



Impact of Social Sciences & Humanities

4-5 October 2018, Copenhagen

Gemyse 1, 11.30-12.45

# Science for Policy

*David Mair (chair)*

*Antti Pelkonen*

*Mihiri Seneviratne*



# Impact of Social Sciences & Humanities

4-5 October 2018, Copenhagen

## Science for Policy

David Mair

*Head of Unit, Knowledge Management, Joint Research Centre,  
European Commission*



# Impact of Social Sciences & Humanities

4-5 October 2018, Copenhagen

## Science for Policy

Antti Pelkonen

*Science advisor, Prime Minister's Office Finland*

# Promoting the use of scientific evidence in governmental decision-making

## Recent Finnish experiences

The Impact Agenda for Social Sciences and Humanities  
October 4, 2018 | Copenhagen

Dr. Antti Pelkonen, Science Specialist  
Prime Minister's Office, Finland

## Promoting the use of scientific evidence in governmental decision-making

1. Current landscape in Finland
2. Two dedicated funding instruments
3. Concluding remarks

## Survey\* on the use of knowledge in decision-making: Share of respondents who agreed with the statement

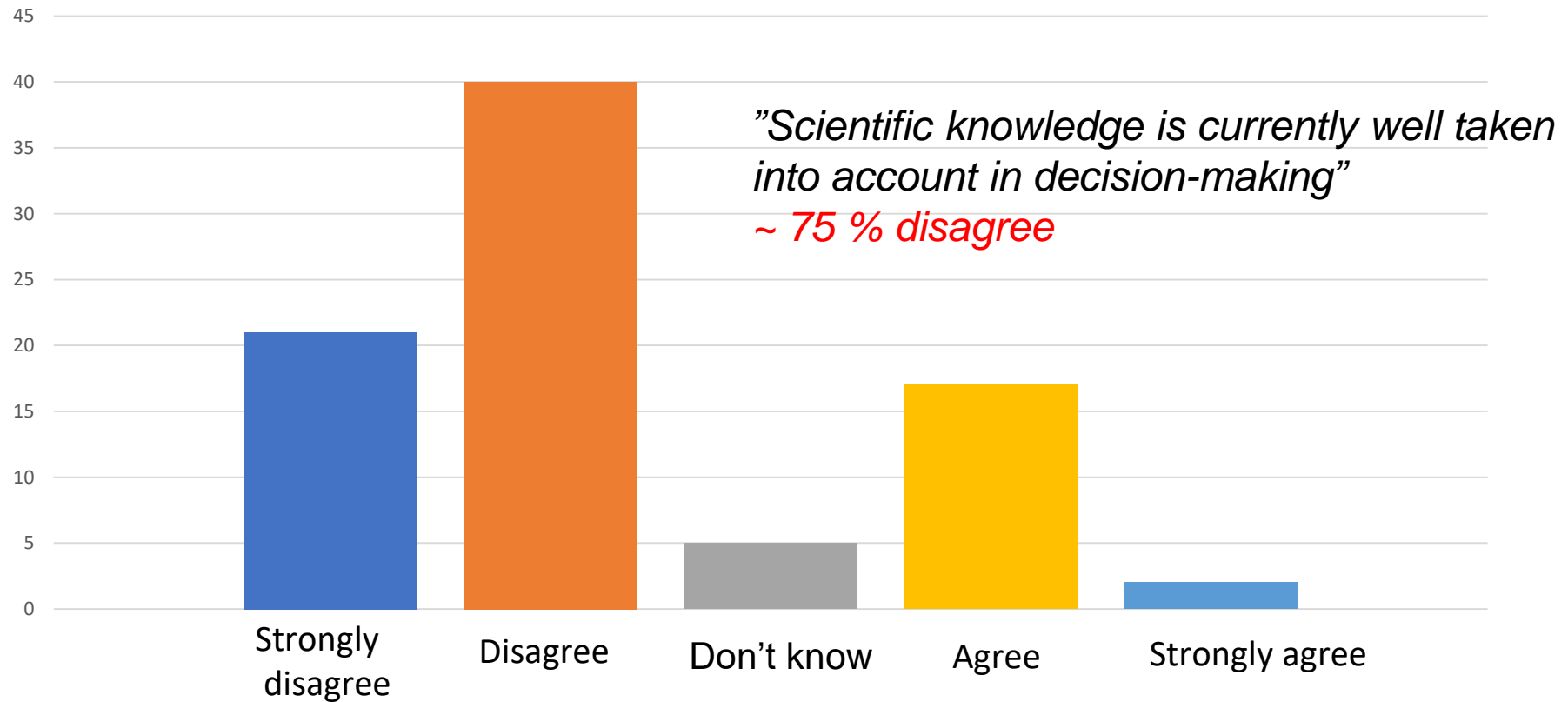
- *"Decision-makers usually do not have enough time to go deeply into knowledge needed for making decisions"* – 90 %
- *"Use of knowledge in decision-making is often purpose-oriented"* – 80 %
- *"Decision-makers are capable of assessing the quality of knowledge and to draw correct conclusions"* – 10 %
- *"Knowledge producers have enough incentives to provide knowledge in a format that serves decision-making"* – 10 %
- *"There is enough high quality synthesizing knowledge available to support decision-making"* – 30 %

**Traditional (linear) model of producing and using knowledge not suitable in current complex environment?**

\* N=531; respondents representing different "players in the game"

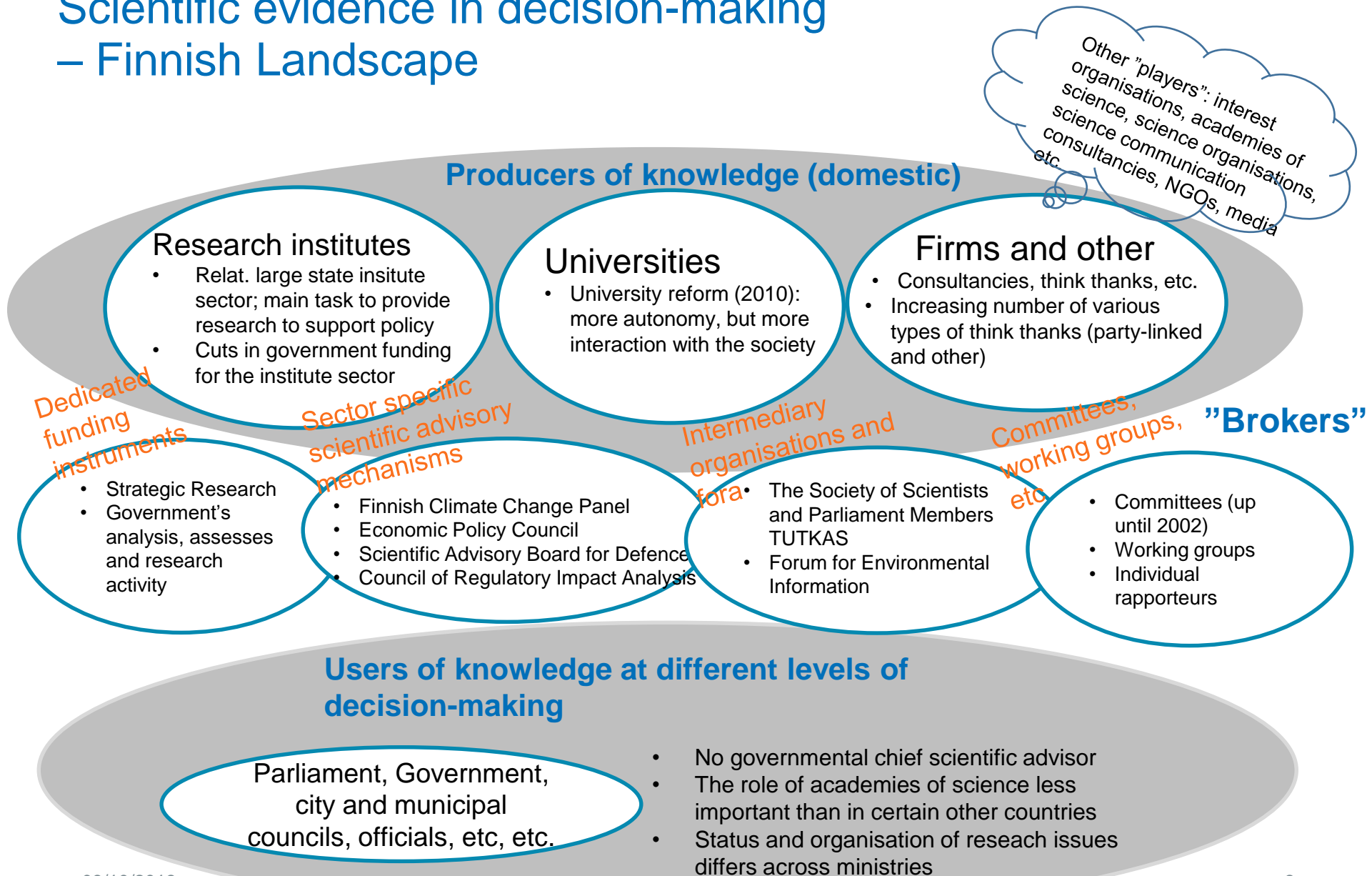
Source: Hellström, E. & Ikäheimo H-P. Tieto päätöksenteossa: Kohti dialogiloikkaa. Sitran työpäperi 12.9.2017

## Survey focusing on the use of environmental knowledge in decision-making (N=86)



# Scientific evidence in decision-making

## – Finnish Landscape





Since 2014, two dedicated research funding instruments...

GOVERNMENT'S ANALYSIS,  
ASSESSMENT AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

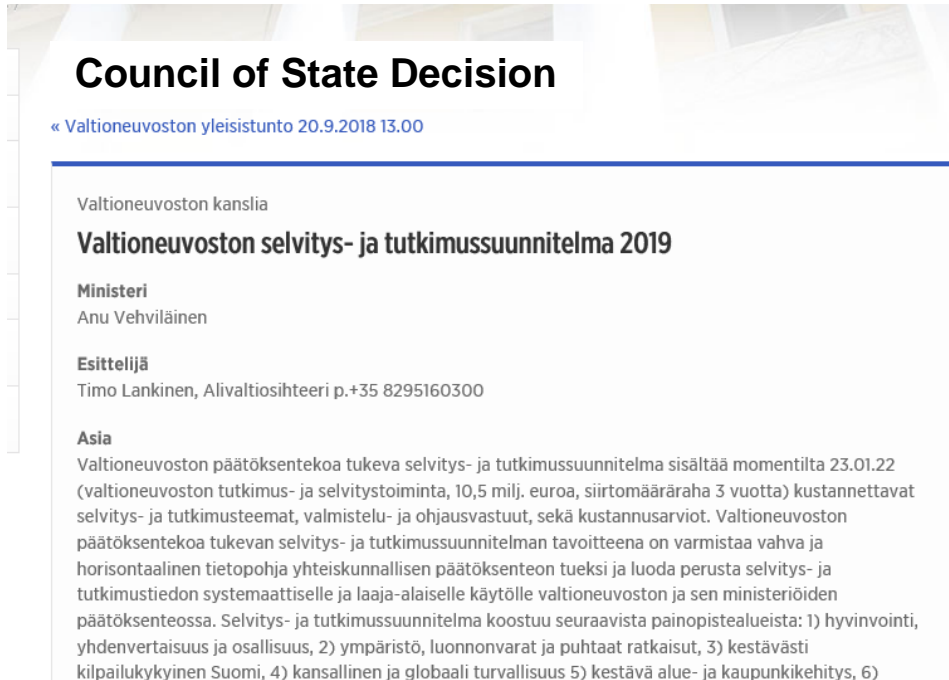


... intended to create **a novel mode of operation** emphasizing continuous interaction between producers and users of knowledge across administrative, disciplinary and organisational boundaries

## Government's analysis, assessment and research activity

- Co-ordinated at the Prime Minister's Office
- Short-term project funding (often 6-12 months), intended to serve direct needs of governmental decision-making
- Assessment, foresight, evaluation and research projects
- Steered by government's annual analysis, assessment and research plan
- Annual budget of ca. 10 million €
- 259 different projects between 2014-2018, currently 80 projects on-going
- Very broad scope of topics covered

# Government's analysis, assessment and research plan 2019



**Council of State Decision**

« Valtioneuvoston yleisistunto 20.9.2018 13.00

Valtioneuvoston kanslia

**Valtioneuvoston selvitys- ja tutkimussuunnitelma 2019**

**Ministeri**  
Anu Vehviläinen

**Esittelijä**  
Timo Lankinen, Alivaltiosihteeri p.+35 8295160300

**Asia**  
Valtioneuvoston päätöksentekoa tukeva selvitys- ja tutkimussuunnitelma sisältää momentilta 23.01.22 (valtioneuvoston tutkimus- ja selvitystoiminta, 10,5 milj. euroa, siirtomääräraha 3 vuotta) kustannettavat selvitys- ja tutkimusteemat, valmistelu- ja ohjausvastuut, sekä kustannusarviot. Valtioneuvoston päätöksentekoa tukevan selvitys- ja tutkimussuunnitelman tavoitteena on varmistaa vahva ja horisontaalinen tietopohja yhteiskunnallisen päätöksenteon tueksi ja luoda perusta selvitys- ja tutkimustiedon systemaattiselle ja laaja-alaiselle käytölle valtioneuvoston ja sen ministeriöiden päätöksenteossa. Selvitys- ja tutkimussuunnitelma koostuu seuraavista painopistealueista: 1) hyvinvointi, yhdenvertaisuus ja osallisuus, 2) ympäristö, luonnonvarat ja puhtaat ratkaisut, 3) kestävästi kilpailukykyinen Suomi, 4) kansallinen ja globaali turvallisuus 5) kestävä alue- ja kaupunkikehitys, 6)

- 47 research topics, 4 topics that are specified later
- Social sciences strongly present

## Strategic Research

- Solution-driven, long-term, programme-based academic research
- Seeks to provide solutions to fundamental social challenges.
- Long-term project funding (5-6 years)
- Annual funding appropriation 55 M eur
- Strategic Research Programmes with ca 250 research groups involved
- Current portfolio ca 200 M eur



## Strategic Research Programmes

### 2015–2021

- Disruptive Technologies and Changing Institutions
- A Climate-Neutral and Resource-Scarce Finland
- Equality in Society

### 2016–2019

- Skilled Employees – Successful Labour Market
- Health, Welfare and Lifestyle
- Security in a Networked World
- Urbanising Society

### 2017–2021

- Changing Society and Active Citizenship

### 2018–2023

- Adaptation and Resilience for Sustainable Growth
- Keys to Sustainable Growth

### 2019 -

- 4 new themes approved in 2018

## Is it really working? Some observations...



- Has mobilised a large number of stakeholders and researchers
- Combining high-level academic research and societal relevance entails certain challenges
- Very competitive funding

### GOVERNMENT'S ANALYSIS, ASSESSMENT AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

- Operates close to policy-making, mobilises a large number of officials in ministries.
- Results are in most cases used in policy processes (survey)
- Intention to break ministerial boundaries good, but takes time
- Attractiveness in the eyes of university researchers? Risk of becoming a playfield of consultancies (quality of outputs)

According to the ongoing evaluation, the instruments have **enhanced collaboration** and **increased willingness to use research** as strategic resource in decision-making

## Concluding remarks

- Multidimensional, broad and dynamic phenomenon: Changes in knowledge production, decision-making, role of (social) media, etc.
- Lack of a "comprehensive analysis" regarding the use scientific evidence in decision-making in Finland
  - How the situation has changed – and has it changed?
- Impacts of the Finnish 'strategy' still not fully clear but there are positive indications

Thank you!

[Antti.Pelkonen@vnk.fi](mailto:Antti.Pelkonen@vnk.fi)

@AnttiPelkonen

<https://tietokayttoon.fi/en/>





A decorative background at the top of the slide features a network diagram with red and black nodes connected by thin lines, set against a light red gradient.

# Impact of Social Sciences & Humanities

4-5 October 2018, Copenhagen

## Science for Policy

Mihiri Seneviratne

*Senior Policy Advisor of the Government's What Works Team,  
Cabinet's office, UK*



Cabinet Office

# The UK's What Works Initiative

Mihiri Seneviratne,

Senior Policy Adviser, Cabinet Office, UK



# What is 'What Works'?

Initiative to strengthen use of evidence in policy development and delivery by:

## **Generating, synthesising and embedding evidence about effectiveness of policies and practices**

- Network of 10 independent evidence centers covering a diverse and growing range of issues

## **Building capacity in civil service to use and generate evidence**

- Trial Advice Panel - support for trialling and impact evaluation
- Cabinet Office Team delivering training and projects

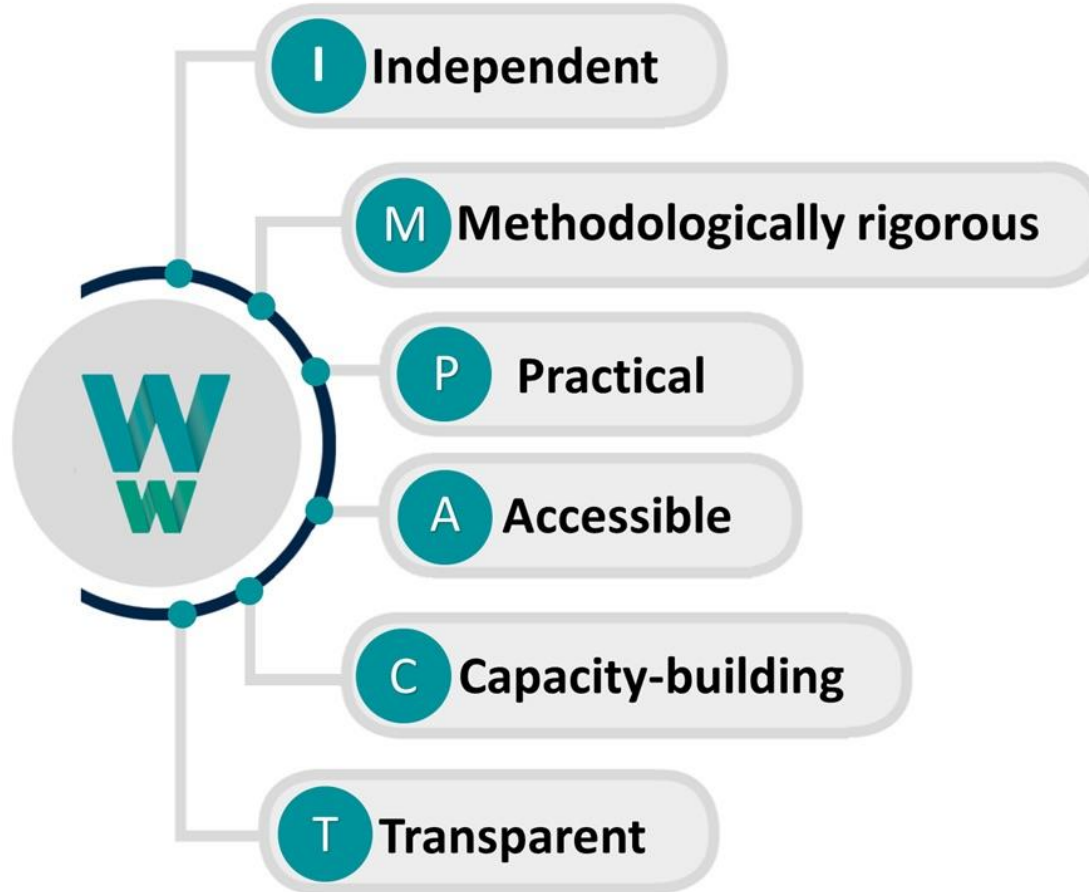


Cabinet Office

# What Works Centres

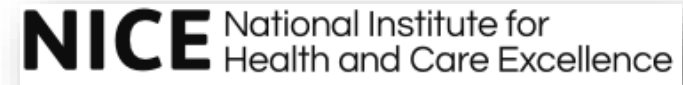


# Core characteristics





# Current membership





# Examples of different models

## What Works Centre for Crime Reduction

- Funded by and embedded within College of Policing (CoP), a Home Office funded body responsible for police professional development. Also receive ESRC funding.
- UCL-led academic consortium to produce research and team in CoP review, translate and disseminate it.

## What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth

- Consortium with LSE as lead partner conducting research, Centre for Cities handling communications and Arup delivering workshops.
- Set up with ESRC and government funding, and continues to receive funding of £1.25m pa.

## Education Endowment Foundation

- Charity founded by Sutton Trust with £125m endowment by Department for Education. Other investment, partnerships etc takes this to £225m between 2011-26.
- Delivery and evaluation of trials in schools accounts for 94% of expenditure and over 1 million school children have taken part in EEF trials. Funds (with IEE) network of 23 research schools.

## National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

- Set up by government in 1999 to reduce variation in NHS outcomes by providing guidance. Part of health care system, influences what treatments are available on NHS by appraising cost-effectiveness.
- In 2013 made non-departmental public body, accountable to (but independent from) Department of Health and Social Care. Nearly 80% of £71m operating expenditure funded by DHSC, remainder from income generating activities and NHS England.

## Centre for Ageing Better

- Charity established in response to government report, with £50m spend down over 10 years from a charitable foundation (Big Lottery Fund). Limited government funding.
- Has advocacy and campaigning focus as well as evidence-brokering function.

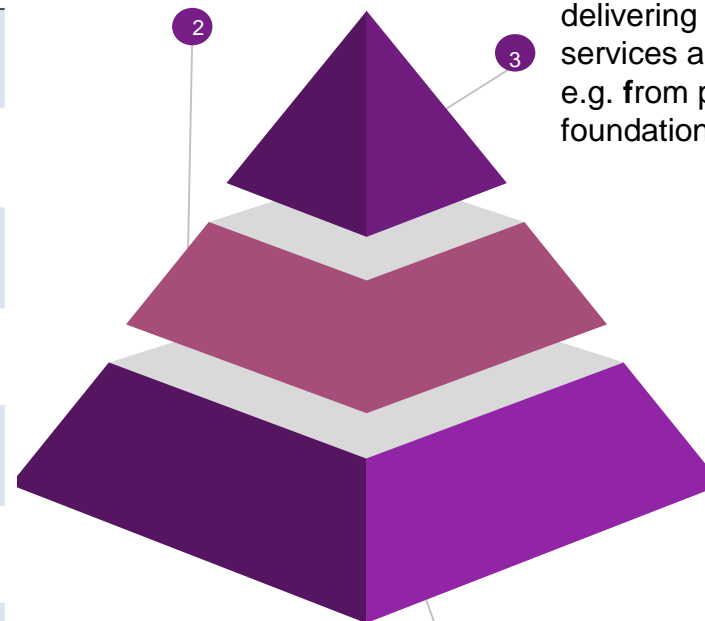


# Different funding sources and levels

**Infrastructure Funding**  
From Ministries, for delivering against agreed objectives for a time-limited period

**Project-based Funding**  
Small grants for delivering specified services and projects, e.g. from private foundations and trusts

What Works Centre	Legal Status	Year formed	Annual budget <sup>15</sup>	Main funding Sources
Centre for Ageing Better	Charity and Limited Company	2015	£5.3m	The Big Lottery Fund endowment
What Works Centre for Crime Reduction	Part of the College of Policing (Limited Company owned by government)	2013	£1.5m	The College of Policing (through its grant in aid funding from the Home Office) and ESRC
Early Intervention Foundation (EIF)	Charity	2013	£1.5m	Departments for Education (DfE) and Work & Pensions, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government <sup>16</sup> , and Public Health England
Education Endowment Foundation (EEF)	Charity	2011	£16.5m	Department for Education endowment
What Works for Local Economic Growth	Joint project led by LSE with ARUP and CFC (Charities and Limited Companies)	2013	£1.25m	ESRC, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government and Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy <sup>17</sup>
National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)	Non-Departmental Public Body	1999	£71.3m	Department of Health and Social Care <sup>18</sup>
What Works Scotland	A joint project led by University of Glasgow (Charity)	2014	£1m	ESRC, Scottish Government and the Universities of Glasgow and Edinburgh
Wales Centre for Public Policy (WCPP, replacing PPIW) <sup>19</sup>	Project led by Cardiff University (Charity)	2013 (PPIW)	£530k	Welsh Government and ESRC
What Works Wellbeing	Community Interest Company	2014	£1.3m	ESRC, AHRC, 12 Government Departments/Agencies, 4 businesses and the Big Lottery Fund



**1 Endowments**  
From Ministries  
Example: EEF

Figure 1: What Works Centres' status, governance and funding





# Different audiences and activities

Centre	Main audiences	Main focus of resources
<b>Centre for Ageing Better</b>	Central & local government, research funders, other system level actors such as housing providers and employers	Broad initial investment across communications, engagement and support, plus planning for evidence production <sup>37</sup>
<b>What Works Centre for Crime Reduction</b>	Police and Crime Commissioners, police leaders & practitioners	Initial focus on synthesis and engagement, moving towards supporting the use of research by practitioners through guidance, standards and capability building
<b>Early Intervention Foundation</b>	Central and local government, relevant charities, sector and workforce bodies and commissioners	Initial focus on evidence generation, moving towards more even balance with policy and practice
<b>Education Endowment Foundation</b>	Teachers & school leaders	Majority of investment in primary research with substantial work to engage with & support schools and early years / post-16 settings
<b>What Works for Local Economic Growth</b>	Local authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships <sup>38</sup> , government departments	Synthesising evidence, building capacity and skills to develop and understand the evidence base
<b>National Institute for Health and Care Excellence</b>	Health & care providers and commissioners (including but not limited to the NHS)	Producing guidance for healthcare practitioners, with extensive professional & public engagement
<b>What Works Scotland</b>	Local government / Community planning partnerships <sup>39</sup> , public service agencies	Co-production of research with CPPs, The the focus dependent on local needs and decisions
<b>Public Policy Institute for Wales (now WCPP)</b>	Welsh government ministers & officials <sup>40</sup>	Generating evidence reviews, engaging to plan then disseminate & discuss the research
<b>What Works Wellbeing</b>	Governments (Central / devolved / local), Civil society, business and the public <sup>41</sup>	Primarily evidence synthesis <sup>42</sup> , supported by large system of organic knowledge mobilisation

Figure 1: What Works Centres' main audience and activities



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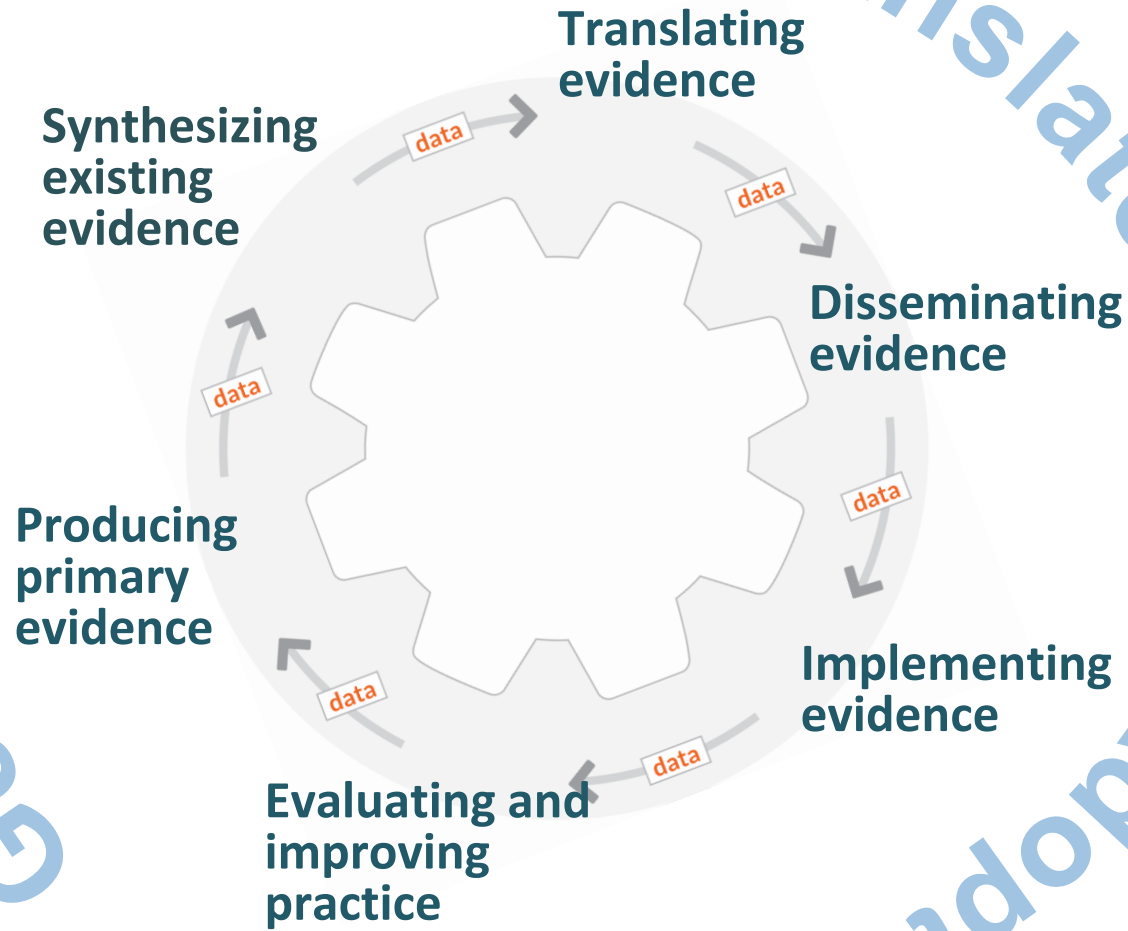
# Activities and Impact



Generate

Translate

Adopt





# Developing toolkits

## Crime Reduction Toolkit

Intervention	Impact on crime	How it works	Where it works	How to do it	What it costs
	Effect	Mechanism	Moderator	Implementation	Economic cost
After school clubs					
Alcohol pricing					
Alley gating					

[insert E

Toolkit Strand ^ Cost ^ Evidence Strength ^ Impact (months)

### Arts participation

Low impact for low cost, based on moderate evidence.



### Aspiration interventions

Very low or no impact for moderate cost, based on very limited evidence.



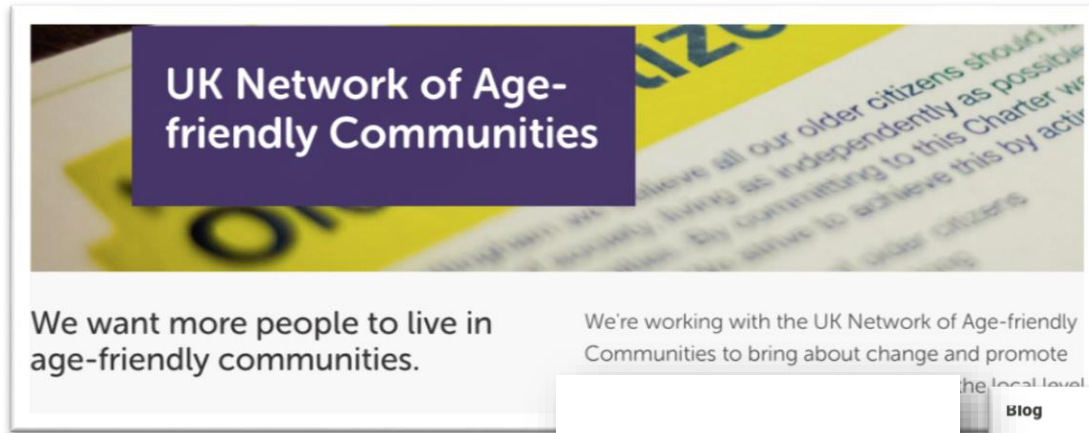
### Behaviour interventions

Moderate impact for moderate cost, based on extensive evidence.

Policy Design Tool	What does it aim to do?	How secure is the evidence?	How much does it cost?	How effective is it?
<b>Mentoring</b> is the provision of support by one person to another less qualified person	Provide advice to improve take-up, completion or skills acquired		£££	
<b>Financial incentives</b> refer to a wage paid to the apprentice, or subsidies given to the employer to hire and train apprentices	Improve take-up and completion		£££	
<b>Pre-apprenticeships</b> are programmes which precede an apprenticeship	Improve take-up, completion or skills acquired		£££	



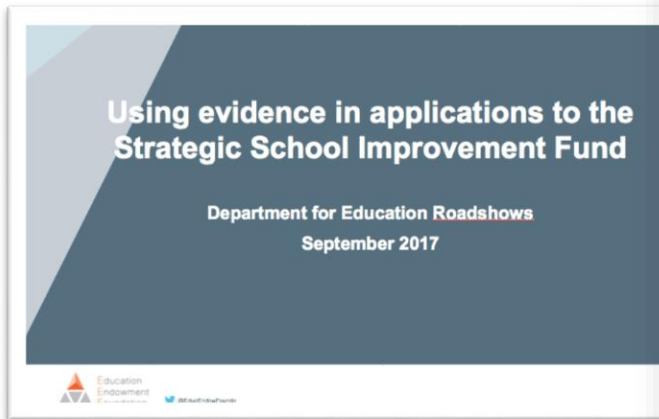
# Providing direct support to decision makers



**UK Network of Age-friendly Communities**

We want more people to live in age-friendly communities.

We're working with the UK Network of Age-friendly Communities to bring about change and promote the local level



**Using evidence in applications to the Strategic School Improvement Fund**

Department for Education Roadshows  
September 2017

Education Endowment Foundation



**Developing effective local industrial strategies**

June 2018

what works centre for local economic growth

**Blog**

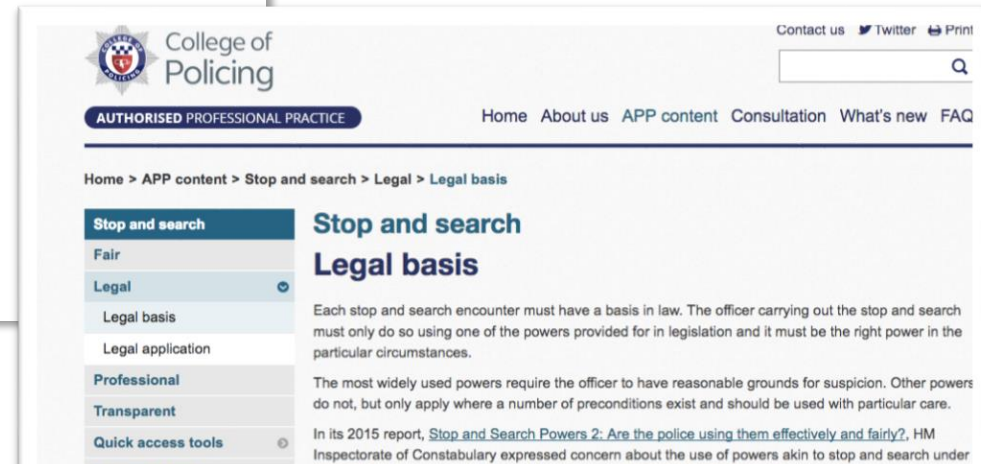
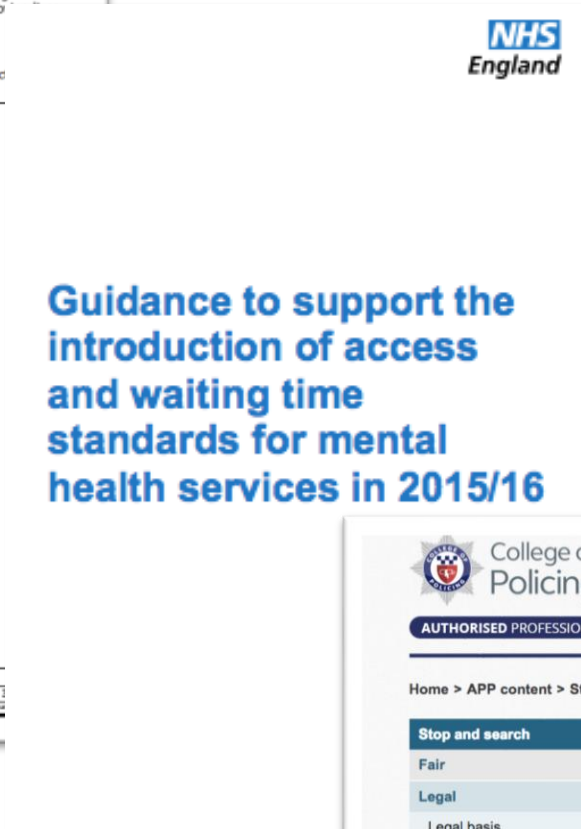
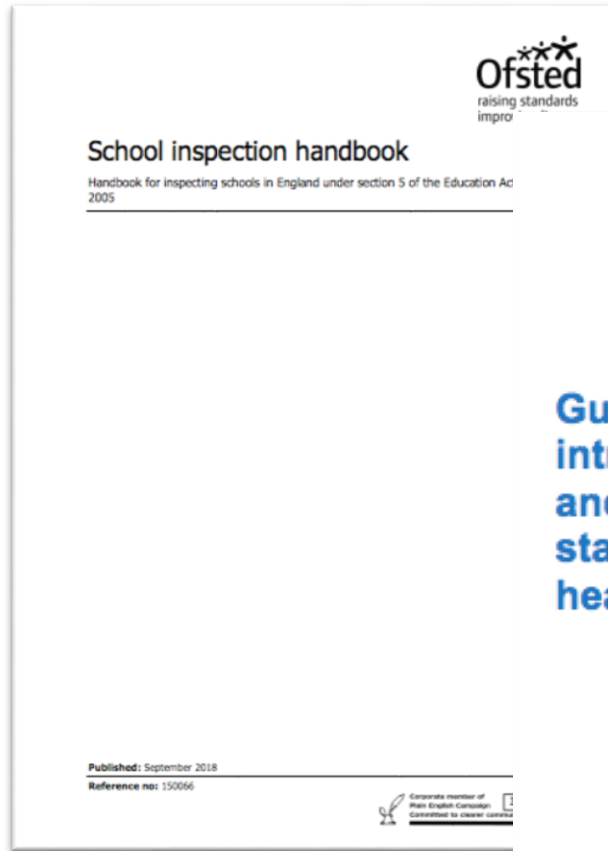
**'If you do nothing else...' Why EIF is creating the Early Years Transformation Academy**

Ben Lewing introduces the Early Years Transformation Academy, a new way of helping local places to 'follow the evidence' on early years and maternity support.

EIF has worked with many local areas on early intervention in the early years, helping them to use both research and practice evidence, and to manage the local system in a context of increasing demand and reducing resources. There's one question we get asked all the time: "If we can do just one thing on early intervention, what is going to make the biggest difference?" Of course, there is no correct answer – it's like asking which one food is going to keep you most healthy.



# Informing official guidance





# Conducting evaluations

- DfE have commissioned **EEF** to evaluate **Early Years professional development** and leadership programmes they are funding.
- **Centre for Ageing Better** will develop and begin evaluation of new approaches to **employment support in Greater Manchester**.
- Under the **NICE Medical Technologies Evaluation Programme**, companies can request a evaluation of eligible products. This is usually necessary for **NHS adoption**.



News story

## Funding boost to give more children healthy start to the day

More than 1,770 schools set to benefit from £26 million to boost breakfast clubs in disadvantaged areas.

Published 19 March 2018

Last updated 19 March 2018 — [see all updates](#)

From: [Department for Education](#) and [The Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP](#)



### Magic Breakfast

Magic Breakfast

A free, universal, before-school breakfast club

★ promising project

Independent Evaluator

The Institute for Fiscal Studies



Pupils	Schools	Grant
8,600	100	£425,967

Themes

Organising your school



More children across the country will get to set them up for the school day, thank million and the appointment of two lead the Education Secretary announced tod



News Images & Videos Documents

## Rollout of body worn cameras

News • Oct 17, 2016 08:00 BST



[Image of officer with body worn video]

The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) is thought to be the largest rollout of body-worn cameras in the world to enhance the service it gives t

Police, Camera, Evidence: London's cluster randomised controlled trial of Body Worn Video



November 2015

Lynne Grosssmith  
Catherine Owens  
Will Funn  
David Mann  
Tom Davies  
Laura Balka





# Drivers of different approaches

- What Works Centres each exist within, and are, trying to influence **complex and diverse systems**. These systems can have different levels of receptiveness to research.
- Their evolution and activities have been necessarily **opportunistic, adaptive and multifaceted**
- Different **levels of funding, types of funding, institutional arrangements and maturity** have also contributed to their diverse approaches



# Looking ahead

- Extending to **new policy areas**
- Increasing societal **impact**: knowledge mobilisation, implementation, and evaluation of scale up
- Understanding and **measuring own impact**



Cabinet Office

# Keep in touch



@WhatWorksUK



[whatworks@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:whatworks@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)



# Impact of Social Sciences & Humanities

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## Science for Policy

### Panel discussion & Q&A

*David Mair (chair)*

*Antti Pelkonen*

*Mihiri Seneviratne*

A network diagram with red and black nodes and connecting lines, set against a light red background.

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## Science for Policy

Chair: David Mair

*Head of Unit, Knowledge Management, Joint Research Centre, European Commission*

*Type your recommendation here*



# Impact of Social Sciences & Humanities

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## Next up:

12.45-13.45	Lunch	Drawing Foyer
13.45-15.00	Indicators of SSH Impact	Lumbye Hall
	Institutional assessment	Gemyse 2
	Measurement tools	Gemyse 1
	Public engagement	HC Andersen castle