



Executive Summary

PlanAPP has been developing the "Science and Public Policy Workshops: How to build bridges?" to leverage the dialogue between science and public policies, supporting the awareness and training of the scientific community for the importance of evidence-informed policies in different contexts and areas of knowledge. The workshops result from the participation of a pair of PlanAPP facilitators in the Training-of-Trainers on Evidence for Policy from the Joint Research Centre (JRC).

Workshops' Main Results

The analysis of the participants' input in the 19 Workshops held to date identified communication as the main challenge facing the interaction between science and public policy. Workshop participants recognize that researchers and decision-makers do not use the same language and that scientific discourse is not clear, accessible and efficient enough to convey the message to decision-makers and create the desired impact. For this reason, researchers believe that the best solution to strengthen the relationship between science and public policy is to focus on communication, achieved through collaborative work between the two communities to define objectives and knowledge needs, identifying priorities and evidence needs for concrete policies.

The analysis of the main results of the Workshops also allowed us to understand that participants believe they can have a greater impact on interactions with policymakers if they prepare a strategy for this interaction in advance, namely, through greater knowledge of the topic and the interlocutor. Participants reported that the main lessons learned at the Workshop were, above all, the importance of training communication skills, creating a strategy to reach public policies and the need to invest in preparing interactions with decision-makers.

Workshops Evaluation

The evaluation of the Workshops was extremely positive (4.5 on a scale of 1 to 5), but the participants believe that there are aspects that can be improved, namely, having more practical and concrete examples, greater reinforcement in training skills such as communication, more time for discussion in certain exercises and the implementation of mixed workshops that join the scientific and the policy community.

As a part of an internal evaluation, and the workshop planning for the year 2024, participants suggestions were considered to improve future Workshops. In this sense, there is a need to make some adjustments to the Workshop guide, namely in terms of redistributing the time allocated to certain exercises and making some changes to its structure based on relevant and feasible contributions received by the participants, and in alignment with the strategy of the European Commission's Joint Research Center (JRC).

Next Steps

Aware of the challenges and solutions highlighted by participants, PlanAPP wants to play a decisive role in strengthening the relationship between science and public policy, focusing on a strong communication between the two communities and achieving greater collaboration between science and decision-making. The main example of this effort is the "Agenda com a Ciência" portfolio, whose projects are available on the PlanAPP website ([Science for public policies \(planapp.gov.pt\)](https://www.planapp.gov.pt)).

From these, we highlight the creation of the Science for Public Policy Community of Practice, with participants from both communities, scheduled for 2024, after the Workshops dedicated to the decision-making community. This community will serve as a consolidated base for working jointly to develop strategies, contribute to sharing different ideas, suggestions and experiences and broadening the debate from a multidisciplinary perspective that involves different areas of knowledge.