

Politicians learned to request more research knowledge - intervention results from Denmark

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Intervention aim

The interventions were on physical activity policies at initiation phase; Kolding eight-month workshop and guidance intervention (n = 21 team members) aimed to promote inter-sector collaboration; Varde 10-month working group and guidance intervention (n = 11) aimed to facilitate systematic strategy development in research knowledge use and inter-sector collaboration.

Methods

The pre (n = 30) and post-intervention (n = 18) surveys covered e.g. use of research and other knowledge; collaboration

across sectors and with stakeholders; influence of stakeholders on policy making. Respondents with pre and post replies ($n = 18$) were included; the percentages present proportions of those (very) highly agreeing with the statements. Chi square tests and p -value < 0.050 were used for statistical significance.

Results

Combined, the interventions significantly increased politicians' requests for research knowledge (pre 38.9%; post 61.1%, $p = 0.03$) though they did not increase influence of research knowledge on policy making (61.1%; 61.1%, NS). Beliefs that research knowledge can be translated into local needs decreased slightly (94.4%; 77.8%, NS). A slight increased search for values and need of policy target groups (66.7%; 88.2%, NS) did not influence the use of them in policy making (72.2%; 76.5%, NS).

Conclusion

The increase of requests for research knowledge by politicians is promising. Though the other results (probably due to the lack of statistical power) did not show significant change, the indicative increase in the interest of the policy target groups' needs and values can be seen a step towards taking those into account later. Becoming more realistic due to interventions might explain the decreased belief in local translatability of research knowledge.

Main message: Stewardship interventions can increase research-policy-making interaction and also sensitize policy-makers to local and target groups' needs and values; these are pre-requisites for later collaboration.