

2. Conference Structure and Formats

The conference will offer a varied programme, including paper presentation sessions, keynote talks, a science-to-policy training, a conference award, and conference dinner.

Early career researchers can choose one of the two following options to present their work, and have the option of participating in a science-to-policy training”:

1) Full paper presentation

Participants are invited to send in full paper prior to the conference. Each paper presentation will be allocated 25 min of time, ~15 min presentation, and 10 min comments by two designated commentators (one conference participant/ one senior researcher) and open discussion. Each participant for a paper session will be asked to act as discussant during their session, and to provide comments, suggestions or questions to fellow presenters. Presenters are expected to provide a draft paper in advance to the conference organisers, to be distributed among participants. Commentators will also be assigned to papers before the conference.

2) Speed talk

During speed talk session, PhD researchers have the opportunity to briefly introduce new research ideas, data and analytical insights, and early stage work to provide a basis for collective discussion in small breakout groups with each of the authors. Availability of a full paper is not required for speed talks, but contributors are encouraged to use supporting material for their speed talks (e.g. poster, infographic, short video, etc.).

‘Science to policy’ training

A ‘science-to-policy’ training will be offered, and is aimed at developing early career researchers’ capacities to influence policy with their research. To achieve this, the policy workshop will consist of an online training session prior to the conference and a pitching session at the conference itself.

The training will be conducted online and will take place three weeks prior to the conference. The first aim of the online workshop is to attune early career researchers to the practicalities and daily realities of policy making and policy influence. To this end, the training session will include contextual information on the authorising environment and policy making in practice. Key questions guiding this training include: What is the best timing to influence policy? What avenues can be used to influence policy? How do policy makers think and what is important to them? The second aim of the online workshop is to improve early career researchers communication and argumentative skills for policy influence. Participants will receive training in presentation and communication techniques with policy makers as the main target group. Key questions for this part of the workshop are: How do you structure an argument most relevant to policy makers? How do you present research findings to policy makers?

Based on these new knowledge and capacities, participants are asked to prepare a “policy pitch” (i.e. a presentation of their research for policy makers) which will be presented to an expert panel at the conference. Participants will be matched in groups of 2-3 depending on their research topics. This provides participants with the chance to network and collaborate with colleagues prior to the conference and exchange ideas for policy influence in relation to their research areas. The preparation of the pitches takes place in the weeks between the online training and the conference and the groups will also be assigned a mentor before the final pitching session at the conference. The best policy pitch will receive an award at the end of the conference.

A requirement for participation is that participants have somewhat consolidated or preliminary research results suitable for developing a policy proposal. The thematic scope of these proposals is broad and guided by the theme of “Input for Transformative Innovation Policy.”

If you are interested in participating, please indicate your interest in the easy chair submission system when you sign-up for the conference and briefly describe your motivation for participation in a few sentences (i.e. no more than 10 lines).