Bridging the gap between science and policy making

Experiences and challenges

a.Prof. Dr. André Martinuzzi

Head of the Institute for Managing Sustainability

www.sustainability.eu

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2002-2010	Evaluating Sustainable Development Conferences & Trainings
2012-2015	RESPONDER – Participatory System Mapping
2014-2017	GLOBAL VALUE – Managing Corporate Impacts on Global Dev.
2015-2016	Ex-Post Evaluation of FP7
2016-2017	WU Impact Map
2016-2017	Book and special issue of „Evidence and Policy"

How to bridge the gap?

Simplified approaches

follow a linear model of knowledge flows and assume that the provision of correct information (science) automatically leads to a different decision (policy)

no real problem

Network-based approach

is are characterized by long-term interactions to build up trust mutual understanding of contexts, rationalities, perspectives, and interests
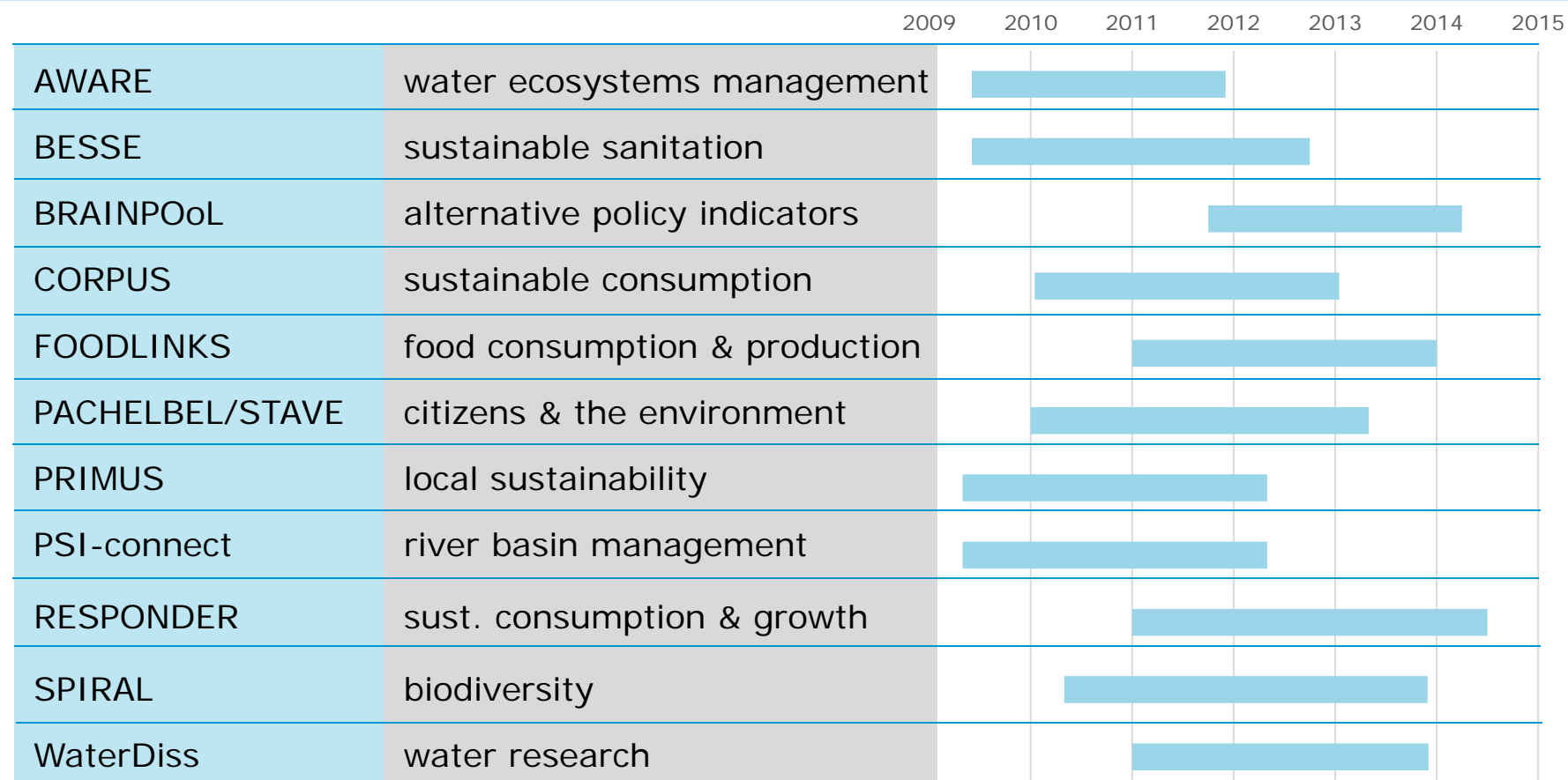
need for insights & tools

System theory based approaches see science and policy-making as self-referential and autopoietically closed social systems and discusses the fundamental limits of knowledge transfer

no real solution

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How to bridge the gap?

11 EU funded projekts on „Knowledge Brokerage between Research and Policy Making"

WU WIRTSCHAFTS UNIVERSITÄT WIEN VIENNA UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS

		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
AWARE	water ecosystems management							
BESSE	sustainable sanitation							
BRAINPOoL	alternative policy indicators							
CORPUS	sustainable consumption							
FOODLINKS	food consumption & production							
PACHELBEL/STAVE	citizens & the environment							
PRIMUS	local sustainability							
PSI-connect	river basin management							
RESPONDER	sust. consumption & growth							
SPIRAL	biodiversity							
WaterDiss	water research							

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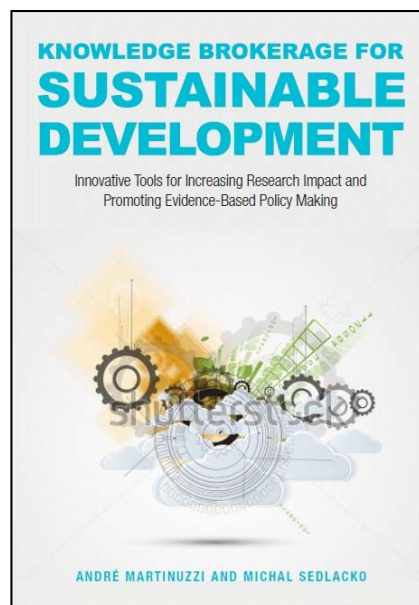
How to bridge the gap?

11 EU funded projekts on „Knowledge Brokerage between Research and Policy Making"

average project duration 3 years

total EU contribution ~ 14.5 mio €

average EU contribution ~ 1.3 mio €

Tools for Knowledge Brokerage

1. **Temporary institutional arrangements for specific purposes**
   e.g. citizen panels, communities of practice

2. **Documents adapted to the needs of target audiences**
   e.g. policy briefs, simulated newspaper, knowledge units

3. **Co-Production of shared outcomes**
   e.g. joint research agendas, evidence documents

4. **Specialized event formats**
   e.g. webinars, summer schools, brokerage events

5. **'Micro-level' work formats and event tools**
   strategy mapping, system mapping, buzz sessions, real-time surveys

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The (often implicit) games of knowledge brokerage

1. **'Questions-And-Answers-Game'**
   - are policymakers willing and able to formulate questions (in public)
   - are researchers are willing and able to give and commit to clear answers
   - runs the risk of setting too narrow a framework for scientific inquiry

2. **'Agenda-Setting-Game'**
   - legitimacy of agenda setting remains contested
   - political responsibility may be delegated to the scientists
   - Risk of constructing an artificial lack of alternatives and reducing policy making to a form of implementation management

3. **'Community-Formation-Game'**
   - questionable if a common interest and shared practice exists
   - questionable whether time and contact intensity are sufficient to create a viable community
   - fundamental contradictions of science and policy making are downplayed

4. **'Re-Framing-Game'**
   - too time intensive and complicated for policymakers interested in fast and easy solutions
   - means to question patterns of explanation and world-views

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What policy makers should keep in mind

1. There is a lack of incentives for scientists to engage in knowledge brokerage with policymakers

2. Scientific communities, careers and reputations are organised in academic disciplines while inter- and transdisciplinarity fields are perceived only as an add-on.

3. Scientific results cannot be directly translated into policy recommendations or decisions.

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What researchers should keep in mind

1. Policymaking takes place at different places by different actors at different times.

2. As policymaking requires fast and pragmatic decisions, the time for adequate and detailed discussions is often lacking.

3. Policymaking is primarily based in political values and beliefs, persuasion and negotiation, rather than scientific evidence and truth.

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What should be considered in designing knowledge brokerage systems
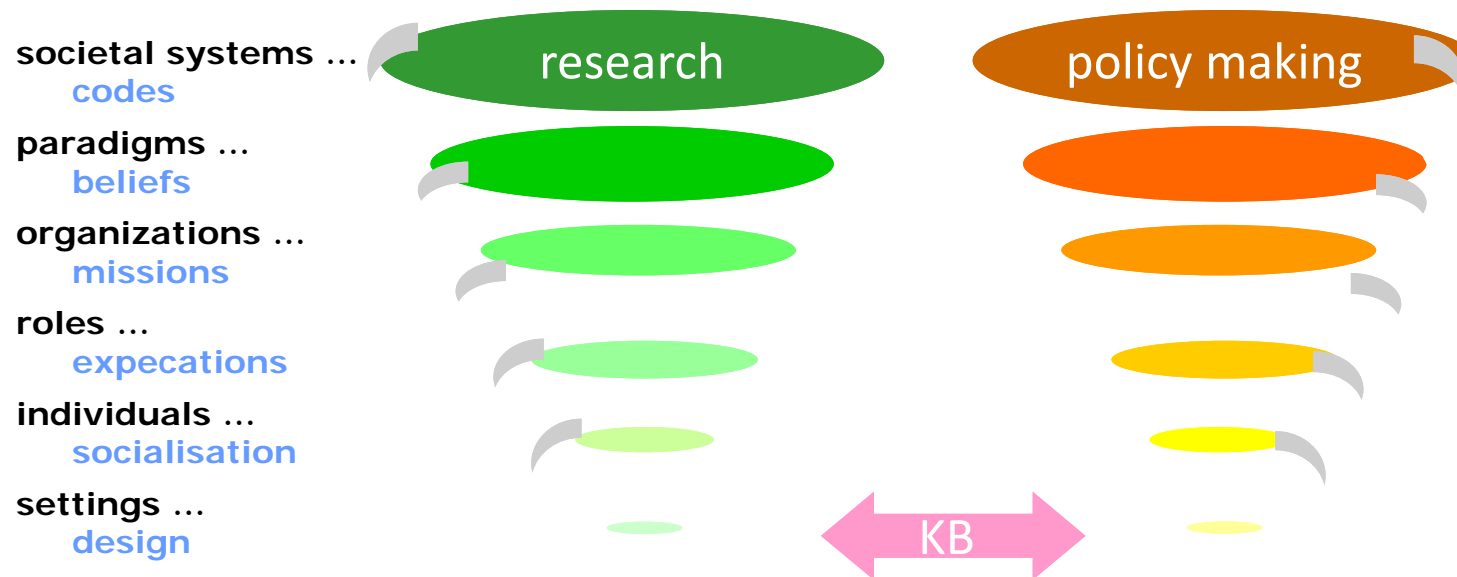
1. **Quality, types and sources of knowledge**

   A. descriptive statements ('facts') – measuring 'how it is'
   B. causal statements ('causalities') – clarifying 'why is it that way'
   C. predictive statements ('futures') – inferring 'what will happen if'
   D. interpretive statements ('explanations') – understanding 'how it makes sense'
   E. framing statements ('systems') – delineating 'how it could be understood'
   F. normative statements ('goals') – postulating 'how it should be'

2. **Multilevel embeddedness of Knowledge Brokerage**

3. **Professional design and implementation**

What should be considered in designing knowledge brokerage systems

1. Quality, types and sources of knowledge
2. Multilevel embeddedness of Knowledge Brokerage

societal systems …
codes

paradigms …
beliefs

organizations …
missions

roles …
expecations

individuals …
socialisation

settings …
design

research

policy making

KB

3. Professional design and implementation

What should be considered in designing knowledge brokerage systems

1. Quality, types and sources of knowledge
2. Multilevel embeddedness of Knowledge Brokerage

3. Professional design and implementation

- sound understanding of target groups, their contexts, logics, interests and expectations

- considering the motivation of the different groups and individuals

- dynamic, focused and effective processes

- timing and continuity are essential

- professional moderation by experienced facilitators

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What ... measures ... ?

> Legitimization or learning?
> What about negative impacts?

GLOBAL VALUE

1. **Purpose**
   (reporting, decision support, learning)

2. **Scope**
   (direct, indirect, systemic)

3. **Impact areas**
   (economic, societal, environmental)

4. **Impact pathways**
   (causality, time-lags)

5. **Sphere of influence**
   (shared responsibility)

6. **Data availability**
   (linking micro- and macro-data)

7. **Scenarios**
   (time-scales, systemic approach)

8. **Aggregation**
   (indicators, valuation)

9. **Improvement measures**
   (TQM cycle)

10. **Communication**
    (target groups and channels)

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What should be considered when measuring and managing impacts?

GLOBAL VALUE

1. **Data availability**
   (linking micro- and macro-data)

   research   *teaching*   *third mission*   *regional economy*   *environment*

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> How to avoid with windfall gains?
> How to deal with unintended effects?

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> How to attribute causes in complex research networks and dynamic carreers pathways?

What should be considered in measuring and managing

Data or stories?
How to design monitoring platforms?

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   Dash boards or aggregated index?
   How to monetize impacts?

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What role for citizens in science (recipient or partner)?

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EFMD BSIS scheme (Business School Impact System)

B Impact Assessment

Sustainability Codex for HEIs

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