Programme

Evidence for Policymakers

An international conference on structuring evidence and data for improved policymaking

December 15 - 18, 2020
The Hague, The Netherlands

Target groups
Strategic Policymakers on international, national and sub-national level
Policy Oriented Scientists, Coordinators of Policy Research
Governmental Science Advisors, Governmental Data Scientists
Policy Evaluators

Organised by

Partners
Evidence for Policymakers

Background
In times of crisis, the relationship between evidence and policymaking may change dramatically. The current Covid-19 Crisis generated manifestations of “evidence based policymaking” in an unprecedented way, both internationally and nationally. It also showed that the need to use internationally organized reliable data for effective policy interventions has never been more urgent in times of peace. This information needs to be both profound and directly available.

This conference treats the outcomes of the current crisis as input for the process for professionalizing the structured interaction between evidence and policymaking. The current learning processes and challenges will be analyzed in the context of the existing knowledge infrastructure for policymakers. Instruments for creating evidence for policymakers have tremendously grown with the introduction of Big Data and the development of algorithms for generating new insights. Another widespread development is the use of Randomised Controlled Trials (RCT’s) in order to enhance the effectiveness of policy instruments and the growth of new standards for experimental policies.

Evidence for the effectiveness of new policy interventions is often related to the evaluation of policymaking. National Statistical Offices and many other governmental agencies play a role here. Evidence may also - especially in crisis situations - be used for the prediction of the effectiveness of new policies. In the Netherlands, the Policy Analysis Agencies (Plan Bureaus) have gained a special reputation to generate broadly accepted calculations which predict the effectiveness of political programs. Behavior Insight Teams in different parts of the world also have gained a reputation in creating well substantiated instruments to predict and enhance the effectiveness of policy interventions.

In all of these processes of shaping evidence informed policymaking, scientists from all kind of disciplines, whether it is data science, statistics, policy research, behavioral sciences or a structured way of fact checking, play a crucial role to substantiate the development of policies. These processes for a sound substantiation for policymaking are a main contribution to more effective and predictable policies, if well organized.

Organizing evidence for policy
The way that evidence for policy is organized, differs strongly per country or region in the world. In the Anglo-Saxon culture we see Chief Government scientists, organizing the impact of science form inside the Ministries. In 2010, the UK Prime Minister has successfully launched its What Works Networks with their related Behavior Insight Teams. In the US, we have seen What Works Cities and the “data for evidence” initiatives, started at the White House. Moreover, in January 2019, the US federal government has signed into law the “Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act”. In the European Union in 2016, the Science Advice mechanism has evolved and Joint Research Centres play a role. The Netherlands has its Central Policy Analysis Agencies. In Singapore we see a National Research Council, housed at the Prime Minister’s Office.

Evidence for effective policies needs to be robust and preferably universal. Bringing together the managers of these processes will create new insights and mutual benefits. This conference has the aim to bring together these experts worldwide to learn which methods and instruments can be applied for which situations and how they may improve the quality of evidence provided.
Topics
The conference will treat a range of issues that influence our capacity to enhance the development and practical use of evidence for policymakers. The topics that will be addressed are:

- **Policies and Strategies for Evidence Informed Policymaking (Tuesday December 15)**
  - Approaches to stimulate the effectiveness of policies in a structured way
  - How can we systemize the development, sharing and use of evidence for policymakers?
  - How can we optimize the development and dissemination of evidence for policymakers?
  - Activating public research from Evidence Informed Policy

- **Creating and Using Evidence in the Policy Cycle (Wednesday December 16)**
  - Generating evidence before policies have started
  - Recommendations for using Ex-ante evidence for policies and politics

- **Data and Algorithms for Better Policy (Thursday December 17)**
  - How can we be both responsible and effective?
  - How can providers and users of AI create more substantiated policies

- **Structuring Evidence in Government and Politics (Friday December 18)**
  - How can we effectively develop and share evidence for thematic policies?
  - How can we structure the use of evidence for policymakers and politicians?

Organization
The Conference is organized jointly by Leiden University, Faculty for Governance and Global Affairs (FGGA) and ScienceWorks. ScienceWorks will coordinate the full organization of the event, while the content and supervision will be coordinated by the PAC, Chaired by the Dean of FGGA, Erwin Muller.

Program Advisory Committee (PAC)
Leiden University
Alliance for Useful Evidence/NESTA
The Netherlands Scientific Council for Government Policy (WRR)
Consortium for Science, Policy & Outcome
Ministry of Finance
International Network for Government Science Advice
Results for America
OECD Unit for Evidence, Monitoring and Policy Evaluation
Unit Science Advice to Policy, EU
Evidence & Policy Journal
Dutch Association of Universities (VSNU)
USA Data Coalition
Africa Center for Evidence
Dutch Association for Policy Evaluators (Vide)/SWOV
Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO)
University of Twente
Science Advice Initiative of Finland
Science Advice for Policy by European Academies
Transforming Evidence
Campbell Collaboration
Leiden Centre for Datascience
Leiden University
Research Policy Online
Rathenau Institute
Statistics Netherlands (CBS)
Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment
Data for Policy
Dutch Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)
Leiden University

Erwin Muller (Chair)
Jonathan Breckon
Frans Brom
Daniel Sarewitz
Nynke de Witte
Peter Gluckman
David Medina
Stephane Jacobzone
Katherine Smith
Pieter Duijzenberg
Nick Hart
Ruth Stewart
Peter van der Knaap
Peter Werkhoven
Barend van der Meulen
Jaakko Kuosmanen
Toby Wardman
Kathryn Oliver
Howard White
Jaap van den Herik
Bernard Steunenberg
Patricia Faashe
Bert Kroese
Niels-Ingvar Boer
Zeynep Engin
Jeanet Bruil
Valérie Pattyn
Social Programme

Monday 14 December: 15.00 - 17.00

City Tour The Hague

Prior to the conference we offer you a tour in the inspiring city of The Hague. Starting at the Campus The Hague of Leiden University, we will visit various iconic sights, including the Mauritshuis Museum, Binnenhof and the royal Noordeinde Palace.

Monday 14 December: 17.30

Welcome Drink & Reception

This is depending on the actual Covid-19 restrictions. This meet-up - even if it is virtually through our advanced digital platform - may be used as the ideal opportunity to share first expectations regarding the conference.

Monday 14 December 15.00 - 17.00

City Tour The Hague II

In addition to the historical tour, we may visit various Dutch ministries, where you will be informed about their policies and how they are related to Leiden University. Another option is a visit to the Peace Palace, The Hague icon of international cooperation.

Tuesday 15 December: 18.00

Conference Dinner

This is depending on the actual Covid-19 restrictions.
## Draft Programme Tuesday December 15

**Policies and Strategies for Evidence Informed Policymaking**

### Times in CET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.30 - 11.00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.00 - 11.15</td>
<td>Welcome by: Erwin Muller, Dean of Governance and Global Affairs, Leiden University, Conference Chair: Pieter Duijzenberg, Chair of The Association of Universities in the Netherlands (VSNU)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.15 - 12.30</td>
<td>I  Plenary opening - Approaches to stimulate the effectiveness of policies in a structured way</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.15</td>
<td>Ingrid van Engelshoven, Minister of Education, Culture and Science, The Netherlands</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.30</td>
<td>David Mair, Head of Unit, Knowledge for Policy, European Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.45</td>
<td>Hans Kluge*, Regional Director for Europe, World Health Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.00</td>
<td>Peter Gluckman, Chair of International Network of Government Science Advisors (INGSA) &amp; incoming President of the International Council of Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.15</td>
<td>Panel discussion and Q&amp;A led by the conference co-chair: Pieter Duijzenberg</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 - 13.15</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.15-14.30</td>
<td>II Parallel sessions - What Works Where and When: How can we systemize the development, sharing and use of evidence for policymakers?</td>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chair: Marie Gaarder</td>
<td>Chair: Jonathan Breckon</td>
<td>Chair: Arwin van Buuren</td>
<td>Chair: Justin Parkhurst, Associate Professor of Global Health Policy in the LSE Department of Health Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Director, International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3IE)</td>
<td>Director, Alliance for Useful Evidence, UK</td>
<td>Professor of Public Administration, Erasmus University Rotterdam</td>
<td>Associate Professor of Global Health Policy in the LSE Department of Health Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laurens Langer</td>
<td>Rachel Tuffin</td>
<td>David Medina</td>
<td>Barend van der Meulen, Director of the Center for Higher Education Policy Studies &amp; Full Professor Evidence and Policy, University of Twente</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence Synthesis Specialist, Africa Centre for Evidence (ACE)</td>
<td>Executive Lead for the What Works Centre for Crime Reduction, UK</td>
<td>COO and Co-Founder, Results for America</td>
<td>Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephane Jacobzone</td>
<td>Jeanne van Loon</td>
<td>Katherine Smith</td>
<td>Position</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head of Unit, Evidence Monitoring and policy Evaluation, OECD</td>
<td>Head of Unit, Knowledge, Ministry of Education, Culture and Science</td>
<td>Co-Editor, Evidence &amp; Policy Journal</td>
<td>Representative* Province of South Holland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Praticia Rose Paskov</td>
<td>Jeanet Bruil</td>
<td></td>
<td>Province of South Holland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact Evaluation Analyst, Worldbank</td>
<td>Head of the Dutch Research Agenda, Dutch Research Council (NWO)</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.30 - 15.00</td>
<td>Break</td>
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</table>
Draft Programme Tuesday December 15

**Policies and Strategies for Evidence Informed Policymaking**

**Times in CET**

| 15.00-16.15 | III Parallel sessions - External and internal evidence-systems for policymaking: *How can we optimize the development and dissemination of evidence for policymakers?*
| International | National | Regional/Local | ‘Behind Closed Doors’ Sessions: *Policy Based Evidence* (Chatham house rules apply)

**Chair:** Peter Gluckman  
President, International Government of Science Advice (INGSA)

**Chair:** Jaakko Kuosmanen  
Secretary of Academy, Science Advice Initiative of Finland (SOFI)

**Chair:** Name  
Position

**Representative:**  
Michel Bloemheuvel  
Advisor and researcher, Sira Consulting & Leo Ancher  
Coordinating Account Manager and Strategic Advisor, Province of South Holland

**Tarmo Soomere**  
President, Estonian Academy of Sciences

**Patricia Atkinson**  
Director of the Results & Delivery Unit, Global Affairs, Canada

**Scott Douglas**  
Prof. Public management, Utrecht University School of Governance

**Dirk-Jan Koch**  
Chief Science Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Reinhard Hüttl**  
President, Science Advice for Policy by European Academies (SAPEA)

**Anne-Greet Keizer**  
Research Fellow and International Liaison, The Netherlands Scientific Council for Government Policy (WRR) & Executive Secretary of European Science Advisors Forum (ESAF)

**Dutch Social and Cultural Planning Office (SCP)**

**‘Behind Closed Doors’ Sessions: *Policy Based Evidence* (Chatham house rules apply)**

**Chair:** Jeroen Kerseboom  
Head of Research Department at the Netherlands House of Representatives

**Frans Leeuw**  
Former Director, Research and Documentation Centre (WODC), Ministry of Justice

**Sarah Foxen**  
Knowledge Exchange Lead, POST, UK Parliament

**Sierd Cloetingh**  
President, Academia Europaea

| 16.15 - 16.45 | Break |
| 16.45 - 17.05 | Recommendations for the closing panel |

| 17.05-18.00 | IV Interactive panel - Activating public research from Evidence Informed Policy |

**Introductions of the panel by:**

**Thom de Graaf**  
Vice-President at the Netherlands Council of State

**Patricia Atkinson**  
Director of the Results & Delivery Unit, Global Affairs, Canada

**Moderator:**

**Pieter Duijzenberg**  
Chair of The Association of Universities in the Netherlands (VSNU)

**Panel Members:**

**David Mair**  
Senior Vice President, Program, William T. Grant Foundation, USA

**Vivian Tseng**  
Director of the Results & Delivery Unit, Global Affairs, Canada

**Howard White**  
Chief Executive Officer of Campbell Collaboration, Norway

**18:30**  
Conference Dinner (Location T.B.A.)
Draft Programme Wednesday December 16

Creating and Using Evidence in the Policy Cycle

Times in CET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13.45 - 14.00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.00 - 15.00</td>
<td>V Plenary opening</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 14.00 | Conference co-Chair: Peter van der Knaap  
Chairman of the Dutch Association for Policy Evaluation (Vide)  
Chief Executive Officer of Campbell Collaboration, Norway  
President of the European Evaluation Society  
Vice-President of Evidence Based Policy, Laura and John Arnold Foundation |
| 14.15 | Howard White  
Chief Executive Officer of Campbell Collaboration, Norway |
| 14.30 | Danièle Lamarque  
President of the European Evaluation Society |
| 14.45 | Jon Baron  
Vice-President of Evidence Based Policy, Laura and John Arnold Foundation |

15.00 - 15.15 | Move to sessions

15.15-16.30 | VI Parallel sessions - Assessing evidence for policymakers: Generate evidence before policies have started

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Big Data</th>
<th>Intervention Data Bases</th>
<th>Structuring Ex-ante Impact Assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Chair: Stephane Jacobzone  
Head of Unit, Evidence Monitoring and policy Evaluation, OECD |
| Chair: Gerty Lensvelt-Mulders  
Director, Research and Documentation Centre (WODC), Ministry of Justice |
| Chair: Djoek van Dale  
Senior advisor, National Institute for Public Health and the Environment |
| Chair: Peter van der Knaap  
Chairman of the Dutch Association for Policy Evaluation (Vide) |
| Nynke de Witte  
Deputy Head of the Strategic Analysis Unit, Inspectorate of the Budget, Ministry of Finance |
| US Representative*  
Position |
| US Representative*  
Position |
| Pierre Arwidson*  
Directeur adjoint de la prévention chargé des affaires scientifiques |
| Daniel Trnka  
Senior Policy Analyst, OECD |
| Peter Bex  
Founder/Director, Sira Consulting |
| NCTV Representative*  
Position |
| Name  
Position |
| Valérie Pattyn  
Assistant Professor, the Institute of Public Administration of Leiden University |

16.30 - 16.45 | Break

16.45 - 17.00 | Recommendations for the closing panel

17.00 - 17.30 | VII Interactive Panel - Recommendations for using Ex-ante evidence for policies and politics

Moderator:

Peter van der Knaap  
Chairman of the Dutch Association for Policy Evaluation (Vide)

Panel members:

Danièle Lamarque  
President of the European Evaluation Society

Howard White  
Chief Executive Officer of Campbell Collaboration, Norway

Joost Sneller  
Member of the House of Representatives, Democrats 66 (D66)

Bart Snels  
Member of the House of Representatives, GroenLinks

17:30 | Closing Remarks and (virtual) reception
### Draft Programme Thursday December 17

**Data and Algorithms for Better Policy**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Times in CET</th>
<th>13.45 - 14.00</th>
<th>Registration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14.00 - 15.00</td>
<td>VIII Plenary opening</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.00</td>
<td>Peter van der Knaap</td>
<td>Conference co-chair and Chairman of the Dutch Association for Policy Evaluation (Vide)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.05</td>
<td>Nick Hart</td>
<td>President, Data Foundation, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.20</td>
<td>Barbara Ubaldi</td>
<td>Digital Government Lead, OECD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.35</td>
<td>Angelique Berg</td>
<td>Director General of Statistics Netherlands (CBS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.50</td>
<td>Representative</td>
<td>Province of South-Holland</td>
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</tbody>
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| 15.05 - 15.15| Move to sessions |

| 15.15 - 16.30| IX Parallel sessions - Data & algorithms for better policies: *How can we be both responsible and effective?* |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>International</th>
<th>National</th>
<th>Regional/Local</th>
<th>‘Behind Closed Doors’ Sessions: <em>How Dark are Data?</em> (Chatham house rules apply)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chair: Zeynep Engin</td>
<td>Chair: Nick Hart</td>
<td>Chair: Jeroen van Velzen</td>
<td>Chair: Jaap van den Herik</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Founder of the Data for Policy Journal, UK</td>
<td>President, Data Foundation, USA</td>
<td>Chief Director of the Directorate of Data Services, Research and Innovation, Statistics Netherlands (CBS)</td>
<td>Professor Data Science FGGA/ LCDS, Leiden University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Ubaldi</td>
<td>Marieke van Putten</td>
<td>Representative</td>
<td>Bram Klievink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Government Lead, OECD</td>
<td>Senior Innovation Manager, Ministry of Interior</td>
<td>Province of South Holland</td>
<td>Full Professor of Public Administration &amp; Digitalisation, Leiden University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hans Kluge*</td>
<td>Anne Fleur van Veenstra</td>
<td>Claar Schouwenaar</td>
<td>Massimo Craglia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Director for Europe, World Health Organization</td>
<td>Senior Researcher ICT policy, TNO</td>
<td>Project leader Digital Innovation and Participation, Province of Utrecht, The Netherlands</td>
<td>Senior Scientist in AI, European Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sigrit Siht</td>
<td>Policy Advisor, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Estonia</td>
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</table>

| 16.30 - 16.45| Break |

| 16.45 - 17.00| Recommendations for the closing panel |

| 17.00 - 17.30| IV Interactive panel - How can providers and users of AI create more substantiated policies |

**Moderator:**

Peter van der Knaap | Chairman of the Dutch Association for Policy Evaluation (Vide)

**Panel Members:**

Sander Klous | Prof. Big Data Ecosystems for Business and Society, University of Amsterdam
Barbara Ubaldi | Digital Government Lead, OECD

| 17:30| Closing Remarks and (virtual) reception |
**Draft Programme Friday December 18**

**Structuring Evidence in Government and Politics**

**Times in CET**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13.45 - 14.00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.00 - 14.45</td>
<td>IX Plenary opening</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.00</td>
<td>Wopke Hoekstra</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.15</td>
<td>Pieter Duisenberg</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.30</td>
<td>Jonathan Breckon</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.45</td>
<td>Melanie Peters</td>
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</table>

Minister of Finance, the Netherlands
Chair of the Association of Universities in the Netherlands (VSNU)
Director, Alliance for Useful Evidence, UK
Director of Rathenau Institute

**15.00 - 15.15 Move to sessions**

15.15 - 16.15 X Roundtables - Group discussions on: *How can we effectively develop and share evidence for thematic policies?*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Coordinators</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Behavioural Insights</td>
<td>Semiha Denktas, Katherine Smith, Caroline Baan*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>Laura Menenti, Jon Baron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security</td>
<td>Rien Rouw, Claire Shewbridge*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Rien Rouw, Claire Shewbridge*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Coordinators:
Semiha Denktas
Prof. Psychology and Behaviour change, Academic Director BIG’R

Katherine Smith
Co-Editor, Evidence & Policy Journal

Caroline Baan*
Chief Science Officer, Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, The Netherlands

Laura Menenti
Chief Science Officer, Ministry of Security and Justice

Jon Baron
Vice-President of Evidence Based Policy, Laura and John Arnold Foundation

Rien Rouw
Senior Advisor Strategy and Knowledge Based Policy, Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, The Netherlands

Claire Shewbridge*
Project Leader, Education Directorate OECD

**16.15 - 16.30 Break**

**16.30 - 16.45 Recommendations for the closing panel**

**16.45 - 17.30 XI Interactive closing panel - How can we structure the use of evidence for policymakers and politicians?**

**Introduction to the closing Panel:**

**Moderator:**
Pieter Duisenberg
Chair of the Association of Universities in the Netherlands (VSNU)

**Panel Members:**
Rachel Tuffin
Executive Lead for the What Works Centre for Crime Reduction, UK

Jonathan Breckon
Director, Alliance for Useful Evidence, UK

Harsha Dayal
Research Director, Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Government of South Africa

Roald van der Linde*
Member of the House of Representatives, The Netherlands, VVD

**Recap and closing remarks by: Pieter Duisenberg**