

Information needs of regional policymakers

Closing event

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1. Role of science in policymaking

- Policymakers everywhere entered the COVID-19 crisis in a fog of uncertainty.
- Mark Rutte describe the *challenge as having to make 100% of the decisions with less than 50% of the required information.*
- Policy makers critically depend on expert information in how they respond to crises.
- The role of science in Covid-19 policymaking became very apparent, but also a point of societal debate.

2. Research questions

1. Who uses scientific information from the decision-support tool and how?
2. How do the different actors deal with uncertainties of models?
3. How does scientific information from the developed tool feed into policymaking?

3. Interviews

Interviewees per safety region

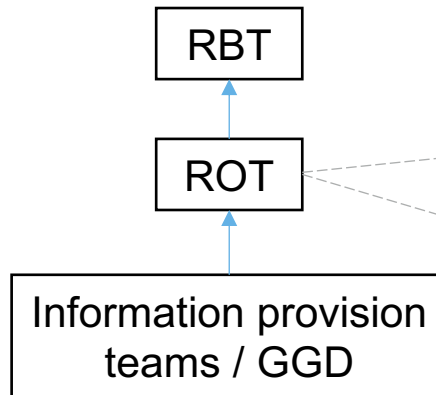
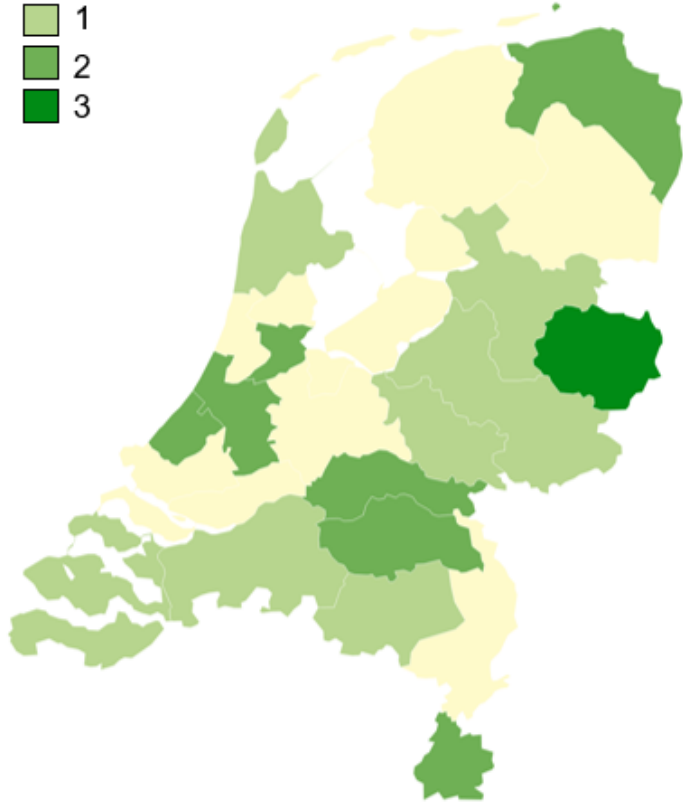


Figure 1: Crisis structure SR

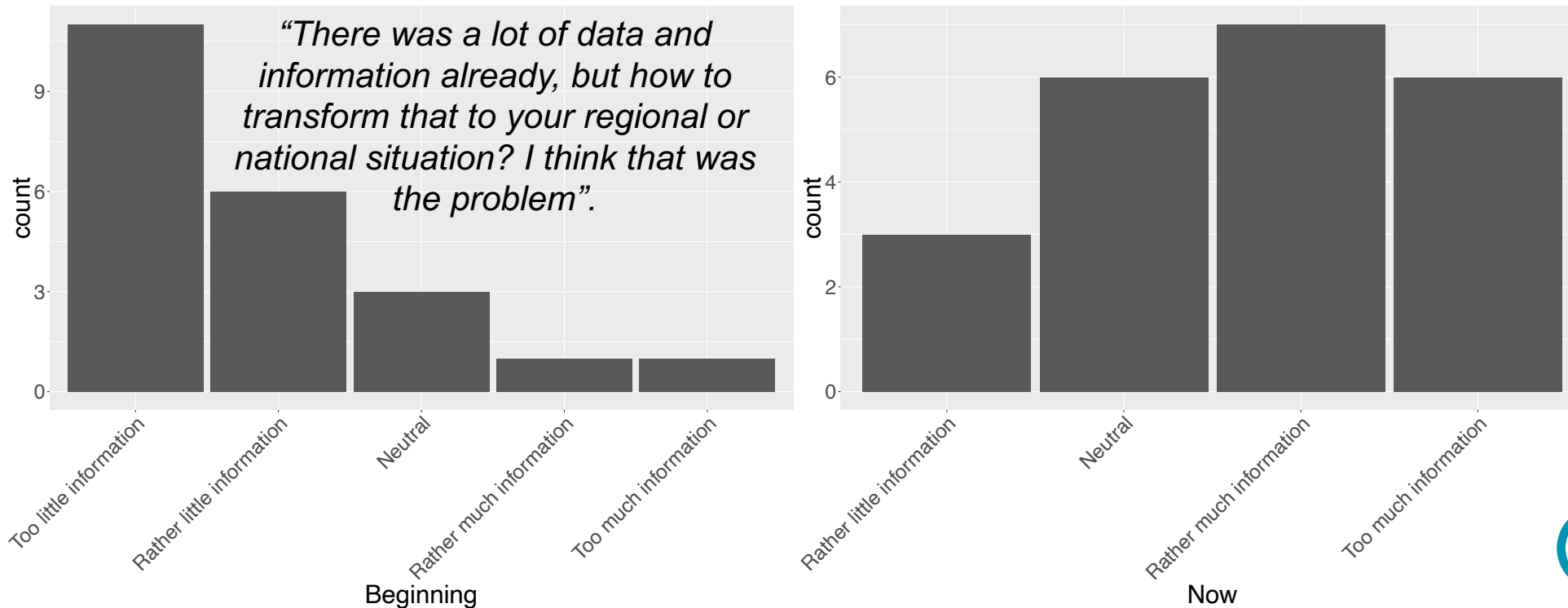
Interviewee	Number
Operational leader ROT	8
Information manager ROT	8
Information provision teams / GGD	8

Table 1: Number of types of interviewees

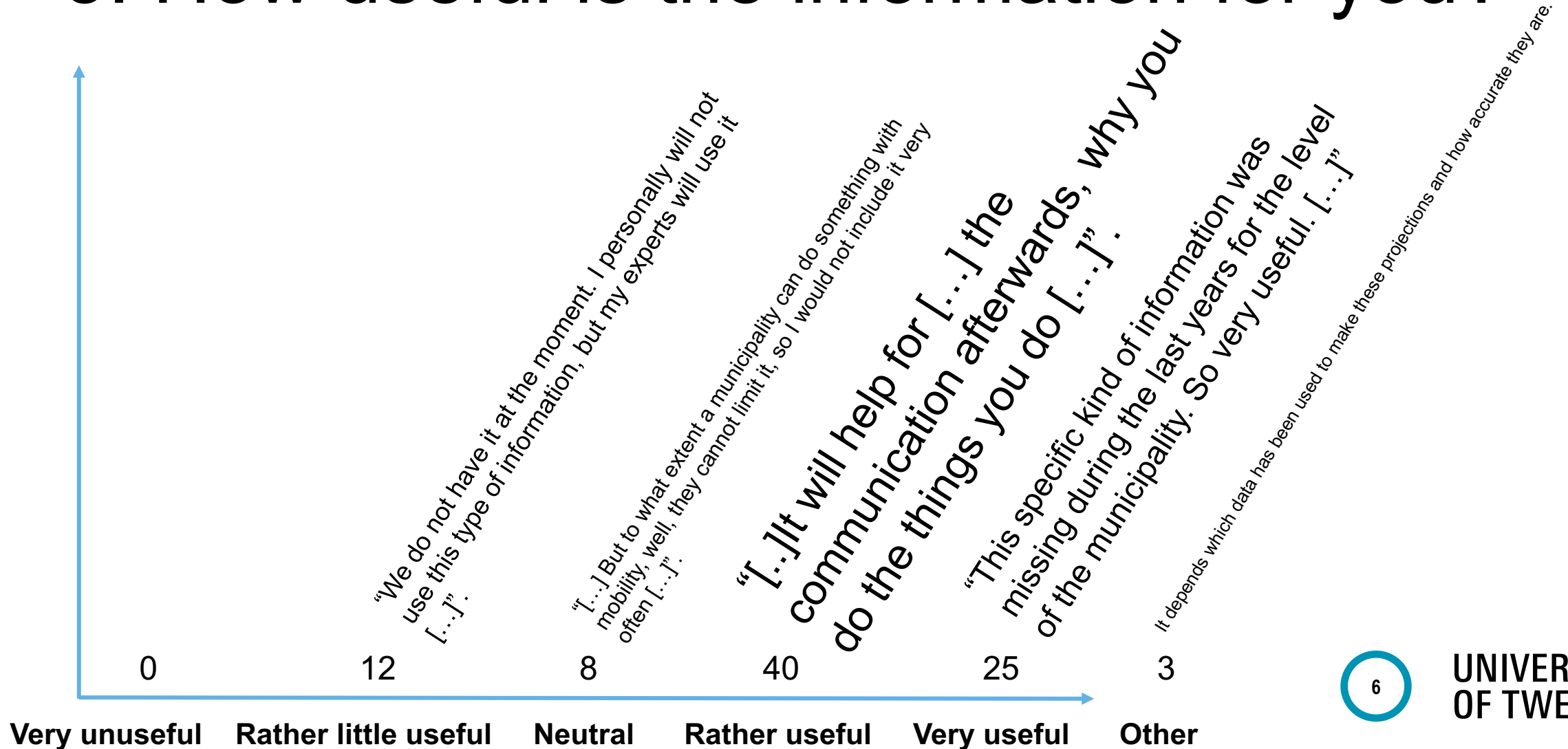
4. Information needs

Interview question

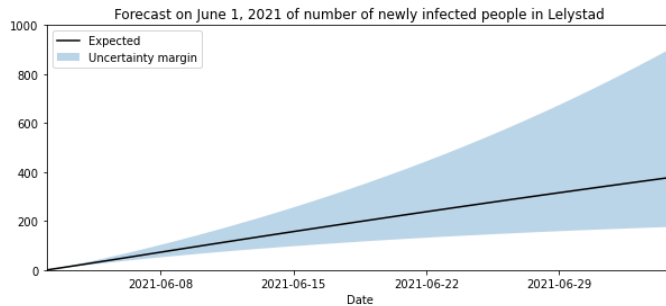
From your own daily work experience, do you think there was too much or too little information at the beginning of the pandemic? And at the moment?



5. How useful is the information for you?



6. Dealing with uncertainties differs per role



Role

High trust in model before and after receiving information about model uncertainties

	Before	After	
Data analyst/epidemiologist (N=6)	2	2	<i>"I need to have more information on [...] the model"</i>
Information manager (N=7)	2	6	<i>"All models are wrong but some are useful"</i>
Operational leader (N=8)	7	8	<i>"I am used to make decisions under uncertainty"</i>

Table 2: Trust movement

7. Evidence-based policymaking—a collaborative effort

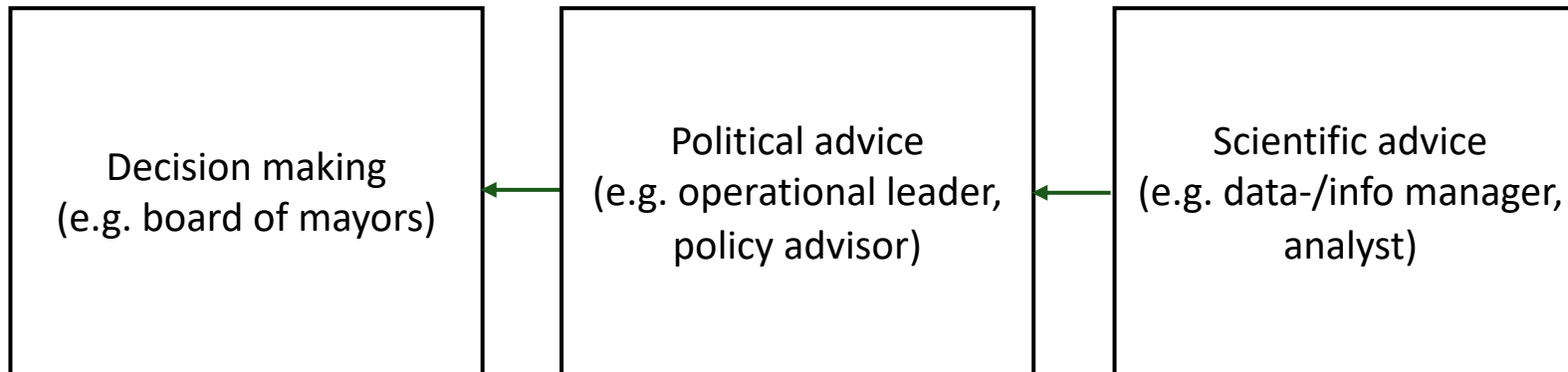


Figure 2: Information process structure

- 77.3% of respondents agree that structures are organized in such a way that Covid-19-related evidence is fruitfully used to inform policymaking
- “[...] I think the most important part is, how to interpret [the model].”
- 90.0% emphasize high importance of direct information exchange and trust:
“It is all about trust here”
- Average trust rates 8.2/10

8. Policy needs

- Local-level evidence for decision-making, communication, implementation, compliance, future pandemic preparedness
- Integrated, accessible and searchable data warehouse
- Data analysis skills and structures at the level of Safety Region

“We are a small organization and we are not ready for this type of crisis [...]. We don't have data analysts, we don't have specialists on policy advice.”

- Personal exchange about interpretation of models to make sense of the information for the local-level and devise policy measures

“I think that is the biggest challenge we had over the past two years, like, constantly explaining, what does it mean [...] and how can I use this for my decision making in my municipality. They are not very data minded people most often. Some municipalities have very intelligent and data minded people, but we have 22 municipalities and I think there are four of them which can survive by themselves on the field of data, and the rest needs a lot of help”.