Organizing the science-policy interface in strategic policy planning

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PEP 1.5 Final Symposium -

Archetypes of decarbonization pathways and

climate policy entry points to raise ambition

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Hertie School

Strategic climate policy planning

- National institutions for strategic climate policy planning seem underdeveloped

- In Germany, governance of climate policy planning:
  - Sector GHG targets
  - Iterative internal review of ministry proposals for sector policies
  - Adjustment of policy packages
  - Sectoral policy commissions (coal exit, transport sector, buildings failes)
  - Climate cabinet led by Chancellor: Finally, some high-level policy coordination

- Problems:
  - → High system complexity difficult to process for ministries, parliamentarians
  - → Little transparency
  - → Expertise provided by consulting companies
  - → Policy integration and effectiveness remains questionable

Scientific policy advice as a smoothie machine?


Formal legislation
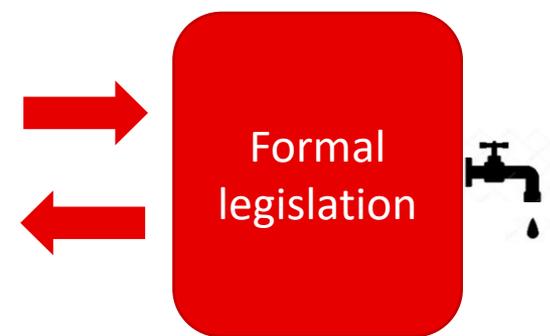
The role of science in the policy process

- Speaking truth to power: Linear model does not work, because it neglects political dynamics as well as value judgments and uncertainty in science

| Scientific Papers	X →	Formal legislation
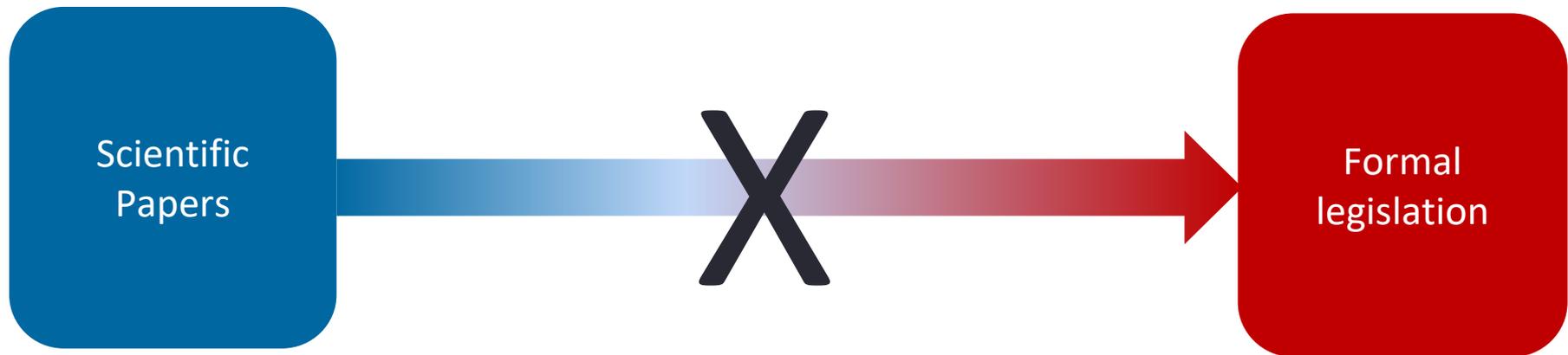
The role of science in the policy process

- Better approach: science has to acknowledge the policy process and be actively engaged in it without mixing roles.

Scientific Papers

Policy Process

Stakeholders with specific political constraints and vested interests

Normative approach: Exploring alternative policy options together with stakeholders (PEM)

Formal legislation
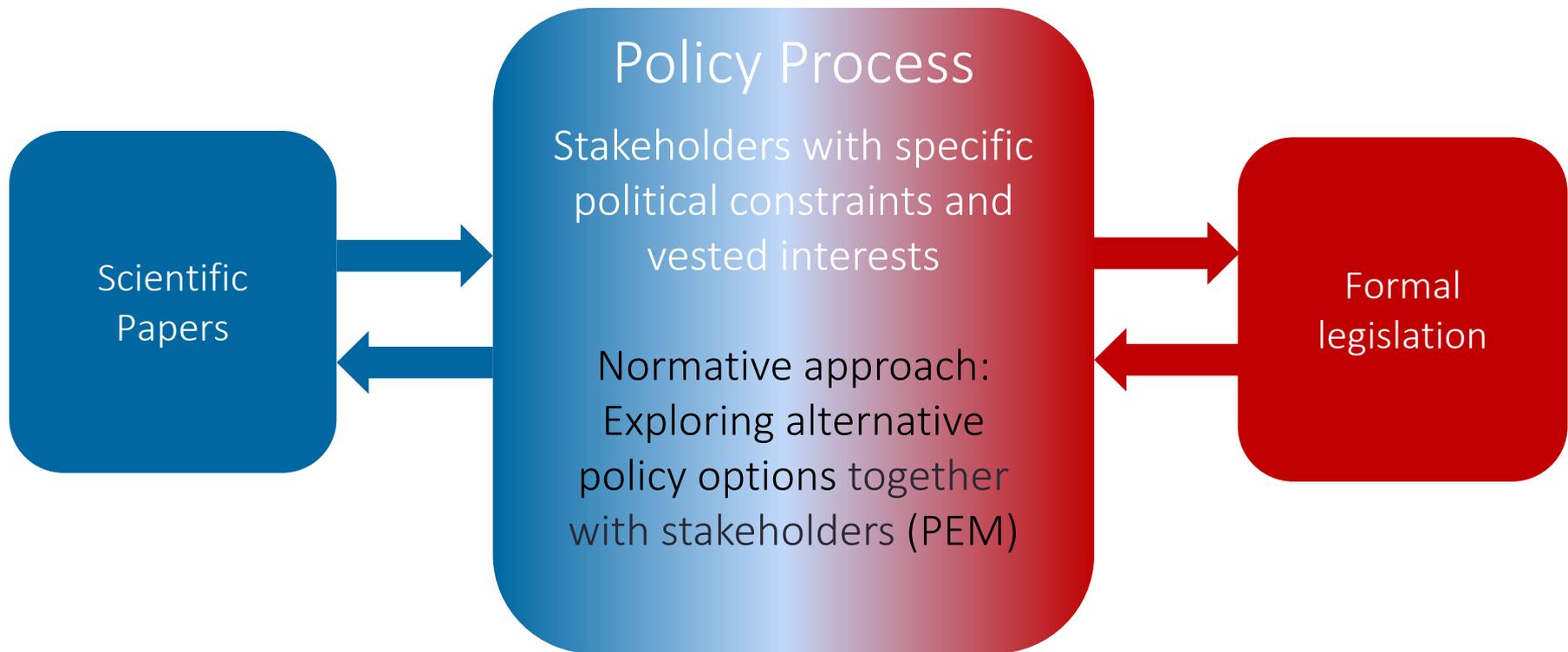
The role of science in the policy process

- Innovative formats can structure the process and increase the impact on political discourses.

- Particular products and channels can enhance communication

Research Institutions

Science-policy institutions

formats, products, channels

- Dialogue Forums
- Briefings
- Policy briefs
- Graphics
- Blogs
- Citizen parliaments?
- …

Government / Policy makers / Stakeholders / Society
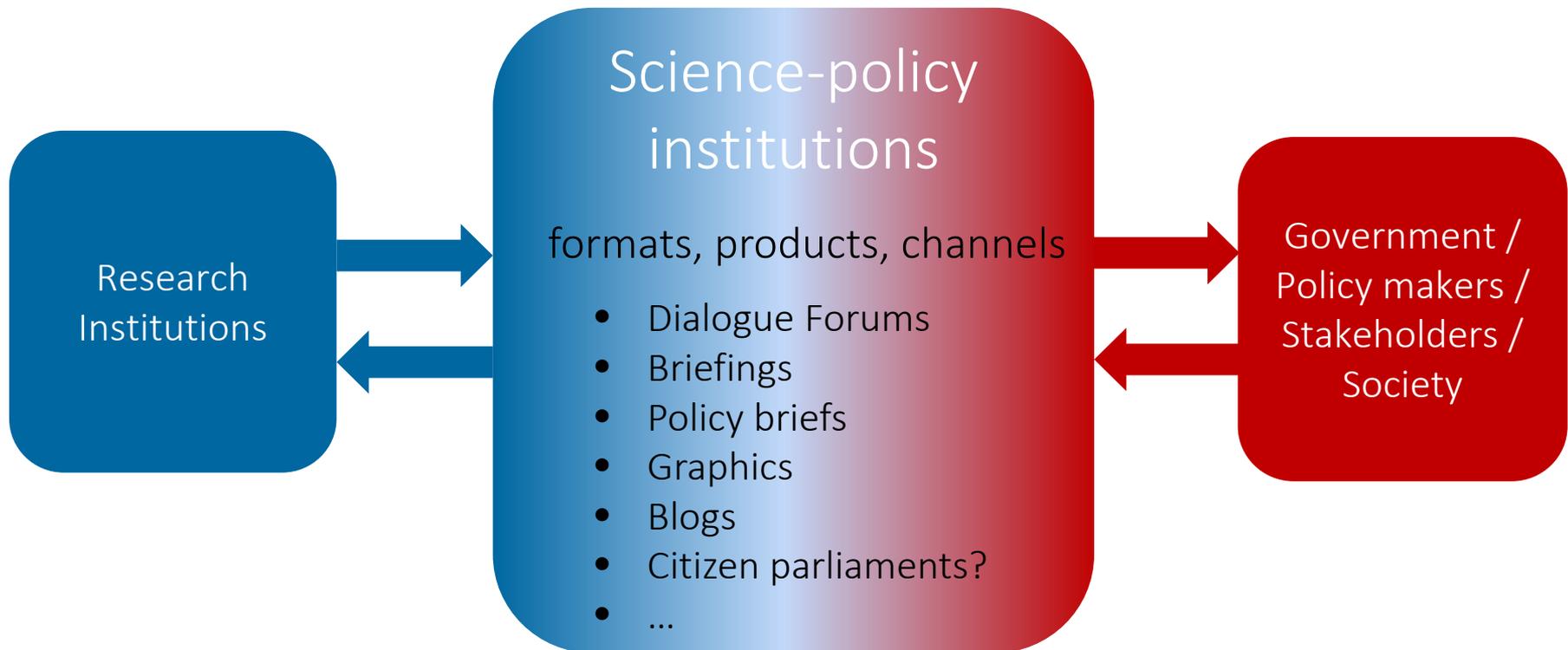
Elements for the science-policy interface recipe

1) **Appreciate decision-problem:** Seriously aim to understand constraints of policymakers & stakeholders (what do they **want to know**)?

   → Dialogue fora, formal and informal conversations

2) **Active agenda-setting:** Advocate putting policy items on the agenda, advance peer-review research to clarify the issues (what decision-makers **should know**)

   → Peer-reviewed papers, newspaper op-eds, interviews, talks, etc.

3) **Applied policy analysis:** With agenda set, analyze alternative policy options in detail – using multiple suitable methods

   → Policy reports, ministerial peer-review, workshops, network

4) **Build unusual alliances** and **get out of comfort zone**

   → e.g. working with conservative economists, parties, industry

5) **Build stakeholder trust** and advance mutual learning over time

   → e.g. policy dialogue fora

6) **Build institutions** enabling all of this