Roadmap for improved science-policy interface

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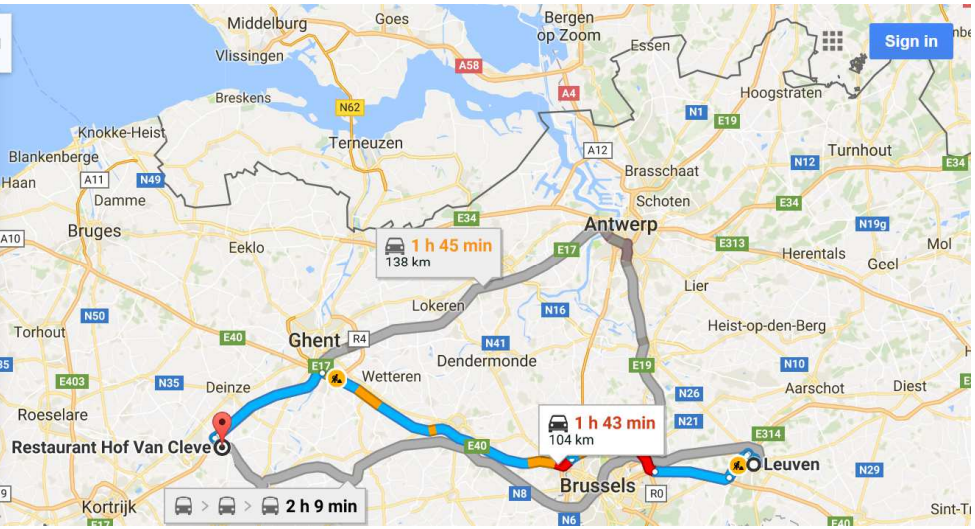
EU Agriculture @EUAgri

Following

The Future of Food & Farming – a flexible, fair & sustainable Common Agricultural Policy: europa.eu/!Nh37NV #FutureofCAP

What kind of roadmap do we need?



OR

Concrete instructions on how to get to Belgium's best restaurant

A map with all good restaurants

Rationale

- Worlds of science, policy and practice interact actively **interact** with each other, as they depend upon each other
- These spheres have their **own intentions and logics**
- Provision of science-based policy recommendations takes places within **complex ecosystem**
- Reconciling the supply of scientific information with the demands of decision makers is **not automatically performed** in such an ecosystem
- Leads to many **frustrations** among both scientists and decision makers

Gluckman, P., 2016. The science-policy interface. Science 353, 969. McNie, E.C., 2007. Reconciling the supply of scientific information with user demands: an analysis of the problem and review of the literature. Envrionmental Science & Policy 10, 17-38.

Barriers

- **Functional** barriers ↔ differences in objectives, needs, scope and priorities
- **Social** barriers ↔ differences in cultural values leading to distorted communication, misunderstanding and mistrust.
- **Structural** barriers ↔ differences in institutional settings and standards, such as time frames and reward systems

Weichselgartner, J., Kasperson, R., 2010. Barriers in the science-policy-practice interface: Toward a knowledge-action-system in global environmental change research. Global Environmental Change 20, 266-277.

Science-policy interface

- Criteria:
  1. **credible**: meeting the standards of science
  2. **salient**: relevant to help solve the decision makers' dilemmas
  3. **legitimate**: produced and exchanged using unbiased and fair processes
- While all **thresholds** for all three attributes need to be reached, the interactions between them may result in both **synergies** and **tensions**.

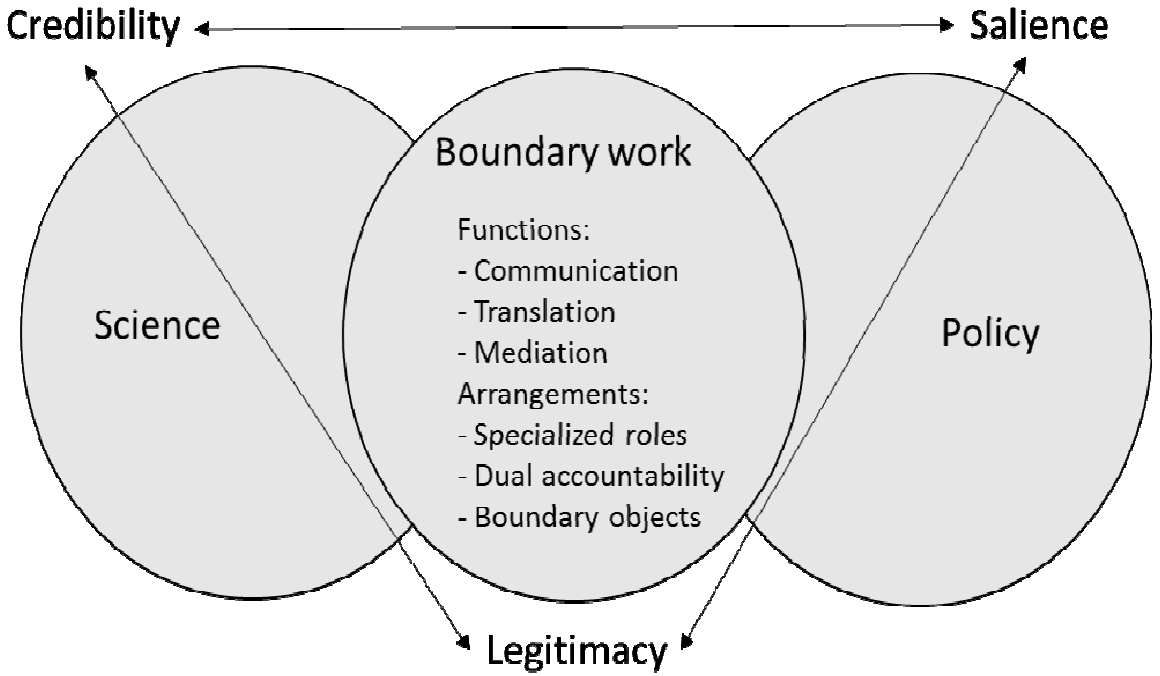
Cash, D. et al., 2002. Salience, Credibility, Legitimacy and Boundaries: Linking Research, Assessment and Decision Making. John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Faculty Research Working Paper Series RWP02-046. Cash, D.W. et al., 2003. Knowledge systems for sustainable development. PNAS 100, 8086-8091.

Science-policy interface

- **Boundary work** to effectively break down the multiple barriers by
  - active, iterative and inclusive **communication** between scientists and decision makers
  - enhanced by **translating** scientific jargon into accessible language
  - involving multiple stakeholders through **mediation**
- Boundary work organisations requires
  - **dedicated** actors
  - who are **accountable** to their constituency
  - a set of **boundary objects**, such as models, scenarios, reports, etc.

Cash, D. et al., 2002, 2003.

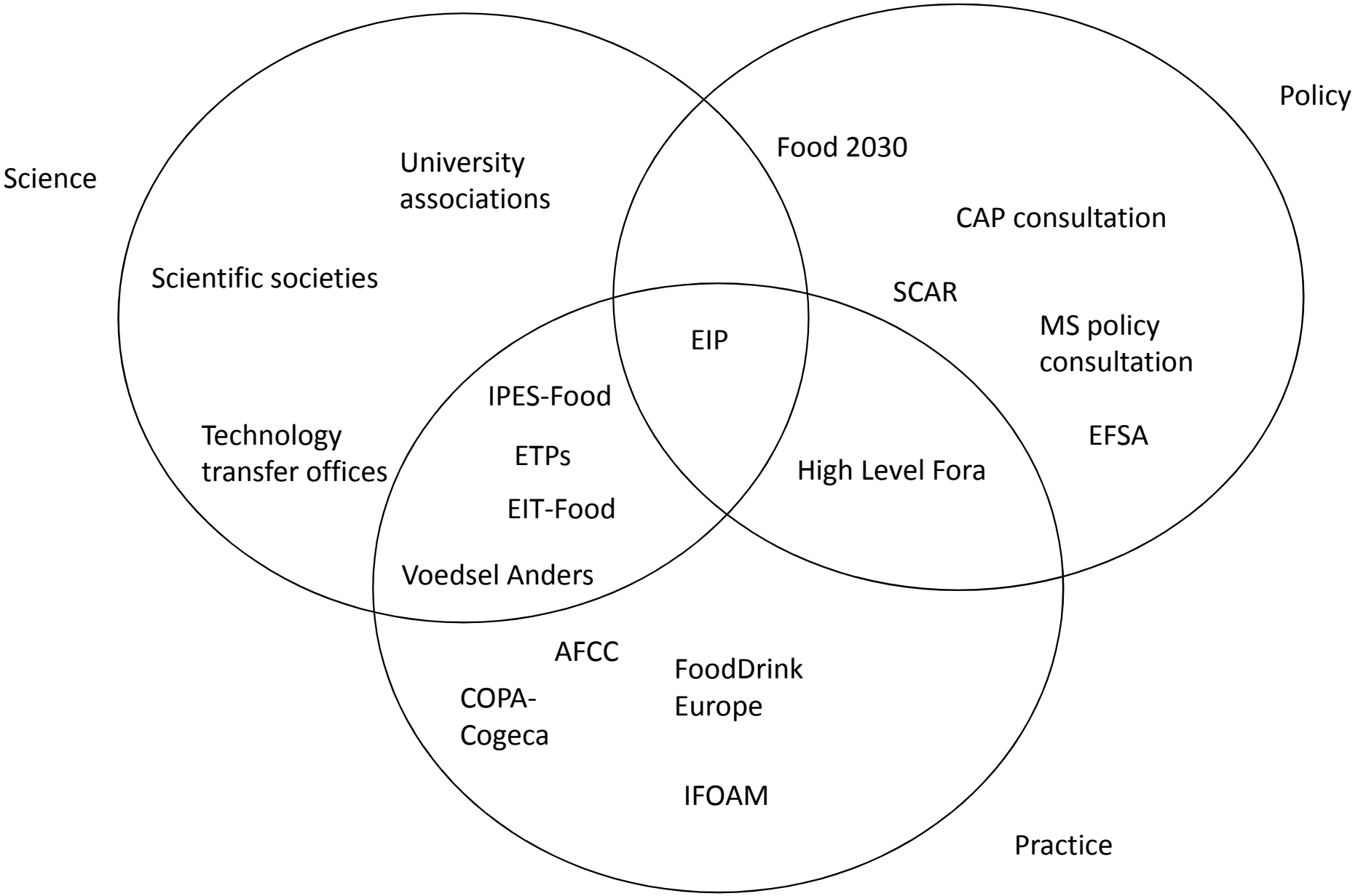
Science-policy interface



Own elaboration based on Cash et al., 2002, 2003

TRANSMANGO FNS boundary objects

- **Conceptual map** of the food system ensures consideration of all elements in system (activities/actors, assets, institutions, outcomes)
- **Vulnerability matrix** links external shocks and stresses to vulnerability components of the food system
- **Systems thinking tools** enable decision makers and stakeholders to consider and evaluate interactions, feedback loops and dynamic effects to design better systems interventions and transition pathways
- **Future scenarios** help decision makers and stakeholders in making their interventions more robust or in creating new solutions


Science
University associations
Scientific societies
Technology transfer offices
Policy
Food 2030
CAP consultation
SCAR
MS policy consultation
EFSA
EIP
IPES-Food
ETPs
EIT-Food
High Level Fora
Voedsel Anders
AFCC
FoodDrink Europe
COPA-Cogeca
IFOAM
Practice

Conclusions

- Lack of boundary organisations for science-policy interface at EU level
- Learn from international examples: CGIAR, Committee on World Food Security (CFS)
- Towards a European Policy Partnership for Agricultural and Food Systems / Food Security and Nutrition? Or widen exisiting EIP?
- What about other concepts: bioeconomy, circular economy,…?
- Situation different at national or regional level?
- What about local level, Urban Food Policy Councils?
- How to set up cross-scale boundary organisations linking local to global (‘translocal’)?
- Where is the conflicutal debate? Within Science? At the interface?