

Context Matters: A Framework to put knowledge into policy

There are many factors that affect knowledge use, but every public agency is different. To understand how to foster change in any organization, we need to look at the context in which it operates and its relationships.

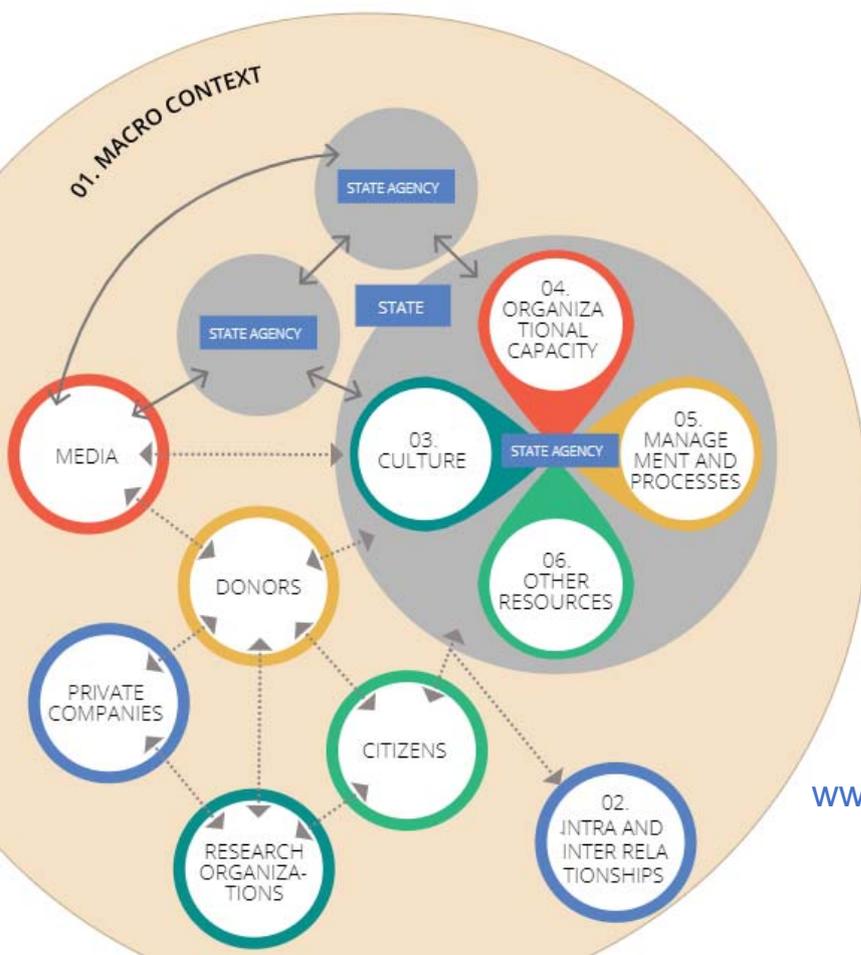
We support government agencies to improve their use of knowledge in policy making through a participatory diagnostic process to understand different dimensions of context.

- Explore how to use knowledge and identify the best entry points for change
- Develop flexible and adaptive plans to maximise the use of knowledge in policy
- Work with our expert facilitators to navigate complexity and tailor solutions

We believe that **context matters** for organizational change.

ABOUT THE FRAMEWORK

The Context Matters Framework is a lens through which to examine the internal and external context in which your organization is working. It identifies six interrelated areas to help navigate complexity, so that you can better understand your organization, the blockages and opportunities for positive change.



- It looks at the **organization itself** (internal factors) as well as the **broader political economy and relationships** (external factors)
- It addresses **visible changes**, such as new processes or behaviours, and **invisible changes**, such as incentives or cultures for knowledge use
- It builds on the **experience of 50+ policymakers and practitioners**
- It has been **piloted with government agencies in Peru and Ghana**

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

Every organization is unique. We have a team of experienced practitioners to help facilitate change in public agencies, tailoring the tool to your needs.

We take you through a **four-step process** to lead and sustain a culture of knowledge use. Through a combination of workshops, interviews, surveys and document reviews – using innovative tools and methodologies – we work together to **systematically identify and prioritise a pathway to change**.

The six dimensions of the framework are considered at each stage.

1. ASSESS

Take a look at the how your agency currently uses and produces knowledge to inform policy

2. DECIDE

Select priorities for change to enhance the use of knowledge according to identified opportunities and challenges, including key stakeholders

3. ACT

Based on these priorities establish main strategies and actions to be developed and re-connect them with the dimensions for change (how do they affect each other?)

4. REFLECT

Monitor and evaluate outputs and outcomes of your initiatives, by documenting these according to the dimensions of the framework

FLEXIBLE APPROACHES TAILORED TO YOUR NEEDS

We value adaptive approaches. The framework can be adapted to each organisation's individual needs and complexities:

- We have worked **directly with government agencies**, as well as **supporting larger projects and consortiums** aimed at improving knowledge use in policymaking.
- We have experience leading **an entire organizational change process**, as well as focusing on **one dimension of change**, such as organizational capacity.

GET IN TOUCH

To learn more about the framework or explore how we can help you to enhance knowledge use in your organization, please contact info@inasp.info or contact@politicsandideas.org

ABOUT US

INASP and Politics & Ideas formed a partnership in 2017 to put into practice their shared belief that 'context matters' for organizational change in the field of knowledge to policy. There is a great deal of literature and case studies on the importance of context in the interaction between research and policy. But this understanding of how context influences knowledge use doesn't always translate into action. We're working to help bridge that gap.

Politics & Ideas: a think net is a Southern-led initiative of researchers and practitioners to co-produce innovative knowledge and support the use of evidence in policymaking in developing countries

www.politicsandideas.org

INASP is an international development organization that supports individuals and institutions to produce, share and use research and knowledge to support national development.

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