



Online workshop series on ‘Governing mission-oriented innovation policies’

Sharing best practices on mission governance – by and for frontrunner policy makers

Date: May 15th, 9:30-12:00 hours

Software: Zoom (or Microsoft Teams if Zoom’s security update turns out inadequate)

Deadline for signing up: May 8th 2020

This workshop for policy makers is provided by the Copernicus Institute’s “Mission-oriented Innovation Policy Observatory” ([MIPO](#)) in cooperation with the OECD.

Scope of the workshop series

A major development in the field of innovation policy is the rising interest for ‘mission-oriented innovation policies’; policies targeted at providing innovative solutions to complex societal problems, like sustainability and healthy ageing. Typical of such problems is that, at the outset, it is not clear what types of technological, social and/or institutional changes provide the best chances of achieving a mission’s specific goals. This uncertainty, the interests at play, the organizational complexity and many other factors makes the governance of missions a challenge in itself.

Policy makers working on missions that face this challenge, have to deal with different strategic, political and practical issues, e.g. regarding the formulation of ambitions, the design of coordination structures, or the mobilization of stakeholders that help explore, develop and produce or adopt solutions. While many seem keen to follow the European Union’s example of launching missions, experiences on dealing with governance challenges remain fragmented and underdeveloped.

Utrecht University’s Mission-oriented Innovation Policy Observatory (MIPO), in cooperation with the OECD and with participation of the European Commission, will therefore host a series of online workshops that helps policy makers to deal with these ‘governance of missions’ challenges. *This workshop series aims to bring together policy makers from different countries, working or aiming to work on various types of goal-oriented policies (missions), to exchange experiences in terms of best practices, opportunities and barriers regarding the different tensions in the design and implementation of mission-type policies.*

Each workshop will revolve around a specific question that captures one of the *tensions* involved in the process of working with missions. These include, for example:

- *Scoping and agenda setting:* How to formulate specific mission-targets that provide a uniform direction in an open agenda-setting process, without excluding too many solutions at the outset or getting stuck between conflicting (economic, disciplinary and other) interests?
- *Mobilizing networks:* How can missions leverage existing networks and resources for mission implementation and progress, without being captured by vested interests?
- *Evaluation:* How to assess mission progress that pushes for optimal results without steering for and getting stuck with quick wins?
- *Adaptability:* To what extent, and by which processes, should missions be able to adapt over time, without losing legitimacy?

The first workshop will focus on questions underlying the ‘scoping and agenda setting’ tension. These include for instance:

- How to inform about and select the societal challenges to be pursued?
- How to determine the relevant breadth and granularity of the mission, in order to remain open to different solutions, while building a *realistic* initiative?
- How to define concrete and ambitious goals to be achieved in a defined timeframe?
- How to depart from existing agenda's?
- Who should be involved and what should be their role in the scoping and agenda setting processes?
- How to rely on existing networks to be effective and wide ranging while avoiding the risk of capture?
- How to balance societal and economic interests?

Topics of subsequent workshops depend on the participants' interests (polled after the workshop).

Output of each workshop: Policy briefs

Building on the workshop's findings and complemented with academic research, we develop a policy brief that synthesises the best practices, barriers and opportunities regarding the focal tension involved in working with missions. We also aim to provide a critical discussion on 'what works when' (in other words, 'What lessons apply to what types of MIP?' and 'What other contextual factors are of influence?'). This policy brief will be published on the MIPO website and will be disseminated to all workshop participants to help aid them in their work on missions.

Preliminary programme first workshop: Scoping and agenda setting

Tackling the sub-questions addressed above, the schedule of the 'scoping and agenda setting' workshop is as follows (Central European Time):

09:20 – 09:30: 'Walk in' – log into the call & test equipment so we can start in time

09:30 – 9:40: Introduction of attendees

09:40 – 10:10: Introduction of mission-oriented innovation policy (by MIPO and OECD)

10:10 – 10:55: Experts share their experiences on the 'scoping and agenda setting' tension:

- Johan Bouma – board member European Commission's Mission Area
- Michel Duinmayer – Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management
- Dan Hill – Swedish Innovation Systems agency VINNOVA

10:55 – 11:10: BREAK

11:10 – 11:55: Break-out session – sharing tension experiences amongst your peers

11:55 – 12:00: Wrap-up

Signing up

The workshop is free of charge and open to a select audience of experienced policy makers. You can sign up to the workshop or ask any questions, by sending an email to Joeri Wesseling – j.h.wesseling@uu.nl. Deadline for signing up is **May 8th 2020**. When signing up, please mention:

- Your name, affiliation, role in the mission-type of policy
- in 2-3 sentences the type of mission(s) you have experience with (this input is used for the group formation process, to optimize the exchange of relevant experiences during dialogues).
- the most pressing question you are facing when designing or implementing missions

Examples of mission-oriented papers published by MIPO (More available via the [MIPO website](#))

- Hekkert, M., Janssen, M., Wesseling, J., & Negro, S. (2020). "[Mission-oriented innovation systems](#)". *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*, 34, 76-79.
- Wanzenböck, I., Wesseling, J.H., Frenken, K., Hekkert, M., & Weber, M. (2019). "A framework for mission-oriented innovation policy: Alternative pathways through the problem-solution space". SocArXiv. <https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/njahp>.