



OPPORTUNITY

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SCOPE **WITHIN REACH**

UNCERTAINTIES

Systems, Values

MEGATRENDS

Future humanity

TRENDS

Cross-sectoral Partnerships
ESG & Beyond GDP
Generational diversity
Government Agility
Heritage & culture

SECTORS IMPACTED

Agriculture & Food
Communication Technologies & Systems
Consumer Goods, Services & Retail
Data Science, AI & Machine Learning
Education
Energy, Oil, Gas & Renewables
Government Services
Health & Healthcare

What if every government appointed a chief sociologist?

SOCIOLOGIST-IN-CHIEF

Governments appoint a chief sociologist to advise on the impacts of policy on society and shape more effective and equitable policies to address the needs of communities and society in the future.





WHY IT MATTERS TODAY

Worldwide, countries are seeking to push policymaking beyond economic growth objectives to include sustainability and inclusivity.⁶⁵⁶ Moreover, social change and uncertainty are constantly reshaping policy agendas.⁶⁵⁷

Two-thirds of Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries use a legal framework for policy evaluation, and half employ overarching policy frameworks to foster a culture of evaluation.⁶⁵⁸ The frameworks vary, ranging from primary to secondary legislation, with countries like Germany, Mexico, Switzerland, and France making policy evaluation a constitutional duty.⁶⁵⁹

In some cases, however, it is not always evident how government spending improves people's lives. According to the United Kingdom's National Audit Office, in 2022 only 8% of major government projects were robustly evaluated, while 64% were not evaluated at all.⁶⁶⁰ Besides evaluation, community engagement and imagination in policymaking can catalyse more proactive solutions to social challenges,⁶⁶¹ particularly in sustainable transitions.⁶⁶²

The UAE Government had previously created the post of Minister of State for Happiness in February 2016 and Minister of State for Government Development and the Future in July 2020.⁶⁶³



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Chief sociologists can be appointed at national government level to play a key role in shaping policy at global, national, and regional levels with a focus on long-term social impact. This approach would prioritise proactive and future-oriented approaches that take social and behavioural aspects into consideration.

Policies that affect a substantial part of the population would be subjected to evaluation analysis, concentrating on social behaviours, cultural dynamics, and the needs of current and future communities. Aided by participatory methods, the chief sociologist can work with communities throughout the policymaking process.

BENEFITS

Government policies are optimised to be more effective and fair, benefiting society and future generations, ushering in a renaissance in the practice of sociology, and enhancing understanding of society and societal dynamics.

RISKS

Efforts prove to be resource-intensive, relying on inputs, processes, or data that may not be easily accessible. Despite significant efforts, evaluations that are perceived as subjective often fail to persuade others about the effectiveness of a particular approach to public policy.



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