

Appendix A: Generation Mechanisms table

Rows are marked to signify effective, non-effective, partially-effective or undetermined (based on available literature).

Table 7 Mechanisms for Evidence Generation

Mechanism	Generation type/Description	Challenges	Benefits	Target audience	Effectiveness
Calls for evidence (partially effective)	Pull: public call for evidence, often by a government entity, on a particular salient topic/issue (footnote 1)	Clarity; relevance to terms of reference	Formal, direct engagement with policymakers	Policymakers; decision-maker practitioners	Moderately effective; require more strategic planning of purposes and goals.
Deliberation platforms (effective)	Co-creation: "a mechanism through which stakeholders with diverse perspectives can both discuss problems and explore potential solutions" for a political issue (footnote 2)	Scale and context; Participant diversity and representation; Bias (participants and facilitator); Clarity and transparency; Engagement	Fosters mutual understanding; Crosses sectors and disciplines; Encourages social learning; Collaborative engagement	Policymakers; researchers, practitioners	Effective when specific conditions are met: 1) long-term perspective; 2) mutualistic/ collaborative
Funded Commissions (effective)	Pull: research funded directly by government bodies or other funders, focused on a specific topic or need	Navigating politics, Time capacity, Coverage, Credibility, Scale and context	Funded; Direct engagement with policymakers/ practitioners	Government bodies, Industry, Third sector, NGOs	Effective for both short- and long-term policy decisions
Professional Partnerships (effective)	Co-creation: "policy/ practice- research collaborations, usually with a limited lifespan" (footnote 3) (footnote 4) (i.e. expert elicitation, committees, networks, Areas of Research Interest, etc.)	Scale and context, Navigating politics, Long-term impact	Often funded; Direct engagement with policymakers/ practitioners; Fosters mutual understanding	Researchers and policymakers/practitioners	Highly effective under specific conditions: 1) funded, 2) long-term perspective, 3) mutualistic/ collaborative in nature
Training and fellowships (undetermined)	Co-creation: formal skills development scheme, often funded (i.e. skills training), secondments, internships, fellowships.	Engagement, Unpredictable knowledge base, Clarity, Comprehension	Direct engagement, Capacity-building, Potentially funded	Researchers and policymakers/practitioners	Unclear/mixed/unavailable evidence on effectiveness.

Source: Authors informed by Warira et al. (2017), Ferrari, M. (2017) and Gerard, Koch & Kowarsch (2018)

1. Breckon, J. and Dodson, J. (2016) 'Using evidence: What works? A discussion paper,' Alliance for Useful Evidence. Available at: https://media.nesta.org.uk/documents/using_evidence_what_works.pdf
2. Garard, J., Koch, L. and Kowarsch, M. (2018) 'Elements of success in multi-stakeholder deliberation platforms,' Palgrave Communications, 4(129). Available at: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41599-018-0183-8>

3. Sources: Parsons, K. and Barling, D. (2021). Food Systems Transformation - What's in the Policy Toolbox?. A Report for the UKRI Transforming UK Food Systems Programme.
Available at: <https://www.foodsecurity.ac.uk/research/foodsystems-spf/outputs/>; OECD (2021a) 'Making better policies for food systems: Executive summary,' OECD iLibrary, Available at: <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/ddfba4de-en/index.html?itemId=/content/publication/ddfba4de-en>
4. Sasse, T. and Haddon, C. (2018) 'How government can work with academia,' Institute for Government. Available at: <https://apo.org.au/sites/default/files/resource-files/2018-06/apo-nid248641.pdf>