

## Passages of Knowledge



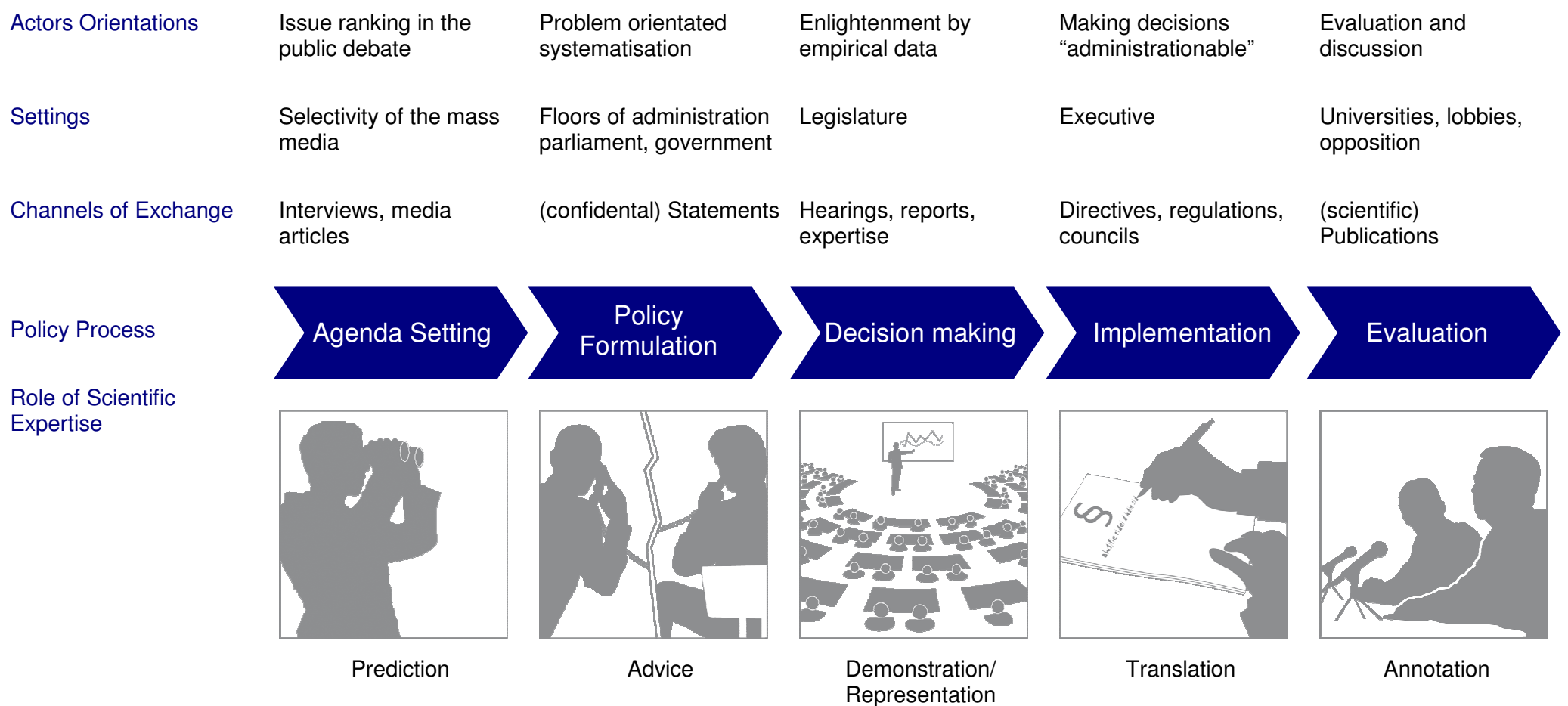
Results of the project:  
*Knowledge for Decision-Making - Approaches to a Dialogical-Reflexive Communication in the Interface of Science and Politics*

### Background

Focusing on science and politics, there are good reasons to speak of two separated spheres with differences in the ruling orientations, targets, timeframes and criteria of attention. Nevertheless in the practice of scientific policy advice, these two worlds get entangled and create different forms of cooperation. Thereby, the transfer of knowledge from one sphere to the other opens up passages of knowledge. Which forms and contents of expertise get exchanged under these conditions depends not only on the modes of interaction and the competency of actors involved, but also on status and constraints of the policy process.

### Scientific Expertise in the Policy Process

Analytically, the political process can be divided in different phases an issue passes through on his way from agenda setting to legislation and implementation. Although this model is very idealistic and doesn't really meet the more chaotic "muddling through" of political every day business, it describes different situations in which policy advice is embedded. These situations define (1) the orientation of the actors involved, (2) the settings of political advice (3) the channels the knowledge gets transferred between the two spheres and by all that (4) the role scientific expertise plays in the political process



### Synopsis

- **Role of scientific expertise** within the political sphere is very **strongly related** to **phases** of the political process.
- **Asymmetrical appraisal** of the role of science:
  - **Scientists** emphasize their role in the process of **Agenda Setting** and **Policy Evaluation**.
  - **Politicians** welcome scientific support for **Policy Formulation** and **Implementation**.
- Expertise gets under the **primacy of politics**, which doesn't only **use** scientific knowledge but **reformulates**, **transforms** and **translates** it accordant to its very **own rules** and **strategies**.
- **Knowledge-based policy advice** neither refers to a **monolithic block of secured and "scientific" knowledge** nor to a **continuous process of argumentation**. It's much more an iterative and **unsystematic diversity** of **heterogeneous statements** in different contexts and on different levels.
- Politics asks for context sensitive and **future oriented assessments** rather than for "hard facts" and complex reports – especially when knowledge is contested and inconclusive.
- In combination of **truth orientated science** and **power orientated politics**, **transformation oriented knowledge** originates on the base of **code syntheses** in the science-policy-interface.