

One-pager on Knowledge Brokerage

What is Knowledge Brokerage

Knowledge brokerage (KB) is a set of approaches and practices favouring intermediation among diverse social groups and social actors to facilitate knowledge transfer and exchange and propel mutual engagement, mutual learning, and coordination. KB is not only a professional activity. More frequently, it is an activity carried out (intentionally or not) by people (e.g., researchers, civil society representatives, local authorities, and businesses) while they are engaged in other activities or pursuing other aims.

KB is becoming an increasingly important activity because of the growing social diversification that characterises contemporary societies. This also has an impact on policymaking processes, which involve ever larger and more diverse sets of social and institutional actors, being able to rely less and less on established and well-tested patterns of interaction and channels of communication.

Which functions Knowledge Brokerage could perform

KB can perform several functions, sometimes combined. Some of them are presented below.

Knowledge management

Aim. Identifying relevant knowledge items (to identify problems, assess needs, identify implications of a local policy, search best practices, etc.), and appraising, synthesising, tailoring, and transferring them in appropriate forms based on the kind of audience. **Examples of techniques.** Reports, policy briefs, literature reviews, data summary reports, data and resources inventories, narratives, data visualisation techniques, digital stories, indicator sets, and videos.

Consulting

Aim. Identifying, contacting, and engaging researchers, experts, or individuals bearing knowledge and information relevant to the issues the KB initiative is intended to address. **Examples of techniques.** Meetings, interviews, exchange of documents and other types of material, working groups, workshops, and focus groups.

Matchmaking

Aim. Identifying, selecting, contacting, and linking with each other actors (e.g., stakeholders, policymakers, practitioners, researchers, technology developers, and service providers) relevant to the issues the KB initiative is intended to address to favour knowledge transfer and exchange. **Examples of techniques.** Stakeholder mapping and selection, communication activities, bilateral or multilateral meetings, and production of short documents.

Collaboration and co-creation

Aim. Establishing the conditions and facilitating collaboration and exchange among the actors relevant to the issues the KB initiative is intended to address. **Examples of techniques.** Participatory knowledge mapping, living labs, problems mapping, co-design techniques and participatory evaluation.

Capacity building

Aim. Transferring information to and building capacities of knowledge users to better manage knowledge items and research evidence. **Examples of techniques.** Learning-by-doing techniques, guidance documents, inventories of training resources, and online or face-to-face training activities.