



## Science, Numbers and Politics

“Scientific Evidence” and “Expert Knowledge” in Contemporary Policy-Making

Preliminary Programme

### *Expert Workshop – 20-21 May 2019*

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<b>Organizer</b>	European Parliament, Directorate for Structural and Cohesion Policies <i>In collaboration with: Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities</i>
<b>Venue</b>	European Parliament Rue Wiertz 60, 1047 Brussels, Belgium
<b>Date</b>	20-21 May 2019

Science and quantitative data have increasingly defined and shaped politics. Today, empirical evidence almost always accompanies political decision-making. At the same time, Western democracies are experiencing an increasing re-ideologisation of politics coupled with distinct scepticism towards “experts” and “expert knowledge”.

This workshop addresses the ambivalent relationship between science and politics in general and the role of numbers in the political process in particular. What are the characteristic features of that relationship, and what are the opportunities and risks of an intensifying interaction between the political and scientific world? To which degree do numbers serve as a specific means by which (scientific) knowledge is expressed and through which that knowledge can be transferred into the political realm? How is numerical evidence actually produced for, “translated” into and used in actual policy making?

The main purpose of this experts’ workshop is to bring together academic scholars and practitioners of scientific policy advice with a view to discuss what scientific evidence can realistically do *in* and *for* politics, and how such evidence can be communicated to and used by policy makers both effectively and responsibly.



## Time Schedule

*Monday, 20 May 2019 (Room: ASP 5G2)*

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**14.00 Registration**

**14.30 Welcome and Introduction**

- Susanne Oberhauser (EP, DG IPOL)
- Markus J. Prutsch (EP, DG IPOL)

**15.00 Panel I – Scientific Evidence and Policy Making**

*Moderator: Pekka Hakala (EP, DG EXPO)*

*3 Presentations (ca. 15 minutes each, followed by 15 minutes of discussion)*

- Adolfo Barbera del Rosal (EP, DG IPOL)
- Jose Luis Rufas Quintana (EP, DG EPRS – EVAL)
- Dirk Hastedt (International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement)

*General debate (ca. 30 minutes)*

**19.00 Workshop Dinner (by invitation only)**

*Tuesday, 21 May 2019 (Room: ASP 3H1)*

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**09.00 Panel II – Numbers in/for Policy Making: Uses and Abuses**

*Moderator: Lieve van Woensel (EP, DG EPRS – Scientific Foresight Service)*

*3 Presentations (ca. 15 minutes each, followed by 15 minutes of discussion)*

- Wolfgang Drechsler (TalTech/Harvard University)
- Jean-Guy Prévost (Université du Québec à Montréal)
- Åsa Önerfors (European Commission, Eurostat)

*General debate (ca. 30 minutes)*



**11.00 Break**

**11.30 Panel III – Effective Communication of Science and Numbers to Policy Makers**

*Moderator: Sarah Sheil (EP, DG EPRS – SPOL)*

*3 Presentations (ca. 15 minutes each, followed by 15 minutes of discussion)*

- Lars Jakobsen (European Commission, Eurydice)
- Yuval Vurgan (Knesset Research and Information Center)
- Iain Watt (formerly EP and UN)

*General debate (ca. 30 minutes)*

**13.30 Concluding Debate**

**14.00 End of Workshop**