**THE RESEARCH TO POLICY GAP (RP3L)**

**Module**  
From Research to Policy

**Format**  
Presentation

**Purpose**  
This session contributes to the module learning objectives by showing the gap that exists between research and policy, explaining the different factors that contribute to the gap, and identifying some approaches that can help bridge the gap.

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**Time Required**  
- 1 hr. (including presentation and embedded exercise)

**Activity Description**  
PowerPoint presentation with speaker notes and embedded exercise. This presentation serves as an important foundation for the workshop curriculum, as it gives participants a clear sense that a research-to-policy gap exists and also an understanding of the reasons why this is the case. The reasons are explained across four key categories: individual differences, institutional roadblocks, poor communication, and practical constraints. The presentation also gives a brief orientation to some approaches that can be used to overcome some of the barriers. Overall the Research-to-Policy Gap presentation helps participants fully understand why the communication skills taught in the workshop are so important and sets the stage for the rest of the curriculum.

Early on in the presentation there is an embedded exercise where participants are split into two groups, with one group assigned to be esteemed researchers and the other group assigned to be policymakers. Participants should be encouraged to embrace these roles and engage in a lively discussion about the assumptions that each group has about the other. There are questions on the slide to help facilitate the discussion and probe for additional responses. Probe and elicit all responses from the first group before shifting to the second group. Discourage the other group from trying to respond or push back to any responses when it is not their turn. This exercise is typically fun and lively and helps participants see clearly, based on their own experience and understanding, some of the reasons why a gap exists between the worlds of research and policy.

**Key Learning Concept(s)**  
- Recognition of the gap between research and policy.
- Assumptions that policymakers and researchers make about each other.
- Reasons why the research-to-policy gap exists.
- Approaches that can help bridge the research-to-policy gap.
Materials Needed

- Laptop and projector

Associated Exercises

- Assumptions exercise, embedded within the presentation.

Required Preparation
