

# Show Me the Evidence: Evaluation as the Decision Maker's Best Resource. Call for Abstracts

The energy system transformation in Europe over the last two years has been subject to some dramatic disruptions. The global community at COP28 has pledged to double the global rate of energy efficiency improvement and triple the renewable energy capacity by 2030 – fueling the transformation and giving us reason to monitor and evaluate our global achievements. But at the same time, the sector is in turmoil: The Russian war on Ukraine caused a price hike on European gas markets leading to extraordinary policy decisions and market interventions, and a renewed discussion on energy security. The EU has started a power market reform that will keep us busy over the next few years. The outgoing European Commission and Parliament have completed the Green Deal, complemented by the initiation of hydrogen infrastructure and the Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEI). These will now develop impact while the new European Commission will shift its attention to the decarbonization of industry, among others.

And while national governments all over Europe are working towards implementing European directives and international obligations, droughts are endangering Southern Europe and record floods are inundating Central Europe. Climate change is upon us. Time is pressing, for effective action on climate change.

At the same time the evaluation profession is facing new frontiers. Evaluation is used more systematically on several levels, and with new scopes and purposes, on energy and climate issues. With the accumulation of more and more evaluations, understanding what works and lessons learning is possible on a broader and more systematic basis. And with the advent of generative AI and further developments in data mining, evaluation is taking charge of new tools and possibilities to make evaluations faster and more effective.

But the question of how to influence decision making on the basis of evaluation-generated evidence is still open. Do these developments help increase the reliability and usefulness of evaluation results? How can we make our evaluations more relevant? How can we enhance their visibility? How can we ensure that our recommendations are heard and implemented? How can we close the policy cycle, so that evidence on what works and what does not is leading to better policies? The 2025 Energy Evaluation Europe Conference will be zooming in on the latest trends in methodological and technical developments, but also on implementation science and evidence-based policy making because this evidence is the decision maker's best resource to react to today's challenges with efficient and effective approaches.

The 2025 Energy Evaluation Europe conference committee is seeking abstracts about the evaluation of energy and climate policies addressing a wide range of topics, such as energy efficiency, renewable energies and decarbonization of energy consumption, energy security, energy poverty, energy transformation, energy infrastructure, energy markets, as well as crosscutting topics such as regulation, financing, digitalization, or Al. We welcome papers about recent evaluations of policies and programs, as well as research or discussions about evaluation methods and practices. Novel ideas and approaches, dynamic and systems evaluations, and outside the box thinking is welcome as well. Participants are particularly

interested in high quality papers, presentations and posters with a high potential of experience sharing, either about the evaluation methods or about the evaluation findings and how they can be used.

For more details about the background and topics of the conference, see the conference flyer here.

When submitting your abstract, you can indicate your preference for one of the following **formats** (see more details below):

- oral presentation with peer-reviewed paper,
- oral presentation with extended abstract,
- panel session, fishbowl or other session format
- poster.

The submissions will be reviewed by the conference committee. Conference proceedings will become available publicly. For peer-reviewed papers, you can also indicate if you would be willing to apply for inclusion in a special issue to be published in the *Energy Efficiency* journal (Springer ed.). If your paper is selected for the special issue, the usual review practices of journal publications will apply.

### Please read all of the information below before submitting your abstract.

Please note that Energy Evaluation Europe is a non-profit association. The conference is feasible only thanks to the support of the conference partners and the conference fees paid by the participants. Presenters, panelists and moderators, your fees make the conference possible!

## SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT

Abstract submission deadline: 5 December 2024

(Please note: the submission platform (Oxford Abstracts) will ask for an email address and creation of a password to begin your abstract submission.)

See submission guidelines below.

### Important dates:

Abstract submission deadline: **Thursday, 5 December 18:00 CET**. Notification of abstract acceptance: **Friday, 7 February 2025**.

See also below the timeline according to the formats of presentations.

Deadline for early bird registration: Wednesday, 30 April 2025

## **Presentation types**

### Oral presentation with peer-reviewed paper:

Presenters will be invited to submit a full paper (maximum 12 pages without references and annexes) and participate in the peer-review process below.

Oral presentations will be grouped into sessions according to their topic. Presenters will be allocated about 15-20 minutes each to present their work to the audience and answer questions. Final papers and presentation files will be published in the conference proceedings.

See the papers from previous conferences in the resources of the Energy Evaluation website: <a href="https://energy-evaluation.org/resources/">https://energy-evaluation.org/resources/</a>

In addition, authors can apply for the *Energy Efficiency* journal. Papers accepted for the special issue can be extended to longer than 12 pages. An intermediate version of the paper will be published in the conference proceedings, the final version will be included in the special issue,

if accepted for publication. Further details of the journal (review) process will be communicated at the time of invitation.

#### Timeline for authors:

**28 March 2025**: draft paper to be submitted. At this time, we will provide you with the other papers in your session to review.

29 April 2025: you will receive the review comments on your paper.

30 May 2025: revised draft to be submitted.

**16 June 2025**: if a second review occurs, you will receive the last comments to take into account to finalize your paper.

**18 July 2025**: final paper to be submitted.

Further details regarding the presentation will be communicated to the contact person as appropriate.

### Oral presentation with extended abstract:

Presenters will be invited to submit to their session moderator an extended abstract (maximum 2 pages without references and annexes), as well as their presentation file ahead of the conference. The session moderator will then exchange with them, as part of the quality insurance of the conference.

Oral presentations will be grouped according to their conference theme and the presenter will be allocated 10-15 minutes to present their work to the audience and answer questions.

# Extended abstracts and presentation files will be published in the conference proceedings.

See the presentation files from previous conferences in the resources of the Energy Evaluation website: <a href="https://energy-evaluation.org/resources/">https://energy-evaluation.org/resources/</a>

#### Timeline for authors:

**28 March 2025**: draft extended abstract to be submitted. At this time, we will provide you with the other papers/extended abstracts in your session to review.

**29 April 2025:** you will receive your moderator's feedback on the extended abstracts.

**30 May 2025**: if required, an updated version of your extended abstract is to be submitted, followed by a last exchange with the moderator.

**18 July 2025**: final extended abstract and posters to be submitted.

The abstract should clearly summarize the content you wish to present. Presenters do not need to submit an additional paper, but they need to submit their presentation file to the moderator of their session for review before the conference.

Further details regarding the presentation will be communicated to the contact person as appropriate.

# Panel discussions, Fishbowl and discursive meeting formats (60 to 90 minutes duration):

Abstracts for a panel discussion should provide a description of the discussion topic, the target audience and how the topic will add value to the (energy) evaluation community.

During the abstract submission process you will need to provide the name and affiliation of the moderator and each panelist (a maximum of 4, but 3 preferred), and explain how you will engage the audience and ensure that the session is interactive.

Panels should be engaging the audience and offer room for the discussion of different perspectives among the participants, ideas from the audience or inspiring discourse. Unchallenged presentations by consortium members of large research projects are

discouraged. (For these, please note that Energy Evaluation Europe is happy to organize webinars)

The moderator of the panel is responsible for developing the final panel questions or discussion topics with the panelists and preparing a summary of the panel results for conference publications. At the conference, the moderator keeps the session moving and orchestrates the Q&A portion of the session.

The planning committee may suggest modifications to panel proposals.

For all accepted panel discussions, the contact person who submitted the abstract will be contacted by a member of the Planning Committee to discuss the details of the session.

When submitting your abstract on the OxfordAbstracts platform, you will have to **select keywords**, first about evaluation methods and practices, second about evaluation subjects. These keywords are used to direct your abstract to relevant reviewers during the abstract selection process, and then to group the presentations into sessions.

### **Evaluation methods and practices**

- Portfolio evaluation
- Controlled Impact evaluation
- Evaluations centered around one or more of the OECD DAC Criteria
- Process evaluation (including theory-based evaluation)
- Cost-effectiveness evaluations (including value-for-money and benefit-cost analysis)
- Consideration of non-energy benefits/multiple impacts in evaluation approaches
- Evaluation approaches for market transformation and market effects
- Participatory evaluation approaches
- Comparative analysis
- Data collection, data issues, and indicators (in the context of policy or programme evaluation)
- Methodological issues, uncertainties (in the context of policy or programme evaluation)
- Best practices in evaluation communication and experience sharing
- Evaluation planning, design (including experimental design), or funding
- Use of AI or other innovative methods in evaluations or evaluation management
- Innovative financing approaches for policy or programme evaluation
- Outside the box thinking
- Implementation science
- communicating evaluative evidence, MEL, Uptake and Use of evaluations

### **Abstract evaluation subjects**

- Energy efficiency or fuel switch in buildings (HVAC and building envelope)
- Energy efficiency or decarbonization of industry and/or agriculture
- Energy efficiency in transport and innovative approaches to mobility (including fuel switch and electric mobility)
- Energy efficiency of appliances and lighting
- Energy efficiency of digitization (IT, data centres, 3D printers, etc.)
- Energy efficiency (cross-cutting, multi-sector)
- Energy efficiency in transport and mobility
- Energy sufficiency
- Demand Response, flexibility, energy storage and sector coupling
- Climate policies and programmes
- Renewable energy sources

- Renewable energy integration and grid stability, smart grids, battery storage, vehicle-togrid, smart appliances
- Energy communities
- Energy poverty
- Just transition
- Other fields related to energy transition (waste management, water, etc.)
- Carbon markets, CBAM, emissions trading
- Evaluating behaviour change or behavioural measures
- Digitization of energy systems, start-ups
- Financing and business models for the energy transition, and energy services markets
- innovation and R&D programmes
- Energy markets
- policies for the energy transition

### **Abstract submission guidelines**

- Abstracts can be submitted via the online abstract submission site.
- The conference language is English.
- The abstract **title** should be **no more than 20 words** and entered in the sentence case (only capitalise the first letter of the first word in the title like you would in a sentence except proper nouns should also have a capital).
- Provide each authors' name and affiliation including the city, state (when relevant) and country.
- Indicate who will be the presenting author or panelist.
- Abstract **text** cannot exceed **350 words**, excluding the abstract title and author details.
- Text can be submitted only as plain text without formatting.
- Tables, graphs, and charts cannot be included in abstracts.
- Please carefully check all text for spelling, grammar, etc. before submission.

## Abstract review process

- All submitted abstracts will be reviewed by at least three reviewers.
- In evaluating each abstract, reviewers will not be aware of authors or institutions involved with the work described in the abstract (blind review).
- Based upon the reviewers scores and comments, the Planning Committee will then assign abstracts to either an oral presentation, panel discussion or poster presentation.

## **Contact Us**

Enquiries regarding abstracts can be done with this <u>contact form</u>, selecting the category "1) Questions about conferences". Please note that you will receive automatic confirmation after submitting your abstract, so no need to further contact us about this.