Developing an evaluation framework for national science for policy ecosystems

Expert workshop – 24 March 2022

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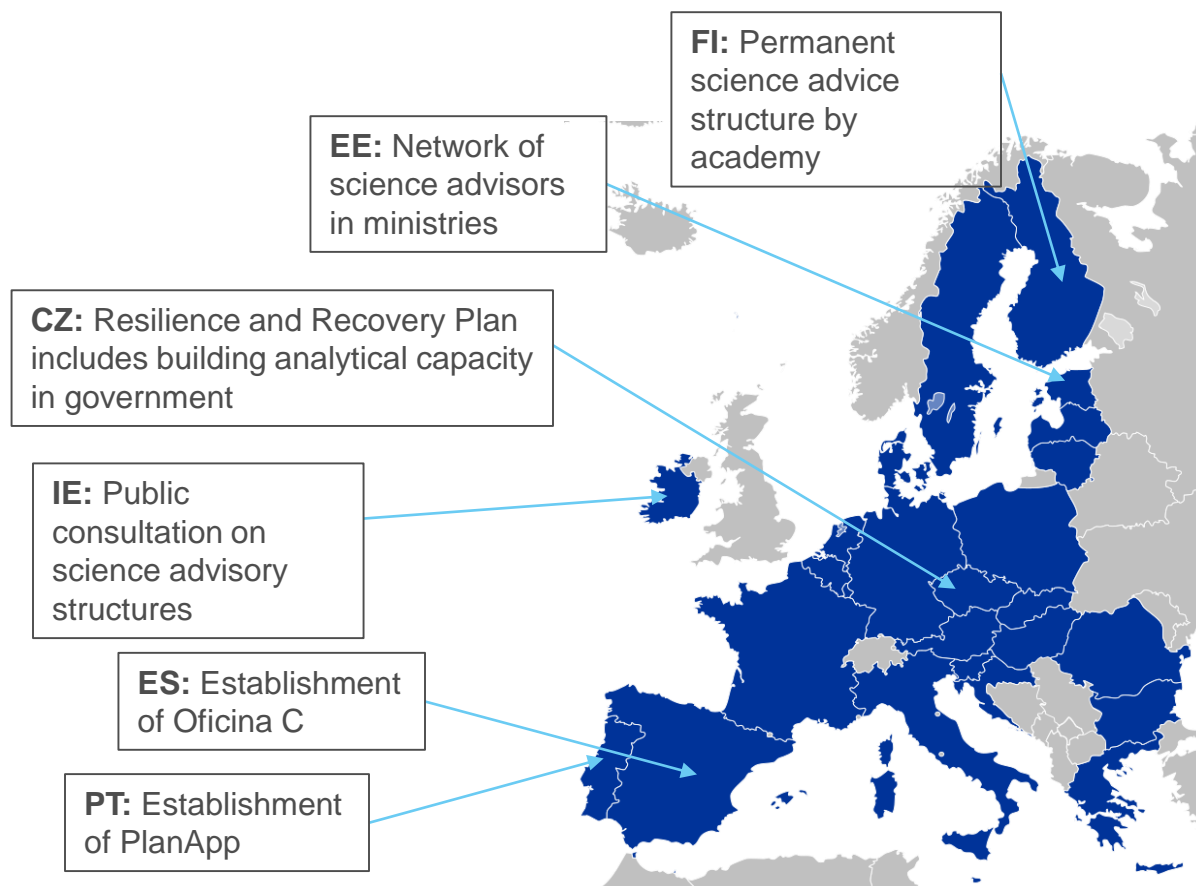
Why science for policy (S4P)?

➢ **JRC mission to promote S4P**

➢ **EU policy framework** in support of S4P

➢ **Complexity** of policy issues

➢ Distinct **qualities of scientific knowledge**

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Simply more science for policy (S4P)?

- **No value-free science**

- **Knowledge use** varies in policymaking (tactical, symbolic, etc.)

- Need for **other bodies of knowledge** in light of complexity ("post-normal science")

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Why evaluate science for policy capacity?

FI: Permanent science advice structure by academy

EE: Network of science advisors in ministries

CZ: Resilience and Recovery Plan includes building analytical capacity in government

IE: Public consultation on science advisory structures

ES: Establishment of Oficina C
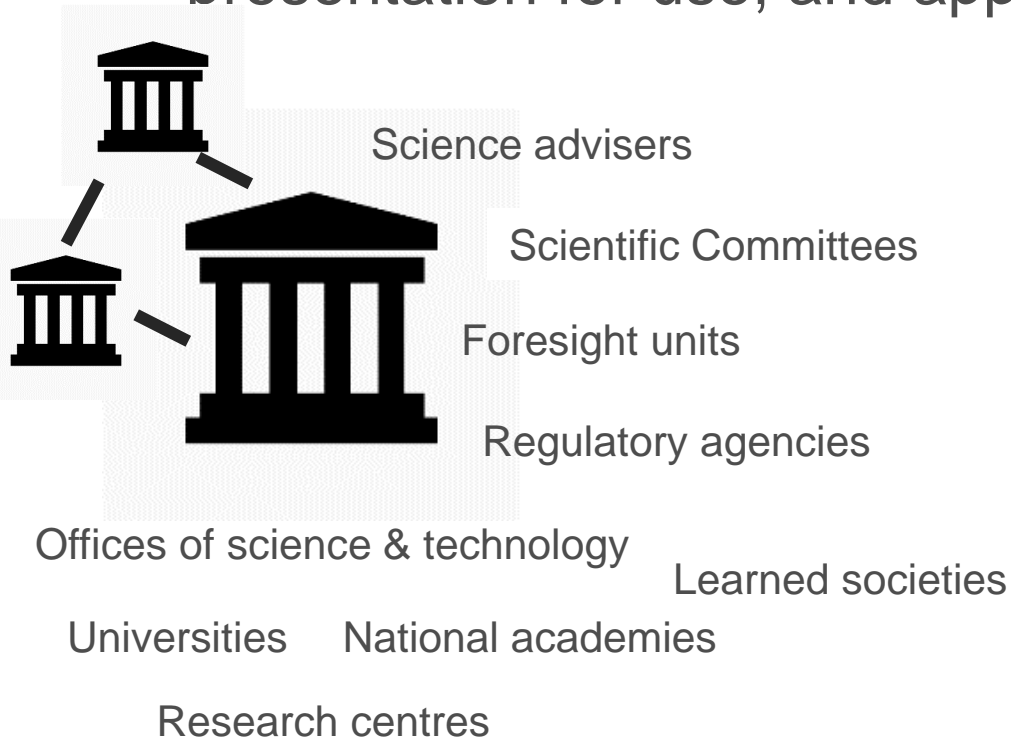
PT: Establishment of PlanApp

➢ Increased interest in building S4P capacity in MS

➢ EU support the MS in building S4P capacity

Objective: Evaluation to help systematically inform, guide, and connect national and EU level debates about strengthening and connecting S4P ecosystems

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What we mean by S4P ecosystems?

"complex of organisational structures and entities, processes, and networks that interact to support the mobilisation, acquisition, synthesis, translation, presentation for use, and application of scientific knowledge in policymaking processes."

Science advisers

Scientific Committees

Foresight units

Regulatory agencies

Offices of science & technology

Learned societies

Universities   National academies

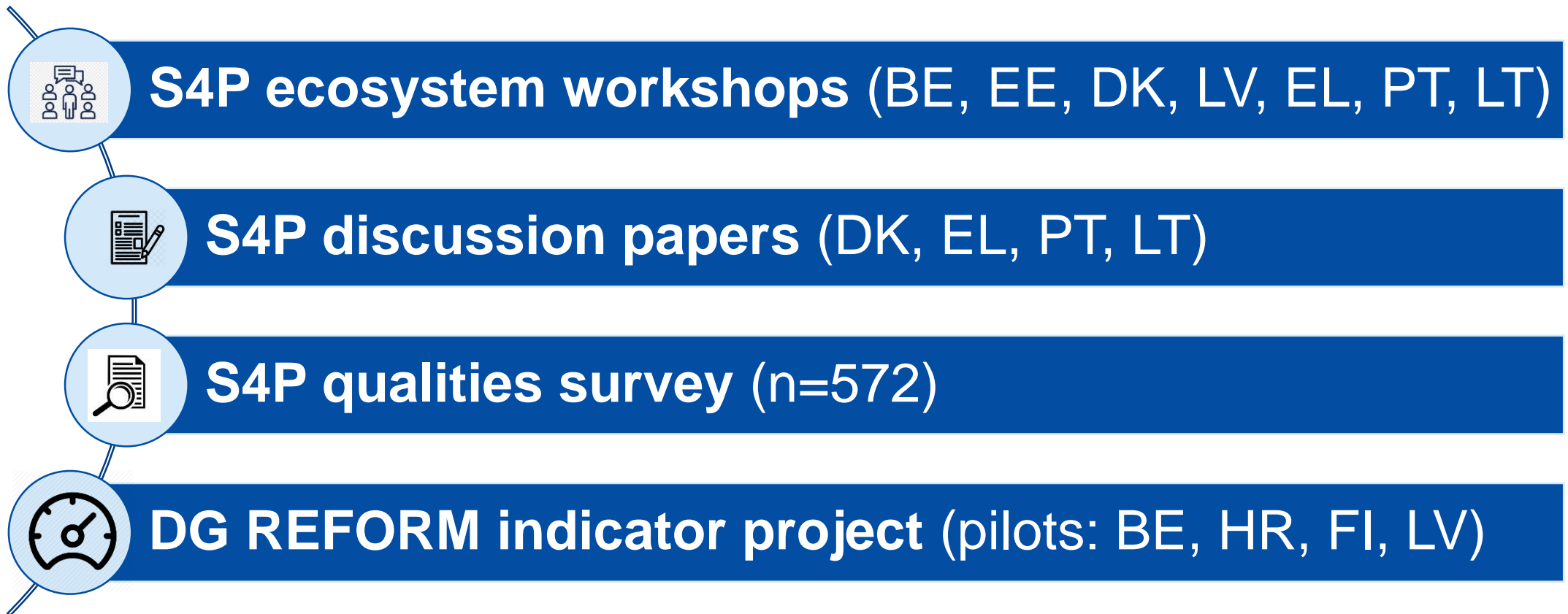Research centres

GUIDE

Professional norms

Sectoral policies

Better Regulation

Research policies

Public Administration Reform

Mandates
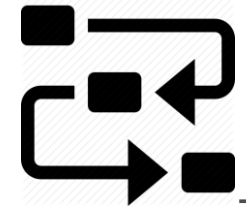
Training

Recruitment

Consultation

Evaluation

Impact Assessment

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What S4P knowledge has been gathered

S4P ecosystem workshops (BE, EE, DK, LV, EL, PT, LT)

S4P discussion papers (DK, EL, PT, LT)

S4P qualities survey (n=572)

DG REFORM indicator project (pilots: BE, HR, FI, LV)

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Glimpse at survey data

n=32 (Denmark) **n=100** (Portugal)

Sci Organisations with dedicated S4P structures
- DK: (Strongly) agree 53% | (Strongly) disagree 25%
- PT: (Strongly) agree 18% | (Strongly) disagree 58%

PMs' recognise value of S4P
- DK: (Strongly) agree 73% | (Strongly) disagree 15%
- PT: (Strongly) agree 15% | (Strongly) disagree 54%

Lack of transparency of S4P processes
- DK: (Strongly) agree 30% | (Strongly) disagree 43%
- PT: (Strongly) agree 62% | (Strongly) disagree 14%

Fragmentation of S4P ecosystems
- DK: (Strongly) agree 31% | (Strongly) disagree 34%
- PT: (Strongly) agree 80% | (Strongly) disagree 8%

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

■ (Strongly) agree   ■ Neither agree nor disagree   ■ (Strongly) disagree

Why this workshop?

Lessons from JRC knowledge gathering

➢ **Need for a systemic view on S4P**: Complementarities and connections

➢ **Need for evaluation expertise**: Indicators? Expert assessment? Participatory processes?

➢ **Need for critical friends**: What can go wrong when developing evaluation framework?

➢ **Need for a multi-disciplinary approach**: Governance/public administration, STS, Science and technology public policies, comparative politics, etc.

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Previous projects' insights
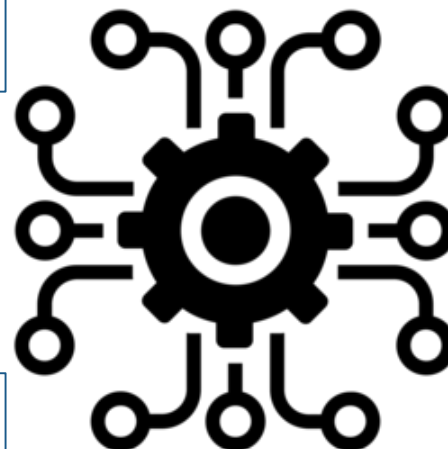
Three reflection papers and further expert reports

Feedback from practitioners and pilots

Workshop discussions

But now it is time for a quick round of introductions…

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Break-out sessions

Break-out discussions

3 rounds
30 minutes
JRC facilitator + Note-taker

Themes

Normative: **why** is S4P capacity needed?
Conceptual: **what** are key attributes/elements of S4P ecosystem?
Operational: **how** can we evaluate/measure attributes/elements?

Guidelines

Contribute, speak your mind/heart & link ideas
Be short & topical
Listen carefully & ask questions

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