

## Summary of the Sixth “Lunch & Learn”

### “EEE Special 2025 Meet the Co-Chairs”

The sixth Lunch & Learn session organized by Energy Evaluation Europe took place online on December 3rd. This special session aimed to introduce the co-chairs of the Energy Evaluation Europe 2025 Conference. Sadly Barbara Schlomann (Fraunhofer ISI) could not join. Jean-Sébastien Broc (IEECP, Institute for European Energy and Climate Policy) moderated the session. Co-Chair Christine Wörlén (Arepo Consult) shared the founding history of Energy Evaluation Europe and her initial experiences at the IEPEC conference in Boston. She also expressed her gratitude to board member Jean-Sébastien Broc for his ongoing efforts in managing Energy Evaluation Europe, noting that he consistently brings fresh ideas and significant energy to the organization. In addition, Jean-Sébastien Broc provided an overview of EEE’s structure to help participants better understand its management framework.

The meeting primarily discusses the upcoming Energy Evaluation Europe (EEE) conference and its related processes, including the call for abstracts, thematic focus areas, and organizational logistics. Key points include:

#### 1. EEE and Its Origins:

- EEE is a UK-registered charitable association focusing on energy efficiency evaluations.
- It originated from the U.S.-based International Energy Program Evaluation Conference (IEPEC), which developed out of the need for standardized evaluation methods and capacity building in the U.S. utility sector in the 1990s.
- EEE operates less formally than IEPEC, with a small board of directors, some of whom are very active and others less so. Its European conferences and related activities stem from this U.S. tradition but have evolved to address European policy contexts.

#### 2. Roles and Involvement:

- Christine Wörlén (Arepo) and Jean-Sébastien Broc serve on the board and play central roles in managing EEE and its conferences.
- Other board members and associations (like from Asia-Pacific) are mentioned, reflecting EEE’s international engagement.

#### 3. Conference Format and Focus:

- The conference will feature peer-reviewed papers, presentations, and posters. Topics range from evaluation methodologies (quantitative and qualitative approaches, data collection, comparative analysis) to application areas (industry decarbonization, energy poverty, local versus national evaluation frameworks, etc.).
- Energy poverty, equity considerations, and distributional impacts of policies, such as Energy Efficiency Obligation Schemes (EEOS), are highlighted as relevant themes.

#### 4. Call for Abstracts:

- The call for abstracts is underway, and participants are encouraged to submit proposals.

- Abstracts must be categorized under two sets of keywords: one related to evaluation methods/practices and one related to thematic subjects (e.g., residential, industry, buildings, decarbonization).
- Some participants find the keyword lists complex, but the organizers explain this is for sorting and grouping papers rather than a strict limitation.
- The submission deadline may be extended, and participants are welcome to suggest additional themes and invite colleagues to submit abstracts.

#### **5. Content Examples:**

- Rabia from Istanbul Technical University describes her planned submission on evaluating energy efficiency obligations in Turkey and their implications for energy poverty, noting that Turkey currently lacks a formal definition of energy poverty.
- Another potential abstract from a colleague involves using AI-driven data analytics to optimize street lighting efficiency. Organizers suggest focusing on the evaluation aspect (impact assessment) rather than purely technical engineering details.
- Jean-Sébastien asked which topics should be addressed at the conference. One suggestion was a roundtable or panel discussion on the question: "Is there a difference, or can we easily apply national evaluation metrics to local ones?"

#### **6. Participation Costs and Logistics:**

- Conference fees are not yet fixed but are expected to be around €600 for early bird registration.

#### **7. Next Steps:**

- Contributors are encouraged to submit abstracts and share the call within their networks, including academic and international contacts.
- Once abstracts are submitted, the review committee will group them into sessions and assign moderators.
- An emphasis is placed on maintaining EEE's tradition of knowledge-sharing, methodological rigor, and supportive dialogue among evaluators and policy professionals.

Overall, the meeting served as a planning and Q&A session to discuss participation in the 2025 EEE conference. This included how to contribute, shape its direction, and promote it, while also clarifying expectations regarding submissions, thematic relevance, and practical details.