



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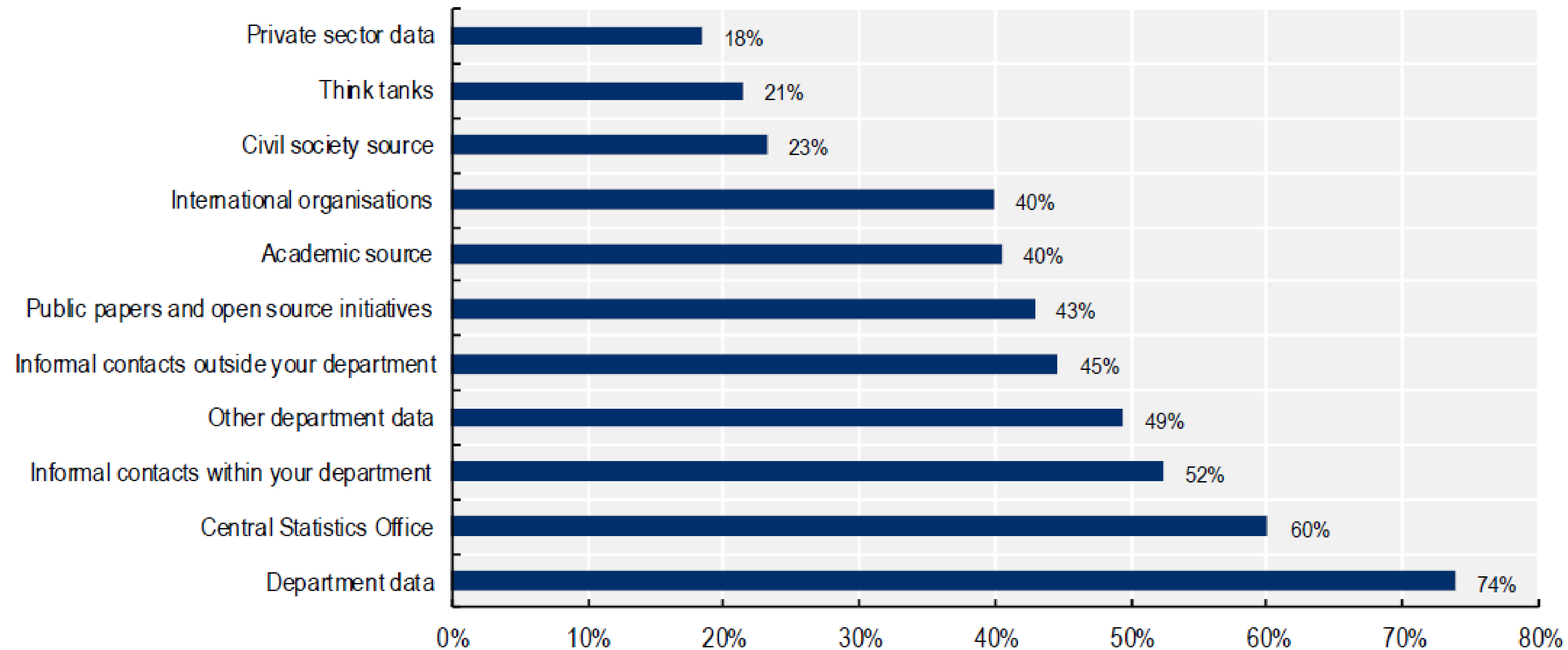
‘Knowledge regimes are the organisational and institutional machinery that generates data, research, policy recommendations and other ideas that influence public debate and policymaking’

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Source: (OECD, 2022^[6]), OECD Survey on Policy Development in Ireland (unpublished).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



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
Applications from Open Access (SSA)M: 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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