Reshaping Science-Policy Interactions in Climate Policy: International Stock-Taking and Lessons for Austria

www.wiso.boku.ac.at/rescipi.html

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Climate policy in need of more effective 'knowledge brokerage'

'ReSciPI – **Re**shaping **Sci**ence-**P**olicy **I**nteractions in Climate Policy' starts from the assumption that the complex field of climate change mitigation and adaptation is in urgent need of 'usable knowledge' and that sound scientific expertise has the potential to make valuable contributions to more effective policies. At the same time, the operative linking of substantive knowledge and political and societal decision-making still proves to be a difficult task.

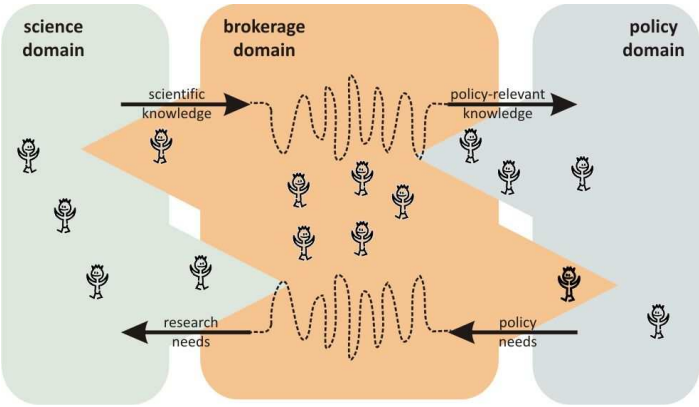
On the one hand, we hear chronic complaints about decision-makers not obtaining the information that they need and scientists producing information that is not used; on the other hand, we witness instances of science getting dragged into political turf battles (cf. the 'Climategate' affair which reinvigorated 'climate sceptics' in the run-up to the Copenhagen climate conference).

Objective of ReSciPI

The overall objective of ReSciPI is to **provide policy-relevant insights on effective science-policy interactions in climate policy,** especially with respect to the question of how science-policy interactions can be effectively *institutionalized* and how *processes of knowledge brokerage* between various actor groups (including climate scientists, policy-makers, interest group representatives, civil society actors, and the media) can be fostered.

Science-policy interaction as knowledge brokerage

ReSciPI builds on a conceptual notion of the science-policy interface that clearly goes beyond a 'linear model' of mere knowledge transfer. In ReSciPI, a more iterative and dynamic understanding of the interaction between science and decision-making is adopted. This model can best be captured with the concept of **'knowledge brokerage'** (KB). The KB model proceeds from the assumption that science and politics come together in a 'brokerage domain' in which they 'negotiate' the relevance and cogency of knowledge claims – while still keeping their particular identities and operating conditions as specific societal sub-systems.



From a KB perspective, science-policy inter-actions are seen as dynamic exercises that evolve over time, occur sequentially and often iteratively, and typically involve long-term interactions between scientists, policy-makers, interest groups, the media and citizens. The KB model is not a homogeneous theory but it rather draws on different **theories of political science and science & technology studies** which provide more differentiated insights on the role of science in political and societal decision-making processes.

In ReSciPI, the KB model is used to **analyze concrete innovative models and forms of climate science-policy interactions in different industrialized countries**.

Work Plan

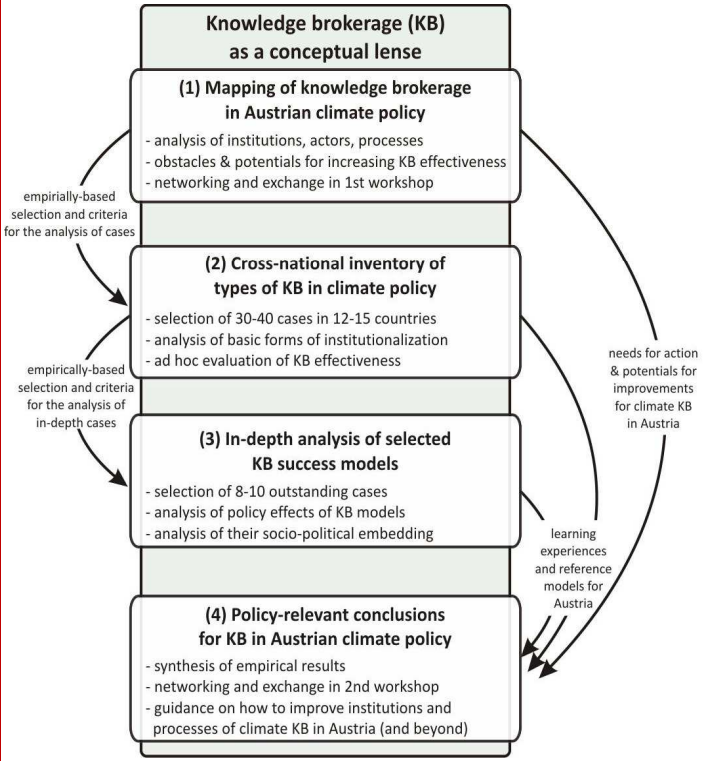
ReSciPI runs for 24 months and is structured into four distinct Work Packages:

(1) A mapping and analysis of the institutions, actors and processes of science-policy interaction in Austrian climate policy in order to identify the strengths, weaknesses, potentials and obstacles for an effective knowledge brokerage.

(2) A systematic overview of different forms of climate KB in selected industrialized countries by means of a stock-taking survey.

(3) An in-depth analysis of outstanding KB models in order to get a profound understanding of how climate science and climate policy are effectively integrated.

(4) A synthesis of the insights on innovative forms of climate KB and a discussion of their transferability to the Austrian context.



Products and user value

Workshop 1

- Brings together relevant actors at the science-policy nexus in Austria
- Identifies strengths, weaknesses, options and challenges for effective knowledge brokerage in Austrian climate policy

Report on knowledge brokerage landscape in Austrian climate policy:

- Provides overview on institutions, actors and processes of climate KB in Austria
- Informs about the potentials, challenges and obstacles for effective KB in Austria

Compendium of approaches of KB in climate policy (incl. short profiles of cases)

- Classifies and informs about innovative models for institutionalizing climate KB
- Provides international learning lessons

Case study report (in English) with in-depth analysis of effective KB

- Provides deeper insights in good practice examples of the effective linking of science and policy
- Informs about the compatibility of successful KB models with the Austrian context

Policy Brief (in German)

- Summarizes the project results and lessons learnt from case studies including 'hypotheses' on the transferability to the Austrian context

Workshop 2

- Continues networking between climate science and policy in Austria
- Discusses international experiences and options for a more effective knowledge brokerage in Austrian climate policy

Synthesis report

- Provides policy-relevant conclusions for the effective institutionalization of climate KB in Austria

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For more detailed information on the project and its deliverables visit the ReSciPI website:

www.wiso.boku.ac.at/rescipi.html