

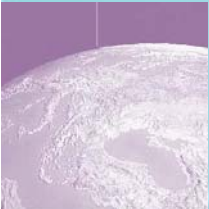
Experiences from the Interface of Science and Policy

Drs. Bert de Wit,
Programme Manager RMNO

Does our Work have the Desired Effect?

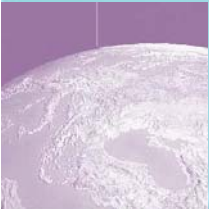
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- Official Reaction of Minister or Secretary of State
- Stakeholders' Reactions
- Assessing Effectiveness is more difficult when dealing with Advice on Knowledge and Research
- Learning from Failures and Disasters

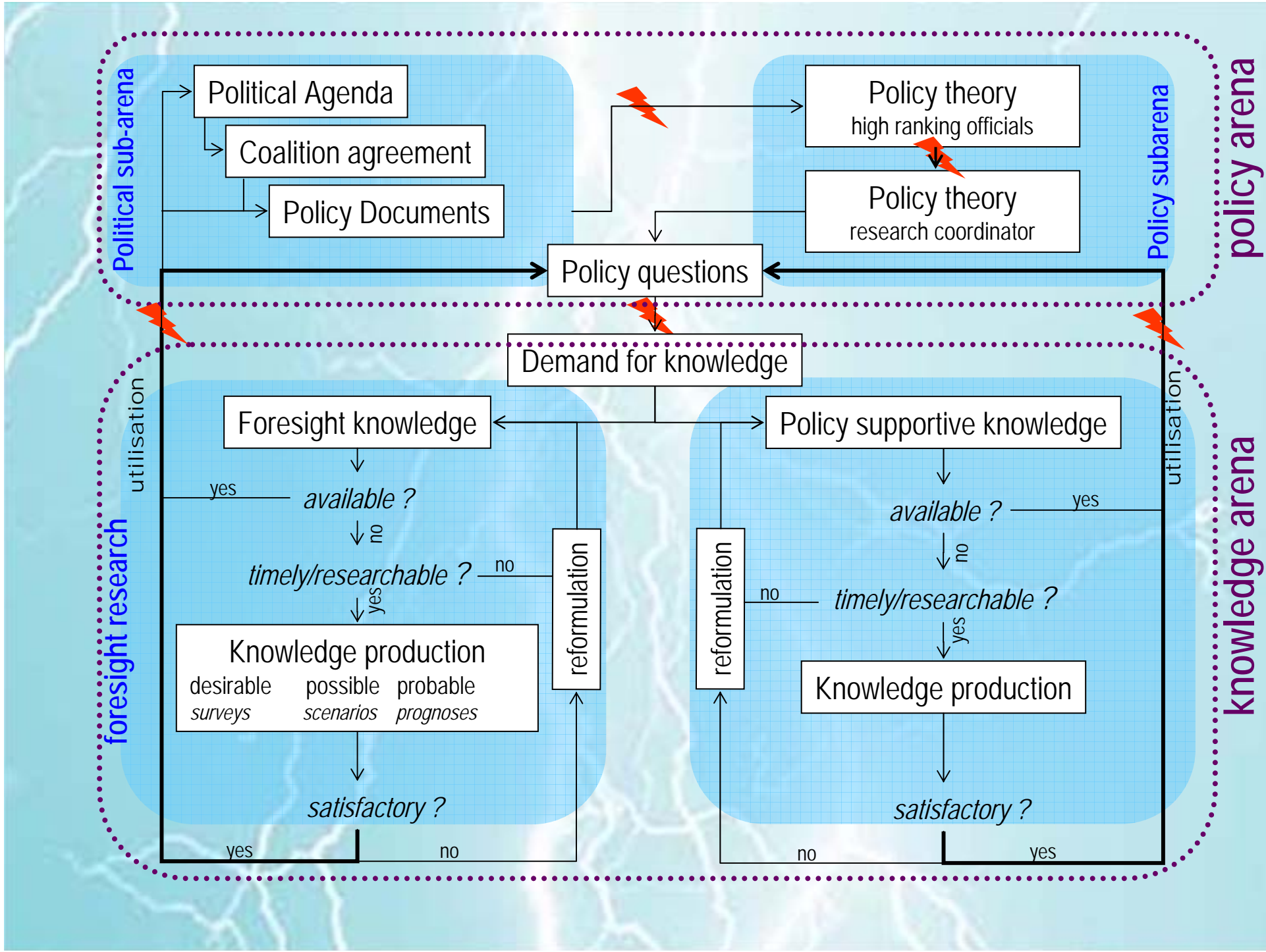


Analysis of Knowledge Use in Complex Policy Problems

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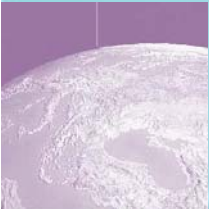
- Manure Policy
 - 5th Landing Strip of Amsterdam Airport
 - The Betuwe Railway Track for Cargo Transport to Germany (Willingly and Knowingly, 2000)
- Strategic Use of Knowledge is quite common



Improving the Knowledge Base for Better Policies

European Commission 2002 Guidelines

- Involving Divergent Views
- Consultation of Interested Parties
- Making explicit the Interests of Experts
- Highlighting Persisting Uncertainties



Mismatches and Inadequacies I

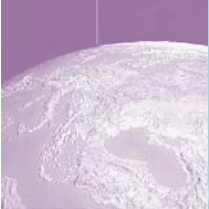
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- The **Type of Advice** needed and given:
- Reflexive; adequate for Long Term Problems and Policy Evaluation: or:
- Instrumental; Advice that fits in a Policy Context, Short Term Problems; or:
- Organizing Joint Fact Finding in a Dialogue with Policy-Makers, Scientists and Stakeholders; or:
- Advocating; from a Critical Point of View.
- Tendency in NL: to abolish Policy Advice Structures

Mismatches and Inadequacies II

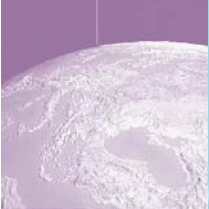
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- **Inadequate Articulation** of Knowledge Needs of Policy-Makers
- Especially Strategic Knowledge (about Future) is neglected
- Brain Drain of Departmental Specialists
- Knowledge Arenas: Participation of Stakeholders and Local Authorities in a kind of Dialogue.

Mismatches and Inadequacies III

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- Typology of the Problem is essential
- Is a Dialogue, Joint Fact Finding necessary?
- Is a Monodisciplinary, Interdisciplinary or Transdisciplinary Approach needed?

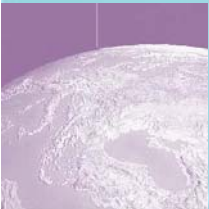
Typology of the problem

Consensus on Relevant Values

| | Yes | No |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Consensus on Relevant Knowledge | <p>Yes</p> <p>Structured Problem</p> <p>Method: matching supply and demand, translation, contextualisation</p> | <p>Badly Structured Problem</p> <p>Method: make value orientations explicit. Find means of pacification</p> |
| | <p>No</p> <p>Moderately Structured Problem</p> <p>Method: expert hearings Joint Fact Finding</p> | <p>Unstructured Problem</p> <p>Method: (learning) dialogue (process)</p> <p>Joint Fact Finding, etc.</p> |

Mismatches and Inadequacies IV

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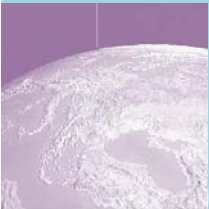
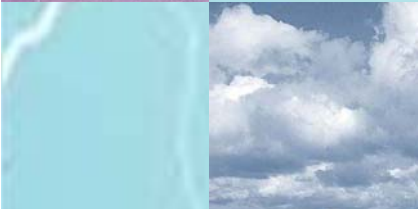


- Inadequate Reflection on:
 - How to deal with **Uncertainties**?
 - How to foster **Policy Learning**?
 - How to **create Trust**?
 - The **Institutional Design** of giving Advice
- (W. Halffman (2007): Comparison between Flanders, DK, N)

Mismatches and Inadequacies

V

Advisory council for Research on Spatial Planning, Nature and the Environment



- **Inadequate Reflection on the Role Scientists and Policy-makers** play and should play in a specific Problem Context
- Dominant Discourses
- Co-Production of Knowledge needed in the case of Unstructured Problems
- Deliberative Turn in the UK after the BSE Crisis

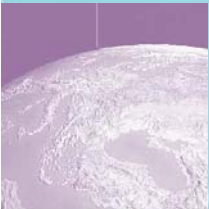
Discourses on Boundary Work between Science and Policy, Politics

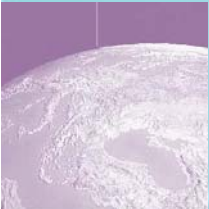
| Operational code | Primacy for Science | No Primacy; Dialogue | Primacy for Politics |
|-----------------------------|--|---|---|
| Diverging Functions | (1) Enlightenment Discourse (science as a provider of new ideas) | (2) Advocacy Discourse (science as a provider of arguments) | (3) Bureaucratic Discourse (science as a data provider) |
| Converging Functions | (4) Technocratic Discourse (science as a [virtual] power) | (5) Learning Discourse (community of researchers as a political role model) | (6) Engineer's Discourse (science as a market for [social] technologies) |



How do we work?

- A Systematic Way of Working is needed on the Interface
- General Project Management Requirements
- Specific Procedures for making a Knowledge or Research Agenda.
- Specific Competences needed for Boundary Work
(Attitude, Inter- and Transdisciplinary Work)





Publications

www.RMNO.nl

Methodology of Boundary Work

Building Bridges

Knowledge for the Day after
Tomorrow

(Knowledge Arenas)