

JRC-SAS-INGSA Evidence for Policy Summer School

6-8 September 2017, Senec, Slovakia

In a world flooded with information from a multitude of sources, providing, managing and making sense of knowledge to build more robust policies is highly challenging. Science and policy operate with different rhythms and principles, which often prevent them from communicating effectively. Providing and using evidence in policymaking is therefore a complex task demanding a set of distinct skills and mutual understanding between researchers and policymakers.

This is particularly relevant for the policies addressing, or influenced by, migration and demographic changes: a key strategic area for the future of Europeans. Evidence in this domain is often conflicting, confusing and controversial, which can further complicate the challenging policymaking process. Therefore, it is important for civil servants and researchers working in this field to develop skills in using evidence and thus fully use its potential for creating robust policy solutions.

To address these challenges, European Commission's Joint Research Centre, together with INGSA¹ and the Slovak Academy of Sciences, is organising a professional training for scientists and policymakers – **Evidence for Policy Summer School** – aiming to teach new skills in providing and using evidence in policymaking and thus increase the impact of research on policy. This is the third edition of the initiative.

While the focus rests on general skills useful for any scientist or policymaker working in the science-policy interface, the specific policy topic provides a common language and set of experiences to learn new lessons more effectively. Note, however, that the primary objective is to learn how to use evidence in policies related to migration and demographic change.

The programme is co-designed with the European Commission's Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography, in order to meet the specific needs of scientists and policymakers working in this area.

What is unique about the event?

- Policymakers and scientists meet and together learn how to use research and how their respective professional worlds operate;
- Leading thinkers and practitioners producing science and policy around migration and demographic changes engage closely with participants through participatory, interactive masterclasses;
- Broad thematic focus stimulates cross-policy dialogue and interdisciplinarity.

¹ International Network for Government Science Advice

Who are we looking for?

- Scientists interested in how to achieve impact on policy **and**
- Policymakers interested in how to commission and use research to support them in their daily work

- Both having experience of working within the themes of migration and demographic changes (producing science or policy tackling them, using related data in their work on other topics, interested in the implications of these societal challenges on other fields, etc.) **and**
- Working primarily in Central and Eastern Europe (EU Member States and selected EU Neighbourhood countries).

While the application will be open to all EU Member States, priority for participation will be given to applicants from Central and Eastern Europe, due to their limited representation in previous summer schools. Moreover, 25 spots with full funding (travel and accommodation) will be reserved for participants coming from the following EU Neighbourhood countries: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine.

The remaining EU participants will be offered accommodation, but are expected to cover their own travel to Slovakia.

What will you gain?

- New knowledge on how to better integrate scientific evidence into policy-making;
 - Scientists will learn how to better communicate and visualise their results, tackle uncertainty and align their projects with policy needs.
 - Policymakers will learn how research can support policy, which science can be relevant to their field, where to find it and how to interpret it, and what can be expected from researchers.
- New insights on how 'the other side' operates;
- Enlarged network of likeminded professionals, working on migration and demographic changes with ambition of using evidence in policymaking;
- Access to a global community of practice, exchanging top resources and expertise.

More information:

- Updates on the application process will be found at: <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/event/training-course/summer-school-evidence-and-policy>.
- Check [the video testimonial of last year's participants](#).
- Become a member of our [Evidence for Policy Community of Practice](#) and follow JRC on [Twitter](#) to receive further updates.

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DRAFT PROGRAMME

5 September 2017

16:30/18:00/19:30 **Departures to Senec (from Vienna Airport)**

21:00 – 22:30 **Welcome dinner**

6 September 2017

08:30 – 09:00 **Registration**

09:00 – 09:30 **Opening remarks**

Welcome address by Vladimír Šucha, Director-General, Joint Research Centre, European Commission; Sir Peter Gluckman, Chief Science Advisor to the Prime Minister of New Zealand and Chairman of INGSA and Prof. Pavol Šajgalík, President of the Slovak Academy of Sciences

09:30 – 10:30 **Policy keynote speaker**

A high-level representative of the policy world will talk about challenges in migration and demography and their implications for policy work. What are the most pressing knowledge gaps? What would policy expect from research?

10:30 – 11:00 **Presentation of the European Commission's
Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography (KCMD)**

Alessandra Zampieri, Head of Unit Demography, Migration & Governance, Joint Research Centre, European Commission

11:00 – 11:30 **Coffee break**

11:30 – 13:00 **Panel discussion**

Panel discussion focused on the challenges of using evidence addressing migration and demographic change. Practitioners working at the science-policy interface will also introduce their projects where innovative knowledge management helps advance the policy agenda.

13:00 – 14:00 **Lunch**

14:00 – 16:30 **Roleplay**

The plenary will divide into small groups of 10, each enacting a roleplaying scenario focused on a pending decision to set a new retirement age in a fictional country.

16:30 – 17:00 **Coffee break**

17:00 – 18:00 **Dos and Don'ts of evidence in policymaking: plenary conclusions from the roleplay**

19:30 **Dinner**

7 September 2017

09:00 – 09:30 **Introduction to masterclasses**

09:30 – 11:00 **Masterclasses session #1**

11:00 – 11:15 **Coffee break**

11:15 – 13:00 **Masterclasses session #2**

13:00 – 13:30 **Icebreaker**

13:30 – 14:30 **Lunch with the poster session**

14:30 – 15:00 **Masterclasses session #3**

15:00 – 15:15 **Coffee break**

15:15 – 17:30 **Science-Policy Collider**

Group activity in which participants self-organise to develop joint projects linking science with policy in a selected policy problem. Particular attention would be put on incubating useful knowledge management solutions for the area of migration and demographic change.

17:30 – 18:00 **Reflections and instructions for the next day**

19:00 **Dinner**

8 September 2017

09:00-10:30	Plenary presentations of the "Science-Policy Collider"
10:30-10:45	Coffee break
10:45-12:15	Masterclasses session #4
12:15-13:30	Lunch
13:30-15:00	Masterclasses session #5
15:00-15:15	Coffee break
15:15-16:00	Closing session
16:00	Departures

Masterclasses

Participants choose five preferred masterclasses, which are run throughout two days in five parallel sessions. *More details to be provided*

1. The Challenge of Migration Data

Developed by: Knowledge Centre for Migration and Demography, European Commission

2. Opinion and attitudes' surveys as type of evidence

Developed by: European University Institute

3. Modelling, forecasting and horizon scanning

Developed by: Centre of Migration Research, University of Warsaw

4. Understanding and communicating uncertainty

Developed by: Centre for Advanced Studies, Joint Research Centre, European Commission

5. Making sense rather than non-sense of demographic data

Developed by: Centre for Advanced Studies, Joint Research Centre, European Commission

6. Interdisciplinary approach to complex policy problems

Developed by: Centre of Migration Research, University of Warsaw

7. Visualisation and infographics

Developed by: Directorate Knowledge Management, Joint Research Centre, European Commission

8. Communicating evidence and policy to different audiences – presenting inconvenient truth

Developed by: Directorate Knowledge Management, Joint Research Centre, European Commission and the Slovak Academy of Sciences

9. History as a source of evidence

Developed by: International Institute of Social History

10. 'Alternative statistics': estimating irregular labour migration

Developed by: Slovak Academy of Sciences