

Science-policy interactions at the national level

Parallel Session 2

Group 1

The parallel sessions address the following 4 questions:

- 1. What are the requirements for scientific research programmes to effectively support policy making?**
- 2. How can adaptation policy development best be organized to gather and use information more effectively?**
- 3. How can boundary organisations contribute to ‘better’ and more ‘effective’ policy making?**
- 4. Which role could the European Union play to support science-policy interactions at the national level?**

1. What are the requirements for scientific research programmes to effectively support policy making?

- Size of research budget (hidden budget?)
- Policy-relevant/core research
- Prioritising issues (hot spots; what are the objectives?; based on past experience; reactive
- Tailoring information to needs
- Normative science
- Economic assessment
- Continuity of research/monitoring
- Interface facility between science and policy? Communicating in a smart way
- Policy makers must be involved in the formulation of research and in its delivery
- Perceived risks
- Researchers must deliver policy-relevant information
- Policy makers need to be made aware of the issue

2. How can adaptation policy development best be organized to gather and use information more effectively?

- **Good communication between government agencies is essential**
- **Formalising interaction between policy makers and research community**
- **Inter-ministerial groups at highest possible level**
- **Common understanding of definitions**
- **Dialogue and negotiation with private sector (e.g. access to data – moves in EU)**
- **Overlap between government bodies (e.g. federal/regional; sectoral)**
- **Ministries in NL have appointed “Chief Scientists”**

3. How can boundary organisations contribute to ‘better’ and more ‘effective’ policy making?

- **US has university training for policy-science interface experts**
- **Four roles:**
 - **Communication between policy, science, community**
 - **Influence – honest broker**
 - **Tools**
 - **Learning and dissemination of experiences (storage of knowledge and analysis)**
 - **“Memory” of the system**

4. Which role could the European Union play to support science-policy interactions at the national level?

- **EU already does something – list ...**
- **White Paper – mainstreaming adaptation into EU policies**
- **Framework Programme 7 is already addressing much more adaptation-related research**
- **Better appreciation needed of national efforts**
- **Trans-national research is important for many issues**
- **Comparative work on different governance structures in Europe**
- **Who has responsibility for joint national programming? Needs better co-ordination**
- **Indicators of good governance**
- **Common approaches to scenario development and vulnerability assessment**
- **Financial aspects for DCs and EITs**
- **EU would benefit from improved internal communication**

Science-policy interactions at the national level:

Group 1 take home messages

- **There are still significant barriers to communication of climate change adaptation information between science and policy and vice versa**
- **Prioritisation of issues depends on country circumstances and needs**
- **There are various models for achieving improvements, including:**
 - **Formalising the interaction at national scale**
 - **Educating expert intermediaries between researchers policy makers and community**
 - **Continued dialogue between the public and private sectors (e.g. on data and for implementation)**

Science-policy interactions at the national level:

Group 1 take home messages

- **Boundary organisations can provide:**
 - Communication between policy, science, community
 - Influence – honest broker
 - Tools
 - Learning and dissemination of experiences (storage of knowledge and analysis)
 - “Memory” of the system
- **EU role**
 - EU-wide activities and tools for engaging all European countries (e.g. scenarios, indicators)
 - An EU-wide comparison of governance structures
 - Capacity building within Europe and in DCs/EITs
 - It is important for European co-ordination of research and policy that the EU maintains an excellent standard of internal communication