

ABOUT VALGEN POLICY BRIEFS

Large interdisciplinary research networks benefit from deploying several techniques for knowledge mobilization at once. VALGEN uses a wide array of techniques for mobilizing knowledge, including scientific cafés, workshops, conferences and in print. With respect to written material, VALGEN research is published in traditional academic outlets such as books, chapters and peer-reviewed journal articles. Other written work includes working papers, opinion-editorials and submissions to government committees.

Policy Briefs are a method by which knowledge can be mobilized in a format that is easy to comprehend because they do not presume expert knowledge, they are written in the present tense, and they focus on critical issues rather than reviewing background information. A widely used and very successful format for policy briefs is the *Oxford Analytica* style briefing note which is used by government and the private sector. The format has four main parts: 1) An important *event* is described; 2) its *significance* is clearly explained; 3) further *analysis* of the meaning of the event is provided; 4) *conclusions* about implications are drawn.

Since its inception, VALGEN has produced monthly policy briefs in the *Oxford Analytica* style. The briefs correspond to VALGEN research themes organized by activity, and are posted on the VALGEN website (www.valgen.ca/policy) and distributed by email to a growing list of contacts.

VALGEN Research Themes:

- Activity 1 GE³LS Integration
- Activity 2/3 Intellectual Property Management and Technology Transfer
- Activity 4/5 Regulation and Governance
- Activity 6/7 Democratic Engagement

Note that the even-numbered (2,4 and 6) refer to the ‘normal science’ phase of the project, and briefs in those themes will eventually migrate to the ‘foresight phase’ Activities (3,5 and 7).