

Science Policy Advice at Helmholtz – National and international activities

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Helmholtz in a nutshell

Germany's largest non-university research organization

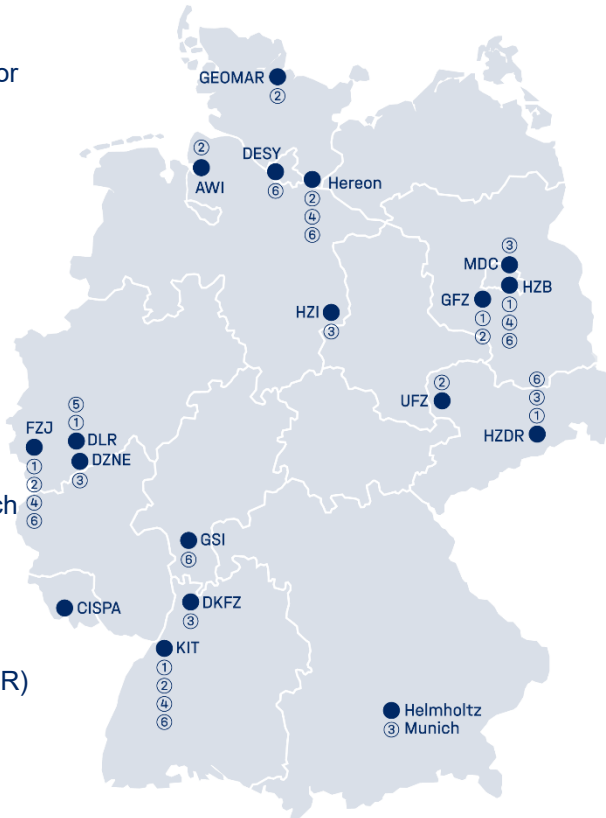
- 18 (legally independent) Research Centers
- More than 43.000 staff
- 5.8 billion € budget
 - Majority of funding from the federal government
- Large-scale research infrastructures: ~11.000 international researchers use Helmholtz infrastructure each year
- Research fields: Energy; Earth and Environment; Health; Information; Aeronautics, Space and Transport; and Matter
- Long-term research programs, critical mass



Helmholtz Research Centers

18 Centers in 6 Research Fields

- Alfred-Wegener-Institut Helmholtz-Zentrum for Polar and Marine Research ([AWI](#))
- [CISPA](#) – Helmholtz Center for Information Security
- Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron [DESY](#)
- German Cancer Research Center ([DKFZ](#))
- German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases ([DZNE](#))
- German Aerospace Center ([DLR](#))
- Forschungszentrum Jülich ([FZJ](#))
- [GSI](#) Helmholtz Center for Heavy Ion Research
- [Helmholtz Munich](#)
- Helmholtz Center Berlin for Materials and Energy (HZB)
- Helmholtz Center Dresden Rossendorf (HZDR)



- Helmholtz Center for Infection Research (HZI)
- Helmholtz Center for Environmental Research – UFZ
- Helmholtz-Zentrum Hereon
- GEOMAR Helmholtz Center for Ocean Research Kiel
- Helmholtz Center Potsdam – German Research Center for Geosciences GFZ
- Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)
- Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine in the Helmholtz Association (MDC)

Research Fields:

- (1) Energy, (2) Earth and Environment
- (3) Health, (4) Information
- (5) Aeronautics, Space and Transport, (6) Matter

Helmholtz internationalization strategy

Overview

- Hundreds of bilateral partnerships worldwide
- Three international offices in Brussels, Beijing and Tel Aviv
- Approx. 11,000 international scientists at the Centers (visiting + permanent)
- International projects with partners worldwide, funded by Helmholtz:
 - 10 Helmholtz International Labs
 - 9 Helmholtz International Research Schools
 - 10 Helmholtz European Partnering projects
- Research infrastructures and large-scale facilities at home and abroad as international magnets (XFEL, BESSY, PETRA III, FAIR, W7X, Polarstern, Sonne, Neumayer Station III
- Focus countries and individual strategies e.g. USA, Israel, China, France, UK, Australia, Canada, Japan
- Increasing importance of science diplomacy and research security in international cooperation

Public Affairs And Science Policy Team in the Head Office

Our Mission

Science Policy

- We (co-)develop science policy positions
- We provide formats to get positions to key decision-makers
- We manage our stakeholders

Science Based Expert Advice

- We position Helmholtz as a hub for science based expertise
- We provide expertise from the centers to policy makers
- We help turn expertise into suitable, usable formats

Service Hub

- We provide a stage for our centers
- We provide expertise in public affairs
- We help turn ideas into the right format

Our stakeholders

An incomplete chart

Public

NGOs

SME

Politics

Foundations

Large corporations

Media

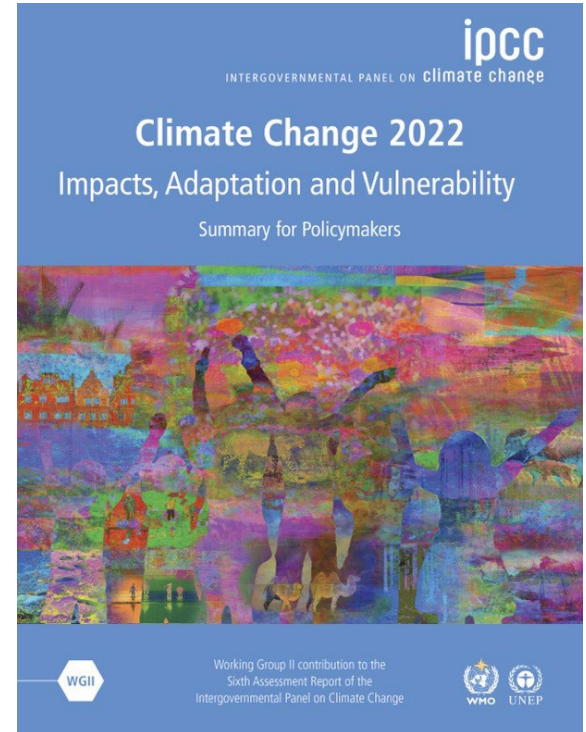
Public affairs
specialists

Industry organizations

Helmholtz Centers

Some examples of national and international policy activities

- Service for the public: Cancer Information Service by the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ)
- Service for decision makers in business, politics and public administration: Climate Service Center Germany (GERICS) by Helmholtz Center Hereon
- Evidence-based policy publications, e.g. “Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability” by the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), led by AWI scientist Prof. Pörtner
- Advisory roles in international committees
- Information / science entertainment for the public: Documentary “A Year in the Ice: Arctic Drift” about AWI’s MOSAiC expedition



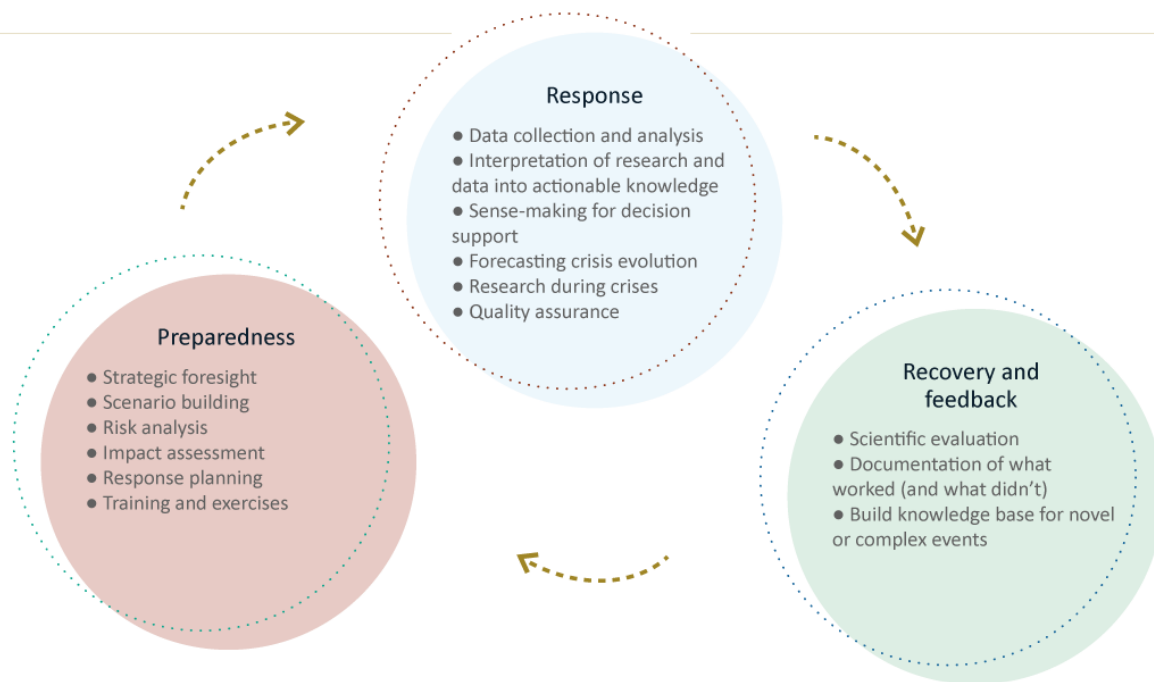
Public Affairs tools used by our team in the Head Office (examples)

- National
 - Events such as policy breakfasts, science lunches and parliamentary evenings
 - Task forces for specific / current topics; contribution to national strategies and policies
 - One or two-page policy briefs
 - Joint statements with partner organizations
- International
 - Visits by international delegations and stakeholders to learn from Helmholtz best practices (e.g. governance)
 - Fostering and supporting science diplomacy
 - International think tanks and conferences
 - Foreign offices in Brussels, Tel Aviv and Beijing



How can science support policy makers?

Scientific advice can play an important role in the crisis management cycle



Example: Helmholtz Corona Update

Bringing expertise into the German Federal Parliament

- Helmholtz has a lot of expertise in health research and medical sciences
- Coronavirus pandemic made the need for policy advice in this area very necessary
- We established an experts forum for Members of Parliament
- During the pandemic, more than 20 video meetings took place
- Each focused on a specific sub-topic of the pandemic (virology, epidemiology, digital health / tracking apps, vaccine development...)



Thank you!
Any questions?

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