Room: Brookfield, Thursday 9.30- 5.15

A role play in TA practices: ways to shape the interaction between science and policy

Chairs: Leonie van Drooge, Patricia Faasse

Format: a role play (maximum of 12 participants)
We will invite the participants to take part in a role play simulation, based on a concrete case. The participants will alternate between the role of (i) scientist, of (ii) policy maker and/or interest group, and of (iii) TA practitioner. After the role play, we will jointly reflect on the role of the TA practitioner and the choices made.

We intend to run the role play several times during the conference, for two reasons: (1) the number of participants is limited – running it several times will allow more participants to participate, (2) when, at the end of the conference, we have repeated our game several times, we will be able to gain more substantiated insight. We will be able to identify (a) different dynamics in the interactions between the participants, and (b) different roles TA practitioners have played.

To successfully address the grand challenges, politicians, policy makers, and scientists need each other. However, the interaction between policy making and science is challenging. Policy making is a complex process. It is shaped by different interests, divergent views, opposing value systems and various time constraints. For scientific evidence to be useful here, it needs to be adapted to the particular logics/dynamics of policy making. In this context, effectively informing policy through evidence does not equal "simply telling the truth". Scientists on the other hand, often feel uncomfortable with a position other than "the desinterested scientist". Their professional identity tells them to stay distanced from the blurry world of policy making and to stick to facts.

TA practitioners, or TA institutes, usually position themselves in the focal point of this interaction. They have studied the complexities of the interaction between science and policy, and have become skilled in recognizing the social, ethical, and political implications and consequences of scientific and policy work. In this session we will explore the various roles TA practitioners can play in this interaction, and in addition, which roles prove to be effective in aligning science and policy.[1]

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[1] See for examples: Hennen, L. et.al., 'Towards a framework for assessing the impact of technology assessment', in: Decker, M. and Ladikas, M. (eds.), *Technology Assessment–Methods and Impacts*, Springer, 2004, pp. 57-85