

Future Scenario 2

The Future of the Profession of Political Scientists in Europe: Innovative Roles

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“Policy analysis that is not purely academic but aims to be used in the policy process is expected to be of high scientific quality or epistemically robust, (...) and of practical use. (...) There is an evident tension between the two.” (Mayntz, 2013)¹



Kick-start Future scenario 2

In the second table for the Future Scenario exercise, we focused on the renewal of the role(s) of professional political scientists in Europe, and the amount of innovation emerging in their professional profiles. To do so, we started from some ‘food for thoughts’ prepared for the general guidelines, including a number of goals, and drivers. In a first round, each participant of the table contributed suggestions and comments about the goals, constraints and resources. Afterwards the discussants contributed their views, and finally there was an open round of additional comments and suggestions. All main ideas were noted on moderation cards and pinned to the wall to create a large knowledge map.



To wrap up and arrive at a more systematic knowledge map, we collected ideas from the general group, based on which the team of chair, facilitator, and discussants condensed the general knowledge map into the following list of identified goals, constraints and resources.

After the discussion

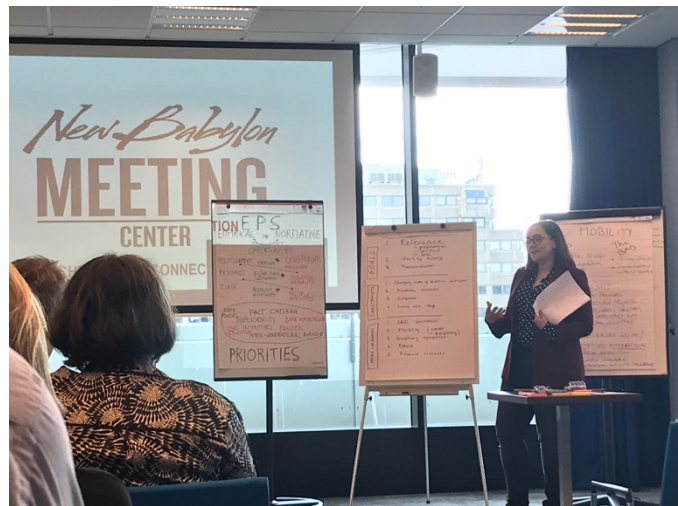
¹ Mayntz, R. (2013): Academics and policy analysis: The tension between epistemic and practical concerns. In S. Blum & K. Schubert (Eds.): Policy Analysis in Germany. Bristol: The Policy Press.

Goals

1. Increase different types of relevance² for Political Scientists
 - Professional
 - Political
 - Civic
2. Identity building: Political Science matters for society
3. Professionalisation: enhancing scientific credibility while avoiding the perils of the Ivory Tower

Constraints

1. Changing modes of academic distinction
 - The steady importance to publish or perish
 - The increasing significance of quantification and rankings
 - Internationality demands vs. domestic relevance
2. Academic conditions
 - Precariousness
 - Role overburdening (publishing, teaching, administration...)
3. Competition
 - Other advisory actors (including e.g. consultancies)
 - Other disciplines (in particular, economics and law)
4. Science under Siege
 - Academic freedom under threat
 - Political turns



Justyna Bandola-Gill reporting to the plenary

Means and resources

1. Skill formation and training
2. Disciplinary representation
 - Political Scientist 'champions' to make our voice heard in the public debate
 - Role of national Political Science Associations: Lobbying and advocacy
3. Flexibility
 - Enable different 'role' career paths
 - Take advantage of return paths and revolving doors to gain visibility
 - Disciplinary and interdisciplinary projects: Acknowledging opportunities and perils
4. Ethics
 - Developing a code
 - Ethical training
5. Financial resources

² This follows a distinction suggested by: Senn, M. & Eder, F. (2018): Cui Bono Scientia Politica? A Multi-Dimensional Concept of Relevance and the Case of Political Science in Austria. *Österreichische Zeitschrift für Politikwissenschaft*, 47(3).

