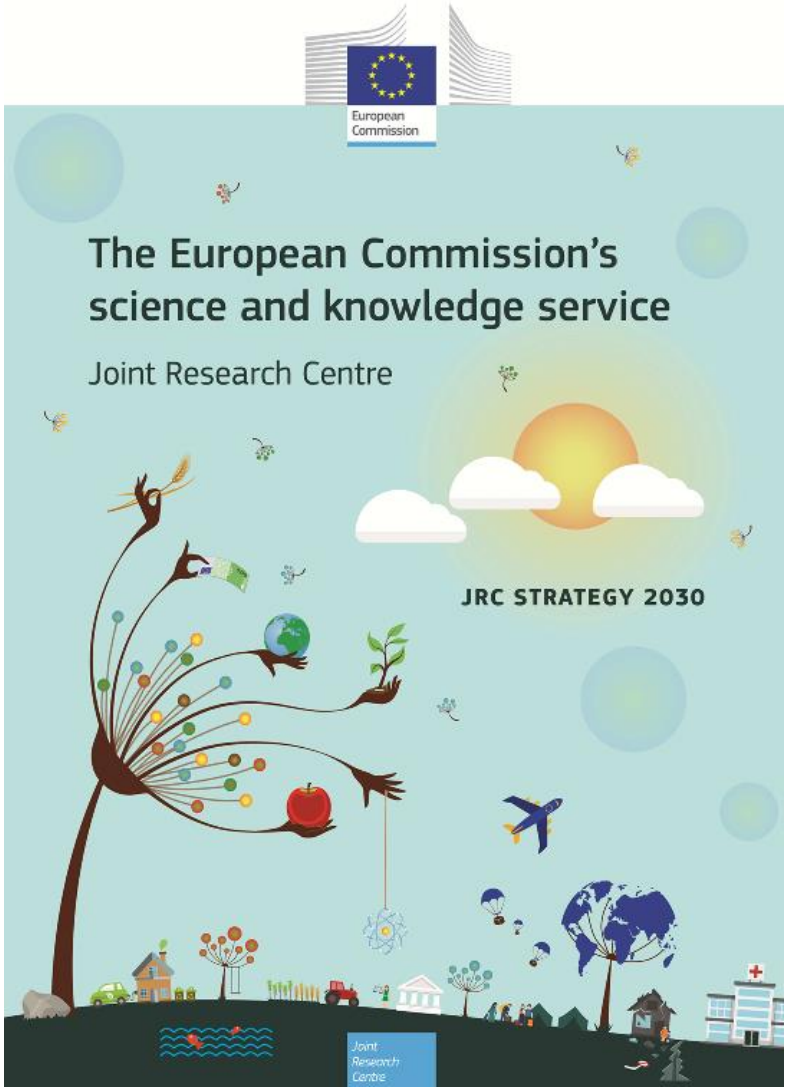
European Commission

Practice of Informing Policy Through Evidence

European Commission

JRC Vision

"To play a central role in **creating, managing** *and* **making sense** *of collective scientific knowledge for* ***better EU policies****"*



Menu and Objectives

Explore the **policy making environment (Day 1)**

Bridge science and policy **(Day 1)**

Learn new **skills** to **create an impact (Day 2)**

Conceptual skills to be more reflexive about your job, scope of action, responsibilities

Practical skills to improve your interactions and communication

European Commission

Introduction

Simulation

Lunch

9h30

Interactive lecture

Reflections

Logbook & DISC

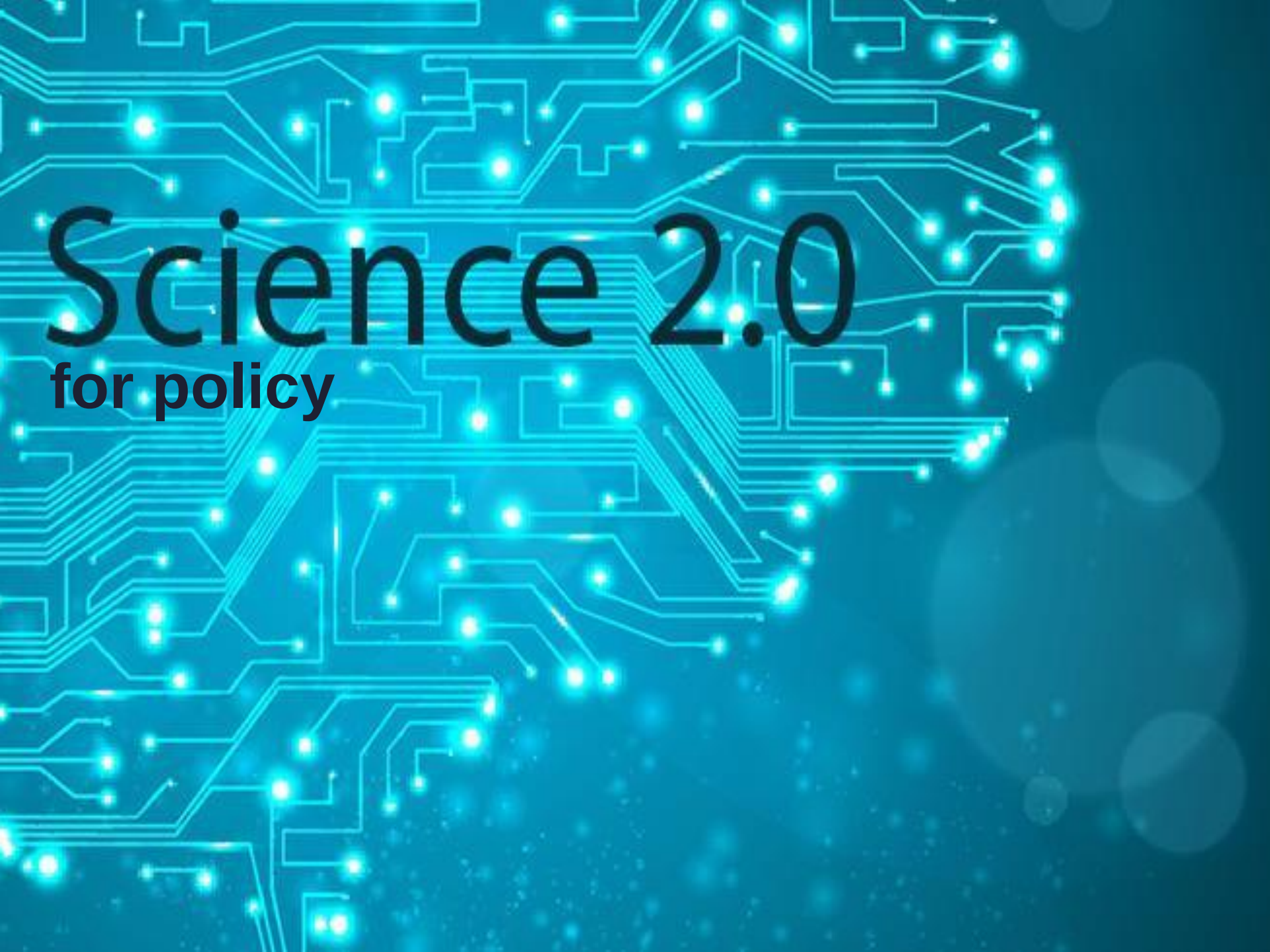
See you tomorrow

17h30


BE
HERE
NOW

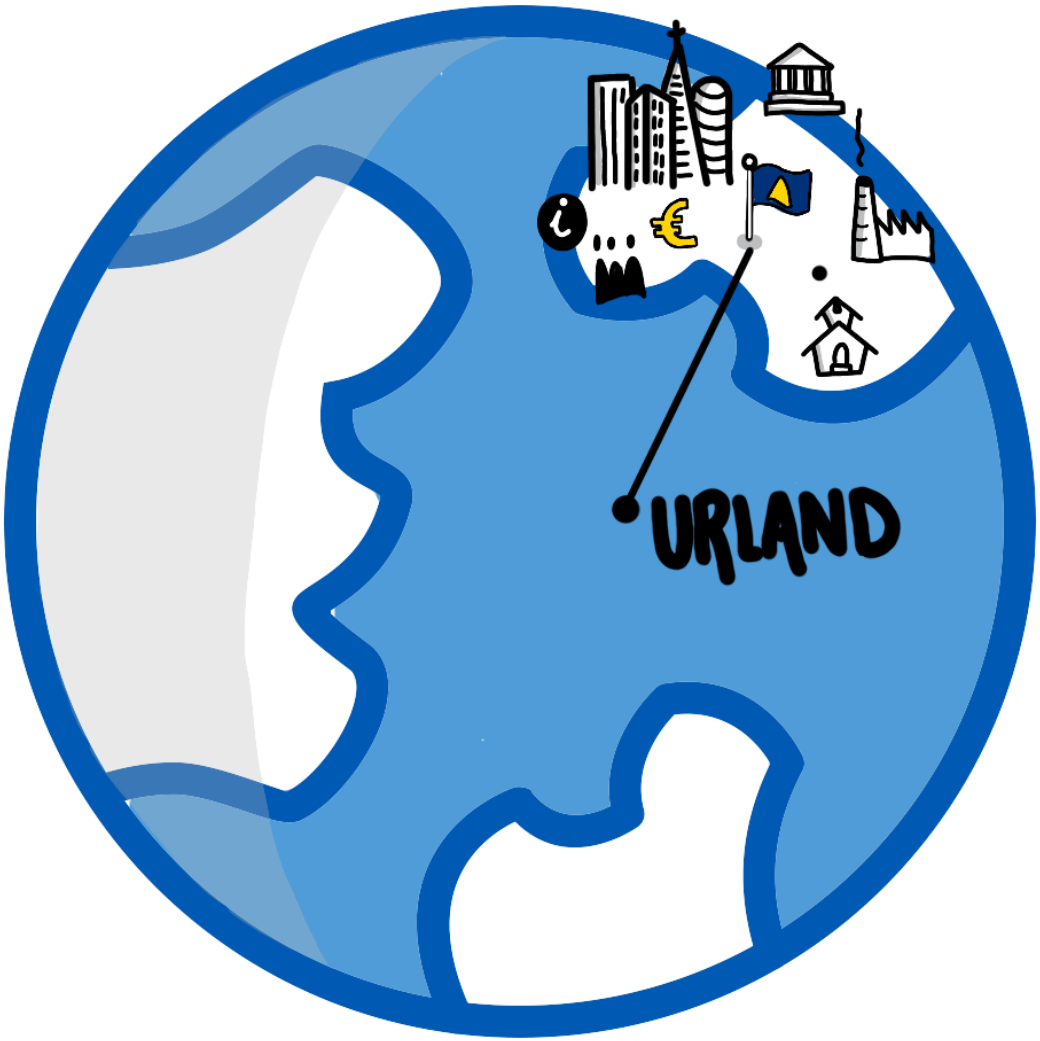
What are your
LEARNING OBJECTIVES

What's in it for **ME**?

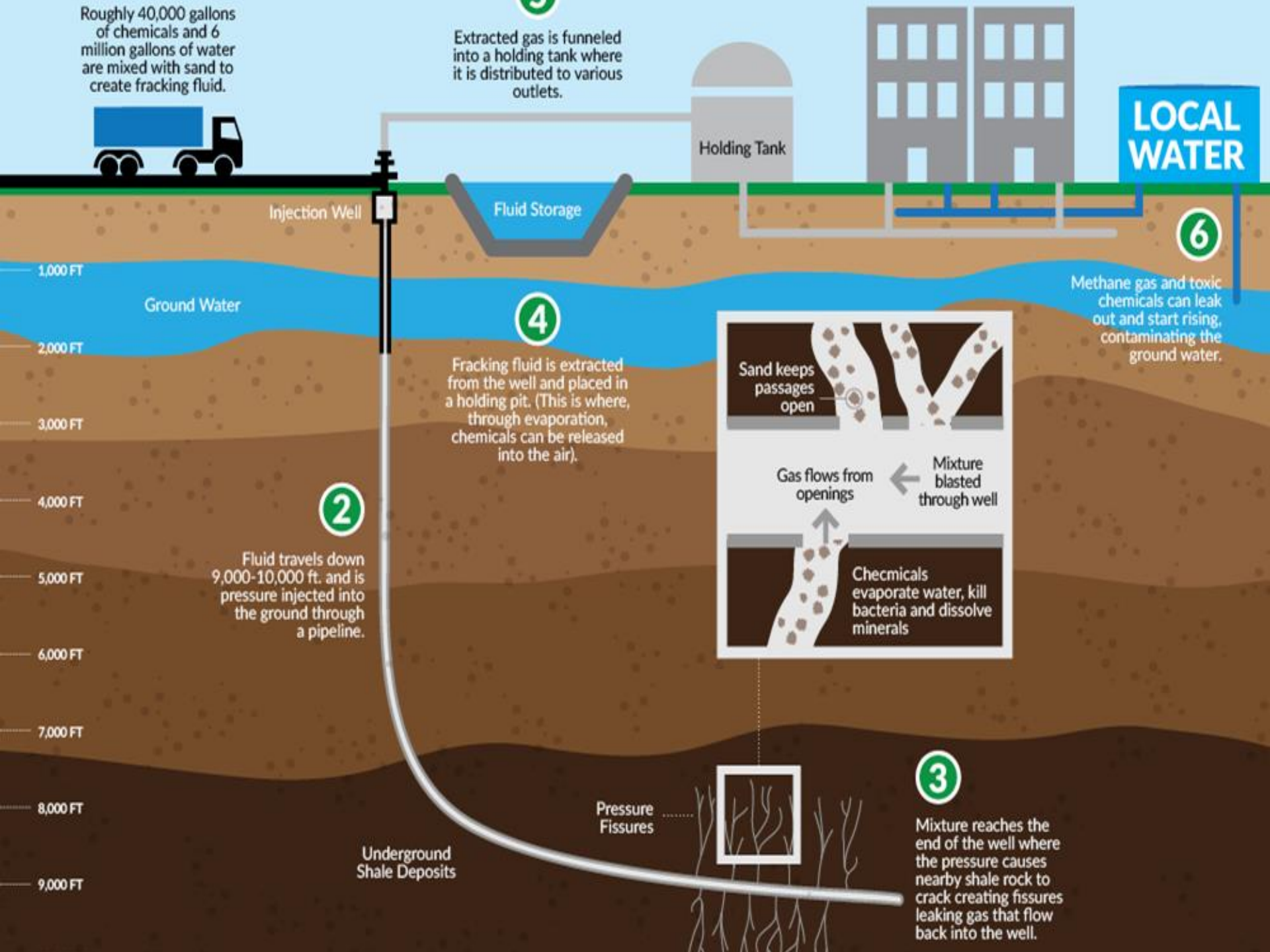

Science 2.0
for policy


2 MANY PEOPLE & OPINIONS
3 INTER CONNECTED
1 CONTRADICTORY INCOMPLETE KNOWLEDGE
4 LARGE ECONOMIC IMPACT
WICKED PROBLEMS

European Commission

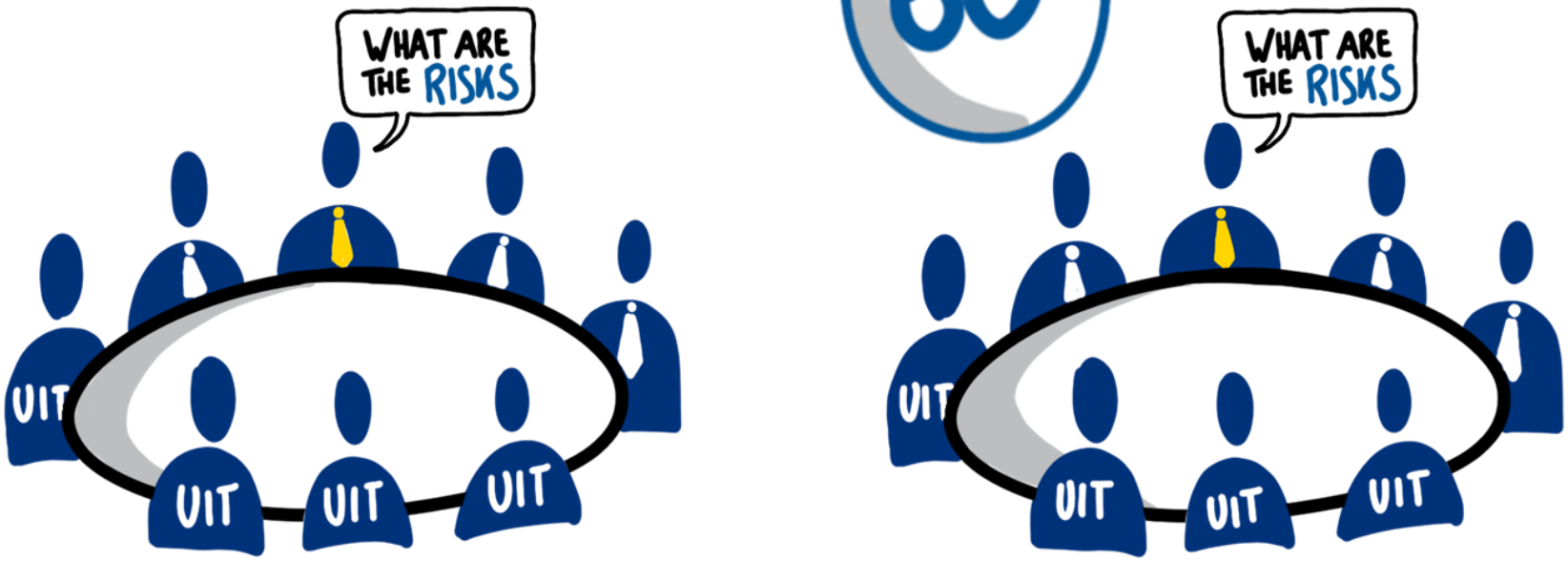


We are running
OUT of **GAS**

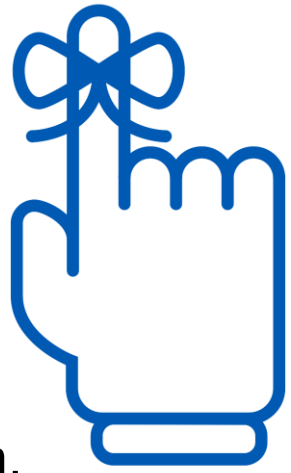

Roughly 40,000 gallons of chemicals and 6 million gallons of water are mixed with sand to create fracking fluid.
Extracted gas is funneled into a holding tank where it is distributed to various outlets.
Holding Tank
LOCAL WATER
Injection Well
Fluid Storage
1,000 FT
Ground Water
2,000 FT
3,000 FT
4,000 FT
5,000 FT
6,000 FT
7,000 FT
8,000 FT
9,000 FT
6
Methane gas and toxic chemicals can leak out and start rising, contaminating the ground water.
4
Fracking fluid is extracted from the well and placed in a holding pit. (This is where, through evaporation, chemicals can be released into the air).
Sand keeps passages open
Gas flows from openings
Mixture blasted through well
Checmicals evaporate water, kill bacteria and dissolve minerals
2
Fluid travels down 9,000-10,000 ft. and is pressure injected into the ground through a pipeline.
Pressure Fissures
Underground Shale Deposits
3
Mixture reaches the end of the well where the pressure causes nearby shale rock to crack creating fissures leaking gas that flow back into the well.

European Commission

Do we NEED ADDITIONAL risk ASSESSEMENT



Remember!



- Play your character as **AUTHENTICALLY**:
  - use your **own personality** (add a personal touch, determine dominant values)
  - **Don’t invent** pieces of i**nformation**

- There is **NO “RIGHT” or “WRONG”** way to play this game

Selection of evidence

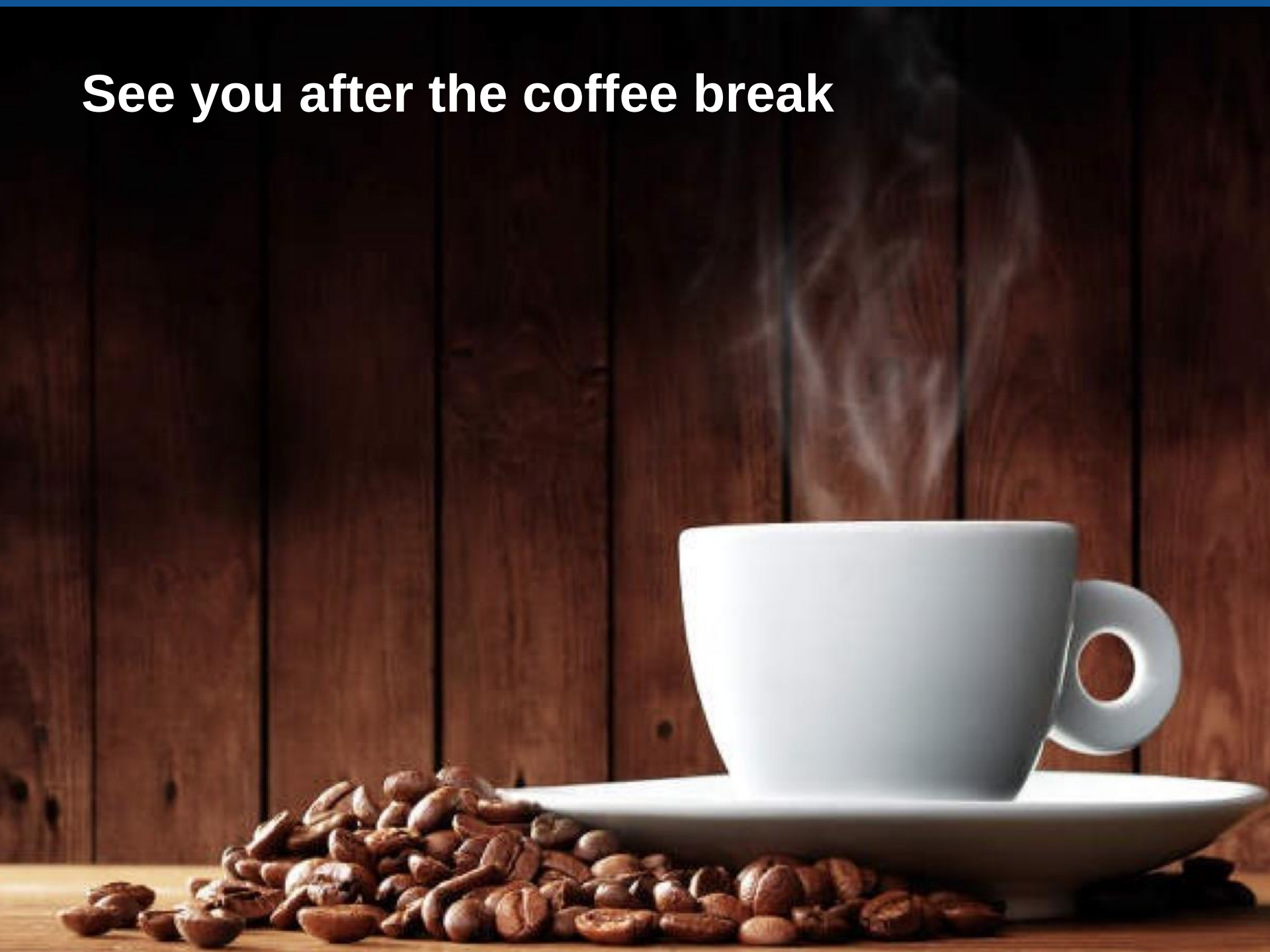
Chair: Minister of Energy

Round

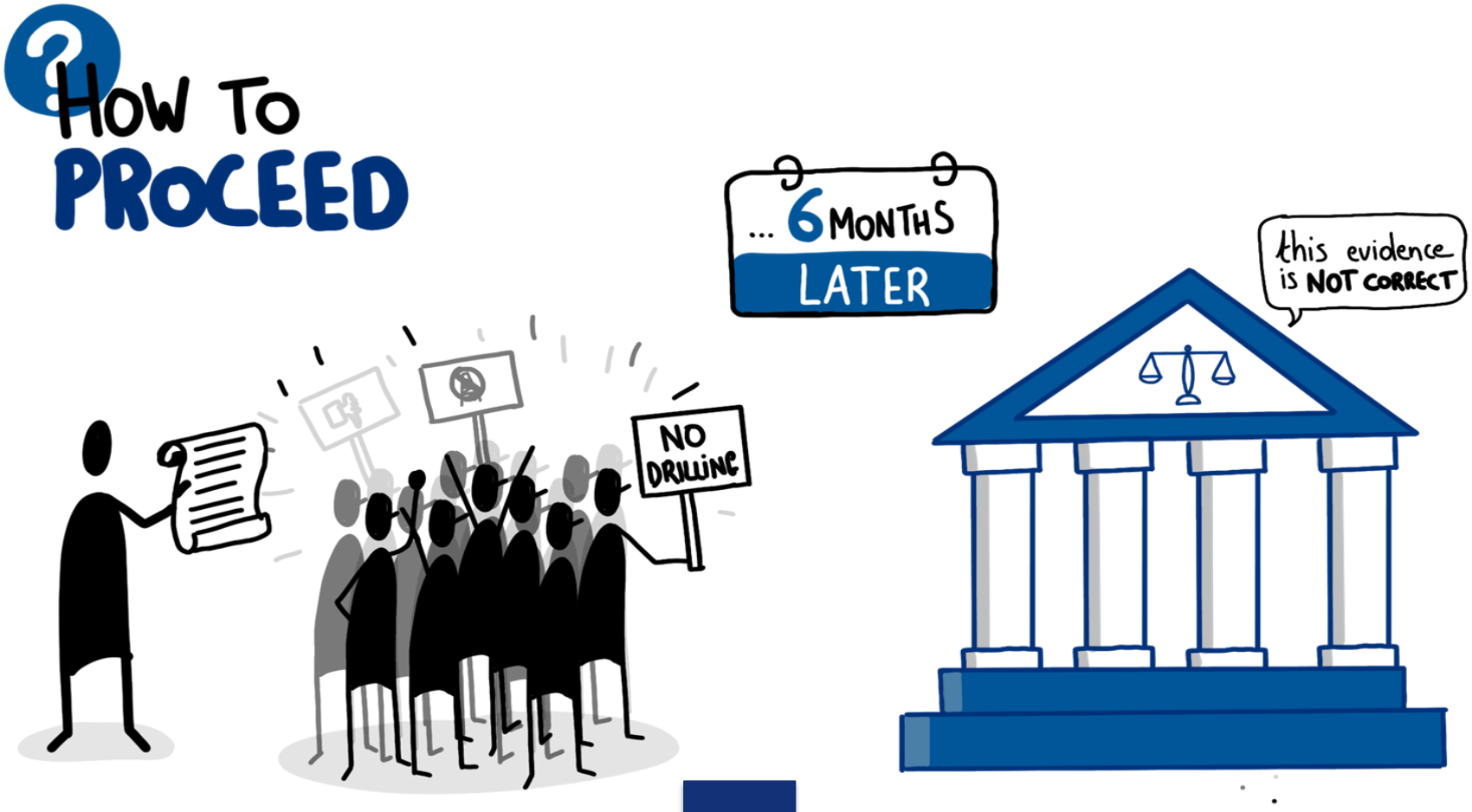
1

1. Introduction & objectives (2 min)
2. **Who** is who (5 min)
3. Presentation of policy **problem** (3 min)
4. Policy **implications** (3 min)
5. **Advisors** (4 min)
6. **Expert** statements (8 min)
7. Reaction from **Ministry** (10 min)
8. **Recommendations** by the experts (5 min)
9. **Minister decides** whether or not an additional risk assessment is required in order to make an informed decision.

See you after the coffee break

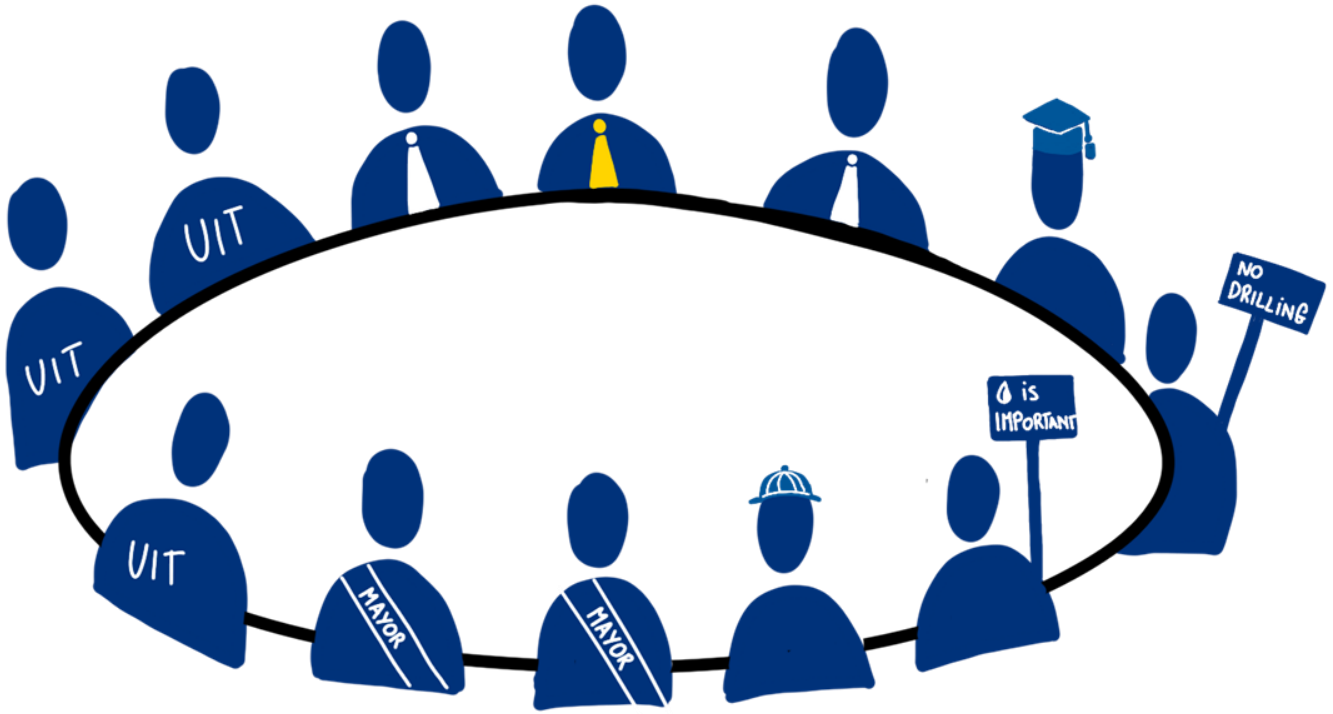


Round 2

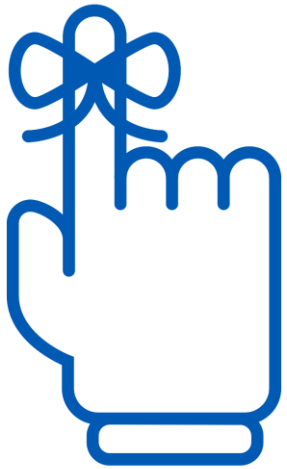

HOW TO
PROCEED
... 6 MONTHS
LATER
this evidence
is NOT CORRECT
NO
DRILLING

European Commission

How to proceed



Remember!



- Play your character as **AUTHENTICALLY**:
  - within the limits of your **own personality** (add a personal touch, determine dominant values)
  - **Don’t invent** unspecified pieces of i**nformation**

- There is **NO “RIGHT” or “WRONG”** way to play this game

Round

2

Evidence contested

Chair: Minister of Energy

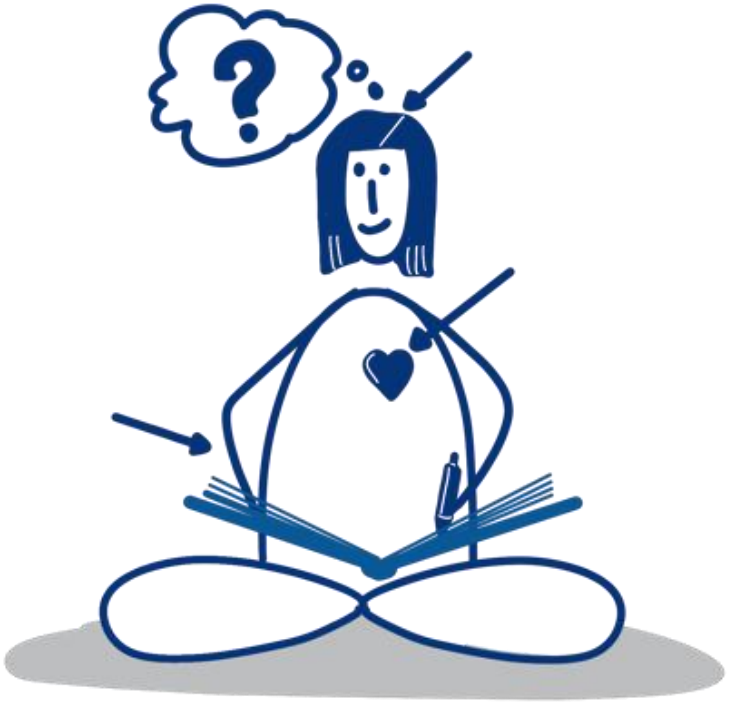
1. Introduction & objectives (2 min)
2. Who is who (5 min)
3. Mayors (5 min)
4. Representatives of local communities: concerned citizens, bank manager, director (15 min)
5. Discussion between locals and experts/the Ministry (20 min)
6. Wrap up by Minister
7. The Minister decides how to proceed.

Lunch Time

Debriefing
of the
Role playing

European Commission

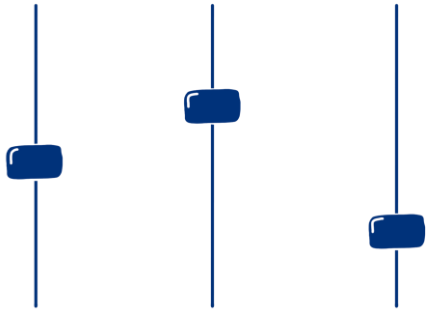
Logbook




Reflections about
the simulation
game

Some terminology

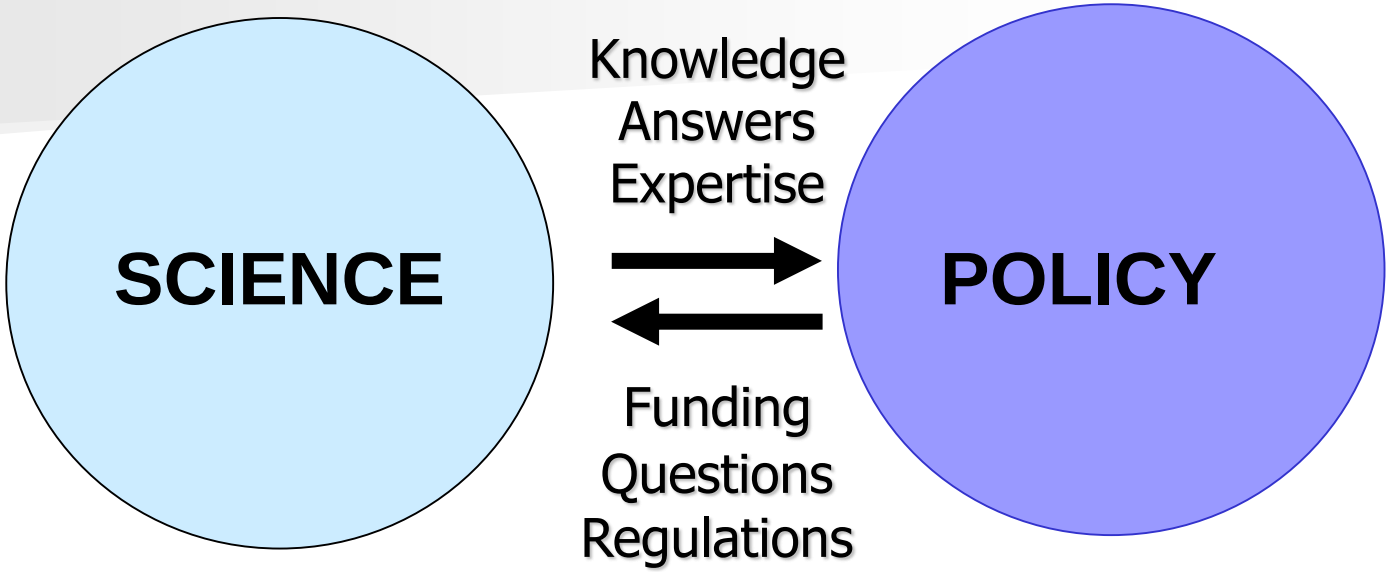
Politics is...



Policy is...

Science is...

A naïve vision…

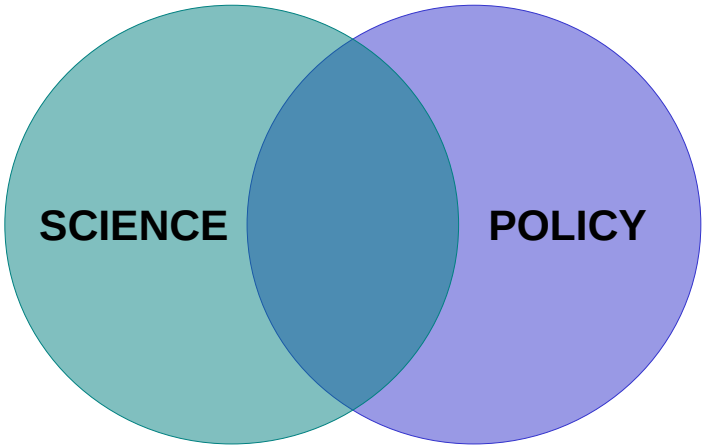


- Mutually exclusive and hermetic categories
- Science as an isolated and deterministic system providing value-free 'truths'.
- Two independent monologues which intermittently exchange products

Source: van den Hove 2009

A vision of co-evolution

- Science and policy as intersecting and coevolving domains of human activity:



- To manage the intersection between science and policy, some processes are implemented – spontaneously or not – which happen precisely at the intersection: *science-policy interfaces*

Source: van den Hove 2009

Science-Policy interfaces: a definition

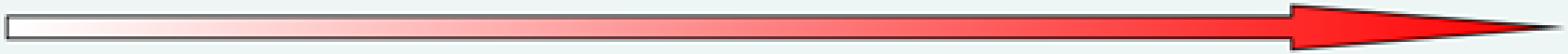
Science-policy interfaces are social processes which encompass relations between scientists and other actors in the policy process, and which allow for exchanges, co-evolution, and joint construction of knowledge with the aim of enriching decision-making and/or research.

JRC is a science-policy interface institution

Source: van den Hove 2009

Four idealised roles of science in policy and politics (Pielke 2008)

Pure Scientist • focuses on research not its use • provides knowledge so decision makers can use it • has no direct connection with decision makers	**Issue Advocate** • focuses on implications of research for a particular political agenda • aligns with a group which advances its interests through policy and politics • engages with decision making process • seeks to reduce the scope of decision choice
Science Arbiter • stays removed from policy and politics • provides expert advice to decision makers • only provides scientific input • does not interact with stakeholders	**Honest Broker** • integrates scientific knowledge with stakeholder concerns to identify/inform decision options • places scientific understanding in the context of decision options • seeks to expand the scope of decision choice

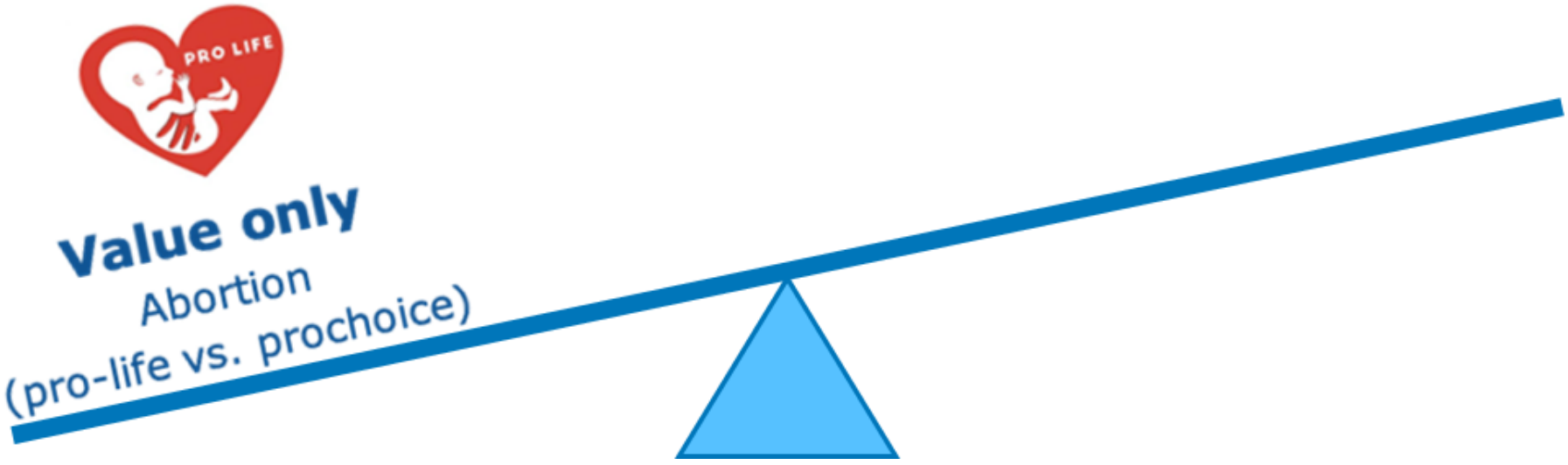


LOW — Level of engagement with stakeholders & decision process — HIGH

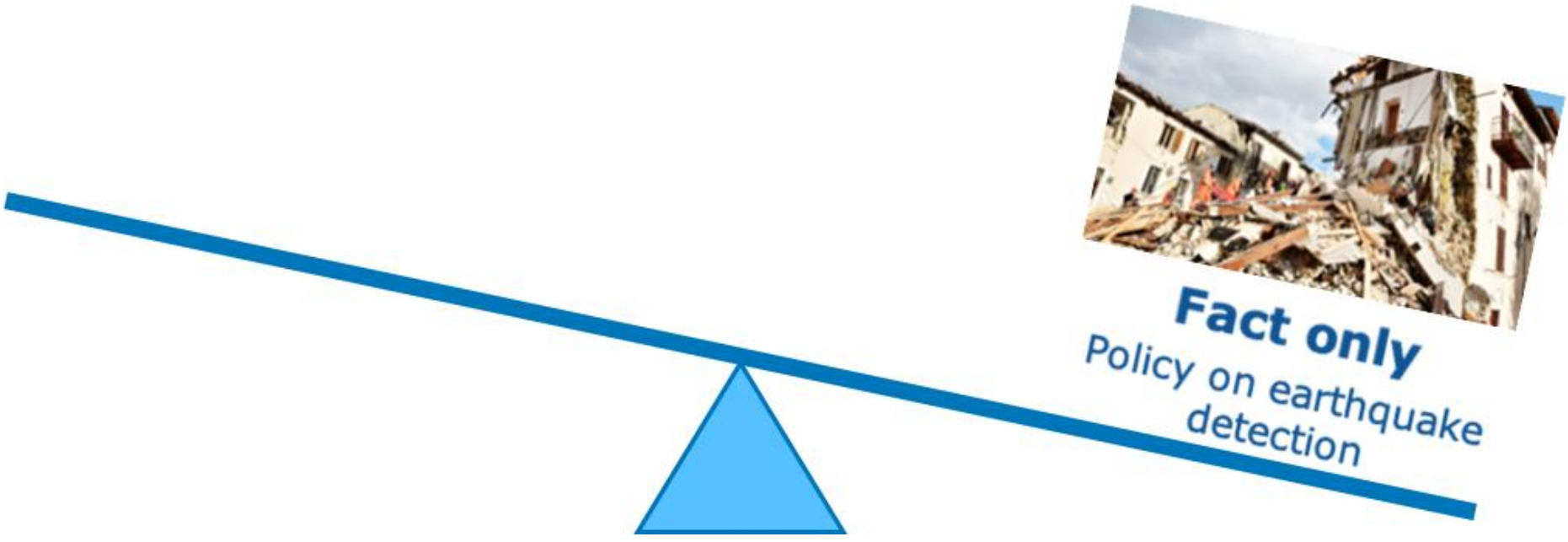
2144-02-NDA/Pielke

Source: Pielke, cited in Holmes & Atherton 2013

ROUND 2 is about values & facts



ROUND 2 is about values & facts



European Commission

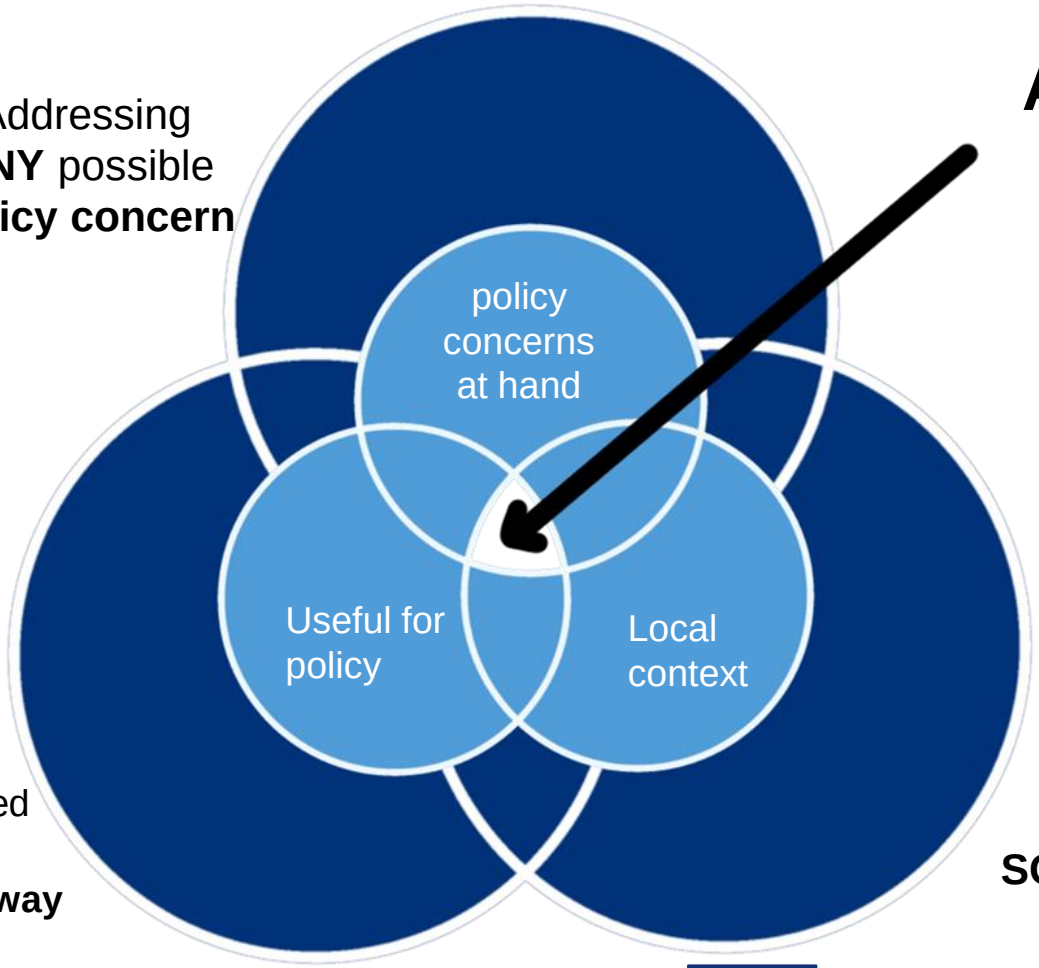
ROUND 2 is about values & facts

Simultaneously

GMO

Collect and share the evidence that is **APPROPRIATE** for policy

Addressing **ANY** possible **policy concern**



Appropriate evidence

The politics of evidence
Justin Parkhurst

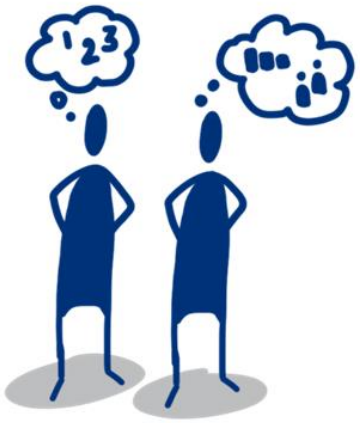
Constructed In **ANY Possible way**

Applicable to **SOME context**

Lessons learned

It takes effort

Different skills



Other forms of evidence exist

Values & facts real

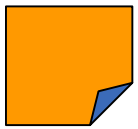
Help to make sense

45 degrees, 25 minutes, 29 seconds north
75 degrees, 42 minutes, 20 seconds west

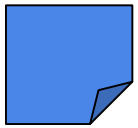

BRIDGING
science & policy

Take up on science & policy

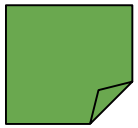
Please list **THREE OBSTACLES** that prevent scientific research being picked up by policy making.
(1 per post-it)



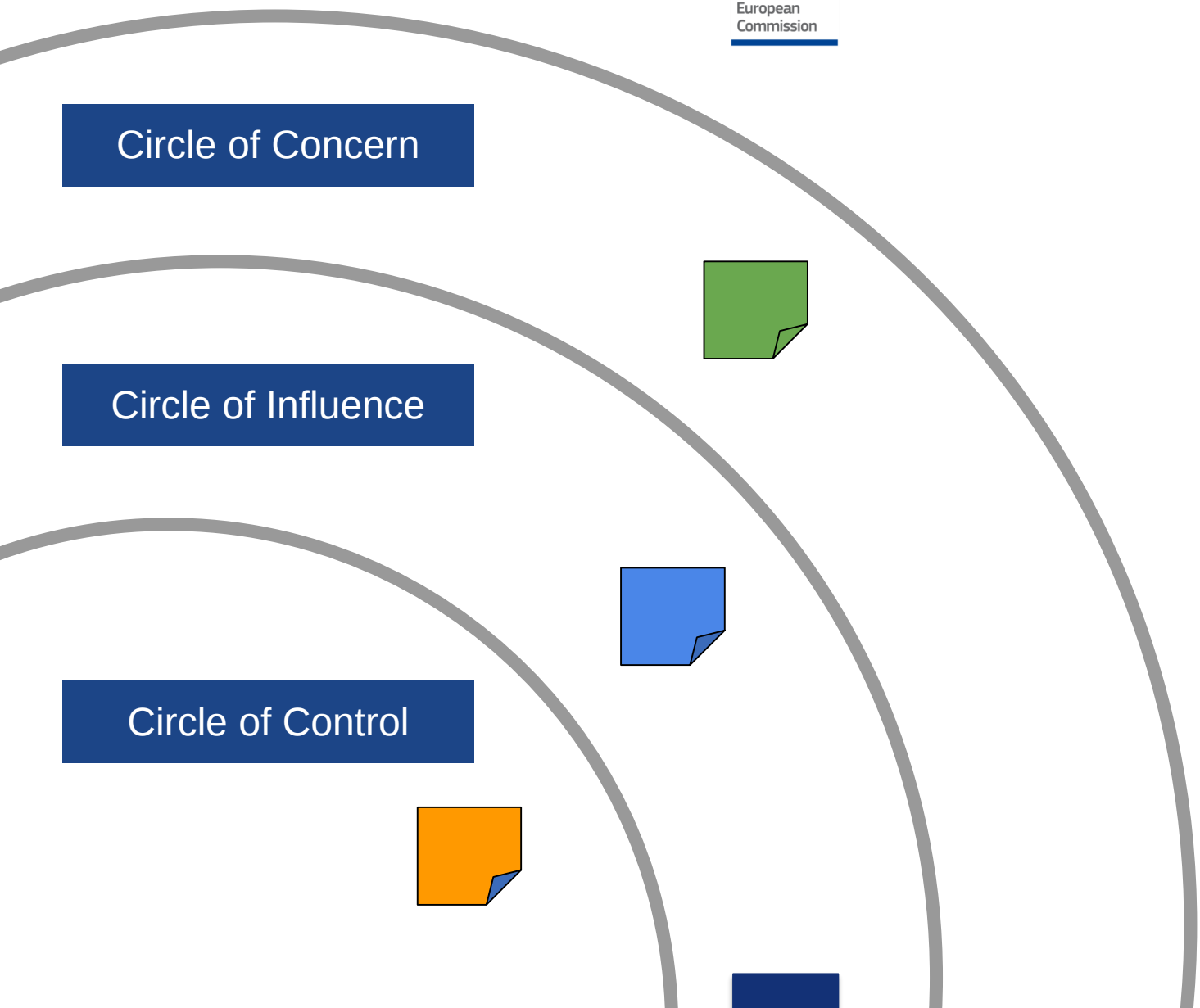
Caused by scientists



Caused by scientists & policy makers



Caused by policy makers


Circle of Concern
Circle of Influence
Circle of Control

Challenges

Scientific information comes too late

1

Different timelines

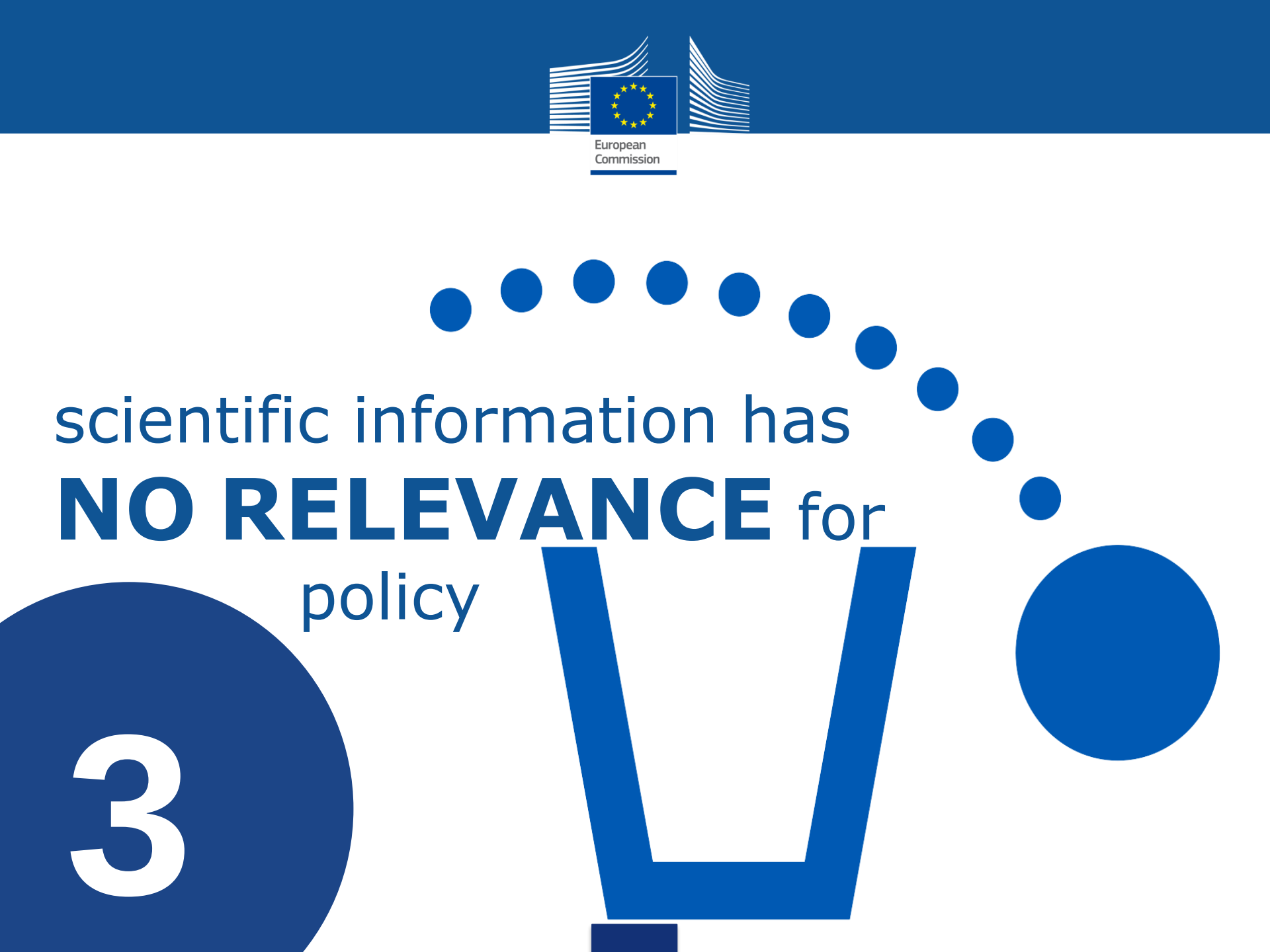
European Commission

Science is under **ATTACK**

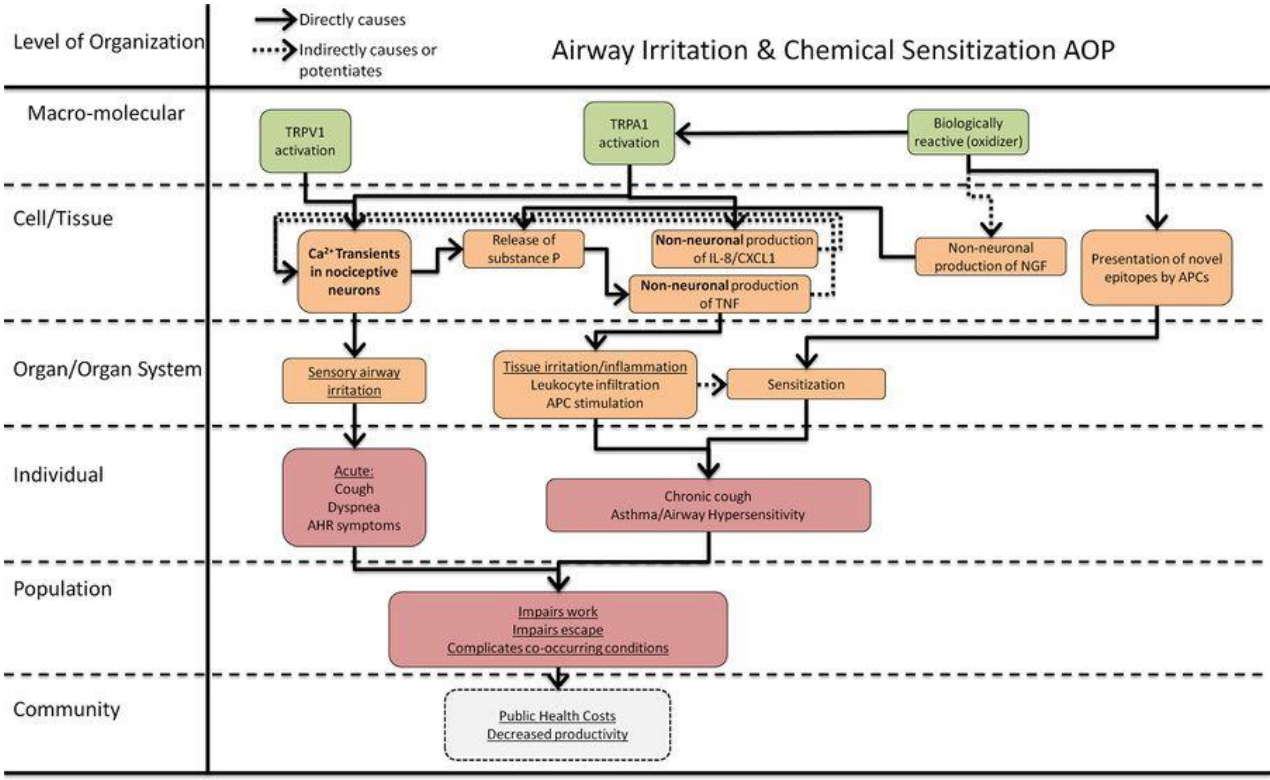
2

TOP TIP

Emphasise **independence**, scientific **excellence**, **transparency, co-creation**


European
Commission
scientific information has
NO RELEVANCE for
policy
3

Reducing population allergy



TOP TIP

Understand policy-makers' **needs**
Think **big picture** & **societal impacts**
Propose **solutions**

Agendas

dominate the policy process

4

Everyone has an agenda

Consumer Protection organisations

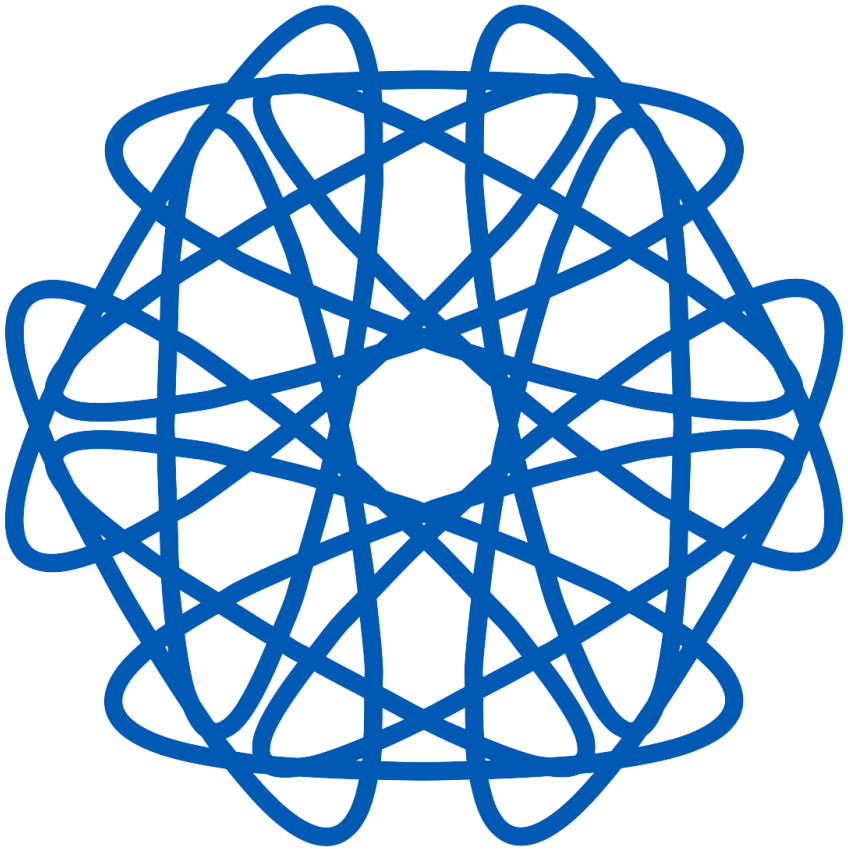
TOP TIP

Know your Stakeholders:

- Who are they?
- What's on their agenda?
- What is the agenda?

European Commission

Policy makers
DO NOT UNDERSTAND
science



5

TOP TIP

Do not miss Day 2!

HOW

Communicating on uncertainties

Level of uncertainty

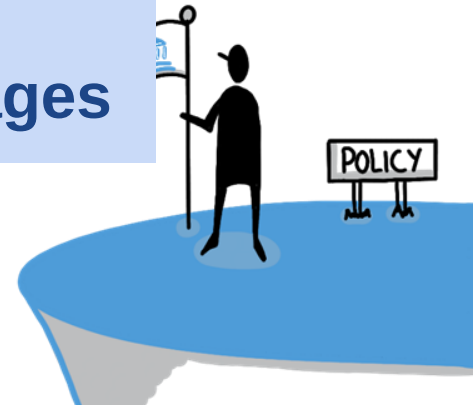
Calculated risk for everyone

Detailed finding

Seek to make sense of uncertainty

Personal perception risk

Key messages



UNCERTAINTY: means that in a particular situation **more than one outcome is consistent with our expectations**; Uncertainty perception is field dependent

TRUST.

NO SILVER BULLET

admit uncertainty & be clear about causes:

- Sampling
- variation in the phenomenon
- non-linearity/complex behaviour
- lack of research

reduction of uncertainties

realistic or unrealistic ?

SCIENCE: advancing knowledge which is often synonymous with the notion of **reducing uncertainties**. It does not mean that decision cannot be taken without it

=> policy options

Catch 22:

More science for more evidence can be a vicious cycle

European Commission

EUROBAROMETER

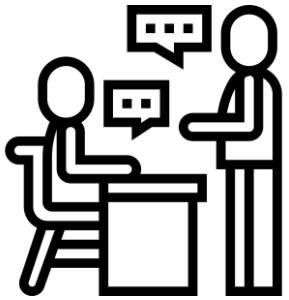
Cochrane

EVIDENCE has multiple meanings

META ANALYSIS

Demand

Supply



JRC
EUROPEAN COMMISSION

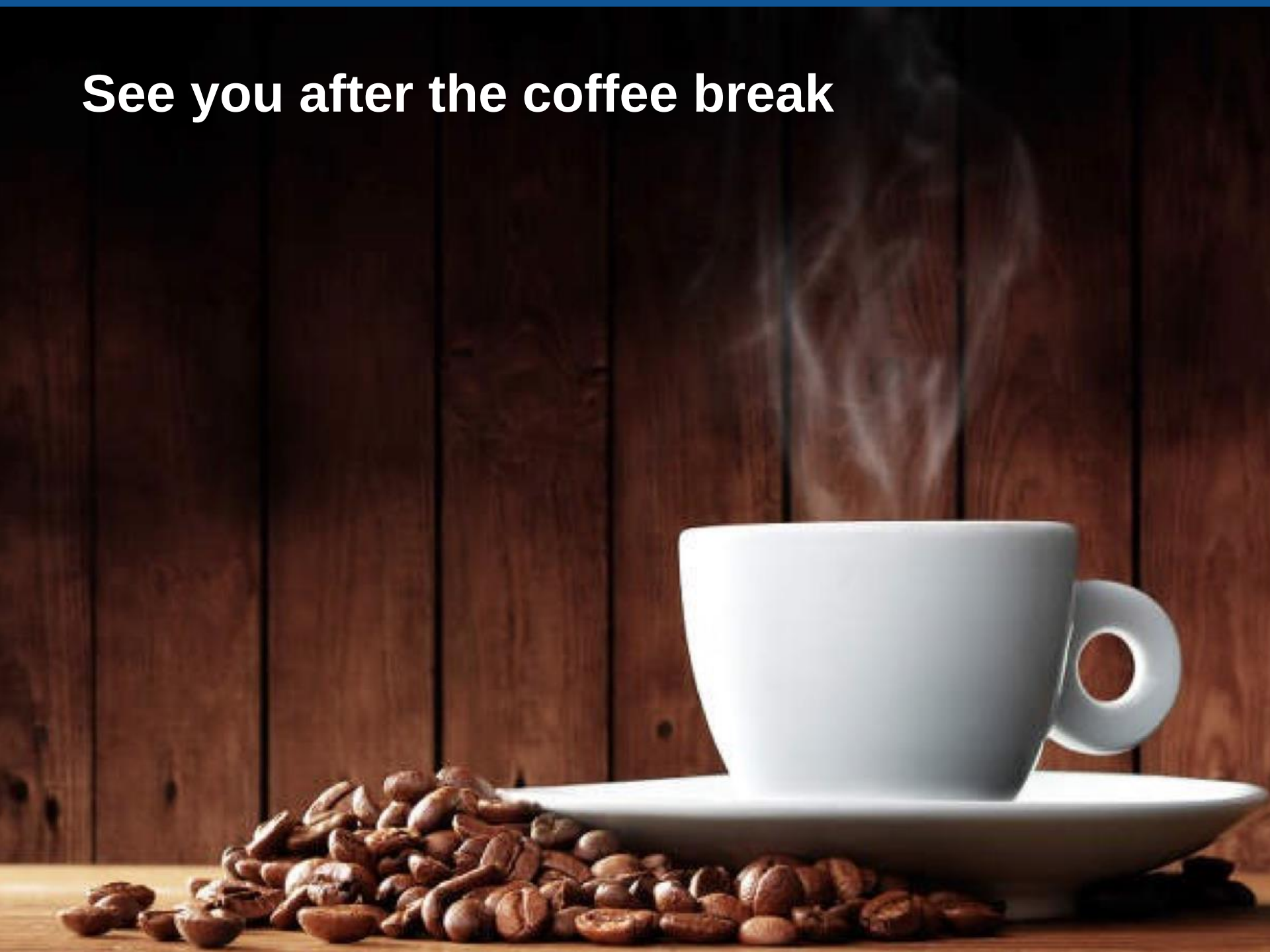
TOP TIP

Understand how policy-makers work

e.g.

- Pairing schemes scientists with MEPs
- JRC short term exchange programme with DGs

See you after the coffee break



WHERE

INFORMAL

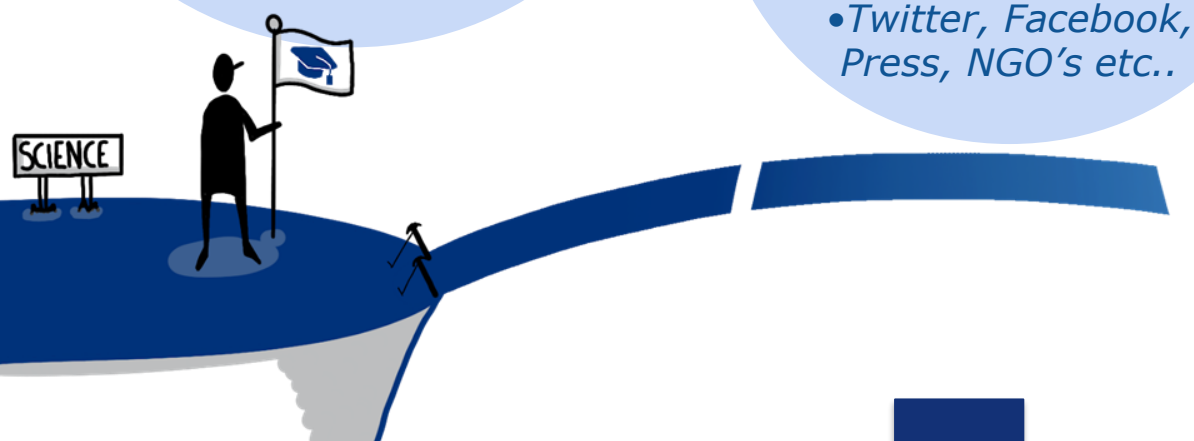
- *Policy briefs*
- *Research reports*
- *Secretary of advisory committee*
- *interservice groups*
- *Maintaining databases*
- *presentations*
- *Reviews*

or…

- *Visiting policy events & speaking…*
- *Coffee, drinks, lunches, airplane,…*
- *Friends & family relations*
- *Twitter, Facebook, Press, NGO's etc..*

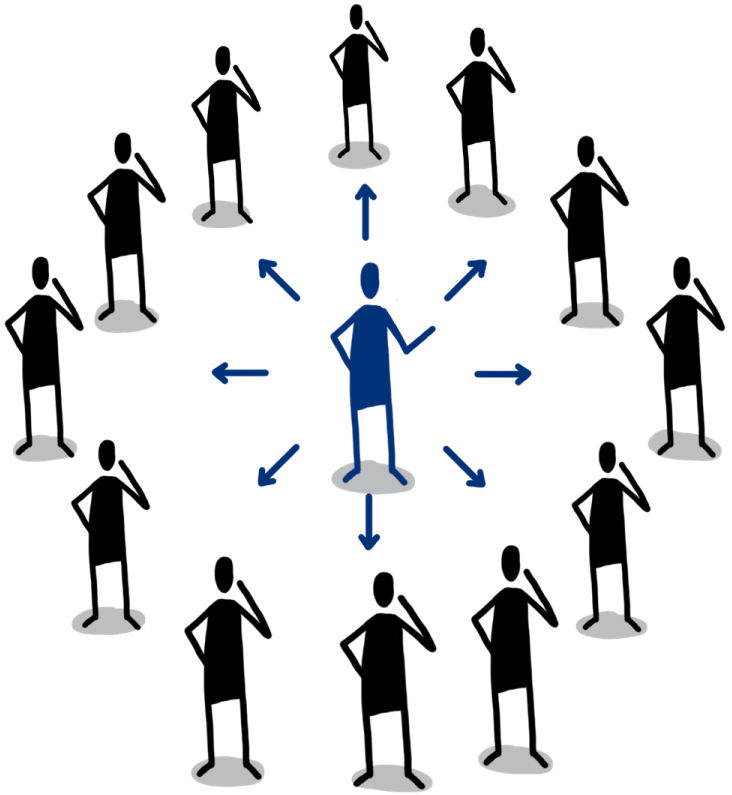
FORMAL

- *Advisory committees*
- *Contract research*
- *Policy workshops*
- *HLEG*



European Commission

Strategy for IMPACT



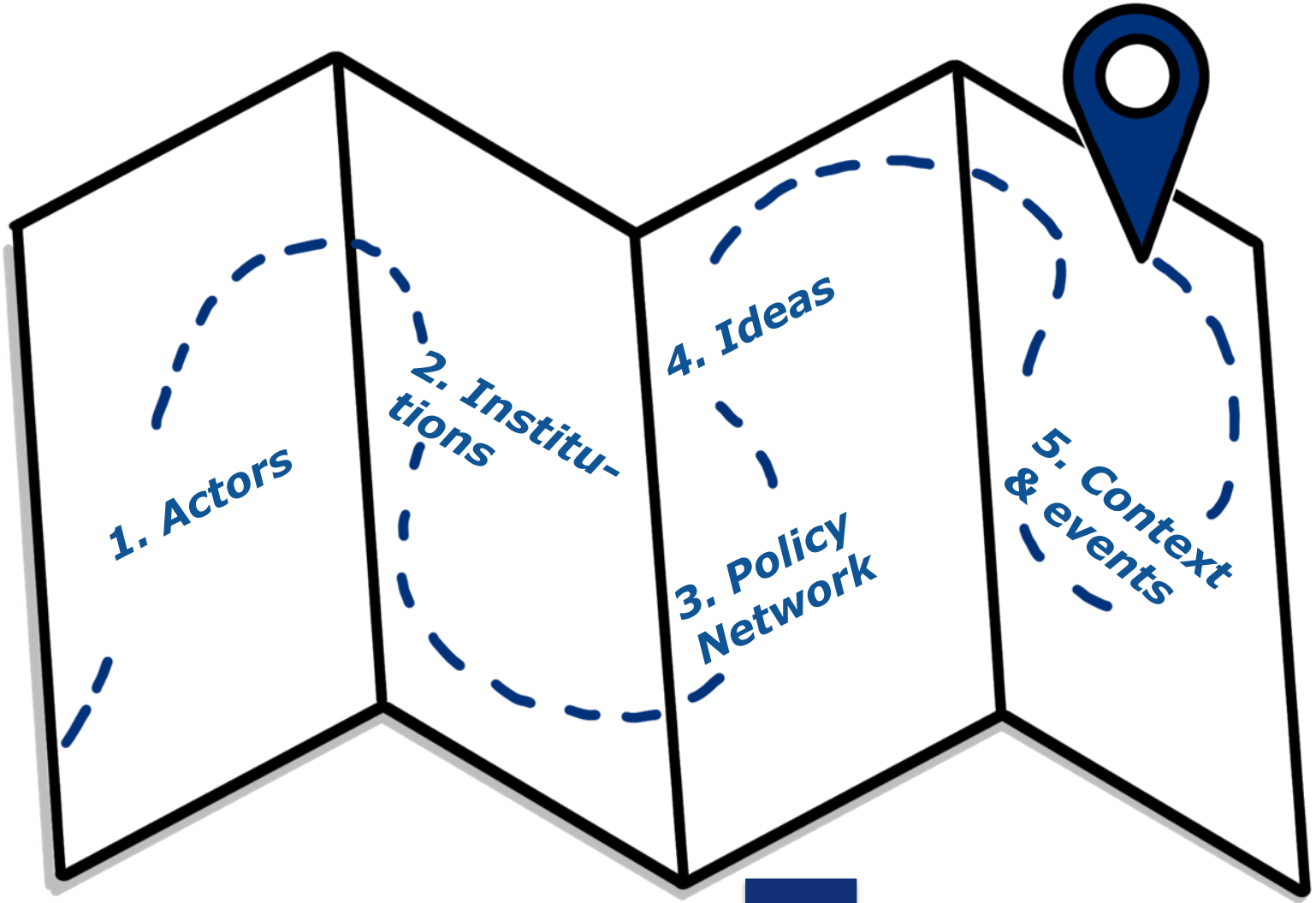
There is a competition for policy-makers' attention

IMPACT is **NOT** a **COINCIDENCE**, it can be **PLANNED**

4R's ➡

right **PLACE**
right **TIME**
right **FACT**
right **WAY**

Mapping the Policy **Environment**



The politics of Evidence-based Policy making
Paul Cairney

1) **Stakeholders met by MEP Norbert Lins:**

	Type	Organisation	Who
1	Industry	BASF	Dr. Thomas Christen
2	Ministry	Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture Germany	Clemens Neumann
3	Industry	European Crop Protection Association (ECPA)	Graeme Taylor
4	Industry	AG Glyphosat	Dr. Thorsten Küchler
5	Industry	Industrieverband Agrar (IVA) (German Agrochemical Industrial Association)	Dr. Dietrich Pradt & Dr. Volker Kaus
6	Industry	Verband der Chemischen Industrie (VCI) (German Association of the Chemical Industry)	Dr. Utz Tillmann
7	NGO	Deutsche Umwelthilfe	Sascha Müller-Kraenner
8	Industry	PROFEL	Bettina Breuer und Aline Rutsaert
9	NGO	Greenpeace EU	Franziska Achterberg
10	NGO	PAN	Dr. Angeliki Lysimachou
11	NGO	WeMove.EU	David Schwartz
12	NGO	Global 2000	Helmut Burtscher-Schaden
13	Agency	BfR	Prof. Dr. Andreas Hensel, Dr. Roland Solecki

2) **Stakeholders met by MEP Bart Staes:**

	Type	Organisation	Who	When
1	Academia	Faculty of Bioscience Engineering, Department of Plants and Crops, Ghent University	Prof. Dr. Ir. Pieter Spanoghe	January 2018
2	Industry	European Crop Protection Association (ECPA)	Graeme Taylor	11.04.2018
3	NGO	People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals Foundation (PETA UK)	Emily McIvor	24.4.2018
4	Ministry	Belgian Ministry of Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment	Maarten Trybou	4.5.2018
5	NGO	GLOBAL 2000	Dr.Helmut Burtscher-Schaden	14.5.2018 (together with Norbert Lins)
6	NGO	AVAAZ	Pascal Vollenweider	26.6.2018
7	Attorney	Baum, Hedlund, Aristei & Goldman	Attorney Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Attorney Michael L. Baum	5.9. 2018
8	NGO	Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Europe	Dr. Martin Dermine	5.9.2018
9	NGO	Belgian Bee Keeping Center for Research and Information (CARI), Utrecht University, Bee Life	Dr. Noa Simon Delso	5.9.2018
10	Academia	University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Vienna	Prof. Johann Zaller	5.9.2018
11	Academia	Brunel University London	Prof. Andreas Kortenkamp	5.9.2018
12	NGO	Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Europe	Dr. Angeliki Lyssimachou	5.9.2018
13	Research Centre	UFZ - Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, Leipzig, Germany	Prof. Matthias Liess	5.9.2018

Special Committee on the Union's authorisation procedure for pesticides

The competition for policymakers' attention

- Why should people **LISTEN** to **you?**
- Institution **authority** is **NOT** always **ENOUGH**
- Identify your **ALLIES**
- Anticipate **HOT TOPICS** /occupy space
- Build your **NETWORK** - "Meet and greet"
- There is a **PSYCHOLOGY** of policy making
  - **Long term presence is KEY**
  - **ONE-TO-ONE relationship => TRUST AGAIN!**

Google Alerts

Lessons learned under bridging science & policy

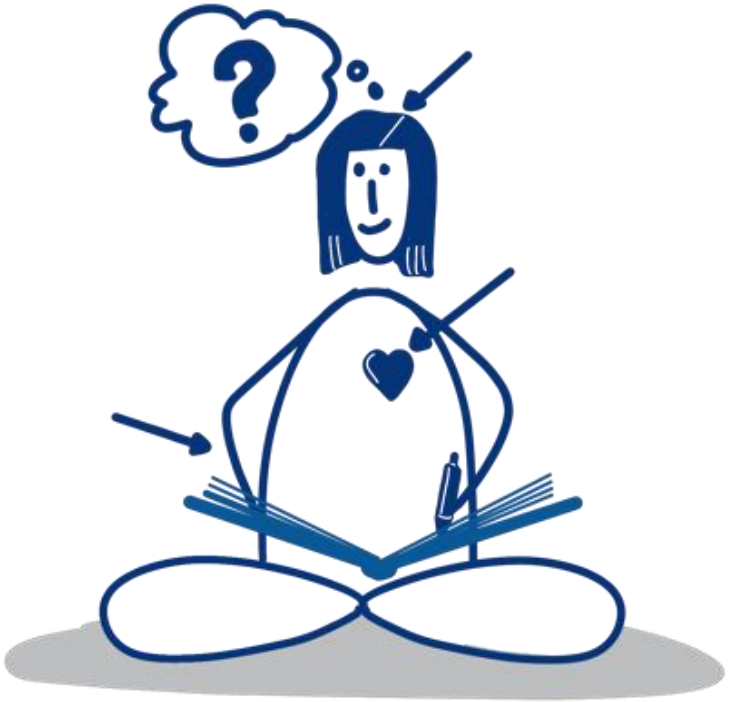
1. **Anticipate** and **being proactive**
2. **Know your client** - Adapt your communication to fit your audience
3. Provide **understandable** policy options that resonates to layman
4. Establish your **network** and build **TRUST**

Further readings..

Further readings: https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/communities/community/76/library/694

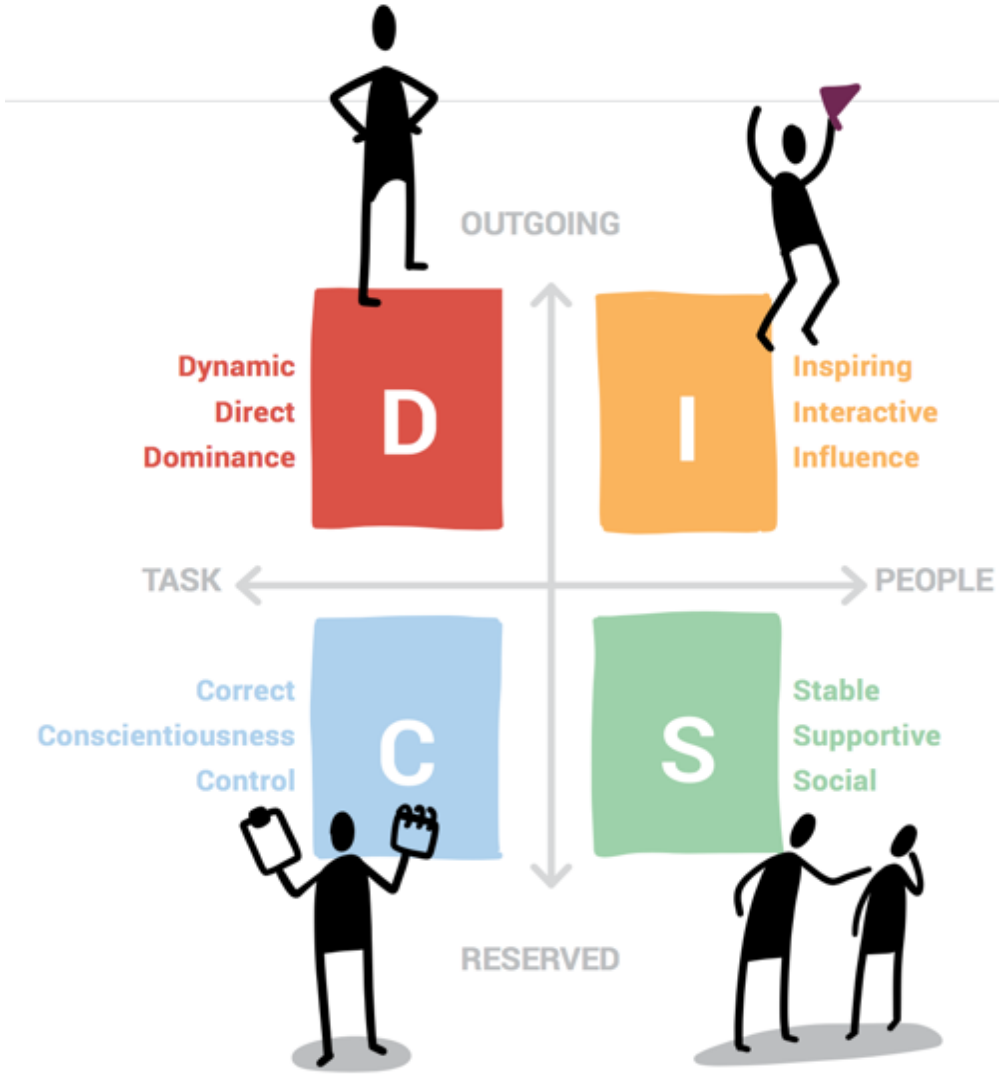
European Commission

Logbook



European Commission

Fill in your **DISC**




Closed
see ya tomorrow

- Slide 28: “Four idealised roles of science in policy and politics”, source: https://inis.iaea.org/collection/NCLCollectionStore/_Public/46/027/46027348.pdf

- Slide 32: “Collect and share the evidence that is appropriate for policy”, source: pp.118-119 http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/68604/1/Parkhurst_The%20Politics%20of%20Evidence.pdf