



PSI-connect

is a three-year collaborative project funded under EC FP7

The objective is to improve the quality and value of interactions between science and policy in the field of water management and climate change

Knowledge brokering instruments (KBI's) are developed and tested in real-life policy trajectories at the European, national and regional level

Four types of KBI's:

- Group model building, system analysis
- Visioning, scenario planning
- Simulation, role playing, games
- Communities of Practice



Knowledge brokering processes

- The process needs a facilitator to apply the knowledge brokering instruments properly
- To achieve continuity we must go beyond the use of knowledge brokering instruments and take into account organisational structures and institutional boundaries



Connecting policy and science

- The governance processes differ on the different levels and they require a different approach or timing to establish the connection
- The initiation phase takes a lot of time and is crucial to build trust and create commitment
- The timing to connect must be right: identify windows of opportunities
- Commitment and facilitative leadership on the policy side and flexibility on the research side are prerequisites for the connection between the two



The role of the knowledge broker

- A knowledge broker has good communication skills, a broad background, can operate between domains, and knows the languages of the domains
- Various people in a group can act as knowledge brokers representing their domain. However, often there is no 'one person' that overlooks the whole system or process



Knowledge brokering instruments

The evaluation of the case studies shows that knowledge brokering instruments foster :

- the sharing of experiences and knowledge,
- the integration of different types of knowledge,
- and the generation of new views and knowledge

Not the instruments itself, but the process that is unrolled by the instruments leads to these impacts



Recommendations

- Clearly identify what (type of) knowledge is needed at what stage of the policy process
- More emphasis on the process part of knowledge exchange is needed
- Go beyond knowledge brokering
 - Make current practises and structures fit for knowledge brokering
 - Train knowledge brokers in the skills needed for being successful mediators (also between levels)