



Title: Why Research is not Translating into Evidence-Based Policy Making?

Acronym: POLICONSTRAINTS

Project leader: Pedro Rey Biel

Host organisation: ESADE, Universidad Ramón LLull

Main purpose of the project: Despite the empirical revolution in social research in the last two decades, this does not seem to be fully reflected in a systematic use of research when deciding, implementing and evaluating public policies. We aim to understand the factors stopping the adoption of evidence-based policies.

Design/methodology/approach: We use Randomized Control Trials (RCT). Our treatment group will be a subset of municipalities whose representatives will be informed of a rigorous piece of scientific evidence demonstrating the effectiveness of an uncontroversial and costless strategy to boost local economies, while a similar randomly chosen control group will not receive this information.

Potential results: We will use a novel framework, identifying the factors stopping the adoption of evidence-based policies: in particular, we look at whether the sender of the information, the matching between the send of information and the message itself, influence the adoption of policies.

Social relevance of the research: We expect our project to be a keystone in understanding and overcoming the challenges we are facing towards the adoption and evaluation of evidence-based policies. Spain spends 1.25% of its GDP on Research and Development. How can we make sure that this research is effectively used to increase the welfare of our societies?

Originality/value of the project: Our project will provide for the first time, a unique experimental dataset isolating the different factors that may explain why scientific evidence is seldom translated into policy, and it will allow us to measure, in a controlled environment, their relative importance.