Flanders
State of the Art

Open netwerk voor beleidsevaluatie
VEP
Vlaams Evaluatie Platform

KNBO-network &
Flemish Evaluation Platform (VEP)

Evidence-informed policymaking

- **Afternoon seminar, 18 Feb. 2020**

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Vlaams Evaluatie Platform

Introduction

Valérie Pattyn, VEP
Wim Winderickx, KNBO

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Vlaams Evaluatie Platform

Programme:

- **Prof. Dr. Pearl Dykstra,**
  - → Deputy Chair of the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors & Professor of Sociology, Erasmus University Rotterdam

- **Coffee break and networking**

- **Mr. David Mair,**
  - → Head of Unit, Knowledge for Policy: concepts and methods, Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission

- **Discussion**

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European Commission

European Commission's Group of

Chief Scientific Advisors

Scientific Advice to European Policy in a Complex World

Pearl Dykstra

Afternoon seminar on
"Evidence-informed policymaking""
Flemish Government, Brussels, 18 February 2020

Research and Innovation

European Commission

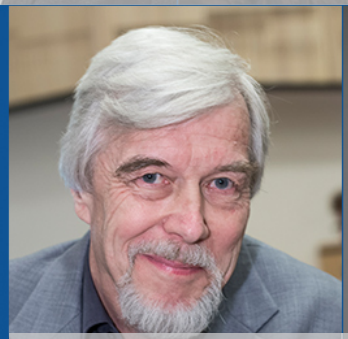
Group of Chief Scientific Advisors

Janusz Bujnicki
Biology
(Poland)

Pearl Dykstra
Sociology
(Netherlands)

Elvira Fortunato
Materials Science
(Portugal)

Nicole Grobert
Chemistry
(UK)



Rolf-Dieter Heuer
Physics
(Germany)

Carina Keskitalo
Political Sciences
(Sweden)

Sir Paul Nurse
Genetics
(UK)

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SCIENTIFIC ADVICE MECHANISM (SAM)

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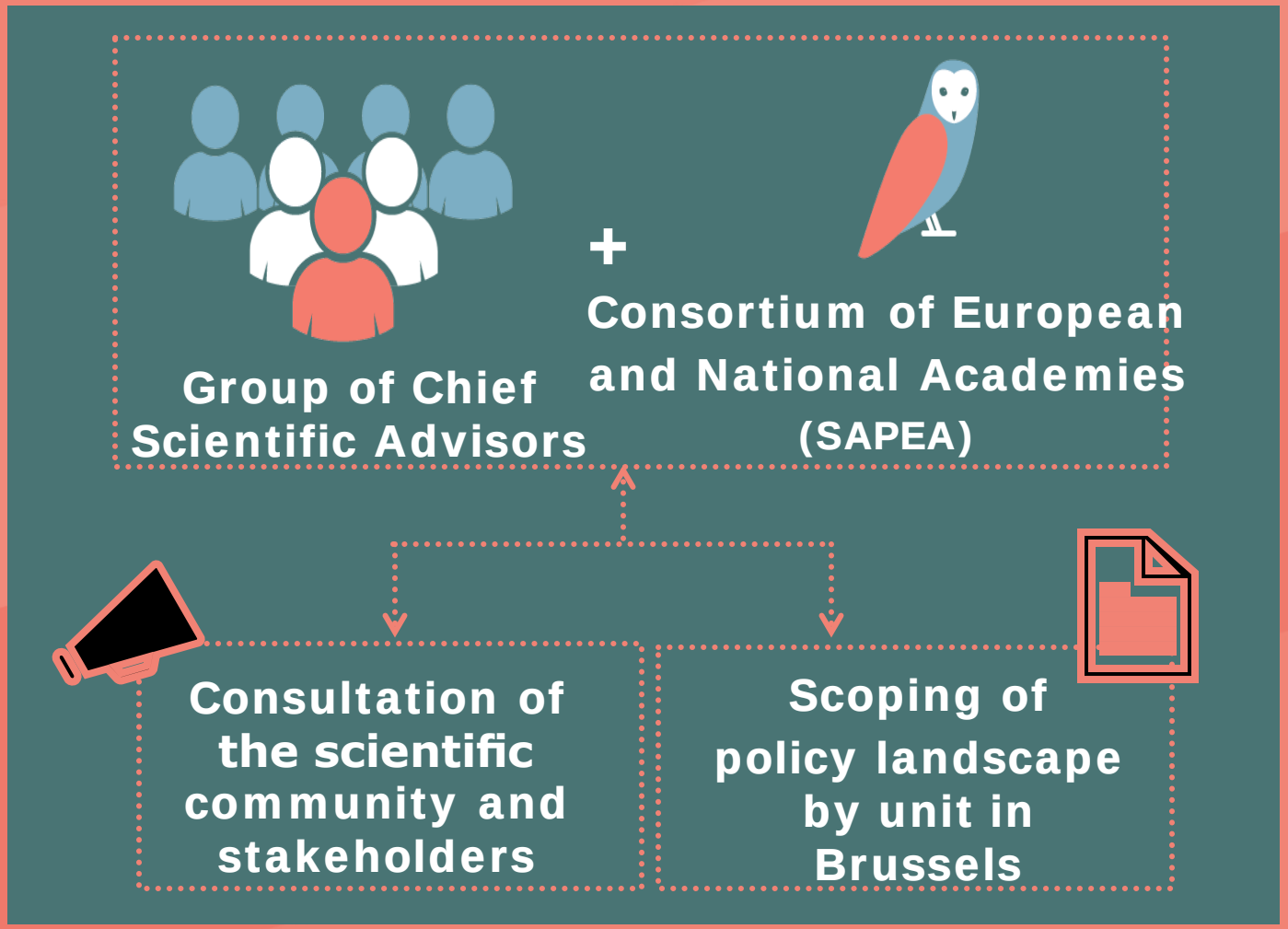
Established in 2015



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European Commission

Group of Chief Scientific Advisors

Scientific advice

European Commission

Proposals for policy or legislation

European Council

European Parliament

Better policy making and legislation

Outcome for citizens

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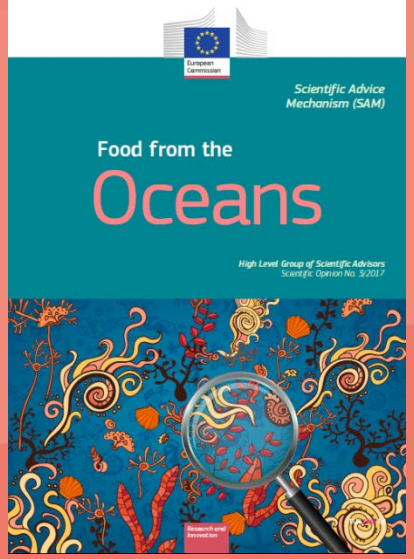
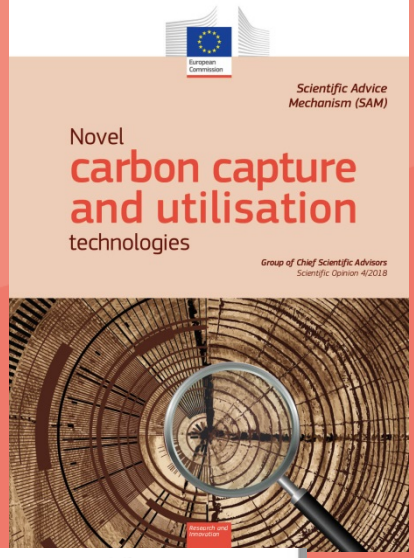
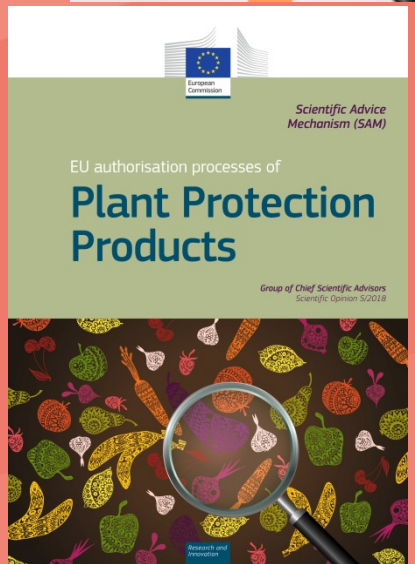
Scientific Advice Mechanism High Level Group

Explanatory note on scientific advice for the regulatory assessment of glyphosate in plant protection products



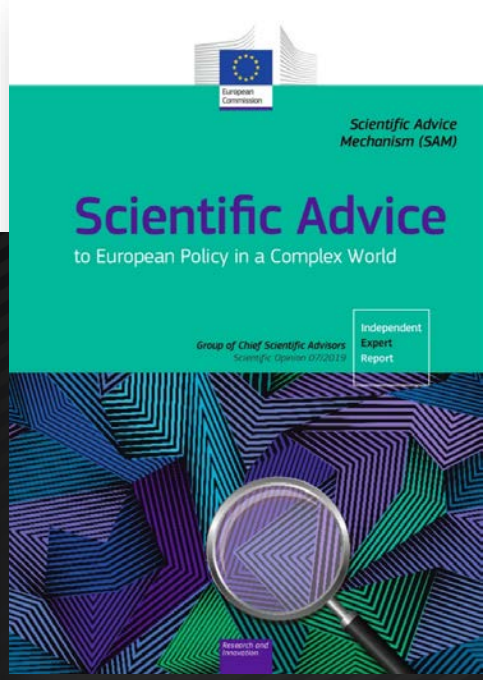




Our advice is being used; What seems to make us effective?

- We work in a consultative way
- We can rely on the best available evidence
- We tailor our recommendations to relevant legislation

More details in our 4-years report (coming out soon)



Background

EU policies address highly complex societal issues
Scientific evidence which is called upon

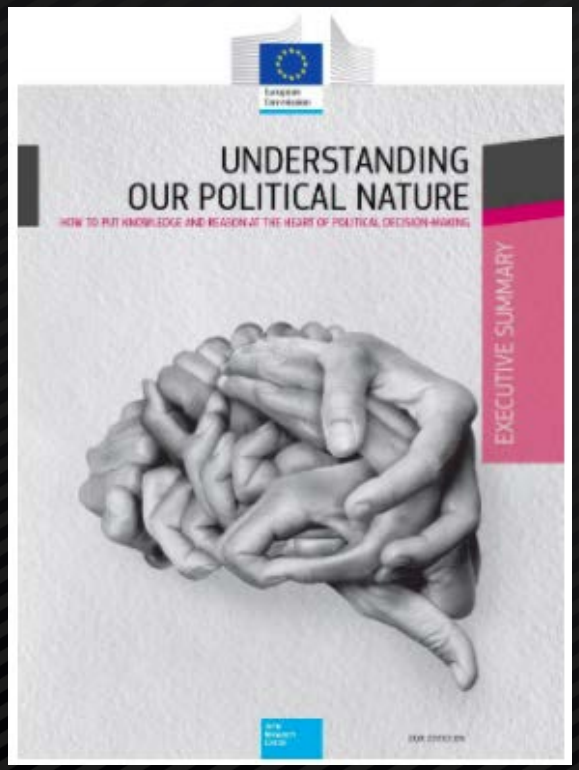
- Often equally complex
- Typically characterized by uncertainty

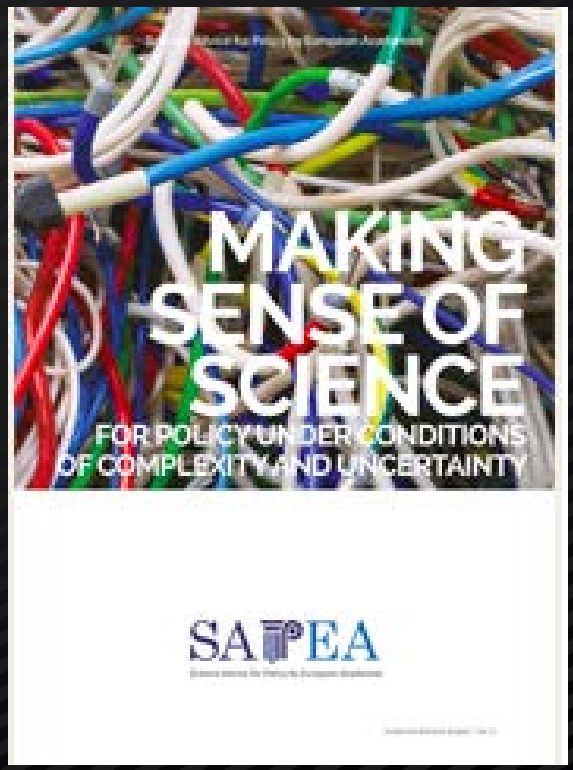
Role of scientific advice: reliable guide through complexity and uncertainty

➢ How to further strengthen scientific evidence and advice in Commission policymaking

Work on the *Scientific Opinion* informed by

- Insights from practice
- Scholarship on scientific advice





We base our work on a set of fundamental principles

- High-quality science is the bedrock of good scientific advice
- Scientific advisors need to demonstrate their trustworthiness as a prerequisite for doing their work well
- Scientific advice needs to be a transparent and impartial process
- There has to be a clear mandate to ensure that science is separate from politics

Three sets of recommendations

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Recommendation 1: Engage early and regularly

- Clarify boundaries between science, scientific advice, and politics
- Define together the questions for scientific advice

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Recommendation 2: Ensure the quality of the scientific evidence

- Use the full scope of good science
- Ensure rigorous synthesis of scientific evidence
- Ensure rigour in expert consultation
- Refine the approach to conflicts of interest
- Codify good scientific advice and consider oversight of its implementation

Recommendation 3: Analyse, assess and communicate uncertainties

- Technical
- Methodological
- Epistemic
- Societal

Recommendation 3: Analyse, assess and communicate uncertainties

- Use the most suitable uncertainty analysis approaches
- Communicate uncertainties and diverging scientific views
- Explain the path from evidence to advice

See the *Scientific Opinion* for examples of practical tools

- Deliberative methods to define questions
- Evidence synthesis methods
- Uncertainty assessments
- Etc

When policy issues are contested: involve stakeholders via an analytic-deliberative process to

- Identify any overlooked aspects
- Communicate the quality of the scientific evidence
- Gather new relevant evidence
- Gauge the implications of policy options
- Communicate the reasoning underlying the policy options

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Further information?

ec.europa.eu/research/sam

#SAMGroup_EU

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The European Commission's science and knowledge service

Joint Research Centre

Understanding Our Political Nature:

How to put knowledge and reason at the heart of political decision-making

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Image credit: © pixelrobot - Fotolia

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1. Misperception and disinformation

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Our thinking skills are challenged by today's information environment and make us vulnerable to disinformation. We need to think more about how we think.

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2. Collective intelligence

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Science can help us re-design the way policymakers work together to take better decisions and prevent policy mistakes.

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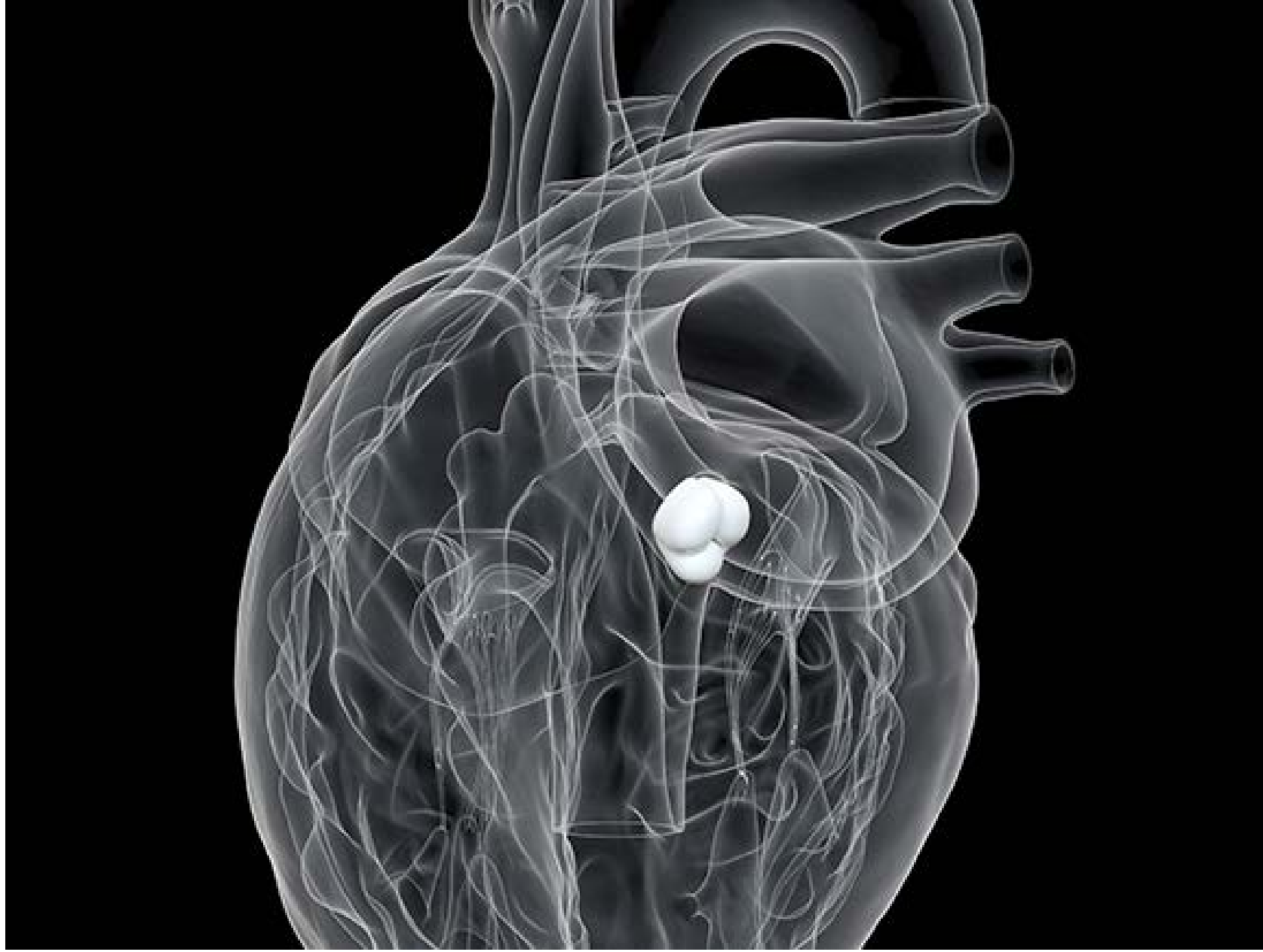
3. Emotions



We can't separate emotion from reason. Better information about citizens' emotions and greater emotional literacy could improve policymaking.

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4. Values and identity

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Values and identities drive political behaviour but are not properly understood or debated.

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5. Framing, metaphor and narrative

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Facts don't speak for themselves. Framing, metaphors and narratives need to be used responsibly if evidence is to be heard and understood.

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6. Trust and openness

European Commission

The erosion of trust in experts and in government can only be addressed by greater honesty and public deliberation about interests and values.

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7. Evidence-informed policymaking

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The principle that policy should be informed by evidence is under serious attack. Politicians, scientists and civil society need to defend this cornerstone of liberal democracy.

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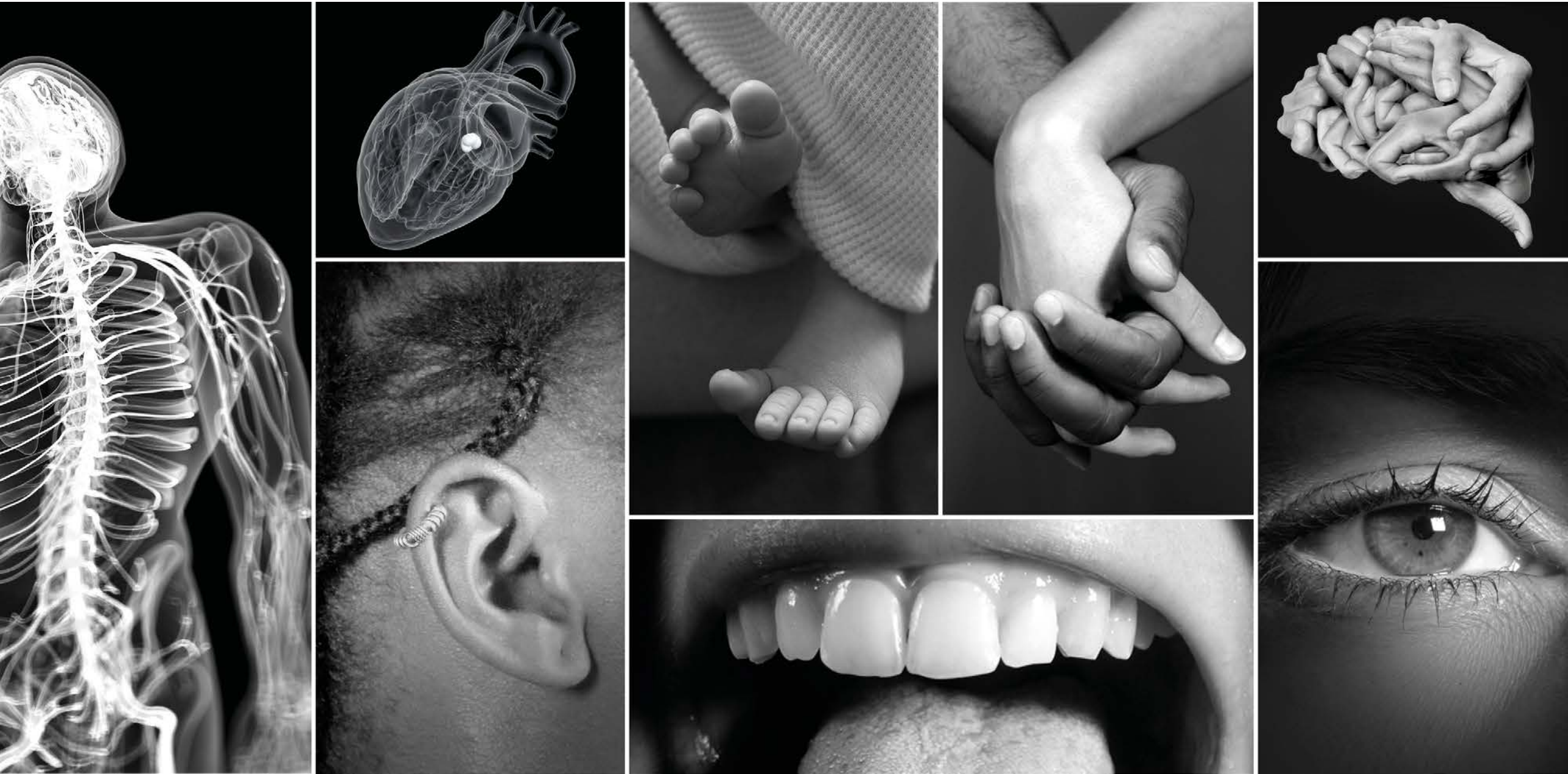
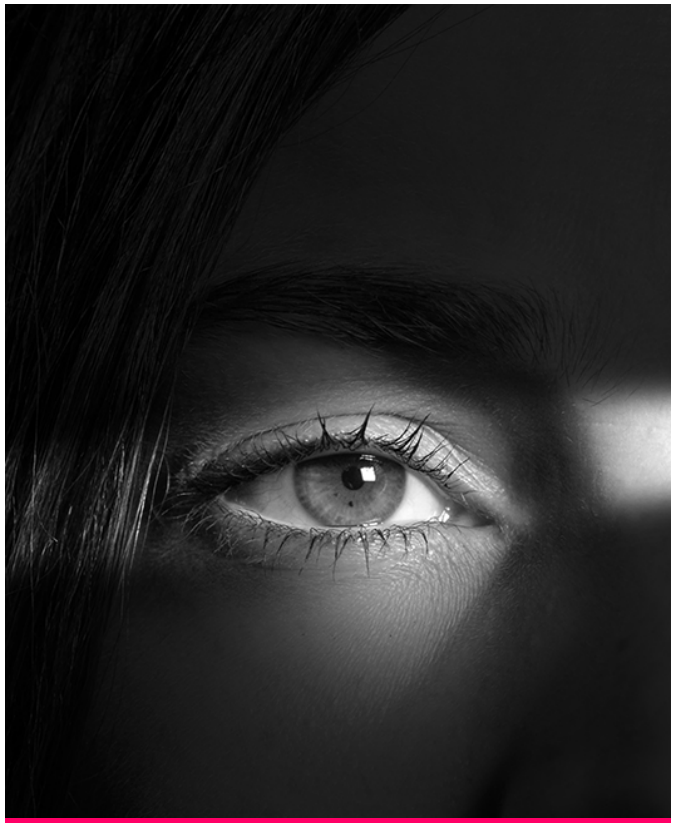
A new model for political decision-making

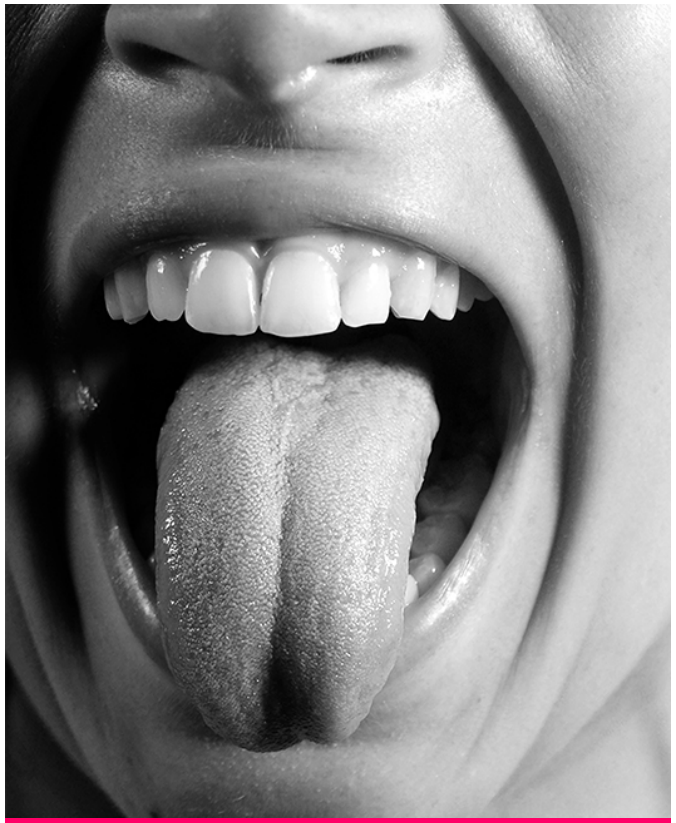


What's next for the JRC?

The science of values



Political influence in the digital age



Meaningful, ethical Communications

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Thank you