

Elementary - R1

Advanced - R1

Postdocs - R2

Senior Postdocs - R3



Trainer



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Tome Sandevski is heading the policy engagement unit at the Research Support Division at Goethe-University Frankfurt.

He has vast experience regarding various policy engagement formats. Mr Sandevski has worked at the science-policy interface in various capacities at universities, NGOs and think tanks.

From Research to Academic Policy Engagement: A Guide to Exchanging Knowledge with Policymakers in Parliaments, Ministries and EU-Institutions

Objective

Addressing multifaceted policy challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, biodiversity loss, social cohesion, and security threats requires scientific expertise. At the same time, experience has shown that productive exchange between policymakers and scientists can be difficult. Policymakers often struggle to interpret scientific evidence, while researchers frequently lack an understanding of policymaking structures and policymakers' needs. In addition, many researchers find it challenging to integrate policy engagement (or knowledge transfer more broadly) into their research projects or funding applications. This workshop provides practical approaches to addressing these challenges.

After successfully completing the workshop, participants will:

- have a basic understanding of policymaking structures in Germany and the European Union,
- be able to identify relevant target groups for their expertise in parliaments, ministries, and EU institutions,
- gain an overview of written and dialogue-oriented policy engagement formats that can be integrated into research projects,
- understand how policymaking professionals use (and sometimes do not use) academic knowledge, and
- become familiar with examples of how academic careers can be combined with policy engagement.

Description

The workshop is structured around five key themes. First, we will examine the differences between academic research, policy-oriented research, and policymaking. Second, participants will receive an overview of policymaking structures in Germany and the European Union, providing a foundation for understanding how their academic expertise can better reach policymakers. Third, we will discuss various engagement formats (e.g., policy briefs, policy reports, face-to-face meetings, and policy events) that can be used to interact with policymakers. Fourth, policymaking professionals from the European Commission or federal ministries will provide insights into how scientific expertise is used in policy processes. Fifth, senior researchers or research managers will share their experiences of engaging with policymakers and discuss how policy engagement can benefit academic research.

Methodology

The workshop is highly interactive and includes several practical exercises. Approximately three weeks prior to the workshop, participants will receive a list of guiding questions. Completing the questions in advance is optional but strongly recommended; preparation will take approximately 1–2 hours. All participants will receive a personal checklist that they can complete during the workshop to support the practical application of the workshop content.

Organizational Information

Language / Format	English / Online
Target group	Doctoral Candidates at all stages and Postdocs (R2/R3) from all faculties
Date	Friday, 29 May 2026, 9:00 – 13:30
Registration	Click here for registration