



Knowledge brokering

Connecting policy and science for better water resource management

Climate change poses a major challenge to water managers and policy makers alike. In order to reduce the vulnerabilities of people and societies to shifts in hydro-meteorological trends, increased climate variability and extreme events, such as floods and droughts, action needs to be taken now. Many of the anticipated climate change impacts, however, are subject to uncertainty, thus only adding to the complexity of contemporary water resource challenges. Managing these uncertainties requires increased information exchange and cooperation at all scales, particularly between policy-makers and scientific communities.

Knowledge brokering strategies and instruments offer opportunities to facilitate interaction between policy-makers and researchers in an attempt to relate science, experience and insight to policy. Role playing and simulation games, group model building, scenario planning and futures visioning exercises are just some examples for creating two-way conversations between policy-makers and the research community.

Funded under EC FP7, the PSI-connect project works to develop, test and disseminate effective knowledge brokering practices. By bringing together scientists, policy-makers and stakeholders to collaboratively work on real life policy problems, it aims to promote a step change in the way policy and science interact to solve current water resource challenges.

So what are the benefits?

Much new knowledge on the issue of climate change impacts on water resources has been generated in recent years. Yet, these understandings remain poorly exploited by policy makers and water managers. Knowledge brokering processes can support the production of feasible and research-informed water management policies by:

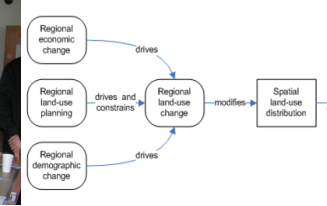
- bringing together and establishing relationships between policy-makers, researchers and the wider stakeholder community;
- providing opportunities for identifying knowledge gaps and needs, as well as sources of knowledge;
- assisting groups in understanding each other's problem perceptions, aims and preferred solutions;
- identifying and collaboratively formulating research-informed policy options.

The PSI-connect consortium

How we can support you

In recent years, considerable effort has been devoted to designing knowledge brokering instruments to increase the quality of policy-science interactions, to facilitate collaborative learning and to better exploit relevant knowledge. The PSI-connect consortium brings together a group of institutions which have significant experiences in the design and implementation of knowledge brokering instruments and processes. PSI-connect provides support to those already involved in knowledge brokering and encourages others to take their first steps through:

- **presentations and talks** to policy-makers, researchers and the wider stakeholder community interested in learning more about knowledge brokering strategies and instruments;
- **tailored training workshops** providing hands-on experiences with different knowledge brokering instruments such as simulation games, group model building, scenario planning and futures visioning;
- **design and facilitation** of knowledge brokering processes for real life policy problems.





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and Water Management Research
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Budapest, Hungary

Contact us if...

- You are completely new to this field and would like to find out more.
- You are already thinking about engaging with policy-makers or the research community and would like to obtain some training and hands-on experiences on how to do this;
- You have experiences or events to share.

We look forward to hearing from you.

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Further information

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CONNECTING POLICY AND SCIENCE IN THE FIELD OF WATER MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

*How to connect policy and science through
knowledge brokering*



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