



FAIRWAY

POLICY MAKERS AT EU AND NATIONAL LEVELS

The national dimension of the science-policy interface is not currently considered adequately but is particularly relevant for implementation purposes. National research agencies could support competent authorities in implementing relevant EU legislation at the local scale.

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FURTHER DETAILS

[Železnikar, S. et al. \(2021\) Evaluation report on barriers and issues in providing integrated scientific support for EU policy. FAIRWAY Project Deliverable 7.1R 56 pp](#)

[Rudolf, J. et al. \(2021\) Actor's feedback on practices for improvement of water quality in FAIRWAY case studies and interim project results. FAIRWAY Project Deliverable 7.2R 74 pp](#)

[Glavan, M. et al. \(2019\) How to Enhance the Role of Science in European Union Policy Making and Implementation: The Case of Agricultural Impacts on Drinking Water Quality. Water 11, 492.](#)

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KEY MESSAGE

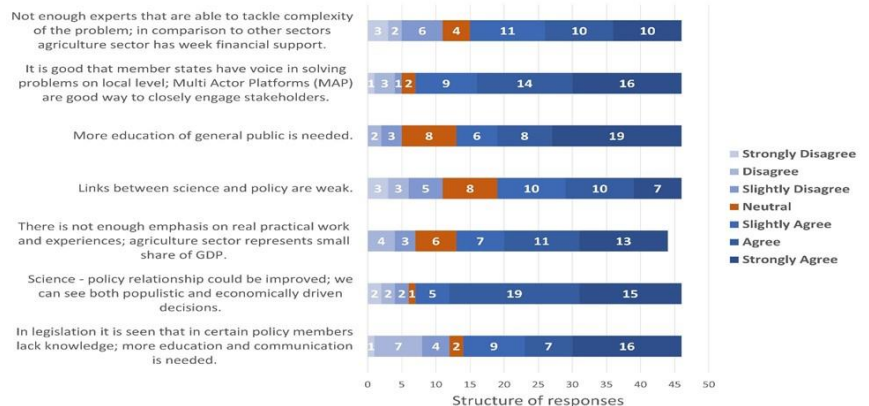
Barriers to protection of water quality in the EU are mostly observed at the national or regional levels and relate to lack of political will, and scarce instruction on the process of legislation implementation. Project clustering is a strategy to make science more connected to policy challenges and stakeholder needs.

EXPLANATION

The role of the science/research sector in policy making and implementation is vague and dispersed across different stages of the process. It also has different roles in the process: as an initiator of policy, a follower of policy or political strategies, or a participant in the public discussion. Project clustering with stakeholder involvement (science, policy, stakeholders, and citizens) is a strategy to make science and research more connected to current policy challenges and stakeholder needs with the aim of establishing sustainable long-term relationships and communication flows.

EVIDENCE

FAIRWAY conducted surveys on the major barriers for solving issues relating to nitrate and pesticide pollution of drinking water. Members of the multi-actor platforms in the [FAIRWAY case studies](#), participants of a conference of EU policy makers and stakeholders (Brussels, December 2018), and a wider group of EU land managers were asked for feedback. Most respondents agreed that member states should have a voice in solving problems at the local level and that multi-actor platforms are the right way to engage stakeholders closely. The idea of designing project clusters between research projects and the political agenda for possible long-term relationship/communication flows seemed very useful to the vast majority (86 %) of respondents.



Responses (in a Likert scale) to barriers in solving the issues concerning the protection of drinking water resource at the local level, n=44-46