



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

Director-General

Brussels, 22 MAI 2015

**Subject: Joint JRC-IIASA Summer School on Evidence and Policy**

Your Excellency,

The European Commission's Joint Research Centre, with the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), will hold an inaugural three-day Summer School bringing together scientists and policymakers to learn how to better use evidence for policy-making.

More details on the Summer School are enclosed. It will take place from Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2015 in Laxenburg, Austria at the premises of IIASA. The first day of the school will include high-level policymakers and scientists.


In order for the participants to have a common basis of knowledge upon which to build science-policy competencies, this year the participants will come from among those conducting research and developing policy in the field of energy, including its links to climate and air quality.

I would very much appreciate it if you could inform your relevant Ministries of this Summer School and invite their policy officials to submit an application. We are looking for a total of 15 junior to middle-ranking policy officials from across the EU who are engaged in the use of evidence for developing energy-related policy.

Applicants should submit their details, along with a 200 word motivation statement outlining how their work in the field of energy is relevant to the evidence-policy nexus and why they would benefit from attending the Summer School, to [JRC-A.1@ec.europa.eu](mailto:JRC-A.1@ec.europa.eu). **The deadline for applications is 12<sup>th</sup> June 2015.** Selection will be made on the basis of the motivation statement and in order to have a representative distribution from across the EU.

For further information, please contact David Mair, acting Director of Policy Support Coordination Directorate, at [JRC-A.1@ec.europa.eu](mailto:JRC-A.1@ec.europa.eu).

Yours faithfully,



Vladimir Sucha

His Excellency Ambassador Dimiter TZANTCHEV  
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Encl. Concept Note plus draft Summer School programme.

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International Institute for  
Applied Systems Analysis

## *1<sup>st</sup> Joint JRC-IIASA Summer School 2015*

### *Evidence and Policy*

*Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2015*

*Laxenburg, Austria*

(Version 10: 18<sup>th</sup> May 2015)

#### 1. Aim

To hold a three-day Summer School bringing together scientists and policymakers to learn how to better use evidence for policy-making. Scientists and policymakers will learn together new general skills in using evidence for policy.

In order for the students to have a common basis of knowledge upon which to build science-policy competencies, this year the students will come from among those conducting research and developing policy in the field of energy, including its links to climate and air quality.

#### 2. Target Audience

- For the whole three days, up to 50 junior to middle level (split 50:50):
  - policy officers (from EU Institutions and from Member States), plus
  - scientists (from across the EU)working in the area of energy, including its links to climate and air quality.
- Joined, on the first day, by senior EU policymakers and world-renowned scientists from the energy field.

Other participants will include the speakers plus, as facilitators, renowned practitioners in evidence for policy.

#### 3. Rationale

The science-policy interface is well-known to be challenging. We have the means to understand the challenges we face and to make more effective policies. Yet, despite living in an age with so much scientific knowledge available and easily accessible, the practice of how scientific evidence is actually used in policy development is at best mixed.

In their research activities, IIASA and DG JRC each face the challenge of gathering knowledge and providing advice that is not only relevant to the policy process, but is then taken into account by policymakers. Whilst this focus has made them leaders in “science and policy,” it has also highlighted the widespread need for a better understanding of the effective use of scientific evidence and advice – both by scientists and by policymakers.

This Summer School is aimed at building a common understanding of that shared responsibility. Its uniqueness is to bring together both policy officers and scientists to consider and understand better the constraints and demands from both the scientific and the policymaking perspective. Expert practitioners in the field of science advice to policy will also participate to share their knowledge and experience with the Summer School students.

**4. Format**

The draft Programme is enclosed. The Summer School comes immediately after the Alpbach Laxenburg Group meeting (28<sup>th</sup> August – 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015), so that some of the Alpbach Laxenburg Group members can participate in the first day.

This will be a highly participatory event. Whilst there will be some lectures to set the scene, most of the time will be spent working together on working practices, skills, behaviours and methods, in both the scientific and policy-making domains. The aim is to develop a better mutual understanding on the use of scientific evidence, models and scenarios in the process of policy development.

On the first day, students will be joined by senior EU policymakers and world-renowned scientists. This will provide an opportunity for Summer School students to interact with them and to set a framework of the high-level science-policy challenges related to energy, climate, and atmospheric emissions which will guide the discussions and exercises on the following two days.

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**Draft Programme**

**1<sup>st</sup> Joint JRC-IIASA Summer School 2015**

**Evidence and Policy**

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

**Laxenburg, Austria**

*[Note: Those panellists/speakers/facilitators marked with an "\*" are to be confirmed.]*

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015**

Arrival of senior policymakers and scientists, including some Alpbach Laxenburg Group members, plus Summer School students.

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015**

09h00 **Opening of Summer School** by Prof. dr. Pavel Kabat, Director-General IIASA and Vladimír Šucha, Director-General DG JRC, European Commission

09h30 **High-Level Discussion Panel**

The panel will be invited to address the following questions:

- What are the key evidence gaps in energy policy, including the links to climate and air quality policies?
- How can scientists and policymakers co-operate more to apply better existing knowledge to urgent policy problems?
- What is needed for an effective evidence – policy dialogue to address challenges related to energy policy?

**Moderator:**

Jos Delbeke, \* Director-General, DG Climate Action, European Commission

**Panel Members:**

Paul Rübiger, \* MEP, European Parliament

Dominique Ristori, \* Director-General, DG Energy, European Commission

Gordon McBean, \* President, International Council for Science

Maria van der Hoeven, \* Executive Director of the IEA

Luis Gomez Echeverri, \* Senior Advisor, Sustainable Energy for All, IIASA

Jeffrey D. Sachs, \* Director, The Earth Institute, Columbia University, USA

Li Yong, \* Director General, UNIDO

11h00 *Pause café*

11h30 **Discussion Tables**

Discussions addressing these questions will continue, this time directly with Summer School students. The Moderator and Panel Members from the first session and the discussants given below will each host their own discussion table with students.

A plenary session will then follow, where the panellists plus the discussants will give their reflections on the discussions. Closing remarks from the Moderator summing up take-home points from the discussions will close the session.

**Moderator:**

Manuel Szapiro,\* Member of Cabinet for Commission Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič responsible for Energy Union

**Discussants:**

Hans Joachim Schellnhuber,\* Director, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research

Jean-Michel Glachant,\* Director, Florence School of Regulation

Laurence Tubiana,\* Director, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations

Fabian Wagner,\* IIASA and Princeton University, USA

Flavia Schlegel,\* Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences, UNESCO

Silvia Bartolini,\* Member of Cabinet for Commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete responsible Climate Action & Energy

13h00 *Lunch, with Poster Session whereby Summer School students display their work (on one A3-size pre-prepared poster). Departure of some senior participants.*

15h00 **Lecture:** *What are the challenges faced by scientists when working with policymakers?* by Sir Peter Gluckman\* (20mins)

**Lecture:** *Why should scientists work with policymakers?* by Kandeh Yumkella,\* Sustainable Energy for All (20mins)

followed by Q&A

16h30 **Reflections** by Vladimír Šucha, Director-General DG JRC, European Commission

17h00 **Drinks Reception**

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2015

08h30 **Welcome and ice-breaker** by David Mair, DG JRC, European Commission

09h00 **Science and Policy Masterclasses (1<sup>st</sup> Session)**

Parallel sessions on the topics listed below. The experts running each session will be required to first briefly introduce the topic, seek the views of the Summer School students and have them undertake activities which were designed in advance, e.g. analysing, in small groups, energy-related case studies and preparing analyses.

Topics are:

- 1) *Perils and pitfalls of working at the science-policy interface* by Joe Alcamo,\* Centre for Environmental Systems research, University of Kassel, Germany
- 2) *Policy and the evidence beast – how evidence fits into wider considerations of policymaking* by Jan Staman, ex-Rathenau Institute
- 3) *Bringing science to policy at global to regional scales* by David McCollum,\* IIASA
- 4) *Using and Challenging Modelling – how to gain confidence in what models say* by Fabian Wagner,\* IIASA and Princeton University, USA
- 5) *Learning to accept uncertainty, risk and hazard* by David Wilkinson,\* DG JRC
- 6) *Effective communicating and presenting – dialogue is always better than monologue* by Chris Tyler,\* UK Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST)

- 7) *Serious games for bringing evidence to the science-to-policy process* by David Rejeski, Director, Science and Technology Innovation Program, Wilson Center, Washington, DC
- 8) *Shaping what may come – using foresight and horizon scanning to anticipate policy challenges* by Xavier Troussard,\* DG JRC, European Commission
- 9) *Informed policy with big data – the potential benefits to be gained from our knowledge-rich world* by Marta Nagy-Rothengass,\* DG CNCT, European Commission
- 10) *Learning what works, with or without random assignment* by Paolo Paruolo, DG JRC, European Commission

11h30 **Marketplace of Ideas: Identifying evidence needs**

Students are asked to self-organise into small groups of approximately four to identify what evidence – e.g. data, analysis, assessments – is needed in order to be able to address a policy challenge. Groups must comprise both scientists and policy officers, who will then work together on the idea and, in the session on Friday, produce a poster.

12h30 *Lunch*

14h00 **Excursion**

19h00 *Dinner*

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2015

08h30 **Science and Policy Masterclasses (2<sup>nd</sup> Session)**

Continuation of further masterclass sessions from previous day.

11h30 **Poster Preparation Session**

Thursday's "Marketplace of Ideas" groups produce (A3-size) posters of their need-for-evidence proposals.

13h00 *Lunch*

14h00 **Poster Presentation Session**

Summer School students to review and discuss the proposals presented as posters. Students will be asked to indicate (vote for) their (up to 3) preferred ones.

15h30 **World Café: *What are the Do's and Don'ts for evidence-informed policymaking?***

Working in 12 groups of four (two policy officers and two scientists), each group is asked to identify up to three Do's and up to three Don'ts for the effective use of evidence to inform policy. Responses should then be posted on a wall with facilitators to cluster the different responses.

16h30 **Wrap-up Session**

To review outcomes of Do's and Don'ts suggestions, acknowledge the top three poster proposals identified, plus have the students give their take home messages.

17h00 **Closing of Summer School** by Prof. dr. Pavel Kabat, Director-General IIASA and Vladimír Šucha, Director-General, DG JRC, European Commission

17h30 Departure of Students