Evaluation for policy making: Insights from Europe

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Outline

Insights about integrating evaluation in the policy cycle

Evaluation issues in the context of the Energy Efficiency Directive

Further thoughts

OBJECTIVE: creating favourable conditions for improving the number, quality/performance and effective use of ex-post impact evaluations of energy efficiency policies

PROJECT THEORY:

https://epatee.eu/

MAIN OUTPUTS:

- **Knowledge Base** (user-oriented database of references)
- **Case studies** (about ex-post evaluations)
- **Online toolbox** making resources easy to use

TODAY: focus on integrating evaluation in the policy cycle

Sources:

Paper presented at Energy Evaluation Europe 2021:

Broc, J.S., Oikonomou, V., Dragovic, M. (2021). Is there still time for evaluation? A review of good practices to integrate evaluation into the policy cycle. Proceedings of Energy Evaluation Europe 2021.

Full report done in the EPATEE project:

Broc, J.S., Oikonomou, V., Dragovic, M., 2019b. Guidelines on how to integrate evaluation into the policy cycle. Deliverable D4.2 of the EPATEE project, February 2019.

Other references on this topic:

Broc, J., Bourges, B., Adnot, J., 2007. Evaluation as a "Learning-by-Doing" Tool for the Implementation of Local Energy Efficiency Activities. Proceedings of IEPEC 2007.

Giorgi, S., 2017. How to improve the evaluation of complex systems to better inform policymaking – Learning from evaluating Defra's Reward & Recognition Fund. Fellowship Report, July 2017.

Peters, J., Baggett, S., Gonzales, P., DeCotis, P., Bronfman, B., 2007. How organizations implement evaluation results. Proceedings of IEPEC 2007.

Vine, E., 2008. Strategies and policies for improving energy efficiency programs: Closing the loop between evaluation and implementation. *Energy Policy*, 36(10), 3872-3881.

Why looking at links between evaluation and the policy cycle?

1) Doing evaluation is not all about data and methods:

   it's also about making that evaluation results are **useful** (e.g., timing) and **used**

2) Evaluation is more than the last step of the policy cycle

EPATEE

Evaluation & the policy cycle: what stakeholders say

*"Through evaluation we can **address several issues in the policy cycle**, such as how a policy has been implemented, who, how and why has it been affected, if savings have been achieved and determine **where it needs to be adapted, continued or ended**."*

*"**Evaluation should follow the whole policy cycle** and be used in the planning as well as in the controlling (results) of the policy. Systems that incorporate this comprehensive approach seem to be **more successful**."*

*"During the design of a policy, an evaluation advisor should be present to ensure a good ex-post evaluation (e.g. if the data collection is not well designed it is somewhat very difficult to evaluate the policy or at a large cost - which is somehow the reason for a lack of evaluation), the design should be '**evaluation-friendly**' ."*

EPATEE 1st survey

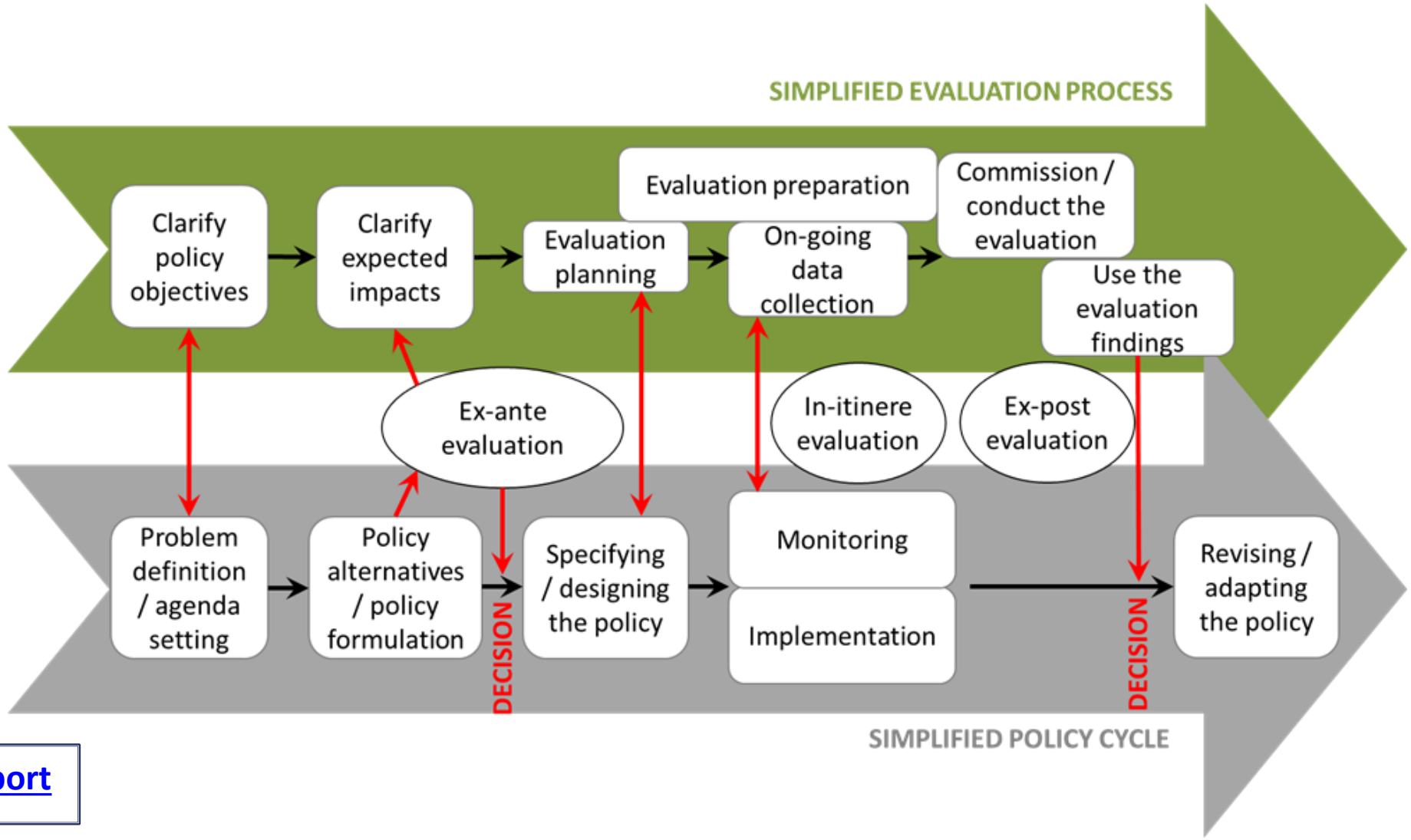
EPATEE

Evaluation & the policy cycle: A two-way integration

What inputs should policy developments provide to evaluation? (+ when and how?)

What inputs should evaluation provide to policy making? (+ when and how?)

Integrating evaluation into the policy cycle



[Dedicated report]

Issues / barriers to this integration

Political will (top-management commitment)	*Examples of barriers*: Lack of interest, fear of the results, evaluation not always needed, turnover in the policymakers
Resource allocation (time, people, budget)	*Examples of barriers*: Lack of dedicated budget, lack of time to be involved or involve people in the evaluation process
Evaluation planning and preparation	*Examples of barriers*: Difficulties to match timeframe for evaluation and timeframe for decision processes
Communication and mutual understanding	*Examples of barriers*: differences in the cultures or habits between decisional level and operational or technical level

EPATEE 2nd survey

EPATEE

Examples of good practices

Political will (top-management commitment)

- ✓ **Clarify expectations**: what evaluation can bring and how it can be used
- ✓ Analyse **how evaluation can fit in** the current policy framework and processes
- ✓ **Mandatory provisions** for evaluation

Communication and mutual understanding

- ✓ **Clarify and discuss the evaluation objectives** → shared understanding → realistic expectations
- ✓ Ensure all key stakeholders are represented in the steering committee + **regular exchanges**

From theory to practice

Examples about Communication and mutual understanding

SHORT-TERM ACTIONS	Purpose(s)
Make sure the relevant contacts are identified for each party to be involved	• Ensure an easy communication along the evaluation process
Clarify the evaluation objectives, and organise a feedback loop (when relevant)	• Ensure a shared understanding of the evaluation objectives (and thereby realistic expectations)
Facilitate exchanges between policymakers, practitioners/implementers and analysts/evaluators	• Maintain regular contacts between the evaluation team and evaluation recipients • Ensure a mutual understanding • Take into account differences in viewpoints • Foster closer collaboration between policymakers & officers and analysts & evaluators)
MEDIUM-TERM ACTIONS	**Purpose(s)**
Maintain an updated list of contacts from the different services and bodies involved in the different stages of the policy	• Maintain regular contacts • Facilitate an easy communication • Avoid missing or outdated links in the communication loops
Facilitate capacity building and experience sharing about evaluation issues (e.g., targeted workshops or trainings; technical briefs; testimonies about past evaluations)	• Increase awareness and knowledge about evaluation

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Focus on the implementation of a key part of the EU Energy Efficiency Directive (now Article 8): Member States' energy savings obligation

OBJECTIVES: providing technical support to stakeholders + facilitating experience sharing

Considering the whole lifecycle,
and more specifically

http://energysavingpolicies.eu/

Policy design & implementation

Monitoring & Verification

Policy evaluation

Examples of evaluation issues

Stakeholders' survey (Feb. 2023):

top priority need = **evaluating actual impacts**

Other objective: updating / **complementing the EPATEE Knowledge Base**

Other important topic: **evaluating multiple impacts**

SEED MICAT

Support Energy Efficiency Deployment with the Multiple Impacts CAlculation Tool

https://micatool.eu/

Possible supporters for evaluation & policymaking

Parliaments: may request evaluations + possible place for public debates about evaluation results of major policies

Court of Auditors: reviews based on collecting stakeholders' views, but also on available data and studies (including evaluations) + high visibility of their recommendations

Researchers: increasing interest in policy evaluation + own initiatives

NGOs: may also commission evaluations and/or use evaluations in their advocacy work

➔ Stimulate **substantiated debates**, going beyond mere opinions

ENERGY EVALUATION EUROPE

Get ready for…

Energy Evaluation Europe 2025

7-9 October 2025 | Berlin

Call for abstracts to open soon !

Stay in touch with https://energy-evaluation.org/

See also the summary of June's Lunch & Learn session on

"How can evaluation insights respond to and inform public debates about the energy transition"

https://energy-evaluation.org/eee_summary_of_4th_lunch_learn_26_06_2024/

Thank you!

Contact: jsb @ ieecp.org

Stay tuned!

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https://ieecp.org/projects/ensmov-plus/

Our Platform: http://energysavingpolicies.eu/

https://energy-evaluation.org/

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