Integrating Anticipatory Governance and Evidence-Informed Policymaking in Frameworks for Governance in European States

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Abstract

Anticipatory governance, promoting the foresight and adaptability, is considered as the key in enhancing resilience within political systems by using strategic foresight and adaptive capacities. Following consequences of recent crises, the European states emphasize the persistent challenge of bridging the gap between evidence and policymaking, which highlights the struggle in translating scientific findings into policy solutions. This approach underscores the importance of integrating evidence-informed policy making processes with the anticipatory governance activities such as foresight to ensure proactive and effective policymaking in the face of evolving modern challenges and uncertainties. The aim of this research is to identify the key elements of frameworks that integrate anticipatory governance and evidence-informed policy making in European states. This study presents results of the qualitative research of strategic, legal and institutional elements pertinent to frameworks that integrate anticipatory governance and evidence-informed policy making in European states. It was based on the comparison of three European states – Estonia, Lithuania and Spain, which recently created specific structures to embody "science-for-policy" approach – science (and innovation) advisors in governmental institutions. The research has employed the document analysis as the qualitative and quantitative research method. This analysis facilitates the identification of key elements that define frameworks combining anticipatory governance with evidence-informed policy making, integrating science-for-policy approach. The principal findings are presented not only in a comparative format but also elucidate the specific characteristics of these frameworks in which state governance systems can promote collaboration with scientific communities. The proposed insights on components of integrated anticipatory governance and evidence-based policy making frameworks offers both scholars and practitioners to identify their specifics and differences in different evidence-informed policy-making ecosystems, which might be helpful while identifying "lessons to be learned" to improve their performance.

Keywords: anticipatory governance, evidence-informed policy making, science-for-policy, Estonia, Lithuania, Spain.

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