

From science to policy – the role of the industry

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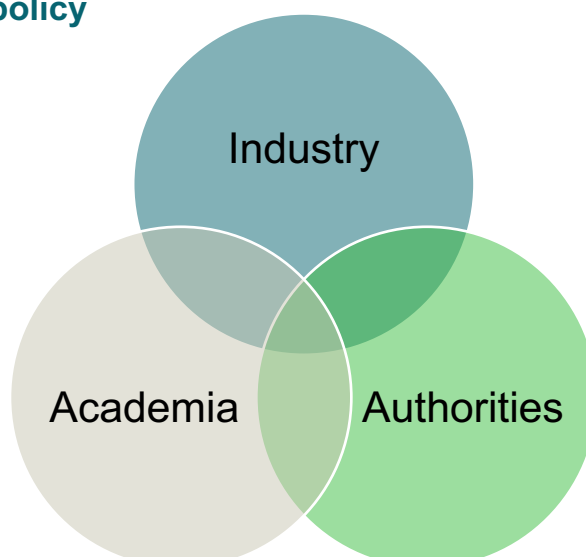
CHALLENGE SESSION DURING ANNUAL MEETING IN
EUROPEAN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH



From science to policy

Industry produces science and has knowledge about feasibility and economics

- Industry has to live with the policy decided upon
- But if a policy is based upon wrong data, required actions may not be carried out
- E.g. due to trade concerns, lack of feasibility and economics



How do we involve industry in providing science for policy?

- To ensure that the "best" policy is decided upon
- Resulting in compliance with policy leading to the wanted outcome
- While avoiding industry hijacking policy in a short-sighted strategy
- And while ensuring trustworthiness and objectivity?

From science to policy

Classic belief based upon a presumed advantage:

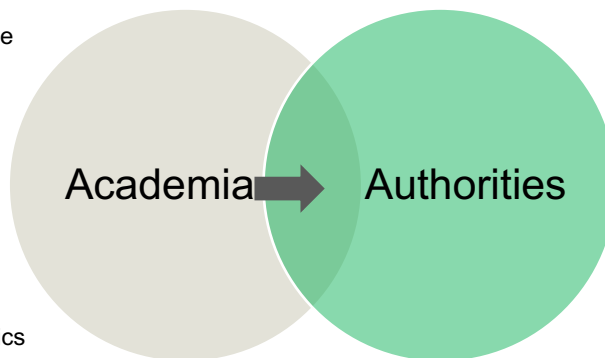
- Objectivity

Is this always so?

- Could researchers have an own interest in a specific outcome?

Is there a risk that important knowledge is not put forward

- Due to lack of knowledge?
- In particular reg. feasibility and economics



Extensive interpretation of conflict of interest

- Potentially excluding researchers who collaborate with industry
- It may be difficult to have qualified people in a working group or on a panel

Is this in the interest to society?

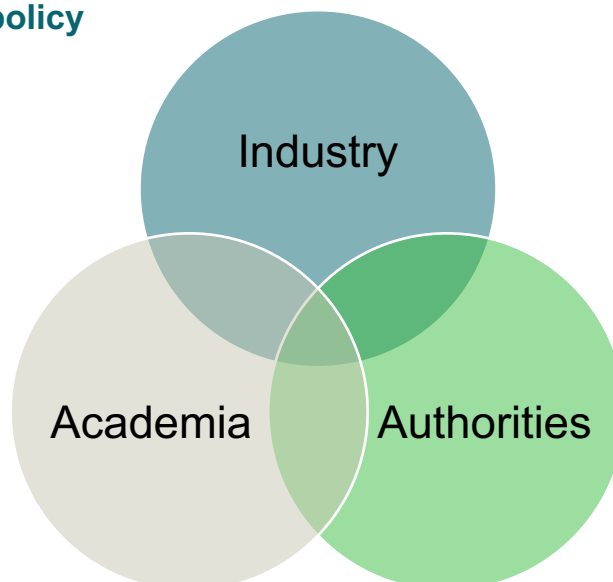
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Process through:

- Collaboration, confidence and persistence

Invite experts to be part of working groups

- Based upon knowledge of subject
- While delaring potential conflict of interest
- Specify role of the different kinds of experts



Leads to:

- Data sharing
- Better insight into issue
- And identifaciton of more cost-effective and long-lasting policies that will be complied with

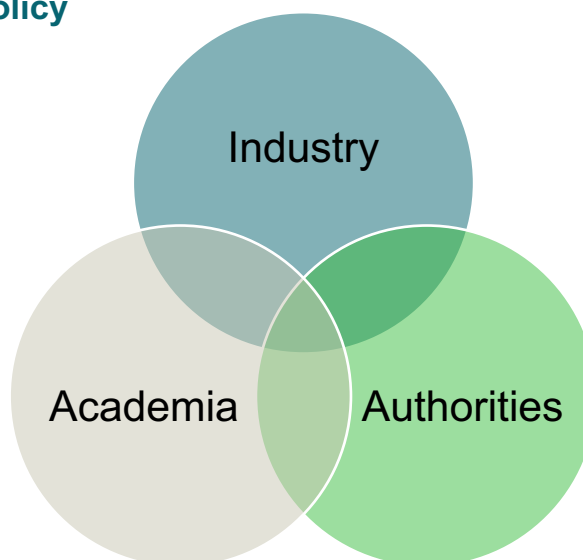
From science to policy

Role of Industry

- Use arguments related to economics and feasibility and take responsibility by claiming that industry is the best to identify cost-effective risk-mitigating actions

Role of academia

- To discuss and challenge input from industry to ensure that ambitions are maintained through qualified initiatives and that necessary documentation is provided



Role of authority

- Ensure that the process between industry and academia will end as a compromise - or even consensus

Danish experience:

- It takes time
- It is hard
- But it is worth it

FAO/WHO:

- Invites experts and asks them to declare potential conflict of interest