

Science Engagement Programme

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# Online Policy Engagement Training

## Call for Applications

# Online Policy Engagement Training Programme

The **British Council** is pleased to announce a call for early career researchers to apply for the Online Policy Engagement Training Programme. The programme will be delivered in cooperation with the **Dods Training** plc.

### Programme Description

The training programme aims to improve the capabilities of early career researchers to translate scientific evidence into policy and more effectively engage with policy makers and other stakeholders.

Early career researchers will develop their policy engagement skills through a blend of three training modules and a group project. There will be two modules focusing on the interface between science and policy and how research evidence can develop into policy proposals, and one module exploring ways to communicate evidence to policymakers. Alongside these, early career researchers will work in small groups, putting their learning into practice by developing a policy brief relevant to their research.

The training modules, comprising taught content, practical exercises and facilitated discussion will include:

#### **Module One:** Exploring the policy/science interface

This module will explore the role of science and evidence in the policy process. It will present a policy process and consider the factors, including evidence, that influence the shape and direction of policy. Participants will then explore what constitutes evidence, how to appraise different types and sources of evidence, ways to use evidence to inform both the process and potential impact of a policy, and how to deal with complexity.

#### **Module Two:** Turning research evidence into policy proposals

This module will help participants understand and bridge the connection between research findings and realistic and effective policy interventions. Participants will learn how to use evidence to establish the scale of a policy challenge and the rationale for

tackling it. They will explore how to use evidence to appraise options and identify the best way forward, and how to synthesise and strengthen an evidence base.

### **Module Three:** Communicating evidence to policymakers

In the third module, participants will learn how to communicate with policymakers and encourage them to engage with evidence. Participants will examine the likely concerns of policymakers and how to present evidence both accurately and persuasively to them. They will learn how to effectively use practical communication tools and techniques including visual aids for direct communication, how to deliver challenging messages around risk and uncertainty, as well as exploring ways to bring intermediaries and advocates on board.

Alongside the modules, participants will work in small groups to develop and present a policy brief proposal on a topic chosen by the group and relevant to their own work. Project groups will work in collaboration with early career policy professionals. This practical element will be largely self-guided and managed, with potential resources flagged for personal research. The project will enable participants to consolidate and extend the skills they have learned from the modules and help them extend their network and experience of influencing policymakers.

## **Training Schedule**

This ten-week training programme is offered as online-live sessions together with personal study and small-group project work. There will be a short online-live orientation webinar to join in December. Main delivery will start in the week of 11 January and end in the week of 15 March. You can expect to spend around half a day per week on the programme. This will either involve attending online modules incorporating taught content, exercises and discussion, or undertaking project work where you will be developing a policy brief with your project group.

## **Eligibility**

Applicants must hold a PhD degree, be within eight years of obtaining their PhD degree, be residents of North Macedonia and be fluent in English as all training modules will be held in English language. Applicants who are doing research in the following areas are welcomed to apply: health, social care, education, environment, agriculture, energy, disaster risk management, economy, policy, crime etc.

## Quality Assessment Criteria

Applicants will be assessed based on: their track record, research experience, motivation to attend the training, and English language proficiency.

We will assess your English by looking at your application and CV. We do not require a qualification in English (for example, IELTS, TOEFL). However, if you have a qualification you should mention it in the 'qualification' section of the application form.

## Application Form

To apply, please fill in the application form and send alongside the CV to [zarko.koneski@britishcouncil.org](mailto:zarko.koneski@britishcouncil.org).

Deadline for applications: 30 November 2020, by 23.00.

## Notification of results:

Applicants will be notified by email within seven days of the deadline for applications.

## Equal Opportunities

The British Council is committed to equal opportunities and diversity in all its activities and this includes the avoidance of any bias in the assessment of applications due to gender, disability, racial or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, or religious belief. Participants' selection undertaken by workshop organisers must not contravene this policy. Extra support to enable participation of early career researchers with special needs will be given.

## Additional Information

The training is a part of The Western Balkan Science Engagement Programme (SEP) financed and implemented by the British Council. The programme aims to contribute to resilience of states, communities and citizens across the Western Balkans to the COVID-19 pandemic and its adverse impacts by using and promoting science and scientific evidence.

Find more information at: [www.britishcouncil.mk](http://www.britishcouncil.mk).

For any questions, please contact [zarko.koneski@britishcouncil.org](mailto:zarko.koneski@britishcouncil.org).