EXPLORATORY WEBINAR ON THE

Potential of Rapid Evidence Synthesis for Environmental Action

When

Monday 26 June 2025, 14.00–15.30 CEST

Where

Online (Zoom). Registration is available at scieur.org/0625-res-registration

Co-organisers

- Climate Research Initiative Netherlands
- Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT)
- French National Research Agency (ANR)
- Hungarian Research Network (HUN-REN)
- Lund University
- Research Council of Norway (RCN)
- Science Europe
- University of Cambridge

Background

The 'triple planetary crisis' (referring to climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss, see United Nations Climate Change, 2022) is a major societal challenge requiring, among other things, a steep and consistent decrease in emissions that must start right now. The transition to environmental sustainability is also a major opportunity for the future well-being of our societies and economies.

Science plays a key role in environmental action, providing analyses of the current situation and trends as well as practical solutions. These solutions need to be technologically feasible, competitive and just; engage the society as a whole; and, importantly, be delivered at a pace that is commensurate with the speed of the change that is needed.

More efforts are needed to accelerate the science-policy exchange in the field of climate and to increase the accessibility and practical impact of climate science. Based on their previous work on science for policy, interdisciplinarity, and environmental sustainability, Science Europe and partners are exploring how rapid evidence synthesis (RES) may represent a useful tool for accelerating innovation uptake in policy and practice.

RES can be defined as "a series of methods that adapts systematic review methods for shorter timelines than for a full systematic review" (ImpSciMethods.org); it can be flexibly delivered in the timeframes required by decision-makers, and is policy oriented (Norman et al, 2022). It has been widely and successfully used in healthcare, notably in the framework of the COVID-19 pandemic; some organisations are also pioneering rapid evidence synthesis for climate and health (for example, the DESTINY project on AI-Powered Living Evidence for Climate & Health). RES provides practical solutions and approaches based on scientific findings.

Aim of the webinar

This session will serve as a first step to explore the potential of rapid evidence synthesis in ensuring a fluid delivery of science-based solutions to policy makers and other stakeholders working on the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change.

Guiding questions

- What improvements are needed in the existing science-policy interfaces on climate, environmental pollution, and biodiversity?
- What are potential use cases for rapid evidence synthesis (RES) in environmental science?
- Can RES effectively support evidence-based policy action on the environment, and if yes, what would be the prerequisites for its successful deployment?
- What are the lessons learned from other fields in which RES has been used?
- What are the next possible steps for decision makers, research organisations and other stakeholders?

Audience

The workshop is intended for research organisations, researchers, decision makers and other stakeholders interested in accelerating environmental action.

Moderator & Speakers