

Why do we need timeliness of research for decision-making?

Judith D. de Jong, Johan Hansen, Peter P. Groenewegen



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Short answer:

- To facilitate the use of research evidence in decision-making.
- To have an impact.

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What can we, as researcher do?

Use of research evidence

- Research evidence is often not used in decision-making
- Why not? (Lugo-Gil et al, 2019)
 - Researchers' **questions differ** from decision-makers questions
 - Research evidence is **not available when needed** for decision-making
 - **Objectives** do not always align with those of decision-makers
 - Decision-makers have **difficulty obtaining** research findings
 - Research findings are presented in a manner that is **not accessible** to non-experts, and
 - Researchers create **products** that do not meet the information needs of decision-makers

Differences in speed

- Compared to the policy process, research is slow
- Research evidence not always available when needed in the policy process
- This hinders the use of evidence



Research process



Policy process

What should be timely?

- Research evidence should be available when needed in de policy process
- The right questions should be adressed
- The results should be presented in an understandable manner
- The results should be easy to find

Bridging the gap between research and policy

- communication between researchers and policy makers
- via personal contacts
- timing
- write clear summaries and recommendations
- build trust (personal trust and institutional trust)

When is research evidence used? An example

- Research: Improvement of service by an insurance company related to long- term care
 - Research questions developed in **interaction** with the insurance company, with a focus on aspects sensitive for policy
 - Research planning and policy process were **aligned**.
 - Research evidence was **presented to and discussed with** the insurance company (presentation, report, short overview)
 - Results were **translated into policy** by the insurance company immediately and **embedded in an improvement plan**

When is research evidence not used? An example

- Research: Cost sharing in health care
 - Research questions developed in **interaction** with the advisory body on health insurance, not with the decision-maker, the Ministry of Health
 - Research planning and policy process were **aligned**, until the moment that a cabinet crisis prompted new elections and a new government coalition was formed.
 - Research evidence was **planned to be available** in a half year's time, but the new coalition decided not to wait and abolished the cost-sharing arrangement
 - Results were **not used**, even not when some years later new policy ideas for cost-sharing were being developed.

How to reach impact?

- Relationships between researcher and decision-makers
- Develop relationships before the research even starts and maintain them during the research process
- Think about what problem you are solving for whom?
- Different ways of disseminating the evidence: how do you reach your target audience?

Impact creation

| | Conditions | Dissemination | Take-up | Effects |
|-------------------|------------|---------------|---------|---------|
| Policy | | | | |
| Practice | | | | |
| Patients, Society | | | | |

To conclude

- Timeliness of research is important for evidence based policy making.
- In order to create timeliness of research, interaction between researchers and policy makers is necessary.
- To have an impact, think about what, when and how before you start.

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Judith de Jong

**PRESIDENT EUPHA HSR, PROGRAMME COORDINATOR NIVEL, PROFESSOR
MAASTRICHT UNIVERSITY**
www.nivel.nl/j.dejong@nivel.nl



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