

Energy Evaluation Europe
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Challenges for evaluation stemming from auditing energy and climate policies

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*The views expressed are personal and do not
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The role of the European Court of Auditors

Development
impetus



Political
direction

Legislative



European Parliament



Council of the
European Union

Executive



European
Commission

Judiciary



Court of Justice of the EU

Monetary
policy and
supervision



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External audit

Types of audits by



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Selected audits (*special reports*)

Financial audit

Reliability of the accounts

Assess if transactions, assets and liabilities have been correctly presented in the financial statements

Compliance audit

Legality and regularity of transactions

Assess if EU funds have complied with legal requirements

Performance audit

Soundness of financial management

Assess if EU funds have been used **economically**, **efficiently** and **effectively**

Annual report on execution of EU Budget

Common shortcomings from auditing energy and climate programmes and projects

- Needs assessments:
 - Needs are not clear and quantified → leading to **un-targeted policies**
- Setting of objectives
 - **Objectives not SMART** enough (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timely)
→ making it difficult to measure ex-post the achievement of the objectives
- Project selection systems and criteria:
 - **No comparative assessment** of project merits → no prioritization of best projects
- Monitoring of results
 - Indicators often **focusing on project physical output** (e.g. solar panel or renovated house) **rather than on result** (e.g. KWh of RE produced or of energy saved)
 - No data on **other benefits** investments should deliver

Challenges for evaluators

- Getting involved at policy design
 - Use evaluation to **help identifying needs** in order to better target policies
 - Use evaluation to help translating vague objectives into good indicators → **to clarify / agree ex-ante how policies will be evaluated** (to work on managers' incentives)
- Use evaluation methods better considering...
 - Interactions between policies → To **identify causality links** between inputs and benefits: what is impacting the performance?
 - Local specificities / biases → To **allow 'fair' comparisons / benchmarking**
- Lead by example
 - Reach out to policy makers and managers showing evaluation results in **easy language**
→ **what / when / where / how should change in the policy**