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# Cross-disciplinary collaboration in public policy modelling: international experiences and future directions

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Objective 5.6 ICT solutions for Governance and Policy Modelling



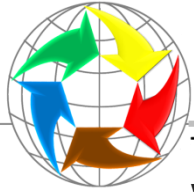


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- ❖ eGovPoliNet project scope
- ❖ Cross-disciplinary collaboration in policy modelling
- ❖ Experiences from working across disciplines and around the globe



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# eGovPoliNet project scope

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- ❖ Main objective: Building a global multidisciplinary community in policy modelling and public governance facilitated with innovative ICT
- ❖ Means to achieve the objective
  - Community building activities to foster networking among various scientific disciplines in the field
    - ❖ Including working together to share ideas, experiences and practices
  - Building up a knowledge base in the field
  - Developing common vision, strategy and sustainable business plans
- ❖ Project set up as a coordination and support action
  - Co-funded by the EC within FP 7
  - Consortium: 17 partners from 14 countries around the globe
    - ❖ Australia, Canada, Macao, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Ukraine, USA
    - ❖ 10 EU MS: Belgium, 2 German, Greece, Italy, 2 Netherlands, Slovakia, 2 UK



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# Mission statement and community value

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Our mission is to be the recognised leader in bringing together researchers from different disciplines to share knowledge, expertise and best practice supporting policy analysis, modelling and governance.





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# Collaborations in eGovPoliNet: Instruments

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## ❖ Meet and discuss in community building activities

- Participating and sharing discussions in events
- Organising events
- Events: conferences, panels, workshops, seminars, PhD colloquia, etc.

## ❖ Knowledge base

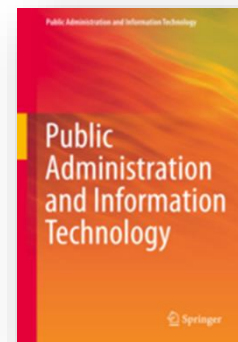
- Collecting and sharing knowledge assets
- Comparative analyses

- ❖ Different topics

- ❖ Developing a joint book with the title:

Policy Practice and Digital Science - Integrating Complex Systems,  
Social Simulation and Public Administration in Policy Research

To be published in SPRINGER Series “Public Administration and Information  
Technology” edited by Chris Reddick





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# Collaborations in eGovPoliNet: Engagements in shaping the domain

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- ❖ Contributing to developing a common understanding
  - Glossary of policy modelling terms, trying to harmonise understanding across different disciplines
  - Shaping and framing the domain
  - Common curriculum in policy informatics
- ❖ Grand challenges of research for the future
  - Scenarios of future visions of ICT solutions for governance and policy modelling
  - Trend setter for new research strands





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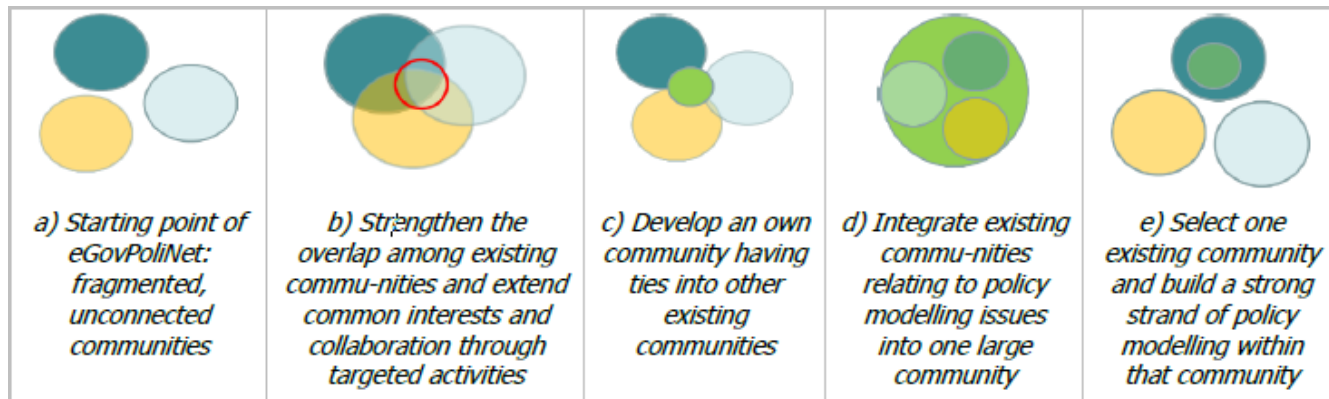
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# Collaborations in eGovPoliNet: Engagements in sustaining the initiative

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## ❖ Contributing to developing a sustainability plan

### ➤ Which sustainability model to adopt



### ➤ Which communities to approach and involve

## ❖ Spreading the word and creating awareness

## ❖ Being part of the sustained community



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# Cross-disciplinarity of eGovPoliNet community

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## E-government & e-participation

IFIP WG 8.5

ICEGOV

DGSNA (Digital Governance Society)

W3C eGov IG

Open Gov Partnership

AIS SIG eGov

## Public Administration & Policy Research

APPAM (Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management)

Public Policy Modelling

## Complex Systems

Systems Dynamics Society

Complex Systems Society

## Social Simulation

ESSA (European Social Simulation Association)

CCS (Advances in Complex Systems Journal)

Open ABM Consortium






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# Example of published glossary term

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**eGovPoliNet & crossover**  
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Search... Search

Home Glossary Wiki Cases/Papers Methods Experts/Organisat. Domains Search About the projects ▾

## Glossary

### All Categories:

Policy making

Search for a term:

in Policy making SEARCH

Or, select a letter below:

A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M|N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z|

Results:

**Scenario Building**

Title

Description

Related terms

References

In policy development, scenario building is considered a method for foresight (Fradfield et al, 2005; Geschka and Hammer, 1997; Mietzner and Reger, 2005). According to Geschka, it provides a systematic, participatory, future intelligence gathering and medium-to-long-term vision building process "present-day decisions and mobilising joint action" (Geschka, 1978). An example of such future scenario is e.g. developed in Kahn and Weiner in 1967 for the year 2000 (Kahn and Weiner, 1967).

Scenario building is inherently flexible in terms of design and construction. Scenarios help stimulate internally consistent alternatives of a specific situation and its settings concerning a specific point in time. Focus of scenarios in foresight exercises and policy planning is on the identification and development of impact factors as well as on cause and effect interdependencies.

Related terms: Stakeholder engagement, Method

References:

Bradfield, R., Wright, G., Burt, G., Cairns, G., & Van Der Heijden, K. (2005). The origins and evolution of scenario techniques in long range business planning. *Futures*, 37(8), 795–812. doi:10.1016/j.futures.2005.01.003

Geschka, H. (1978). Delphi. In Bruckmann, G. (Ed.), *Langfristige Prognosen: Möglichkeiten und Methoden der Langfristprognostik komplexer Systeme*. Würzburg, Germany: Physica-Verlag.

Geschka, H., & Hammer, R. (1997). Die Szenario-Technik in der strategischen Unternehmensplanung. *Strategische Unternehmensplanung*. In Hahn, D., & Taylor, B. (Eds.), *Strategische Unternehmensplanung. Strategische Unternehmensführung. Stand und Entwicklungstendenzen* (pp. 464–489). Heidelberg, Germany: Springer.



### Popular LinkedIn Posts



Sign in with LinkedIn



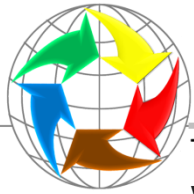
### Papers from Mendeley

#### Policy Modeling

by S Van Egmond, R Zeiss, in *Science Studies* (2010)

#### Toward Visualization in Policy Modeling

by null Kohlhammer, Kawa Nazemi, Tobias Ruppert, Dirk Ruckert, in *IEEE Computer*



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# Comparative analysis

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## ❖ Nine comparative analysis as white papers developed so far

- Theories
- Frameworks\*
- Simulation models\*
- Conceptual and domain models
- Emerging tools and technologies\*
- Technical frameworks and tools
- Framework for policies / strategies / programs
- Projects / cases implementing policy\*
- Stakeholder engagement in policy development\*

\* Also becoming book chapters in



See summaries in deliverable D 4.2 under <http://www.policy-community.eu/results/public-deliverables>



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# Comparative analysis: Collaboration of authors across disciplines

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Paper number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Total of authors per paper	1	3	5	4	7	2	1	5	7	35
Disciplines										No of people per discipline*
Information Systems	1		1	4	6			4	1	13
Computer science		1	1		1	1				3
Social sciences			1						1	2
Sociology			2							2
e-government & e-participation		3	1	3	6	2		1	6	15
Public administration sciences									2	2
Economics								1		1
Organisational and management sciences		2				1	1		2	3

\* multiple instances possible



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# Comparative analysis: Indicators of collaboration across countries and organisations

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❖ Number of authors for comparative analysis: 27

Profession	Performed comparative analysis								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Researcher		3	5	4	6	2	1	4	6
Student	1							1	1
Practitioner					1				

❖ Mean number of authors per comparative analysis: 3.9

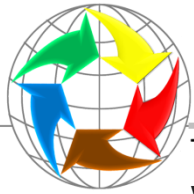
❖ Modified collaboration coefficient: 0.6

(0 = one author per paper; 1 = all authors involved in all papers)

❖ Countries involved: 11 (7 from Europe, 2 from North America, 1 from Asia, 1 from Oceania)

❖ By all parameters, eGovPoliNet is a good practice example for cross-disciplinary collaboration

# Future visions of ICT solutions for governance and policy modelling



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- ❖ Aspects described in the scenarios
  - ICT use in the scenario
  - Actors in the scenario
  - Particular services for policy development offered
  - Benefits of the solution
  - Processes and interaction among stakeholders – using ICT
- ❖ 19 initial scenarios developed by individual partners
- ❖ Consolidated into final six scenarios
  - Published on the knowledge portal
  - Announced in the LinkedIn group





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# Final six scenarios published at the knowledge portal

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- ❖ Using air quality monitoring data to track and improve public health
- ❖ Policy decision-making using intelligent simulations and exploiting open and big data sources
- ❖ Public-private innovation policy
- ❖ Optimising emergency response
- ❖ Using smart and mobile ICT for developing governance and policy
- ❖ Information warfare impact on governance and policy modelling

# Experiences from working across distinct disciplines and internationally (1/2)



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## ❖ Positive implications of the cross-disciplinary collaboration

- Experienced researchers share their knowledge and libraries with younger researchers
- Researchers from distinct disciplines get a fast insight into the research of other communities
- Learn what is important from the other point of view
- Easier and faster access to the top researchers and a literature insight from distinct fields
- Better understanding of social and societal behaviour on the global level
- Increased awareness that a cross-disciplinary approach is necessary to bring the evolution and to close current research gaps in the field of policy modelling

# Experiences from working across distinct disciplines and internationally (2/2)



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## ❖ Challenges encountered

- Collaboration teams difficult to meet due to differences in time zones and different scheduling of conferences across different communities
- Differences in understanding key terms and concepts due to multiple disciplines involved
- Differences in cultural approaches to research and development due to internationalisation
- Collaboration is dependent on the willingness of individuals to accept a distinct approach and understanding from another discipline





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# Join eGovPoliNet. Why?

- ❖ Learn about, and understand the works of other relevant disciplines in the field
- ❖ Learn about the key literature and state of the art theories, methods, models, cases and experiences, lessons, success stories in the field
- ❖ Keep up-to-date and learn about the evolution in the field
- ❖ Participate and collaborate with us in developing the domain further
  - Organisation of events
  - Presentation of works at events
  - Joint white papers and research papers (comparative analyses), glossary development etc.
  - Contributions to the knowledge base
  - Shaping the future research and innovation of this domain
  - Network of potential collaborators in projects and for exchanges



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# How to join?

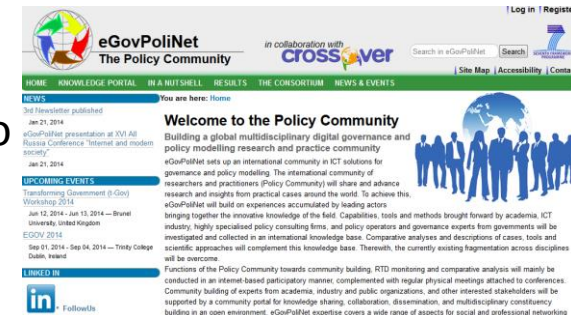
## ❖ LinkedIn group 'Policy-making 2.0'

- over 1737 members and growing
  - ❖ Members: policy-makers and academia
- Discussions on relevant topics
- Announcements
- <https://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=4165795>



## ❖ Knowledge portal

- Continuing and enriching Crossover portal of cases
- Knowledge assets: Case studies, projects, who-is-who research papers (white papers)
- Add yourself and your work to the database
- <http://www.policy-community.eu/knowledge-portal>





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# Thank you for your attention!



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