

## **The STEP** (Scientific, Trustworthy, and Ethical evidence for Policy) **ACCORD**

### **As signatories to the Accord...**

- **We recognize that an underpinning by high quality research, analysis and evidence, including policy appraisals and evaluations, is a pre-condition for evidence-based policy-/decision-making, and hence rational policy actions and effective outcomes.**
  
- **As individuals and institutions involved in commissioning, funding, sponsoring or conducting research, collecting or using evidence for policymaking, we aim to be as transparent as possible on how the high quality of that evidence is assured and will flag up any potential conflicts of interest.**
  
- **We agree that to a reasonable degree the independence and integrity of individuals responsible for the conducting and/or gathering of research evidence and its use in policymaking must be respected and supported in ways that ensure the evidence they produce is neither biased nor misleading.**
  
- **We will communicate, employ and/or apply only high quality evidence, research or enquiry, in other words evidence that has been undertaken, gathered, collated and analyzed using sound, robust and ethical methods appropriate to the task.**
  
- **We will ensure that the commissioning, funding, management, conduct, dissemination and governance of research meet high standards of ethics and integrity.**