Factors explaining different test strategies in COVID-19 exit phase

Introduction

Paragraph 1: COVID-19 and the European Union and the expectation of a unified approach but different test strategies in practice (also during the exit strategy).

Paragraph 2: Evidence-based policy-making during (novel crises): (i) the need for knowledge and evidence; (ii) knowledge and evidence need to come from a multitude of parties/stakeholders; (iii) multiple stakeholders affect policy-making (due to interests).

Paragraph 3: The role of the WHO and ECDC and their recommended test & the different test strategies in Europe in general and during the exit strategies specifically

~~Paragraph 4: Focus on test strategies during the exit strategies and the role of knowledge and evidence.~~

Aim: Understand the factors which contribute to the differences in European policies regarding test strategies in the COVID-19 exit strategy.

Literature review

Paragraph 1: Positivist approaches to evidence-based policy-making; diffusion/dissemination theories and translation of evidence studies

Paragraph 2: Interpretivist approaches to evidence-based policy-making:

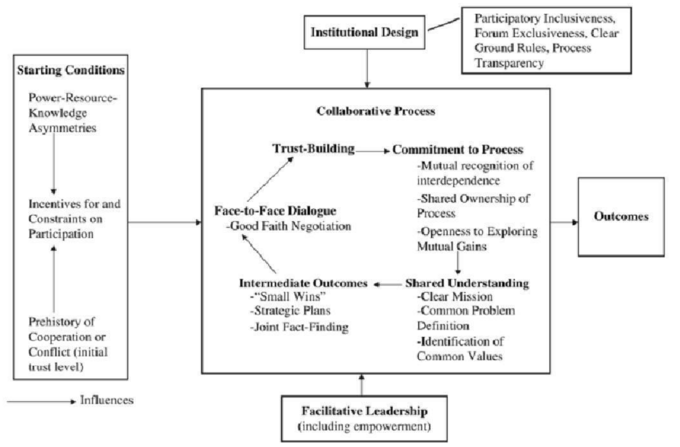
- iterative nature of policy making
- to understand policy need to understand the actions and interactions of key actors as well as the settings within which the policy is developed and implemented (institutional, political, cultural, economic and personal factors)
- accept the diversity of legitimate evidence

Paragraph 3: the interpretivist approach of evidence-based policy making suggests the need for a variety of stakeholders to communicate and collaborate. Collaborative governance is *the governing arrangement where one or more public agencies directly engage non-state stakeholders in a collective decision-making process that is formal, consensus-oriented, and deliberative and that aims to make or implement public policy or manage public programs or assets*" (Ansell & Gash, 2007).

Hypothesis: The differences in European policies regarding test strategies in the COVID-19 exit strategy can be explained by the differences in collaborative governance characteristics.

Theoretical framework

Figure 1
A Model of Collaborative Governance



The outcome in the in this case is the test strategy policy in the exit phase of COVID-19

Methods

Mixed-method approach; individuals who are part of existing or emergent European government initiated institutions which aim to directly contribute to the COVID-19 policy-making on test strategies. These institutions should include state and non-state actors.

1. Online/telephone semi-structured interviews with BAO participants who have participated in discussions concerning COVID-19 test strategies within the Netherlands.
   Focus on the BAO as it is a government led initiative which aims to translate knowledge to policy making and included state and non-state actors.
   Interview questions will be based on concepts in Ansell & Gash's model and their operationalization.
   Aim: (i) have a broader and deeper understanding of the role of collaboration during the policy-making process, (ii) identify what may need to be adapted in the theoretical framework, (iii) provide insights for the following questionnaire
2. Questionnaire with European individuals involved in meetings similar to the BAO throughout Europe
   European National Focal points and SHARP JA partners will be asked to help identify these institutions in their countries and to disseminate the questionnaires.
   Develop a digital questionnaire using Ansell & Gash's 2008 model and insights from the semi-structured interviews
   Aim: Finding factors of collaborative governance which explain the differences in European policies regarding test strategies during the exit phase.