



An Roinn Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais,
Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta
Department of Further and Higher Education,
Research, Innovation and Science

Research Evidence for Policy Development

Challenges and opportunities

Dr Colm O'Reardon, Secretary General

Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and
Science

28th May 2024



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Overview

- Some framing
- What is evidence?
- What are the challenges?
- How can they be overcome?



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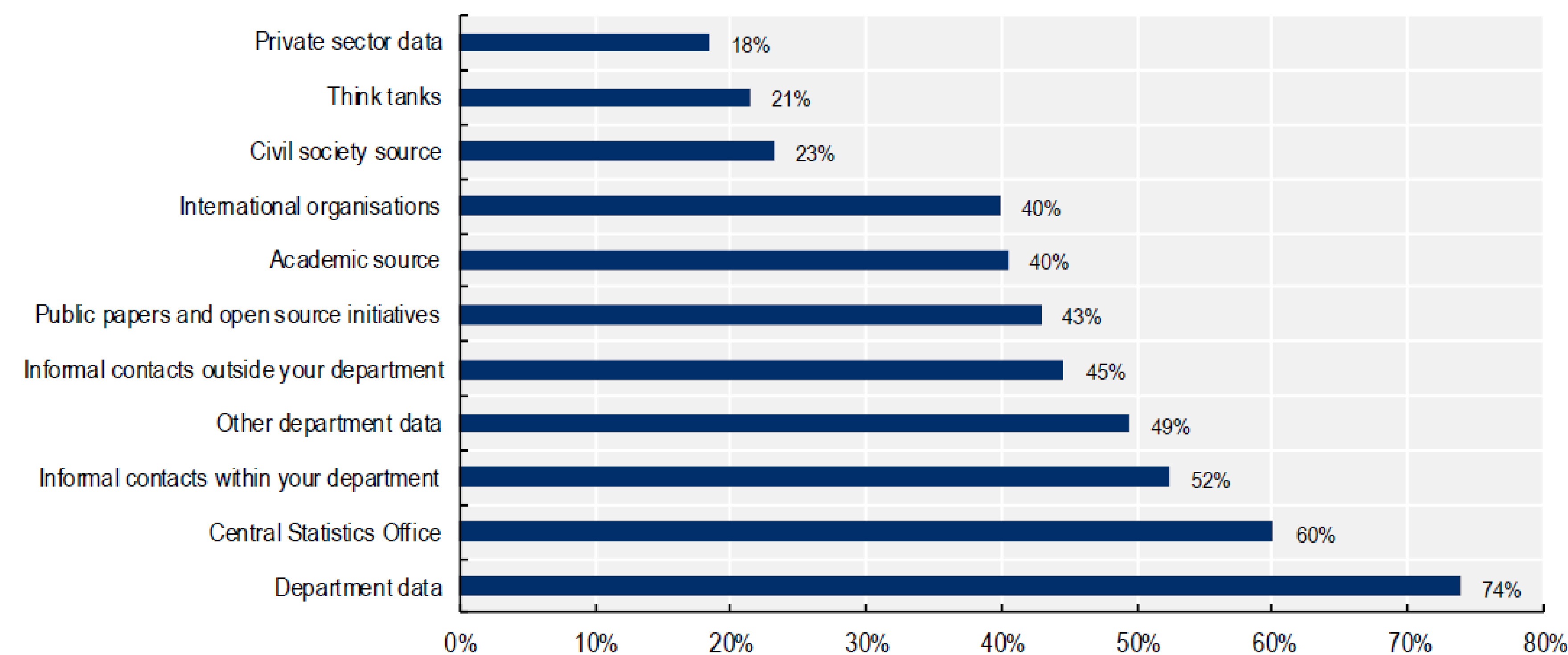
‘Knowledge regimes are the organisational and institutional machinery that generates data, research, policy recommendations and other ideas that influence public debate and policymaking’

Campbell and Pedersen 2014

Using evidence in Ireland



Figure 2.1. Sources feeding into policy development in Ireland



Note: n=168. Respondents to the OECD survey were asked, “What are the sources you use for thematic data, evidence and insights to feed into policy development?”.

Source: (OECD, 2022^[6]), OECD Survey on Policy Development in Ireland (unpublished).



Challenges in Research Evidence



Multiple nodes of dispersed activity

- *Inconsistent activity based on institution, specialism and departmental contacts*

Unclear Access Points

- *Not aware of who the point of contact is or what system priorities are*

Capacity Development

- *Complex messaging, unhelpful timing of information, both for supply and demand sides*

Incentives to engage with policy activity

- *Growing movement towards recognition of experience over publication*

Developing policy to support research engagement



Impact 2030
Ireland's Research and
Innovation Strategy

Collate activity and establish core structures

- Civil Service Research Network
- HE group
- Open engagement with European colleagues

Towards a Higher Education
Research - Policy Engagement
Framework:
Public Consultation
Background Paper
July 2023

Open consultation

- Responses from early career and established researchers, HEIs and Research Performing Organisations



Research-Policy interactions in practice

- Key finding was a need to clarify policy-research linkages
- Research Summit 2023 workshop recorded and available



Co-creation workshops

- Key shared areas of impact explored in co-creation workshops
- Capacity Development
- Structural supports

Framework development

- Actionable framework to support engagement and relationship building
- Building on emerging good practice and addressing key areas where intervention is required
- Bring together national and international learnings
- Wide applicability and policy considerations

Emerging practice and activity



Statement of Priorities
Health & Social Care Research 2023-2025

Riadas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Call for Expert Evidence
Climate Action Plan 2024

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Evidence Base for the Tertiary Sector:
2023-2024 Research Priorities

Clarity on research priorities

Collection

Department of Justice Requests for Tender for Research Services

From [Department of Justice](#)

Press release

Minister for Health announces launch of new ‘Evidence-for-Policy’ Research Programme

From [Department of Health](#)

Published on 22 January 2024
Last updated on 1 March 2024

Procurement

Government Policymakers & Higher Education Researchers
Building Bridges for Evidence Informed Public Policy: Youth Wellbeing

An Evidence for Public Policy Brokerage Event Report

When: 1 March 2023 (10am-1pm)
Where: Tangent, Trinity College Dublin

Press release

Minister for Health welcomes “Evidence for Reform: Where Research meets Policy” Research Conference

From Department of Health
Published on 7 November 2023
Last updated on 10 November 2023

EPA Environmental Science to Policy Seminar 2022
5th October 2022, Dublin

Knowledge Brokerage

Towards a Higher Education Research - Policy Engagement Framework:
Public Consultation
Background Paper
July 2023

Case Studies

SCIENCE FOUNDATION IRELAND

SFI Science Policy Research Programme 2023

Call for Submission of Proposals
Version 1.2 (Revised 1 August 2023)

Key Dates

Call Launch: 28 June 2023
Application Form Open: 14 July 2023
Proposals Due: 14 July 2023

Ongoing research

SFI Public Service Fellowship Programme

Open to making a difference

Capacity Development



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