Evidence and Policy in Education
Bridging The Gap

Micheline Scheys
Secretary-general
Department of Education and Training
“You change your laws so fast and without inquiring after results past or present that it is all experiment, seesaw, doctrinaire; a shuttlecock between battledores.”

Florence Nightingale addressing the English Parliament
Evidence-based Medicine

Systematic Reviews

Cochrane collaboration
Working together to provide the best evidence for health care
Evidence-based Policy

THE CAMPBELL COLLABORATION
What helps? What harms? Based on what evidence?

ESRC
ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

ePPI CENTRE
Evidence-Based policy in Governments
Policy-relevant research in Flanders
Policy-relevant research in Flanders
Strategic Policy Support
Department of Education and Training
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Peilingen
Agency for Quality in Education and Training

Peilingen: Algemene informatie

Toetsen voor scholen
Instrumenten voor zelfevaluatie
Strategic Policy Support
Department of Education and Training

- Knowledge
- Information
- Data
  - Collecting
  - Organizing
  - Summarizing
  - Analyzing
  - Synthesizing
  - Decision Making
Evidence-based Policy in Education

- How do countries evaluate the quantity and quality of education?
- Which policies exist and are they effective?
- Are there very promising areas of research on education and learning?
- How do countries strengthen the evidence-base?

OECD
Evidence-based policy in Education

However ...
Reductionism

![Graph showing the relationship between external pressure and boiling point.

- X-axis: Boiling point (degrees Celsius)
- Y-axis: External pressure (atm)

The graph demonstrates that as the boiling point increases, the external pressure required to reach that boiling point also increases.]
Reductionism

"Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts."
Generalizability
Effectiveness

Fig. 1
IS FACEBOOK DRIVING THE GREEK DEBT CRISIS?

- Number of active Facebook users
- Yield on 10-year Greek government bonds

2005 | 2011
---|---
3.6 | 16.82
5.5m users | 750m users
Democracy

“The implicit assumption of a linear relation between research evidence and policy needs to be replaced with a more interactive model”

Nick Black, 2001
Evidence-Informed Educational Policy