Policy briefs, as short documents that distil lessons emerging from research evidence, are important vehicles for providing policy advice.

The r4d programme launches the call for r4d policy briefs.


The call is open to all researchers in r4d projects (completed or ongoing). Three to five selected r4d policy briefs per submission round will be published on the r4d knowledge platform and pushed into specific development policy fora.
A policy brief
- distils lessons emerging from research evidence
- provides policy recommendation and advice

Technical requirements
Policy briefs draw on the research results of an r4d project and provide balanced and defensible pieces of work. An r4d policy brief uses a combination of text, infographics, and photographs, and contains references and authors contact details. The first language is English. Other language versions of a selected r4d policy brief can be published, if the authors provide the translations.

Terms of use and dissemination
The authors guarantee that they have produced the submitted policy briefs themselves and that they hold all necessary rights and authorisations for each of the contents (particularly photos). The authors remain the owners of the copyright. They disseminate the policy brief proactively in their own networks. They give their permission for the r4d policy brief to be published by the r4d programme under a CC-BY-NC-ND license (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0): The r4d policy briefs may be freely used for non-commercial purposes provided they remain unaltered and the authors are duly credited. The r4d programme provides editing and graphic design and disseminates the selected r4d policy briefs on the internet, in social media as well as in policy networks and fora. The selected r4d policy briefs may be put on display at one or more exhibitions or in briefing dossiers.

Submission and selection process
This call has two submission dates: 15 August 2019 and 15 December 2019. Researchers who wish to submit a policy brief must complete the submission form and use the r4d policy brief word template and submit the documents electronically to r4d@snf.ch. Both templates are available on the r4d website. A policy brief can be submitted only once, i.e. either in August or in December 2019. A jury of independent experts with different backgrounds selects three to five r4d policy briefs per submission round to be published and disseminated via the r4d programme.

Selection criteria
Submitted policy briefs will be assessed along the following criteria:
- Argument, proof and persuasion; focus on single topic including important trade-offs, relevance, topicality/inter- and transdisciplinarity
- User-friendliness; appealing combination of text and visual elements, clarity of key messages
- Accessible language; avoiding scientific jargon, interesting title and subtitles, short sentences

Legal notice
By submitting an r4d policy brief, the applicants fully accept these terms and conditions. Incomplete or incorrect submissions will not be taken into consideration.

Important Dates
Launch of r4d policy brief Call 2019: 1 April 2019
Submission deadline 1: 15 August 2019
Submission deadline 2: 15 December 2019

Selection of policy briefs will take place within six weeks of submission deadline.

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