

RESEARCH THEME

Title of the doctoral research Design for Policy Making.
Making an Impact in Public Innovation's Transformation

Proponent professor Stefano Maffei

Abstract Design as a discipline has acquired relevance when connected to policy-making practices to address societal challenges and public sector innovation. There is a growing interest in applying design methods and approaches to policymaking (design for policy approach) as an acknowledgement of the potentialities of design tools for improving government efficiency in public services, internal procedures, citizen participation. Policy, as a situated practice, can make sense if linked to understanding issues in context and connected with a practical outlook and consequences. The assumption of a linear policy cycle needs to be challenged at its core, questioning how and when to gather the pieces of evidence necessary for allocate and frame resources. Thus, this research area aims to build a robust analysis of the connection between design and policy-making practices creating a theoretical framework focused on the relationship between the transformation processes enacted by public innovation. We want to explore the field of evidencebased policies, searching for the nature of the challenges, and the features of policy-making approaches and activities (on various scales and levels). The intent is to define a path of action-research that can robustly test design-based approaches and practices of in this area. We expect to develop a grounded understanding which could enable a robust design methodology for the development of a new generation of evidence-based policy-making processes.

Keywords Design for policy, Policy design, Public Sector Innovation