

Guidance on Science for Policy Activities: Enabling Dialogues for Decision-Making

Scientific research can and should support policy makers in navigating how to tackle the complex societal challenges we face today, which demand interdisciplinary insights. Today, Science Europe, publishes the "[Guidance on Science for Policy Activities](#)," providing recommendations for research organisations engaging in research-policy dialogues.

Speaking on the Guidance, Mari Sundli Tveit, President of Science Europe, and Chief Executive of the Research Council of Norway, stated *"In an era of unprecedented global societal challenges, the role of scientific research in informing policy-makers has never been more critical. This Guidance represents a milestone in Science Europe's ongoing efforts to improve science-policy interactions."*

However, supporting research-policy interactions is a challenge requiring trust, commitment, and collective engagement. While hosting the launch event, Hans Willems, Secretary General of Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO), said: *"We believe that effective policy making requires solid and robust scientific contributions. Our societies are facing complex, knowledge-demanding challenges, and better science-policy interactions are needed to enable, facilitate and support science-informed decision-making."*

Developed in collaboration with the Science Europe Working Group for the Green and Digital Transition, the Guidance presents definitions, principles, actions, and examples of existing exchanges between the policy and research communities. Margarida Prado, Scientific Officer, Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia, Portugal and Co-chair of Science Europe's Working Group for the Green and Digital Transition said: *"Scientific research plays a fundamental role in understanding the current challenges our world is facing, such as the current climate crisis. This new Guidance provides practical indications for institutions to engage in science-policy dialogue."*

With the overall aim to improve 'science for policy' systems, the guidance aligns with the EU [Council Conclusions](#) adopted under the Spanish Presidency of the EU Council in December 2023. It provides a roadmap for the implementation of the 2023 report "[Science Policy in Action. Insights for the Green and Digital Transition](#)," which mapped Member Organisations' activities in science-informed policy making, as part of Science Europe's commitment to "Strengthen the role and contribution of science in tackling societal challenges" (see Science Europe's [Strategy Plan 2021-2026](#)); reinforce science-informed policy making; and support the role of research organisations in decision-making processes.

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Notes to Editors

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[Science Europe](#) is the association representing major public organisations that fund or perform excellent, ground-breaking scientific research in Europe. It brings together the expertise of some of the largest and best-known research organisations in the world to jointly push the frontiers of how scientific research is produced and delivers benefits to society. It advocates science and the scientific community to help build the European Research Area and shape the global scientific agenda.

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