

Briefing Papers and Policy Papers

1 Types of written outcomes

Labex RéFi is interested in two types of written outcomes from its researchers: Briefing Paper and Long Policy Paper.

Policy papers and briefing papers are different from standard research papers by the audience which a paper is addressed for (Glover, 2002). They are usually addressed to non-academic audience.

1.1 The main components of a briefing paper

- Policy briefs shall be based on a published research paper: they thus provide an explanation of the paper for a wider audience, outlining the policy implications. It distills the complex information into a short, well-structured form. The briefing papers are designed for policy and practitioner audiences. Purpose of briefing paper is to familiarize an audience with the topic at hand, with an overview of current research, the major controversy and debate involved. It provides some detailed information about the state of the topic, focusing on the recent development.
- Avoid jargon, technical language, or information that is not central for your audience. Use plain language for maximum readability. The paper should be clear and simple.
- Builds familiarity with the topic and with the information landscape around it.
- As the term suggests, briefing paper is short and succinct. *Length – 3 pages.*

Research briefing examples

- <http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/>

1.2 The main components of a policy paper

- What is the policy question that you plan to address? Determine clearly the objectives. Introduce similar policy analysis and relevant sources of data (Doughty, 2001).
- The audience which the paper is written for should be clear (Technical Vs non-Technical, decision maker vs. advisor). What is the current policy position of your target audience?
- The purpose of the paper should be clear (to inform, to contextualize, to analyze, to recommend, to justify, to defend).
- Determine method for solution.
- Discussion of a range of policy options. Search for alternatives. Evaluate benefits and costs of each alternative (Smith, 2005). Determine the criteria that you will use to choose the best policy options.
- Evaluate outcomes and impacts from the different policies after implementation. Do the predicted outcomes meet the purpose of study? Analyze the non-action analysis.
- Use matrices, lists, charts, scenarios to illustrate results.
- Present the findings. Recommend solution. Draw up a plan for implementation. Suggest a monitoring system to evaluate the effects of the policy after its implementation.
- *A policy paper should demonstrate a deep expertise on the studied topic. It can be based on one or several research papers. It is not though another research paper (the target audience is non-academic).*
- *Length – 20 pages.*

Policy paper examples

- Duisenberg School of Finance <http://www.dsf.nl/policy-papers/>
- MIT <http://economics.mit.edu/faculty/dautor/policy>

2 How to apply for the project?

All senior Labex's members may apply for the project "Long policy paper" to express their recommendations to a regulator. Junior researchers can co-write a policy paper with a senior colleague (for instance, a PhD student with his supervisor). One policy paper per year is mandatory for all post-doc researchers granted by Labex as part of their employment contract. All members (senior and junior) are invited to produce "Briefing policy paper".

All applicants must submit a short letter of intent to apply for a policy paper or briefing paper project of Labex ReFi, and after review, selected teams (or individuals) will be invited to submit a full written production.

Emphasis is placed on novel and actual topics requiring the high expertise of different facets of the studied issue.

According to the Labex's compensation policy, the grant is awarded when all the above requirements have been fulfilled by the researchers and approved by the scientific policy paper committee and by Labex scientific committee.

Contact

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References

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- GLOVER, D. (2002). What makes a good policy paper?, the 18th EEPSEA Biannual Workshop.
- SMITH, C. (2005). Writing public policy: a practical guide to communicating in the policy-making process, oxford University Press.