

2nd Joint EuSPRI training for **early-career researchers** with **early-career policy professionals**

‘Mission-Oriented Science-Policy Dialogues’

27-30 January 2026 (*Online pre-events: 2, 9 and 16 Dec. 2025*)

Vienna, Austria

Welcome to the event page of the 2nd EuSPRI early career training on ‘Mission-Oriented Science-Policy Dialogues’. This event is co-organized by the Laboratoire Interdisciplinaire Sciences, Innovations, Sociétés (LISIS) and the Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT), Center for Innovation Systems & Policy. This webpage contains background information on the event, insight into the structure of the training, how to apply for participation, and key dates to consider.

In case of any questions, please contact the organizing team (Lasse Bundgaard and Renée van Dis):
scipol_training@umr-lisis.fr

Background

How do we learn to engage in dialogue at the science-policy interface? Several formats and initiatives for (un-directional) policy advice exist, but bridging between the different environments is not straightforward and requires mutual (bidirectional) learning. In addition, established formats usually focus on experienced researchers and policymakers, and exclude early career individuals, which underlines the importance of (re)educating both researchers and policymakers of the future to systematically collaborate and leverage scientific as well as policy knowledge. The recent emergence of transformative and mission-oriented Science, Technology and Innovation policies (TIP and MOIP) requires a new and cross-sectoral approach to policy making, thus leaving renewed impetus to build relationships between science and policy in addressing societal challenges.

In 2023, an exploratory initiative called Policy Dialogues Demonstrator (P2D), was launched by researchers from EU-SPRI partner organisations: Fraunhofer ISI (coordinator), AIT, Ingenio and LISIS (<https://euspri-forum.eu/exploratory-initiatives/p2d-policy-dialogues-demonstrator/>). This initiative aims to develop and pilot new formats of dialogue between STI policy research and policymaking practice in Europe. This training is one of the demonstrators, to nurture new generations of early career professionals able to navigate within the science-policy interface.

This training is a joint event for **early-career researchers** with **early-career professionals** in the policy arena (e.g. ministries, funding agencies, etc.). The aim is to create a dialogue between both groups, and in this way, to nurture a new generation of professionals at the science-policy interface. It provides a learning exercise in **mission-oriented science-policy dialogues** towards:

- Understanding mutual perspectives, professional values, needs and constraints;
- Understanding the process of co-production in terms of problems and solutions to improve policy making, and;
- Generating reflexivity for increased societal impacts.

In January 2025 we successfully organised the first edition of this science-policy dialogues training in Paris. More information on this training can be found [here](#).



Structure of the Training

The training comprises a three-stage process (summarised in Table 1):

Phase 1: Online pre-events (2, 9, and 16 December 2025)

In the first phase, we organise three online (plenary) pre-events, consisting of three main elements to: 1) provide insights into the contexts of MOIP, and the need for dialogues in this regard; 2) provide practical testimonies from (couples of) policy makers and researchers; 3) initiating and preparing the group work of the training.

Phase 2: In-person main training (27-30 January 2026 in Vienna)

The second phase represents the main in-person training event in Vienna (AIT). The aim is to understand the difficulties of the different roles in science-policy dialogues, to understand institutional barriers, and to co-develop a policy pitch through group work. Consequently, the training will be a mixture of two main activities: 1) Interactive sessions to understand different roles and competences in science-policy dialogues (facilitated by Lene Topp); 2) Group work to co-develop a policy pitch from problem definition to the design of potential solutions. The groups will consist of four participants of four (two early career researchers, and two early career policy makers) and their work will be guided by mentors.

Phase 3: Post-events (*tbd*)

The aim of the online post-events is to constructively discuss this learning exercise, continue creating networks among (previous) participants and share the outcomes with the larger EuSPRI community.

Table 1. specific objectives and structure of the three training phases

	Phase I: Pre-event	Phase II: Main event	Phase III: Post-event
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Facilitate the group's initial meeting- Contextualise the training- Familiarise with the group members and their different roles- Define a case study and a problem	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Develop competencies for science-policy dialogue- Develop and present policy pitch- Understand institutional barriers- Develop networks across science-policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Share learning experiences of the training- Provide feedback on this training experiment
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Introductory plenary session w. icebreakers and problem statement- Keynotes- Testimonies- Mentoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Modules w. lectures and exercises- In-group collaboration- Mentoring- Socializing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Online feedback sessions

How to apply

There will be place for 24 participants to the 'Science-to-Policy training':

- 12 early-career researchers that are rather advanced in their PhD research (3rd year or higher) or post-doctoral researchers and research assistants having obtained the PhD degree in the past five to eight years. Research topics should be related to Science, Technology and Innovation Policies.
- 12 early-career professionals in the STI policy arena (minimum 3 years of experience).

If you wish to apply, please send your **CV** and **motivation letter** (max 1 page in which you also explain your link to MOIP and/or TIP) before **25 August 2025** to scipol_training@umr-lisis.fr. Please indicate in your motivation letter, which of the following themes fit best with professional experience:

- Net-zero
- Agriculture
- Mobility
- Health
- Energy
- Cities
- Digitalisation
- AI
- Defense

Participation for EuSPRI members is free of charge. Participation for non-EuSPRI participants is €300.

Key dates

- **Deadline for application:** 25 August 2025

- **Communication of decisions on participation:** 10 September 2025
- **Registration period:** October 2025
- **Online pre-events:**
 - Session 1: 2 December 2025– 9h30-12h30
 - Session 2: 9 December 2025 – 12h-13h30
 - Session 3: 16 December 2025 – 12h-13h30
- **Main training event:** 27-30 January 2026
- **Post-events:** *tbd between February-June 2026*