

Evidence-based policy is always value-based policy

The EU is growing its influence in Higher Education despite legal competence

- Networks and soft governance facilitate influence
- The EU's growing influence has not been fully understood in national policymaking and public discussions

- We mapped EU-level and Finnish working groups using publicly available sources and analysed their structures with network analysis.
- We conducted 45 thematic interviews with politicians, officials, and stakeholders to understand how they operated within these networks.
- We observed meetings in Finnish ministries and in the European Parliament's CULT committee to examine everyday policymaking practices.

Research design



Networks define access to power and knowledge

- National (Finnish) and EU actors form a well-connected network that coproduces policy agendas
- Networks are based on the informal trust-building around them
- Network members can offer knowledge; outsiders are not seen as credible

- Results reported in an online [Open Access book](#)
- Publications and additional information on the [research group website](#)
- Prof. Jaakko Kauko (jaakko.kauko@tuni.fi; +358 50 318 7788)
- Research team: Dr Katri Eeva Di Minin, Dr Jarmo Kallunki, researchers Joni Forsell and Paula Silvén.

Additional sources



“Evidence” is seen as political in policy-making

- What counts as “knowledge” for policymaking reflects institutional norms, not neutrality
- EU and national statistics, as well as OECD data, are seen as neutral; most of the other data are evaluated based on their source's status in the network



Transnational Knowledge
Networks in Higher Education

