

INGSA workshop in government science advice

SPECIFICATIONS

Introduction

International Network for Government Science Advice (INGSA) workshops are one day events that attract groups of up to 50 participants from across both government and research to enhance capacities in providing science advice for policy making at all levels of government. During the day, participants will work together on fictional case studies and exchange ideas on possible stakeholders, considerations and practical steps for addressing a challenging situation. Positioned in different virtual situations, participants have the opportunity to play the role of ministers, chief of staff and researchers, allowing them to better understand the reality and the complexities of an environment they may not know as well as they would like.

The participants in these workshops may:

- (1) refine their knowledge of an environment in which they are not familiar (either government, either research) and tackle the complexity of the relations between these two environments;
- (2) understand the role of evidence informed policy making;
- (3) network with people having the same interests;
- (4) develop a strategic intervention on science advice in the context of the region/domain.

Tested dozens of times all over the world, [INGSA workshops](#) meet several standards presented in these specifications. **In order to hold a workshop in government science advice with Fonds de recherche du Québec (FRQ) and *International Network for Government Science Advice (INGSA)*, hosting organizations must meet the standards indicated in this document.**

Organization

The workshop is designed by an organization committee, which includes at least one representative from FRQ. The committee submits the program of the workshop to FRQ at least 3 weeks before the event, for approval by INGSA.

Participants

- A call for applications disseminated within a targeted community (regional, institutional, or in a specific domain), including networks in the scientific community and networks in governments
- The selection of up to 50 participants is under the responsibility of the organization committee of the workshop
- Selection criteria include: potential policy impact of the professional activity, potential added value of the workshop to the professional project, motivation and comprehension of the purpose of the workshop
- The final selection should reflect gender equity within 40/60 ratio and a focus to early and middle-career professionals (50% are 45 years old or less)

Case studies

You are welcome to use existing INGSA case studies, or develop your own case studies addressing relevant topical and regional challenges facing workshop attendees. If you chose to develop your own case study, the new case study should be submitted to FRQ 3 weeks before the workshop in order to be approved by INGSA. The documents are formatted with INGSA case study cover and made available for publication and free use (*Creative commons* licence CC-BY-NC-SA) in the INGSA website, crediting the authors, after the workshop.

The case studies are fictional: the environment, the characters and the situations, even if they are realistic, should not reflect a real situation. They are designed to help participants understand the reality of different stakeholders in science & policy exchanges and to arouse discussions on the nature of the relations between them. Finally, the case studies are approved by a specialist to secure the scientific and technologic credibility of it.

The case studies shape as a 3 to 5 pages document, including the following parts:

- Context: description of the country, economical and societal situation, main challenges.
- Problem: description of the challenge to face, as well as the different stakeholders
- Situation: description of the situation that the different stakeholders will have to play (a meeting with trade unions, a public announcement, a council of ministers, etc.)
- Mentor notes: you may like to include notes for mentors to use during discussion (not shared with the participants), or for case study expansion

Examples of case studies are available on the INGSA website:

<https://www.ingsa.org/resources/ingsa-case-studies/>

Please note that not all of INGSA's case studies are in a role playing format, but all could be easily tailored to run as role playing exercises by drawing out stakeholders and interest groups central to the situation.

Program

The program of the workshop includes, at least:

- The realisation of a case study, including a play scene and preliminary discussions in groups;
- A reflection on the skills needed for policy brokerage;
- A strategic intervention on science advice in the context of the region/domain;
- An open discussion on science & policy practices.

Mentors

Mentors are selected by the organization committee, for their knowledge of science & policy and attend the whole workshop in order to guide the participants in their discussions. At least one representative from FRQ acts as a mentor, and an invitation is sent to INGSA for mentor contribution.

Follow-ups

The organization committee sends a 5 to 15 pages report to FRQ and INGSA, at least 3 months after the event. The report includes the names and functions of the participants.

Hosting organizations offer the possibility for INGSA and FRQ to invite them to be added to their network list.

Resources on science advice to governments

[10 conseils pour faire entendre la voix des chercheurs auprès des décideurs publics](#) – Rémi Quirion, scientifique en chef du Québec, Affaires universitaires

[10 rules for policy brokerage](#) - Sir Peter Gluckman, president de l'INGSA

[Understanding our Political Nature: How to put knowledge and reason at the heart of political decision-making](#) – EU Science hub (The European Commission's science and knowledge service)

You may like to visit: <https://www.ingsa.org/resources/> for more articles, commentaires and tools.

Information

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