What Works Global Summit (WWGS), led by the Campbell Collaboration, gathering over 500-800 participants to share methods and results. This global summit was followed by a Global Forum for Government organised by the Alliance for Useful Evidence and Nesta, in partnership with Results for America. These events underscore significant demand at senior level in a number of countries to build and nurture evidence ecosystems and to identify opportunities to frame a global coalition on evidence.

Officials co-ordinating policy making at the centre are seeking to strengthen the evidence base and ensure the use of robust and actionable evidence in policy design and evaluation. The Programme of Work of the Public Governance Committee includes a focus on “Promoting “What Works” approaches to policy design and service delivery”. The “What Works” approach promotes policy design supported by the best available evidence on what works, what does not, and an iterative “test, learn and adapt” approach for policy implementation.

Goals of the seminar

Overall, the objective of this seminar is to examine emerging national models for evidence-informed policy and to explore opportunities for international co-operation in the increasingly global movement to synthesise evidence on What Works in a range of policy interventions. There is growing international interest in the use of a What Works approach and in building a global evidence-base for policy interventions. This seminar asks the question: what would be the benefits of international co-operation and what practically could the OECD do to support this international agenda?

Participation and next steps

This part of the seminar will be open to Public Governance Committee Delegates as well as interested outside experts from government, academia and foundations. The seminar will help frame a discussion on how best to join forces, as well as how to build a forward looking work plan that could take advantage of the resources and expertise of relevant public governance communities interested in promoting evidence in decision making.

Wednesday, 16 November 2016

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9:30

Welcome coffee

10:15 – 11:15

Experiences in promoting and using systematic evidence to inform policy making

This session will focus on comparing different national approaches for evidence-informed policy-making. As governments can rely on a wealth of studies, evaluations and data, efforts by the public sector, academics and non-governmental organisations to conduct meta-analysis of the outcomes of public sector interventions can improve the usefulness and relevance of such evidence. What are some of the common challenges that have arisen around collecting, sharing and comparing evidence at the national and international level? How can we ensure that these efforts can make a useful contribution to government decision-making?

Introduction

- **Rolf Alter**, Director, Public Governance and Territorial Development OECD

Speakers

- *Dr. Philip Rycroft, Second Permanent Secretary and Head of UK Governance Group, Cabinet Office*
- *Dr. Howard White, Chief Executive Officer, Campbell Collaboration*
- *Ms. Katju Holkeri, Financial Counsellor, Ministry of Finance, Finland*

Questions for discussion

- What are countries' overall experiences in promoting and using systematic evidence to inform decision-making?
- How can evidence be made more useful and relevant to the needs of decision-makers?
- What are countries doing to strengthen the supply of policy-relevant evidence for decision-makers?
- What could be the benefits of creating new partnerships in evidence production to fill evidence gaps? How can this help to promote evidence synthesis and experimentation?

Reference document

An issues paper will be distributed to participants, including some preliminary mapping of what works approaches in selected countries to help advance the discussion.

11:15 – 12:45

How to make “WHAT WORKS” work in practice and achieve policy outcomes?

This session will discuss how to integrate evidence-based policy approaches into concrete measures for policy design and for service delivery. It will discuss the institutional ecosystem and underpinnings of a “What Works” approach, in terms of a system that not only collects and channels the evidence, but also one that ensures that the evidence is useful and relevant for policy discussions and that the right incentives are in place for the evidence to be collected in the systematic way, and used both at the political level and by practitioners.

The session will help to identify concrete benefits and outcomes of a “What Works” approach, and will also discuss how to overcome some of the challenges associated with it. The session will also discuss the broader role of Non-Governmental Organisations and Foundations as part of an “evidence driven” eco system that helps to focus the attention of policy makers, practitioners as well as citizens on the implications of an evidence-driven approach.

The session will offer a range of presentations from countries, experts and non-governmental organisations in order to offer a variety of perspectives and possible options.

Speakers

- *Dr. Thomas Brock, Commissioner, National Center for Education Research, United States*
- *Sir Kevan Collins, Chief Executive, Education Endowment Fund*
- *Mr. Clément Lacouette-Fougère, project Manager, SGMAP, Prime Minister’s Office, Mr. Ben Rickey, project Manager, National Agency for Active Solidarity, France*
- *Mr. David Medina, Chief Operating Officer, Results for America (by VC)*

Moderator

- *Mr. Jonathan Breckon, Director, Alliance for Useful Evidence*

Questions for discussion

- How have selected countries used a What Works approach to build policy-relevant evidence? What have been the lessons in drawing on such an approach for improving policy design and service delivery?
- What are the concrete benefits and effectiveness dividends? What have been the challenges and obstacles that had to be overcome?
- What are the steps that need to be envisaged to build and develop a “What Works” approach? How can this connect with existing policy agendas, for example in managing performance or ensuring leadership in government agencies?
- What are the opportunities of involving civil society organisations and broader actors? How can countries develop a 360° approach to users, involving practitioners, experts and political decision makers in a shared policy agenda informed by evidence?

12:45 – 13:30

Lunch Break

13.30 – 15.00

Bridging partnerships: How can we maximise the value of cross country collaboration in an OECD context?

The goal of the session is to discuss how the international community can better develop and use a “What Works” approach to collecting and using evidence in decision making. It will also look at how the OECD could support these efforts. For example, by helping countries to map the evidence architecture in their national space, thus contributing to a better understanding of the international architecture and potential crossovers and partnerships.

The session will also focus on identifying potential partners and key actors working in the space, and explore practical options for taking this work forward, including what sort of networks can be mobilised and what analytical tools and experience can be shared.

Speakers

- *Ms. Bethanne Barnes, Special Advisor for Evidence-Based Policy, Office of Management and Budget - White House Office of Management and Budget, United States (by VC)*
- *Ms. Jane Halton, Former Secretary of the Department of Finance, Australia*
- *Ms. Virginie Madelin, Interdepartmental Director for public sector modernisation, SGMAP, Prime Minister’s Office, France*

Moderator

- *Mr. Stéphane Jacobzone, Counsellor, OECD*

Questions for discussion

- What are the specific areas where the OECD could support countries in building their evidence systems? In facilitating the international sharing of evidence and building standards for information sharing?
- How could countries benefit from a mutual mapping of their systems for producing evidence in core sectors? Is there a need for a more global overview?
- How can countries best pool their research efforts, e.g. through shared funding, shared platforms, or systematic exchange of information? Is there a need for practice guides on how to set up a What Works Centre?
- How can the OECD nurture partnerships, e.g. with officials in charge of budgeting and performance management, with officials in charge of developing policy advice and analytical work in core sectoral fields?

15:00-15:30

Next Steps

This session will discuss practical next steps, identify milestones for future work and will draw out implications in terms of resources and information sharing.

15:30

Adjourn

- PRACTICAL INFORMATION -

Venue

OECD Headquarters
2 Rue André Pascal
75016 Paris
France

Directions to the venue

[Map of the area](#) around OECD Headquarters.

Options for arrival with public transport RATP:



RER	Line C - Henri Martin Station
Metro	Line 9 - La Muette station
Bus	Line 63 - Octave Feuillet stop
	Line 52 - La Muette Boulainvilliers stop
	Line PC1 - Porte de la Muette stop

- For more details concerning the various transport lines, [consult the RATP map](#). You can also request a copy when you purchase your transport tickets.
- For more information concerning public transport in the Paris region, please consult the [RATP website](#).



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Contact the OECD

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For logistical information, please contact susan.rantalainen@oecd.org.

