

PROFEEDBACK TOOLKIT

Authors

Luca Koltai
Adrienn Kiss,
Kinga Tóth
Luca Szöör-Fülöp
Tuan Viet Trinh
Zsuzsanna Ludman

COST Association AISBL
Avenue du Boulevard – Bolwerklaan 21 | 1210 Brussels, Belgium
T +32 (0)2 533 3800 | office@cost.eu | www.cost.eu

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	Introduction	4
1.1	About PROFEEDBACK	4
1.2	About the PROFEEDACK Toolkit	4
1.3	How the Toolkit is structured	5
2	Theory-based approaches	7
2.1	Theory of change approach	7
2.2	Logical framework	11
2.3	Realist evaluation	13
2.4	Contribution analysis	15
2.5	Surveys and polling	18
2.6	Simulation modelling	21
2.7	References	24
3	Quantitative methods	26
3.1	Randomised controlled trials	26
3.2	Propensity score matching	30
3.3	Interrupted time series	34
3.4	Synthetic control methods	37
3.5	Difference in differences	40
3.6	Regression discontinuity	43
3.7	Comparative statistical analysis	46
3.8	Cost-Benefit Analysis	49
3.9	Output and performance monitoring	51
3.10	References	55
4	Qualitative methods	56
4.1	Systematic reviews	56
4.2	Policy review	59
4.3	Meta-ethnography	61
4.4	Interviews	64
4.5	Case studies	67

4.6	Focus groups	69
4.7	References	72
5	Participatory methods	74
5.1	The Most Significant Change	74
5.2	Outcome harvesting	76
5.3	Consultative deliberative methods	78
5.4	Participatory Action Research	81
5.5	References	84
6	ProfeedBook references	85
7	PROFEEDBACK evaluation database	86

1 Introduction

1.1 About PROFEEDBACK

The COST Action PROFEEDBACK – PlatfoRm OF policy Evaluation community for improved E policies and Better ACKnowledgement (CA20112, MoU 052/21) 2021-2025 aims to foster the networking of the policy evaluation community at EU-level, raise awareness on the importance of evaluation policy research and improve its impact on policymaking. The Platform, following a bottom-up and open approach, gathers researchers and professionals from various scientific fields and sectors to present and evaluate theories, topics, tools and methods of policy evaluation. Results of the Europe-wide assessment of good practices provides direct and high-quality input for national and EU bodies responsible for policy evaluation. Policy evaluation is a key tool in understanding, developing and modernising EU policies, thus there is a growing demand for EU-wide and high-quality evaluation services. The main challenge is the shortage of sufficient bottom-up platforms for European researchers and professionals working in policy evaluation. Professionals have limited possibilities to discuss common problems, assess country-specific practices and share their knowledge in a mutually beneficial and effective way. The PROFEEDBACK Action aimed to contribute to these discussions during its four Grant Periods (18/10/2021 – 17/10/2025) and beyond:

- Foster networking and knowledge-exchange of the policy evaluation community at European level,
- Raise awareness on the importance of policy evaluation research and improve its impact on policymaking,
- Reinforce state-of-the-art research in the policy evaluation field and contribute to evaluation standards.

1.2 About the PROFEEDACK Toolkit

The PROFEEDBACK Toolkit is a comprehensive and structured publication for disseminating knowledge, experience and practical examples generated during the PROFEEDBACK COST Action. Born out of a collaborative and interdisciplinary effort, this Toolkit captures the essence of what PROFEEDBACK set out to achieve: building bridges between theory and practice in the field of public policy evaluation.

Over the course of the PROFEEDBACK Action, numerous events—conferences, workshops, training schools, and thematic working groups—have brought together a diverse community of evaluation professionals, academic researchers, and public sector stakeholders. These engagements have produced a rich body of scientific and applied knowledge. The Toolkit represents a consolidated, accessible, and user-friendly format for capturing and sharing this collective wisdom. It is not intended to be an academic volume in the traditional sense. Rather, it is a practical knowledge collection designed to support the development of the evaluation profession, share experiences, and strengthen the international discourse. At its core, the PROFEEDBACK Toolkit serves three interconnected purposes: supporting the development of the evaluation profession, sharing field-based experiences, and strengthening international discourse on evaluation. In an increasingly complex and interconnected world, the need for informed and adaptive evaluation practices has never been greater. This Toolkit seeks to

contribute to that goal by offering a grounded, accessible, and practice-oriented compilation of insights and methodologies.

The PROFEEDBACK Toolkit is intended for a wide and diverse audience. Its contents have been curated with multiple user groups in mind, all of whom are key actors in the evaluation landscape:

- **Evaluation professionals** engaged in the design, implementation, or analysis of public policy evaluations will find a range of tested methods, innovative tools, and concrete examples in this publication that can enhance the quality and relevance of their work.
- **Young researchers** and emerging evaluators will benefit from the practical orientation of the Toolkit, including clear examples, case studies, and references to further reading. It offers a useful entry point into the profession, grounded in real-world application.
- **Decision-makers** and public administrators—those who commission, use, or are affected by evaluations—will find value in the Toolkit's accessible format and its emphasis on the usefulness of evaluation in informing policy and administrative decisions.
- The **academic community**, particularly within the applied social sciences, will also find the Toolkit a valuable resource. It presents a synthesis of current evaluation practice and emerging trends, useful for both teaching and research.

The Toolkit was developed with three main objectives in mind:

- **Knowledge Sharing:** To collect and present the most important insights and findings generated during the PROFEEDBACK COST Action in a form that is clear, coherent, and readily understandable. This includes both methodological advancements and lessons learned from practical evaluation experiences.
- **Accessibility:** To ensure that the content is easily searchable and navigable for users from different backgrounds. Whether you are looking for a specific methodological approach or exploring how evaluations have been applied in various contexts, the Toolkit is designed to facilitate quick access and thematic navigation.
- **Practical Applicability:** To inspire and support the everyday work of evaluators through a range of examples, good practices, and adaptable tools. By focusing on real-world application, the Toolkit helps to bridge the gap between evaluation theory and professional practice.

1.3 How the Toolkit is structured

The content of the Toolkit is organised according to the thematic structure of the PROFEEDBACK working groups and training schools. This thematic organisation allows users to explore specific methodological domains while also gaining insight into cross-cutting experiences and innovations.

1. Methodological Chapters

The Toolkit includes dedicated chapters covering a variety of methodological areas:

- **Theoretical Foundations:** Concepts and frameworks that underpin contemporary evaluation practice.

- Qualitative Approaches: Methods such as interviews, focus groups, and participatory techniques that capture rich contextual data.
- Quantitative Methods: Statistical techniques, survey design, and data interpretation relevant for large-scale policy evaluation.
- Participatory and Innovative Approaches: Emerging trends and experimental practices that reflect the evolving nature of evaluation.

These chapters are intended to be both explanatory and illustrative, drawing on examples from PROFEEDBACK events to ground the theory in practice.

2. Practical Examples and Abstracts

A cornerstone of the Toolkit is its collection of case studies and practice examples. These are drawn from real evaluations presented during PROFEEDBACK workshops, conferences, and training schools. Each case is summarised in a structured format offering key insights, methodologies used, challenges encountered, and outcomes achieved. These practice abstracts are accompanied by short literature recommendations for those wishing to delve deeper into specific topics.

3. Structured Evaluation Database

The final section of the Toolkit provides a searchable and structured database of evaluations that were showcased during PROFEEDBACK events. This database serves as a resource for inspiration and benchmarking, allowing users to explore a wide range of evaluation contexts, methods, and results.

2 Theory-based approaches

The aim of theory-based evaluation methods is to reveal the impact of an intervention, how its mechanism of action developed and why it occurred. They can also be used to examine the role of context in the results. While these methods facilitate the identification of causal relationships and accompanying interventions, they are not suitable for estimating the extent of the impact. Theory-based approaches can also be useful in process evaluation, as they help us to understand how the intervention was implemented. Consequently, it is essential for all evaluations and impact assessments to plan a theory-based impact pathway or intervention logic.

Theory-based approaches, such as realist evaluation (Pawson & Tilley, 1997), theory of change and contribution analysis (Mayne, 2001), not only examine whether change has occurred or not, but also the mechanisms through which it has been achieved, the circumstances in which it occurred, and the target group on which it has had an impact. Such methods are particularly valuable in complex interventions where the impact is nonlinear and occurs at multiple levels (Coryn et al., 2011).

While these methods are not quantitative tools themselves, they can often be combined with quantitative analyses (e.g. quasi-experimental designs) (Befani et al., 2007). These methods are particularly important in evaluating social science programmes where randomised controlled trials (RCTs) are often not feasible.

2.1 Theory of change approach

Definition and Purpose

The Theory of Change (ToC) is a method of modelling, describing and evaluating how and when planned changes will occur. It is a structured, visual representation of a programme's or policy's impact pathway, showing how activities are linked to inputs, outputs and impacts.

“A Theory of Change explains how activities are understood to produce a series of results that contribute to achieving the final intended impacts.”

(Weiss, 1995; Vogel, 2012)

The ToC demonstrates the link between an intervention's actions and the achievement of its intended goals. The first step is to identify the long-term goals and then work backwards to determine the necessary steps and conditions. This method makes it easy to identify which activities lead to the goals and what preconditions are necessary to achieve long-term effects (European Commission, 2024).

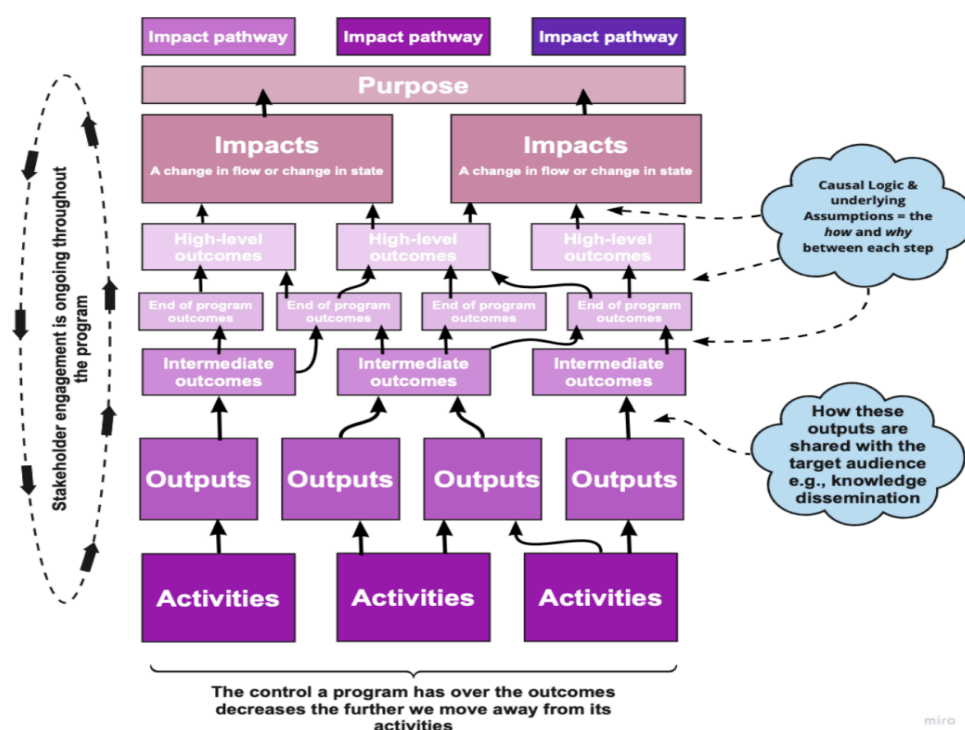
The ToC shows:

- **Impact pathways:** It shows how individual project activities are linked to outcomes and impacts.
- **Assumptions:** It shows what conditions need to be met for the impact mechanism to work.
- **Context:** Shows which external and contextual factors influence impact achievement.
- **Indicators:** Shows which indicators can be used to measure changes.

There are many ways to visualise a ToC, such as using a flowchart or a logic model. In all cases, it is important to show causal relationships. Other important elements of ToC visualisation include:

- Inputs: the resources used.
- Activities: What activities were carried out during the intervention?
- Outputs: short-term deliverables.
- Outcomes: changes resulting from the outputs.
- Impacts: long-term changes and effects.
- Assumptions: the conditions necessary for implementing each step.
- Contextual factors: external influences that affect the achievement of the desired results.

Figure 1, Example of a Theory of Change diagram



Source: <https://www.evalacademy.com/articles/what-is-theory-of-change-in-evaluation>

Application in Evaluations

ToC is widely used in intervention and evaluation planning, as it enables the theoretical exploration and visualization of impact pathways.

It can be used in the following areas during evaluations (European Commission, 2024):

- Evaluation planning and design,
- Process evaluation – helps to explore intervention processes,
- Impact assessments – helps to identify impact mechanisms and pathways,

- Learning – helps identifying and testing possible logical gaps in the intervention process.

Benefits and Challenges

- The Theory of Change has an undeniable advantage in that it helps capture diverse perspectives and theories related to change. It illustrates the pathways of impact and when designed well, reveals a wide range of external factors and conditions that could potentially hinder impact achievement. Furthermore, its visual nature makes it easy to understand how and why impacts occur.
- One of the challenges is that the mechanisms of action may be oversimplified, or the effects of non-linearity may be overlooked. In many cases, the Theory of Change created during the planning stage evolves during implementation, sometimes as a result of changes in external circumstances. Examining all impact mechanisms and pathways may require significant data. Participatory design of impact pathways is labour-intensive.

Further readings

- Connell, J. P., and A. C. Kubisch (1998), 'Applying a Theory of Change Approach to the Evaluation of Comprehensive Community Initiatives: Progress, Prospects, and Problems', *New Approaches to Evaluating Community Initiatives*,
- Davies, R. (2018), 'Representing Theories of Change: Technical Challenges with Evaluation Consequences', *CEDIL Inception Paper 15*,
- Jackson, E. T. (2013), 'Interrogating the Theory of Change: Evaluating Impact Investing Where It Matters Most', *Journal of Sustainable Finance and Investment* 3 (2)
- <https://www.theoryofchange.org/>
- <https://www.evalacademy.com/articles/what-is-theory-of-change-in-evaluation>

PROFEEDcourse

- <https://profeedback.eu/profeedcourse2/>

Practice abstracts

Jakob Kofler, Jelena Angelis, Elina Griniece, Matthijs Janssen, Peter Kaufmann, Alasdair Reid, Harald Wieser

How are the EU Missions achieving their goals? A Theory of Change assessment of scaling processes

Overview

This study analyses the mechanisms by which the European Union's mission-oriented innovation policies (MOIP) achieve their targets, with a particular focus on how solutions are 'scaled up' in practice. Although mission-based innovation is becoming increasingly popular, the authors point out that there is still a lot of conceptual confusion about how it differs from traditional innovation policies. The study aims to facilitate evaluation and learning by mapping the differences between theory and practice and demonstrating how the Theory of Change (ToC) approach can be applied to the analysis of EU missions.

Methods

The researchers employed a multi-stage qualitative approach. First, they used Mazzucato's (2018, 2019) theoretical models as a starting point, developing a graphical Theory of Change template and

evaluation criteria based on these models. They then created separate Theory of Change for five EU missions, building them on the basis of interviews, documents, and mission body logics. Thirdly, they conducted a literature review, comparing the empirical ToCs with MOIP theories to identify gaps, differences and common patterns.

Results

The research found that EU missions approach social impact in different ways. In some cases, they proceed according to detailed plans; in others, they operate as 'open centres of attraction'. Several new elements have emerged in the Theory of Changes that extend beyond Mazzucato's market-shaping mechanisms (e.g. public procurement, regulation and financing).

In practice, the following newer mechanisms also play a prominent role:

- learning between leaders and followers,
- adaptation to the local context,
- raising awareness and engaging stakeholders,
- coalition building.

The study critically assesses the simplification of Mazzucato's theory, pointing out that actual implementation is much more diverse and complex. However, scaling approaches are not always fully developed, which may limit their overall social impact. Nevertheless, the innovative, integrated use of policy instruments by EU missions can inspire other national or regional programmes, which are often too narrowly focused.

PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024

Erika Hajdu, Dr. Giovanna Lima, Dr. Stefan de Jong
Designing a Theory of Change in Less Than an Hour

Overview

This study explores ways to simplify the Theory of Change (ToC) approach to measuring social impact, particularly within interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research projects. The authors aim to answer the question of how university research aimed at addressing complex social challenges can apply the ToC method efficiently and effectively in collaboration with different disciplines and non-academic partners.

Although social impact is becoming increasingly important in academic life, existing methods such as SIAMPI or Transition Design are often too complex or difficult to integrate into university structures. This study offers a solution to this problem by presenting a practical tool: the 'Journey of Progress – Theory of Change' card game.

Methods

During the research, the Evaluating Societal Impact (ESI) group developed a user-centred, gamified tool that can be used to create a basic theory of change (ToC) plan in a 40-minute workshop. The tool is particularly suitable for collaborations where partners from different backgrounds work together:

- partners from different backgrounds are working together,
- time and resources are limited,
- there is no prior methodological knowledge.

The Journey of Progress method is based on 'back-casting' logic; it identifies the necessary steps by working backwards from the desired future state. During the game, participants use cards to define their vision, results, outputs, inputs and activities. They can also opt to perform stakeholder analysis and indicator development.

The game is available in physical, digital (e.g. on the Miro platform) and video educational formats. It can also be supplemented with interviews, enabling participants who are unable to attend the workshop in person to be involved.

Results

The game has been successfully tested by various institutional, municipal and government organisations, including:

- various departments and administrative units at Erasmus University,
- the cities of Amsterdam and Rotterdam,
- the Dutch Ministry of Science and the Dutch Research Council.

Experience has shown that the method:

- quickly promotes the development of a shared vision, even in complex environments,
- reduces tensions arising from power differences,
- can be used independently without prior methodological training.

Interest in the tool is growing internationally; for example, Cambridge University has requested a trial run.

PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024

2.2 Logical framework

Definition and Purpose

The logical framework is a tool that summarises the objectives, results and impacts of a project or intervention within a structured matrix. It illustrates the logical connections between a project's inputs, activities, outputs, results and objectives, and lists indicators, monitoring tools and external assumptions (OECD DAC, 2002).

"A Logframe is a systematic tool for organizing project logic, clarifying objectives, and identifying performance indicators and risks."
(OECD DAC, 2002)

Originally developed in the 1960s for USAID planning purposes, it is now widely used for the planning and evaluation of development programmes (European Commission, 2024).

There are several forms of the logical framework, with minor variations used by individual donors. The version used by the European Commission contains six columns and four rows.

Figure 2. EC model of the logical framework

	Results chain	Indicators	Baselines	Targets	Sources/means of verification	Assumptions
Impact (overall objective)						
Outcome(s) (specific)						

Source: European Commission, 2024

- **Result chain:** The first column shows the target hierarchy. The rows in this column present the impact mechanism in a structured manner, with each result following from the one below it. The first row contains the overall objective/impact, followed by the specific objectives/outcomes, then the outputs and finally a summary of key activities.
- **Indicators:** The second, third and fourth columns contain indicators linked to the results that need to be monitored. The second column contains the indicators; the third, the baseline values; and the fourth, the target values. The fifth column contains the sources/means of verification for the above-listed indicators.
- **Assumptions:** The last column contains the assumptions. These are external factors and conditions beyond the intervention's control that impact the achievement of results and outcomes. The last and first columns interact with each other: if the conditions in the last column are met, the results in the first column will be achieved (European Commission, 2024).

Application in Evaluations

LogFrame is a widely used method in both evaluation and intervention planning, as it visually presents the logical relationship between the intervention and the expected results and impacts.

- Evaluation planning and design,
- Monitoring: provides indicators for evaluation,
- Impact assessments: helps to identify impact mechanisms and pathways,
- Supports result-based management and reporting,
- Supports donor accountability.

Benefits and Challenges

- Logframes are widely used because they illustrate the anticipated results and effects of an intervention using simple logic. Thanks to their widespread use, they are a well-known and fairly standardised tool. They facilitate the development of measurable indicators and clarify the relationship between the project and external circumstances. (OECD DAC, 2002; GIZ, 2017).
- LogFrames have been criticised for oversimplifying interventions and failing to show which activities lead to which impacts. They have also been criticised for being too rigid and for condensing all contextual influences into a single type of assumption. They are also used more for donor reporting than adaptive learning (INTRAC, 2012; Bakewell & Garbutt, 2005; European Commission, 2024).

Further readings

- OECD DAC (2002). *Glossary of Key Terms in Evaluation and Results-Based Management*. <https://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/2754804.pdf>
- European Commission (2004). *Project Cycle Management Guidelines*. https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/project-cycle-management-guidelines_en
- Bakewell, O., & Garbutt, A. (2005). *The Use and Abuse of the Logical Framework Approach*. INTRAC. <https://www.intrac.org/resources/use-abuse-logical-framework-approach/>
- <https://www.betterevaluation.org/methods-approaches/methods/logframe>

- https://capacity4dev.europa.eu/discussions/tips-logical-framework-development-and-monitoring-and-evaluation-plans_en

PROFEEDcourse

- <https://profeedback.eu/profeedcourse2/>

2.3 Realist evaluation

Definition and Purpose

Realist evaluation is a theory-based approach. It focuses on understanding what works, for whom and how. Evaluations conducted using this method seek to reveal the intervention's mechanism i.e. how the change occurred. They also examine the circumstances of the intervention and the external factors that contributed to the outcomes. The realist technique acknowledges that interventions and policy changes do not necessarily work for everyone, since people are different and are embedded in different contexts (European Commission, 2024).

“Realist evaluation is based on the assumption that programs work (or not) because of the action of underlying mechanisms, which are triggered in particular contexts.”

(Pawson & Tilley, 1997)

Realist evaluation uses the Context + Mechanism = Outcome (CMO) structure to understand the effects. Realist evaluation seeks to reveal why an intervention works, not just the results it has achieved. This method aims to understand the mechanisms of impact, identify the circumstances that influence the results and test and refine the intervention's theoretical pathways. This approach is particularly useful in complex social interventions where results and impacts depend heavily on environmental variables (Pawson, 2006).

Application in Evaluations

This method is particularly useful for evaluations that primarily examine the mechanisms of impact, complex interventions or cases where randomised controlled trials (RCTs) are not applicable (Wong et al., 2012):

- Process or policy evaluation,
- New initiatives, pilot programmes and interventions,
- Before scaling up to understand how the intervention can be adapted to other circumstances,
- When evaluating interventions that have previously produced mixed results, to examine and understand the reasons for these differences.

Benefits and Challenges

- The Realist Evaluation method has many advantages. For example, it explains mechanisms as well as measuring impact. It is also well-suited to evaluating complex, multifaceted interventions. It can also facilitate the scaling up and adaptation of interventions. Another advantage is that it provides a reliable method where counterfactual studies are not feasible.

- The disadvantages of realist evaluation include the fact that it requires time and expertise to develop and test configurations. It also requires deep analytical reasoning, which can lead to varying interpretations. High-quality qualitative and contextual data are also needed for it to be effective (Pawson & Tilley, 1997; Marchal et al., 2012; Westhorp, 2014; HMT Treasury 2020).

Further readings:

- Pawson, R., & Tilley, N. (1997). *Realistic Evaluation*. SAGE Publication <https://uk.sagepub.com/en-gb/eur/realistic-evaluation/book205276>
- Marchal, B., Van Belle, S., van Olmen, J., Hoérée, T., & Kegels, G. (2012). Is realist evaluation keeping its promise? A review of empirical studies in the field of health systems research. *Evaluation*, 18(2), 192–212. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1356389012442444>
- Westhorp, G. (2014). *Realist Impact Evaluation: An Introduction*. Methods Lab. Overseas Development Institute <https://odi.org/en/publications/realist-impact-evaluation-an-introduction/>
- Portela, A., Santarelli, C., & Valters, C. (2015). How to Realistically Evaluate Development Programs: Lessons from DFID <https://www.theoryofchange.org/wp-content/uploads/toc-and-realism.pdf>
- https://www.betterevaluation.org/en/approach/realist_evaluation
- <https://odi.org/en/publications/realist-impact-evaluation-an-introduction/>

PROFEEDcourse:

- <https://profeedback.eu/profeedcourse2/>

Practice abstracts

Isabel Vogel and Melanie Punton: Final Evaluation of the Building Capacity to Use Research Evidence (BCURE)

Realist evaluation of the Building Capacity to Use Research Evidence (BCURE) programme.

Overview

The BCURE programme aimed to strengthen the capacity of decision-makers, including civil servants and members of parliament, to use research evidence in policymaking. This £15.7 million initiative was implemented in 12 low- and middle-income countries in Africa and Asia from 2013 to 2017. A variety of interventions were used, including training, mentoring, policy dialogues and technical support, and different combinations of these were tested at various levels of government.

Methods

The evaluation aimed to explore how and why capacity building works in different contexts, so a realist evaluation methodology was employed. The research was based on three iterative phases:

- Theory development: the initial theoretical framework and CIMO configurations (C = context, I = intervention, M = mechanism, O = outcome) were developed based on existing literature and practical experience.

- Testing the theory: field research was conducted in six countries (Bangladesh, Kenya, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Zimbabwe), during which 567 interviews were conducted, and documents and monitoring data were analysed.
- Refining the theory: the collected data were analysed using an Excel-based matrix and the CIMOs were further refined through multiple rounds of group analysis. The original 19 configurations were narrowed down to five final CIMOs.

Results

The evaluation revealed that the realist approach greatly enhanced the accuracy of causal relationship understanding. The depth of the analysis and its practical relevance were enhanced by the continuous modification of the CIMO configurations based on the partners' experiences and feedback from the literature. For example, one key configuration showed that research tools were successfully disseminated when they were intuitive, reflected practical problems and were developed collaboratively. The method's advantage was that it provided DFID and other donors with empirically based, politically useful lessons.

Vogel, I., & Punton, M. (2018). Final evaluation of the building capacity to use research evidence (BCURE) programme. *Hove: Itad, 2018*.

2.4 Contribution analysis

Definition and Purpose

Contribution analysis (CA) is a set of methods that allows us to examine whether an intervention contributed to the results, and, if so, to what extent. It examines, step by step, what results the intervention could have achieved, testing these assumptions as it goes along (HM Treasury 2020).

“Contribution analysis explores whether an intervention is one of the contributors to an observed result and assesses the plausibility of the contribution story.”

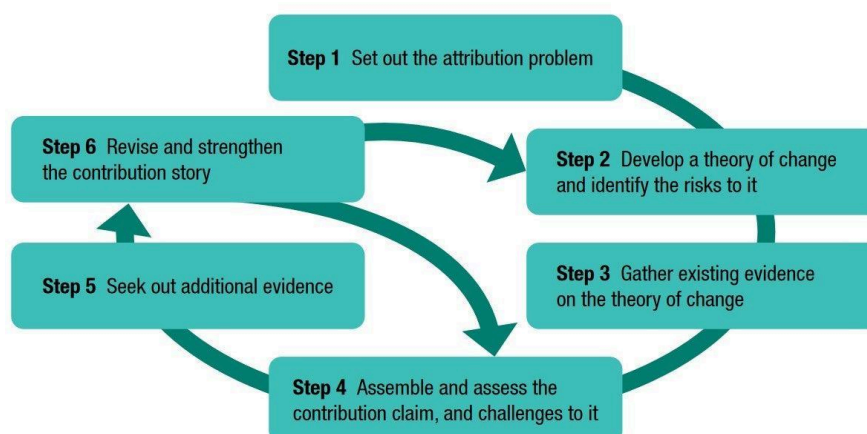
(Mayne, 2001)

Rather than using control groups to prove causal relationships, CA employs evidence and reasoning to construct a 'contribution story' that explains how and why the change occurred. This method is useful for validating or revising theories of change, gathering evidence to support or challenge claims about programme effects, and exploring alternative explanations for observed changes (Mayne, 2012).

Steps of the method:

1. Set out the cause-and-effect issue to be addressed.
2. Develop the Theory of Change.
3. Gather existing evidence on outcomes and activities.
4. Assess the plausibility of the contribution story.
5. Seek out additional evidence to strengthen the story.
6. Revise and strengthen the contribution narrative (Mayne, 2008).

Figure 3, Steps of contribution analysis



Source: Apgar et al., 2017

Contribution Analysis can work with a wide variety of data, allowing for the evaluation of a broad range of interventions. It can also be used in situations where experimental evaluation methods would not be feasible. However, this requires certain preconditions. First, a well-founded Theory of Change is needed, the intervention must be implemented in accordance with this, and the data collected during the evaluation must support the logical process. In addition, it is necessary to examine whether other circumstances could have distorted the impact mechanism (HM Treasury 2020).

Application in Evaluations

Contribution analysis is particularly well-suited to:

- evaluations of complex interventions involving multiple actors,
- evaluations of policy interventions,
- development interventions where experimental methods are unfeasible.

Benefits and Challenges

- One of the major advantages of contribution analysis is its effectiveness when there are many influencing factors. It is also linked to the theoretical logic of intervention and makes causal assumptions and evidence explicit. Both qualitative and quantitative evidence can be used effectively in the analysis (Mayne, 2012, 2015; Befani and Stedman-Bryce, 2017).
- Its disadvantages include the need for high-quality data and evidence. There is a high risk of confirmation bias, and it has high-capacity requirements (Befani, 2016; Lemire et al. 2020; Mayne, 2008).

Further readings:

- Mayne, J. (2001). *Addressing Attribution through Contribution Analysis: Using Performance Measures Sensibly*. Canadian Journal of Program Evaluation, 16(1), 1–24. <https://evaluationcanada.ca/system/files/cjpe-entries/16-1-001.pdf>
- Mayne, J. (2012). *Contribution analysis: Coming of age?* Evaluation, 18(3), 270–280. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1356389012451663>

- Lemire, S., Nielsen, S. B., & Dybdal, L. (2020). *Contribution Analysis: A promising approach to causal inference*. *Evaluation*, 26(3), 285–300.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1356389020928494>
- <https://www.betterevaluation.org/methods-approaches/approaches/contribution-analysis>
- <https://policy-practice.oxfam.org/keyword/contribution-analysis/>

PROFEEDcourse:

- <https://profeedback.eu/profeedcourse2/>

Practice abstracts

Giel Ton, Ben Taylor and Andrew Koleros (2022)

Assessing the Contribution to Market System Change of the Private Enterprise Programme Ethiopia, IDS Bulletin Vol. 53 No. 1 February 2022 'Theory-Based Evaluation of Inclusive Business Programmes'

Overview

This study evaluates the impact of the Private Enterprise Programme Ethiopia (PEPE), which aims to transform market systems for the benefit of the poor by following the 'Making Markets Work for the Poor' (M4P) approach. Due to the complexity of market systems, the authors aim to address the issue of how to effectively evaluate the contribution of this type of programme to systemic economic change, particularly with regard to poverty reduction, job creation and income growth. PEPE operated in three priority sectors (leather, textiles and horticulture) and the financial sector between 2013 and 2020, receiving funding from the UK's DFID (now FCDO).

Methods used

The PEPE evaluation employed a theory-based approach comprising different evaluation phases.

1. The basic phase involved a quantitative company survey which attempted to measure sector-level performance and changes in the business environment. However, due to data gaps and difficulties in implementing structural changes, this approach proved insufficient.
2. The middle phase involved the application of mixed methods, including qualitative process tracing, case studies, company surveys and macroeconomic modelling. The authors introduced a new method based on 'contribution scores', measuring the perceived impact of company managers on services supported by EP (Enterprise Partners).
3. Concluding section: Due to the impact of the pandemic, sampling was limited, but existing data were analysed further and combined with the contribution score results using regression modelling. The impact of the PEPE programme was simulated using a macroeconomic CGE model.

PEPE's own monitoring and results measurement system (MRM) also played a significant role in the evaluation, which was audited by external experts.

Results

The evaluation found that, while the PEPE programme successfully achieved its planned output targets (e.g. introducing innovations and supporting regulatory changes), these did not lead to the expected system-level impacts (e.g. significant job creation and income growth). Three detailed case studies examined the programme's contribution:

- The seedling production model used in vegetable and fruit production is estimated to have improved the incomes of between 3,416 and 17,082 farmers.
- The labour placement system in the Hawassa Industrial Park contributed to job creation by 4–10%.
- In the case of the private equity advisory market, the intervention proved to have little impact.

According to the study, accurate quantitative estimates are often not possible, but the likely magnitude of contributions can be determined. The authors recommend that future programme evaluations use 'good enough' methods, adopt a critical and verification approach, and utilise estimated effects within limits rather than providing point estimates of effects.

Source: Giel Ton, Ben Taylor and Andrew Koleros (2022) Assessing the Contribution to Market System Change of the Private Enterprise Programme Ethiopia, IDS Bulletin Vol. 53 No. 1 February 2022 'Theory-Based Evaluation of Inclusive Business Programmes'

2.5 Surveys and polling

Definition and Purpose

Surveys and polling are systematic methods of collecting information from a sample of individuals to make inferences about a larger population. At their core, they are designed to measure attitudes, behaviours, experiences or demographic characteristics by asking structured and standardised questions and recording responses. The purpose of surveys and polls is to generate reliable, generalisable data that can inform research, policymaking or decision-making. While polls are often short and focused on gauging public opinion quickly – such as vote preferences before an election – surveys tend to be broader, more detailed and carefully designed to support scientific or policy analysis (Groves et al., 2009).

Application in Evaluation

In evaluation, surveys can be applied at multiple stages. They can be used before a program or project begins to identify needs and priorities among target groups or capture an initial condition (e.g., needs assessment, baseline evaluation). During implementation, surveys help monitor progress over the program by capturing feedback, satisfaction or behavioural change. After a project concludes, they are valuable for post-evaluation, as they measure outcomes and impacts directly from participants (e.g., impact evaluation, satisfaction surveys) (Tilleard & Shakhina, & Wittels, 2019). For example, a health program might use baseline surveys to understand community health status, midline surveys to monitor awareness of interventions and endline surveys to measure changes in health behaviours or conditions.

Polling, while often less comprehensive, can still provide a quick and timely illustration of public opinion that informs ongoing evaluations or decisions on campaign strategies and messages to the public about important issues (Groves et al., 2009).

Benefits and challenges

Survey methodology provides direct information from samples of the population, often making it the most appropriate way to measure subjective states such as satisfaction, attitudes or preferences (McInty, 1999, cited by Glasow, 2005). When designed with proper sampling techniques, surveys allow for generalisation from a group to a larger population (Bell, 1996, cited

by Glasow, 2005), making them cost-effective compared to census-style data collection or other qualitative research methods, such as interviews. Furthermore, surveys are highly flexible: they can cover a wide range of topics, be administered in different modes (face-to-face, phone, online), and be repeated over time to track changes.

However, designing good questions that are clear, unbiased and meaningful is difficult, and poor design can lead to misleading results. Response errors can arise if participants misunderstand questions, forget information, or give socially desirable answers rather than truthful ones. Sampling poses another challenge: if the sample is not representative, the findings cannot be generalised accurately to the target population (i.e., sampling bias or sampling error). Nonresponse, especially in modern contexts with declining participation rates, can further bias results (i.e., nonresponse error). Additionally, polls in particular may oversimplify complex issues and be influenced by timing, question wording, or media coverage (de Leeuw et al., 2008).

Further readings

- BetterEvaluation – Survey Research
<https://www.betterevaluation.org/tools-resources/survey-research>
- Fink, A. (2006). How to Conduct Surveys: A Step-by-Step Guide (5th ed.). SAGE Publications.
- Pew Research Center. Public Opinion Polling Basics. A short course explaining how public opinion polling works. <https://www.pewresearch.org/course/public-opinion-polling-basics/>

Profeedback course

- <https://profeedback.eu/profeedcourse4-2/>

Practice abstracts

Bálint Herczeg

Financial instruments and COVID-extended results from the evaluation for the 2014-2020 cycle**Overview**

This research investigates the 2014-2020 period, which was the second budget cycle during which Hungarian companies had access to EU-funded financial instruments. A total of HUF 800 billion was made available within the framework of 29 financial instruments in this period. The official evaluation of the research team (Balás et al., 2021) focused mainly on the performance of these instruments, measured as demand and the rate of progress in generating additional investments. However, since the investigated period also includes the months of the first COVID-19 lockdown, the evaluation data created an opportunity (using the original evaluation as a stepping stone) to examine how the Hungarian government responded to the sudden halt of economic activity.

Methods

The evaluation was based on the Hungarian Development Bank's administrative database. The author used this data to estimate structural breakpoints to see how the number of new contracts and availability of funds reacted to the onset of the quarantine. The evaluation team also conducted a small, representative survey among enterprises that received funds (n = 257). The companies' responses were merged with their public financial statements and a paired sample was established to identify differences in the performance of the enterprises according to which type of financial instrument they had previously received.

Results

As the economy shut down, the demand for some supported financial instruments disappeared. The government reacted by reallocating funds: the unused budgets of instruments with low demand were cut substantially. Based on these newly available funds, a new product line was introduced, offering a cheap or low-interest credit for working capital. This product proved extremely successful, with its budget fully depleted within three months, even after further increasing the available funds. As of yet, there is still no evidence that enterprises receiving working capital survived the first wave of quarantine in better condition than those that did not. In conclusion, the government's fast reaction to rearrange the funds from financing long-term investment to support assets for short-term cash flow may have helped companies to endure the quarantine, but its long-term effect remains to be investigated in the future.

PROFEEDbook vol 1: Evaluation of public policy responses to black swans, COST CA20112, 2022

Danijel Baturina, Gojko Bežovan

Assessment of the possibilities and limitations of LAGs activities in Croatia**Overview**

The paper explores the role of Local Action Groups (LAGs) in Croatia within the framework of the LEADER and Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) approaches. It aims to assess the possibilities and limitations of LAGs, as well as their impact on rural development, in the context of Croatia's adoption of EU rural development policies.

Methods

The research applies mixed methods, combining both qualitative and quantitative approaches. The data were collected through a focus group with key stakeholders, a nationwide survey of all registered Croatian LAGs and an in-depth case study of one LAG.

Results

The findings highlight several dimensions of LAGs' functioning in Croatia. Human resources are generally satisfactory, but there is a strong need for further training and education, while budgets are increasing, though financial dependence and administrative burdens limit effectiveness. More than half of LAGs report adequate funding to achieve their goals, yet calls for diversified resources and greater autonomy remain strong. LAGs are not perceived as a policy priority nationally and often function as extensions of implementing bodies, with limited bottom-up engagement due to local capacity constraints. Compared to the EU average, Croatian LAGs operate with smaller budgets but reach a higher share of the rural population through improved services and infrastructure. Overall, LAGs in Croatia are still consolidating their role, seen both as instruments of "Europeanisation" and as emerging drivers of integrated, participatory rural development.

PROFEEDbook vol 3: Evaluation on Rural and Territorial Development, Urban Development, COST CA20112, 2023

2.6 Simulation modelling

Definition and Purpose

Simulation modelling uses facts to help us understand how systems respond to changes. The method involves constructing mathematical models to represent complex scenarios. When developing a simulation model, it is necessary to map the impact mechanisms using logical models. By combining data and observations with logical relationships, the model can then estimate outputs based on the given inputs. Simulation modelling requires either existing quantitative data or data collected during the evaluation. There are several known variants of simulation modelling:

- Discrete event simulation: systems are modelled as a sequence of discrete events over time, where events indicate change (Sharma, 2015).
- System dynamics is a deterministic model which assumes that the structure of the system gives rise to its observable and predictable behaviour (Winz et al., 2009).
- Agent-based modelling: systems consist of autonomous agents that interact with each other and the environment, behaving according to defined decision rules (Abar et al., 2017).

Application in Evaluations

This method is useful for evaluation purposes, for example:

- In cases where the chain of effects is complex and it is difficult to measure or predict changes due to confounding factors.
- It allows data and results from existing research to be incorporated into the model.
- It can also be used to evaluate policy alternatives and model alternative scenarios.
- It can also be used to model long-term results and impacts.

Benefits and Challenges

- One advantage of this method is that it can be used to evaluate complex interventions. It can also be used to simulate scenarios without real-world consequences. It helps policymakers to choose between options prior to implementation. Long-term results and effects can also be modelled (Banks et al., 2010; HM Treasury 2020).

- Its disadvantages include the fact that it requires a large amount of reliable data in order to produce high-quality results. Building and calibrating the right model can be complicated and often requires time and specialised knowledge (HM Treasury 2020; Borschhev, 2013).

Further readings:

- Sharma, P. (2015). *Discrete Event Simulation*. *International journal of scientific and technology research*; 4(4), pp. 136-140.
- Abar, S. Theodoropoulos, G. Lemariner, P. and O'Hare, G. (2017). *Agent Based Modelling and Simulation tools: A review of the state-of-art software*. *Computer Science Review*, 24, pp 13-33.
- Borshchev, A. (2013). *The Big Book of Simulation Modeling: Multimethod Modeling with AnyLogic 6*. AnyLogic North America.
- <https://www.betterevaluation.org/tools-resources/modelling>

PROFEEDcourse:

- <https://profeedback.eu/profeedcourse2/>

Practice abstracts

Igor Oliveira, Bianca Cavicchi

Assessing R&I Policy for Transformative Change with System Dynamics

Overview

This study evaluates transformative innovation policies (TIPs) and focuses on their potential contribution to sustainable development goals (SDGs). The authors contend that conventional research and development (R&D) policy evaluation methods, such as gross domestic product (GDP), patents, and publications, are inadequate for gauging systemic and long-term changes. They claim that system-based approaches that consider complex social, economic and environmental impacts are required instead.

Methods used

The research employs System Dynamics (SD) modelling to analyse complex systems characterised by feedback and time delays. Two model applications are presented:

- The first is an exploratory SD model that examines the relationship between economic growth and environmental performance. This model uses a simplified Cobb–Douglas production function to illustrate the economic and environmental interactions between five sectors: agriculture, manufacturing, mining, non-specialised services and specialised services. The model simulates various scenarios (e.g. 'green mining', 'green industry'), demonstrating the trade-offs between emissions and exports.
- The second application aims to conduct an ex-ante impact assessment of transformative innovation policy in two technological areas: mRNA technology and green hydrogen. The model covers the period from 2007 to 2035, incorporating the Framework Programmes 7 to

10. The modelling takes into account the different stages of the innovation process (basic research, product development and market entry) and their temporal relationships.

Results

The simulations highlighted the potential trade-offs and synergies of different policy interventions. For instance, the 'green industry' scenario demonstrated the potential for industrial development and environmental benefits. Based on the initial results of mRNA modelling, it was found that public funding impacts the innovation chain at several stages with varying time lags. However, the research also highlights a lack of relevant data, particularly with regard to the industrial exploitation of project outputs and the traceability of non-grant types of financing (e.g. capital investments). SD modelling can therefore be a useful tool for policymakers to predict and optimise the impact of transformative innovation policies.

PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024

2.7 References

- Abar, S. Theodoropoulos, G. Lemariner, P. and O'Hare, G. (2017). Agent Based Modelling and Simulation tools: A review of the state-of-art software. *Computer Science Review*, 24; pp 13-33.
- Apgar, M., Hernandez, K. and Ton, G., 2020. Contribution analysis for adaptive management. Briefing Note.
- Bakewell, O., & Garbutt, A. (2005). The Use and Abuse of the Logical Framework Approach. INTRAC. <https://www.intrac.org/resources/use-abuse-logical-framework-approach/>
- Banks, J., Carson, J. S., Nelson, B. L., & Nicol, D. M. (2010). *Discrete-Event System Simulation* (5th ed.). Prentice Hall.
- Befani, B., & Stedman-Bryce, G. (2017). Process Tracing and Bayesian Updating for Impact Evaluation. *Evaluation*, 23(1), 42–60. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1356389016682751>
- Befani, B., Ledermann, S., & Sager, F. (2007). Realistic evaluation and QCA: Conceptual parallels and an empirical application. *Evaluation*, 13(2), 171–192. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1356389007075221>
- Borshchev, A. (2013). *The Big Book of Simulation Modeling: Multimethod Modeling with AnyLogic 6*. AnyLogic North America.
- Connell, J. P., and A. C. Kubisch (1998), 'Applying a Theory of Change Approach to the Evaluation of Comprehensive Community Initiatives: Progress, Prospects, and Problems', *New Approaches to Evaluating Community Initiatives*,
- Coryn, C. L. S., Noakes, L. A., Westine, C. D., & Schröter, D. C. (2011). A systematic review of theory-driven evaluation practice from 1990 to 2009. *American Journal of Evaluation*, 32(2), 199–226. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1098214010389321>
- Davies, R. (2018), 'Representing Theories of Change: Technical Challenges with Evaluation Consequences', CEDIL Inception Paper 15,
- European Commission (2004). *Project Cycle Management Guidelines*. https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/project-cycle-management-guidelines_en
- European Commission (2024): *EVALUATION HANDBOOK* <https://doi.org/10.2841/340793>
- Giel Ton, Ben Taylor and Andrew Koleros (2022) *Assessing the Contribution to Market System Change of the Private Enterprise Programme Ethiopia*, IDS Bulletin Vol. 53 No. 1 February 2022
- 'Theory-Based Evaluation of Inclusive Business Programmes'
- GIZ (2017). *Results-Based Monitoring Guidelines*. <https://www.giz.de/de/downloads/giz2017-en-results-based-monitoring-guidelines.pdf>
- HM Treasury: *Magenta Book - Central Government guidance on evaluation* March 2020
- Jackson, E. T. (2013), 'Interrogating the Theory of Change: Evaluating Impact Investing Where It Matters Most', *Journal of Sustainable Finance and Investment* 3 (2)
- Lemire, S., Nielsen, S. B., & Dybdal, L. (2020). Contribution Analysis: A promising approach to causal inference. *Evaluation*, 26(3), 285–300. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1356389020928494>
- Marchal, B., Van Belle, S., van Olmen, J., Hoérée, T., & Kegels, G. (2012). Is realist evaluation keeping its promise? A review of empirical studies in the field of health systems research. *Evaluation*, 18(2), 192–212. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1356389012442444>
- Marchal, B., Van Belle, S., van Olmen, J., Hoérée, T., & Kegels, G. (2012). Is realist evaluation keeping its promise? A review of empirical studies in the field of health systems research. *Evaluation*, 18(2), 192–212. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1356389012442444>
- Mayne, J. (2001). Addressing attribution through contribution analysis: Using performance measures sensibly. *Canadian Journal of Program Evaluation*, 16(1), 1–24.
- Mayne, J. (2008). *Contribution Analysis: An Approach to Exploring Cause and Effect*. ILAC Brief No. 16. <https://www.betterevaluation.org/en/resources/guide/contribution-analysis>

- Mayne, J. (2012). Contribution analysis: Coming of age? *Evaluation*, 18(3), 270–280. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1356389012451663>
- Mayne, J. (2015). Useful Theory of Change Models. *Canadian Journal of Program Evaluation*, 30(2), 119–142. <https://doi.org/10.3138/cjpe.230>
- OECD DAC (2002). Glossary of Key Terms in Evaluation and Results-Based Management. <https://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/2754804.pdf>
- Pawson, R., & Tilley, N. (1997). *Realistic Evaluation*. SAGE Publications. <https://uk.sagepub.com/en-gb/eur/realistic-evaluation/book205276>
- Portela, A., Santarelli, C., & Valters, C. (2015). How to Realistically Evaluate Development Programs: Lessons from DFID. <https://www.theoryofchange.org/wp-content/uploads/toc-and-realism.pdf>
- Sharma, P. (2015). Discrete Event Simulation. *International journal of scientific and technology research*; 4(4), pp. 136-140.
- Stein, D., & Valters, C. (2012). Understanding Theory of Change in International Development. <https://odi.org/en/publications/understanding-theory-of-change-in-international-development/>
- Weiss, C. H. (1997). Theory-based evaluation: Past, present, and future. *New Directions for Evaluation*, 1997(76), 41–55. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ev.1086>
- Westhorp, G. (2014). *Realist Impact Evaluation: An Introduction*. Methods Lab. Overseas Development Institute. <https://odi.org/en/publications/realist-impact-evaluation-an-introduction/>
- Winz, I., Brierly, G. and Trowsdale, S. (2009). The Use of System Dynamics Simulation in Water Resources Management. *Water Resources Management*; 23(7); pp. 1301–1323.
- Wong, G., Westhorp, G., Manzano, A., Greenhalgh, J., & Pawson, R. (2016). RAMESES II reporting standards for realist evaluations. *BMC Medicine*, 14(96). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12916-016-0643-1>

3 Quantitative methods

Quantitative evaluation methods help to collect and analyse quantitative data in order to measure the impact, results or performance of a programme, project or policy. Based on quantifiable data, these methods are often used to objectively assess effectiveness, efficiency and cost-effectiveness. Not only can they show whether an intervention has brought about change, they can also show the extent to which it has done so. They allow for comparative evaluations, for example between different interventions, groups or areas. They are also suitable for creating and measuring indicators, as well as tracking trends over time.

Counterfactual methods and randomised controlled trials (RCT) are among the quantitative methods and can estimate the exact magnitude of impact that is directly attributable to an intervention.

3.1 Randomised controlled trials

Definition and Purpose

Randomised controlled trials (RCTs) are considered the 'gold standard' method of evaluation and impact assessment. This quantitative method, as an experimental method, allows for robust comparisons between two groups. One group receives the intervention (the treatment group) while the other does not (the control group). The groups do not differ in their observable or unobservable characteristics, and the assignment of individuals to groups is determined by random selection (HM Treasury 2020). This avoids potential bias influencing the results, enabling the difference observed between the groups at the end of the intervention to be assumed to be the effect of the intervention. Blinded trials are experiments in which the participants are unaware that they are receiving the treatment or not. In double-blind trials, neither the participant nor the evaluator knows who is receiving the treatment. In RCTs, the control group is the counterfactual, defined as what would have happened to the same people if the intervention had not taken place. For this reason, it is crucial that the control group is defined appropriately. In most cases, the target group is defined by the intervention, and its members are randomly assigned to either the intervention or control group.

Randomisation can take place at either the individual or cluster level. For example, clusters could be defined as settlements, school groups or service provider's clients. In certain cases, control groups may still receive some intervention/treatment, but the method can still be applied. It may be suitable for demonstrating the differences between the effects of two interventions, for example, the widely used method and a new method (Duflo et al., 2007).

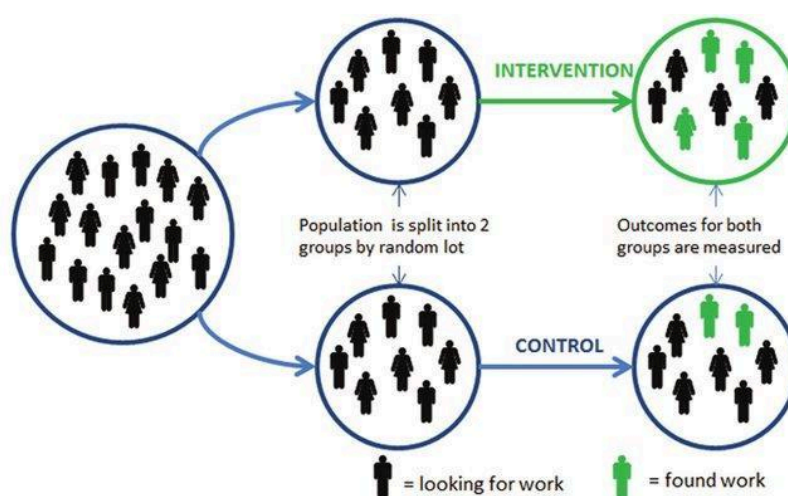
The method aims to minimise the influence of the external environment when evaluating an intervention, as well as limiting bias and generating an internally valid impact estimate. It is a quantitative method, i.e. it measures the effects of interventions in a quantifiable way.

The main steps of the method are as follows (Duflo et al., 2007):

1. Needs assessment to help define the direction of the intervention, the area of deficiency to be targeted, and the characteristics of the target group.
1. Development of a theory of change or other impact pathway.

2. A baseline survey is conducted, with identical data collected from the entire sample to measure the initial state.
3. The sample is randomised into different groups.
4. Implementation of the intervention.
5. During the intervention, it is worth collecting monitoring data and performing interim measurements.
6. Follow-up survey or data collection at the end of the intervention, either several times during the intervention or when the potential effects appear.
7. Evaluation and reporting of outcomes and impact.

Figure 4, Method of the randomised controlled trial



Source: Haynes et al., 2012

Application in Evaluations

Although the RCT method is based on clinical trial methods and has been used for decades, it is also very important in impact assessment. It is one of the most reliable methods for producing impact assessment results, and is used widely in many areas, including:

- Impact assessments in healthcare, education, economic development and other social interventions,
- Evaluating programmes and interventions involving large target groups.

It is well suited to evaluation if:

- control and treatment groups of a sufficient size can be established and tracked throughout the entire intervention for data collection purposes,
- randomisation is feasible in practice without ethical risks,
- the intervention will not affect the control group.

Benefits and Challenges

- Randomised controlled trials enable strong comparisons between groups and, when applied correctly, can yield reliable impact estimates. They work best when the mechanisms of the intervention are well understood and consistently applied, but this can limit generalisability.
- However, RCTs rely on the assumption that the control group is unaffected, and blinding is rarely possible in social interventions. Furthermore, RCTs are often expensive, resource-intensive and lengthy. Furthermore, the results may not be generalised to other contexts.

Further readings

- Duflo, E., Glennerster, R., & Kremer, M. (2007). *Using randomization in development economics research: A toolkit*. *Handbook of development economics*, 4, 3895-3962.
- <https://www.betterevaluation.org/methods-approaches/approaches/randomised-controlled-trial>
- European Commission (2024): *EVALUATION HANDBOOK* <https://doi.org/10.2841/340793>
- UNICEF Randomised Controlled Trial video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wy7qpJeoZec>

PROFEEDcourse

- <https://profeedback.eu/profeedcourse3-2/>

Practice abstracts

Oto Potluka, Lenka Švecová, Viktor Kubát, Veronika Liskova-Nedbalova, Tomáš Nečas, Lenka Lhotská:

Evaluation of eHealth Assistance in Hospital Care for Improved Quality of Life in Patients

Overview

The evaluation aimed to examine the extent to which eHealth technologies can improve the quality of hospital care, and thus the quality of life of patients, particularly in light of the needs of an ageing population. The ageing population is increasing demand for the effective treatment of chronic and degenerative diseases, as well as the development of healthcare infrastructure, and eHealth solutions such as automated measurements can alleviate the burden on healthcare workers, particularly in crisis situations like the current pandemic.

Methods

The study was conducted on the Tomas Bata Hospital's (Czech Republic) dedicated SARS-CoV-2 ward, with a total of 61 patients participating. The researchers conducted a randomised controlled trial (RCT), in which participants were randomly assigned to treatment and control groups. The study aimed to evaluate whether using eHealth technologies, specifically thermometers and oximeters, reduces health risks for patients and assists hospital staff. The technologies were selected based on exclusion criteria, and the chosen devices were then tested in practice by healthcare staff.

Results

Due to the small sample size and the rapid progression of the pandemic, it was not possible to statistically verify the direct impact of eHealth technologies on patients' health. However, the evaluation confirmed that, even in their limited form, the introduced tools provide effective assistance to staff in crisis situations, primarily in the form of psychological support. Two practical lessons were also learned during the research: Firstly, preliminary data collection during the RCT helped to avoid randomisation bias. Secondly, due to the pandemic, on-site data collection was performed by hospital staff, which reduced the amount of data but enabled the research to be conducted.

PROFEEDbook vol 1: Evaluation of public policy responses to black swans, COST CA20112, 2022

Bálint Herczeg, Luca Koltai, Kinga Tóth:

The Effects of the Crossroads Programme on Early School Leaving and Secondary School Choice

Overview

The study presents the results of the impact assessment of the programme entitled 'Crossroads: A Complex Digital Programme for a Successful Career', which was implemented by the Hungarian Reformed Charity Service. Launched in 2018, the programme aimed to support disadvantaged students, primarily from the Ózd region in Northern Hungary, from the seventh to tenth grade. It provided personal mentoring, career guidance, mental health support and individualised guidance to reduce the likelihood of students leaving school early and to promote further education.

Methods

The impact assessment used a randomized controlled trial (RCT) design, pairing similar elementary schools and switching the treatment and control groups between the first and second waves. Data collection was based on multiple sources: family background questionnaires, school administrative data, national competency assessments, interviews with teachers, principals, and social workers, and student self-administered questionnaires at three points in time (beginning, midpoint, and end). Students who dropped out of the program were also examined as a separate group. During the analysis, special attention was paid to the demographic and school characteristics of students who remained in the program and those who dropped out.

Results

The programme significantly impacted secondary school choice: participants were 16.5% more likely to choose a school offering a high school diploma, thereby increasing their chances of progressing to higher education. The programme also increased the likelihood of students attending secondary school by 28 percentage points. However, for those who dropped out of the programme in the meantime, the likelihood of leaving school early increased by 47 percentage points. According to the study, the programme also positively impacted students' future prospects: those who remained in education set higher academic goals by the end of the programme, and half as many imagined their future in the city. Based on these findings, special attention should be paid to reaching and retaining older boys from lower socioeconomic backgrounds when the programme is expanded in future.

PROFEEDbook vol 6: Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies II., COST CA20112, 2024

3.2 Propensity score matching

Definition and Purpose

Propensity score matching (PSM) is a statistical technique used in the analysis of observational data to estimate the effect of a treatment, policy, or intervention. The method enables evaluators to construct a counterfactual group to estimate the impact of an intervention by matching treatment observations to one or more control observations based on their probability of being treated (HM Treasury, 2020). This probability is called the propensity score. It is calculated using observable characteristics that determine the likelihood of participation and varies between 0 and 1 (where 1 is 100% likely to be treated). The impact estimate is calculated by comparing the outcomes of interest between the two matched groups. The matching thereby reduces bias from confounding variables that could otherwise distort comparisons between treated and untreated groups (Austin, 2011).

Bias can happen when the difference in outcomes between treated and untreated groups is not actually due to the treatment, but instead to other factors that affect who receives the treatment. In randomized experiments, this problem is avoided because randomization makes the groups similar on average across all characteristics, so treatment effects can be estimated fairly (Austin, 2011). In observational studies, however, treatments are not assigned randomly. To deal with this, matching is used to make the treated and untreated groups as similar as possible on the observed characteristics, so the comparison is closer to what randomization would achieve. PSM is therefore particularly relevant in contexts where randomized controlled trials (RCTs) are either impractical or undesirable. For the method to yield credible counterfactual estimates, several conditions must be satisfied (HM Treasury, 2020).

Steps of propensity score matching (Thoemmes, 2012):

1. **Identifying a set of pre-treatment covariates** considered theoretically relevant to treatment assignment. This stage is crucial, as the validity of the propensity score analysis depends on the inclusion of appropriate variables. The variable selection must demonstrate a well-founded rationale to minimize the risk of omitting important unobserved variables.
2. **Estimate each unit's probability of receiving treatment**, known as the propensity score. This is typically done using a logistic regression or another suitable statistical model, with treatment assignment as the dependent variable and the chosen covariates as predictors.
3. **Matching observations.** Using the estimated propensity scores, treated units are matched with untreated units that have similar scores. Matching can be performed in many different ways, most commonly straight-forward and simple techniques such as 1:1 nearest neighbour matching are used, meaning that a single treated participant is matched to a single untreated participant who has the most similar estimated propensity score. To improve the quality of matches, researchers may set a calliper, which specifies the maximum allowable difference in propensity scores between two units. In cases where the treated and untreated groups differ substantially in size, one-to-many matching can be applied, allowing a single treated unit to be matched with multiple untreated units.
4. **Evaluating the matching balance.** Balance checks involve comparing the distribution of covariates between groups to confirm that systematic differences have been minimized. The standardized mean difference of covariates should be close to 0 after matching, and

the variance ratio should be close to 1. If imbalance remains, the matching procedure may need to be adjusted.

5. **Comparing the matched treated and untreated groups to estimate the treatment effect.** Since the groups are similar with respect to observed covariates, the resulting estimates are less biased and provide a more credible assessment of the intervention impact. Any statistical model (e.g., t-test, ANOVA, or more elaborate models, e.g. latent growth model) can be applied to the matched dataset.

Application in evaluations

- **Approximating the counterfactual:** A central challenge in program evaluation is generating a credible estimate of the counterfactual—that is, what outcomes would have occurred for participants had they not received the intervention. Without such an estimate, it is impossible to determine whether observed changes are truly attributable to the program or simply reflect outcomes that would have occurred regardless. PSM creates a comparison group that resembles the treatment group, providing an estimate of what would have happened to participants had they not received the intervention.
- **Improving credibility of observational studies:** In situations where randomized controlled trials are not possible in approximating the counterfactual, PSM strengthens causal inference by simulating conditions closer to randomization.
- **Addressing confounding bias:** By matching units based on their propensity scores, PSM reduces bias arising from differences in covariates that could otherwise distort results.

PSM can be used in many areas, where approximating the counterfactual and assessing the impact of treatment is key in evaluation. Some examples are:

- Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) — Evaluated using PSM (and Difference-in-Differences) to estimate impacts on children's school enrolment across urban vs rural areas in Ghana (University of North Carolina, 2014).
- Bryson (2002) utilized PSM to evaluate the effectiveness of active labour market policies, assessing whether changes in policy and the introduction of new programmes influenced outcomes such as employment and earnings.
- De Vocht et al. (2016) employed PSM to select control local authority areas for evaluating the public health impact of alcohol policies, aiming to estimate causal effects of policy interventions on health outcomes.

Benefits and challenges

Pros:

- Enables estimation of treatment effects when RCTs are not feasible.
- Estimates the average impact on all treated individuals, rather than only a small subset.
- When detailed data on factors influencing participation and outcomes are available, we can utilize this information with relatively few assumptions about how these factors operate.

Cons:

- Since matching relies solely on observable characteristics, unobserved factors that affect treatment or outcomes can bias estimates; sensitivity analysis or combining with Difference-in-Differences can partially address this.
- Requires comprehensive data for both treated and untreated groups, ideally from the same source to ensure comparability.
- Matching is limited to pre-intervention characteristics, which must either be time-invariant (e.g., gender, birth year) or collected prior to the intervention.

Further readings

- Caliendo, M., & Kopeinig, S. (2008). Some practical guidance for the implementation of propensity score matching. *Journal of economic surveys*, 22(1), 31-72.
- Heinrich, C., Maffioli, A., & Vázquez, G. (2011). *A Primer for Applying Propensity-Score Matching*. <https://doi.org/10.18235/0008567>
- Kane, L. T., Fang, T., Galetta, M. S., Goyal, D. K., Nicholson, K. J., Kepler, C. K., ... & Schroeder, D. (2020). Propensity score matching: a statistical method. *Clinical spine surgery*, 33(3), 120-122.

PROFEEDcourse

- <https://profeedback.eu/profeedcourse3-2/>

Practice abstracts

Bálint Herczeg, Hétfa Research Institute, Hungary

Effect of Universities' Programs on the Probability of Tertiary Dropout in Hungary

Overview

The study assessed whether the EFOP-3.4.3-16 intervention, funded by the Structural Funds, reduced university dropout rates in Hungary between 2014–2020. While its main goal was to modernize higher education, project managers emphasized broader impacts, such as methodological reforms, digital materials, attitude shifts, and stronger institutional cooperation.

Methods

A paired sample of university students was analysed using linear probability models. Matching was based on propensity scores with replacement, restricted to common support and to students from the same faculty, field, study level, and schedule.

Results

Students in the program were more likely to receive grants and live in dorms, so additional academic and living condition factors were included in the matching. In the final sample, program participants had a 9-percentage point lower dropout probability. Among interventions, individual tutoring had the strongest effect (-20 points), followed by professional programs (-16), group tutoring (-10), and mentoring (-5).

PROFEEDbook vol 5: Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies I., COST CA20112, 2024

Meldina Kokorovic Jukan, Danijel Hopić, Jasmina Okičić University of Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Helvetas International University of Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Impact Evaluation of Life Skills Curriculum Implementation in Primary Schools in Bosnia And Herzegovina

Overview

The Life Skills Program was introduced in primary schools across Bosnia and Herzegovina to strengthen decision-making, emotional regulation, critical thinking, communication, and social responsibility. Delivered by trained teachers through classroom integration, the program sought to equip students with adaptive abilities for everyday challenges.

Methods

A quasi-experimental repeated-measures design was applied with matched comparison groups created via propensity score matching and inverse probability weighting. Program effects were estimated using a difference-in-differences approach, drawing on multiple instruments, including the Life Skills Scale, Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale, Developmental Assets Profile, CBCL, and custom violence exposure measures.

Results

The evaluation found no statistically significant improvements in key outcomes such as decision-making, self-esteem, or violence reduction. However, it highlighted challenges of short exposure and variable implementation fidelity, while underscoring the value of embedding rigorous evaluation methods in transitional education systems. The study provides lessons for strengthening future program assessments.

PROFEEDbook vol 5: Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies I., COST CA20112, 2024

Luca Koltai, Tamás Szabó, Kinga Tóth

Evaluation of measures supporting social enterprises in Hungary

Overview

The evaluation examined the impact of measures supporting social enterprises, with the aim of informing future interventions and improving effectiveness. It reviewed EU-funded programs from 2007–2013 and partial results from 2014–2020, reflecting the EU's Social Business Initiative (2011), which emphasizes the role of social enterprises in fostering social cohesion and reducing territorial inequalities.

Methods

The abstract focuses on the completed 2007–2013 period, where long-term effects could be assessed. Beneficiaries were evaluated using propensity score matching combined with difference-in-differences methods.

Results

Findings show that while funding did not significantly increase employment, it did lead to substantial growth in sales revenue, assets, and liabilities of social cooperatives. This effect is partly due to many cooperatives being newly established during the programming period. Compared to matched peers, subsidized cooperatives demonstrated stronger growth trajectories and significantly better financial outcomes, though without notable employment gains.

PROFEEDbook vol 2: Evaluation of Policies on Social Inclusion, Migration, in particular interventions related to integration, COST CA20112, 2022

3.3 Interrupted time series

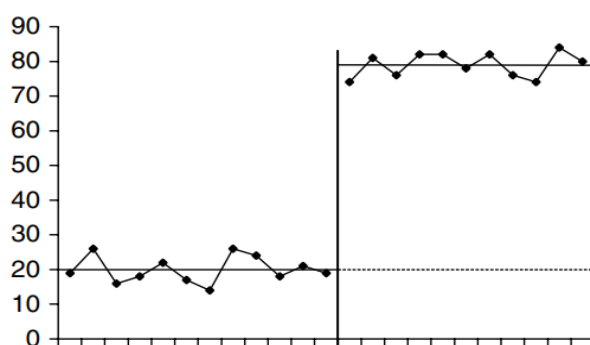
Definition and Purpose

Interrupted Time Series Analysis (ITSA) is a quasi-experimental approach used to assess the causal impact of an intervention. It analyses time-series data to determine whether there is a significant change in the trend of outcomes after the intervention is introduced. ITSA is especially useful for population-level interventions, such as evaluating the effect of a new law, where the timing of implementation is clearly defined (HM Treasury, 2020).

ITSA does not require a control group; in its absence, impacts are inferred by assuming that pre-intervention trends would have continued unchanged (HM Treasury, 2020). The validity of this approach depends on the assumption that no other interventions or short-term events affect the outcome around the time of the intervention. When this assumption is questionable, a control group can be used—ideally one with similar historical trends that is not exposed to the intervention but experiences the same external influences.

The basic interrupted time series design is diagrammed in Figure 5, which shows there are multiple observations both prior to and after the intervention. The difference between the dotted line and the post intervention solid line provides an estimate of treatment effect.

Figure 5. Interrupted time series (Ferron & Rendina-Gobioff, 2005)



Applications of interrupted time series designs used to illustrate quasi-experiments often focus on archival data that contain an aggregate value for a group across a large number of time points – for instance, research examining the frequency of behaviour before and after a policy implementation.

ITSA requires time-series data covering both periods before and after the intervention, and it is most effective when applied to administrative data. Short data series can reduce the statistical power of tests, so resulting estimates should be interpreted cautiously. Conversely, very long series may introduce inaccuracies if slow-moving, long-term trends begin to influence the model. Visual inspection of the data is recommended to determine the appropriate series length (Ferron & Rendina-Gobioff, 2005).

Statistical significance in changes to the level and slope of the time series after the intervention is typically tested using Ordinary Least Squares (OLS), incorporating a dummy variable for level changes and an interaction term for trend changes. When constructing an ITSA model, it is important to plan in advance based on how the intervention is expected to affect outcomes—for

instance, whether effects are likely temporary or permanent, and whether the intervention is anticipated to alter the level, the trend, or both (Ferron & Rendina-Gobioff, 2005).

Application

ITSA is widely used in evaluation, particularly for assessing interventions implemented at the population or system level, where randomization is not feasible. Its main applications include:

- **Policy and Legislative Changes** – Evaluating the effect of new laws, regulations, or policies (e.g., smoking bans, minimum wage increases, or traffic laws) on population-level outcomes such as health indicators, crime rates, or employment (Pope & Maskileys, 2022).
- **Public Health Interventions** – Assessing programs like vaccination campaigns, health screening initiatives, or the introduction of new clinical guidelines to determine their impact on morbidity, mortality, or service utilization (Jiang et al., 2022).
- **Education Policy** – Measuring the effects of curriculum reforms, school funding changes, or standardized testing policies on student performance or attendance (Ruiz, 2016).
- **Social Programs** – Evaluating the implementation of welfare, housing, or social support programs when random assignment is impossible (Gascoigne, 2024).

In practice, ITSA is often combined with control groups (sometimes called “controlled ITS”) when there is concern about external events affecting the outcome, allowing evaluators to isolate the effect of the intervention more robustly.

Benefits and challenges (Ferron & Rendina-Gobioff, 2005; HM Treasury, 2020)

Pros:

- ITSA can generate internally valid estimates of an intervention’s effect without randomization, provided that confounding factors remain stable over time—that is, no other interventions affect the outcomes and population characteristics remain consistent.
- ITSA can be conducted retrospectively using existing administrative data.
- The method is most effective when the intervention has a clearly defined implementation date, although it can accommodate interventions that are introduced gradually or with some delay.

Cons:

- ITSA needs an adequate length of time-series data to properly address issues such as seasonality, autocorrelation, and non-stationarity.
- It is possible that an external event coinciding with the intervention could be responsible for the observed change. To address this, additional design elements can be incorporated into the basic interrupted time-series framework to make alternative explanations less likely. These enhancements result in more complex interrupted time-series designs.

Further readings

- Penfold, R. B., & Zhang, F. (2013). Use of interrupted time series analysis in evaluating health care quality improvements. *Academic pediatrics*, 13(6), S38-S44.

- Linden, A. (2015). Conducting interrupted time-series analysis for single-and multiple-group comparisons. *The Stata Journal*, 15(2), 480-500.
- Ewusie, J. E., Soobiah, C., Blondal, E., Beyene, J., Thabane, L., & Hamid, J. S. (2020). Method applications and challenges in the analysis of interrupted time series data: a scoping review. *Journal of Multidisciplinary Healthcare*, 411-423.

PROFEEDcourse

- <https://profeedback.eu/profeedcourse3-2/>

Practice abstracts

Adriana Poppe, Dina Maskileyson

The effect of non-pharmaceutical policy interventions on COVID-19 transmission across three cities in Colombia

Overview

This study examined the effectiveness of non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) in reducing COVID-19 spread in three Colombian cities—Bogotá, Medellín, and Cali—during the national quarantine. While all applied restrictions on leaving home based on ID numbers, Bogotá also introduced an additional rule by sex. The research aimed to assess whether these differing measures slowed the pandemic's severity.

Methods

Data on confirmed COVID-19 cases were drawn from Colombia's National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE). The impact of NPIs was analysed using single-group interrupted time series analysis (ITSA) to compare case trends across the three cities.

Results

Findings show that quarantine policies in all cities contributed to reducing the spread of COVID-19. The analysis highlights that combining restrictions, as in Bogotá, may have produced additional benefits, though all three interventions proved effective in slowing infection growth.

Poppe, A., & Maskileyson, D. (2022). The effect of non-pharmaceutical policy interventions on COVID-19 transmission across three cities in Colombia. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 10, 937644

Connor Gascoigne, Annie Jeffery, Zejing Shao, Sara Geneletti, James B Kirkbride, Gianluca Baio, Marta Blangiardo

A Bayesian Interrupted Time Series framework for evaluating policy change on mental well-being: An application to England's welfare reform

Overview

This study evaluated the effects of UK welfare reforms of the 2010s on population well-being, with mental health measured using the GHQ-12 index (a 12-item screening tool used to assess general psychiatric distress and non-psychotic mental health problems in primary care and population surveys). The aim was to understand how such policies contribute to disparities in mental health across different social groups.

Methods

A Bayesian hierarchical controlled interrupted time series model was applied to data from the UK Household Longitudinal Study. The approach accounted for both spatial and temporal patterns while comparing exposed and control groups.

Results

The welfare reform was associated with a 2.36% (95% CrI: 0.57–4.37%) increase in GHQ-12 scores among the exposed group, indicating worsened mental health. The largest negative effects were observed in disadvantaged areas, suggesting the reform deepened existing inequalities.

Gascoigne, C., Jeffery, A., Shao, Z., Geneletti, S., Kirkbride, J. B., Baio, G., & Blangiardo, M. (2024). A Bayesian Interrupted Time Series framework for evaluating policy change on mental well-being: An application to England's welfare reform. *Spatial and spatio-temporal epidemiology*, 50, 100662. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sste.2024.100662>

3.4 Synthetic control methods

Synthetic control methods

The synthetic control method (SCM) is a comparative case study approach often used in policy evaluation and causal inference when randomized controlled trials are not feasible. Instead of directly comparing a treated unit (e.g., a country, region, or organization that received an intervention) to a single untreated unit, SCM constructs a weighted combination of control units that did not receive the intervention (HM Treasury, 2020). This weighted combination forms the "synthetic control", designed to closely match the pre-intervention characteristics and outcome trends of the treated unit (Abadie, Diamond & Hainmueller, 2015). Once the intervention takes place, researchers compare the actual outcomes of the treated unit to those of the synthetic control. The difference (or "gap") between the two provides an estimate of the causal effect of the intervention (Abadie, 2021).

This method is particularly useful in evaluating the effects of policies, programs, or shocks at the aggregate level, such as the impact of a new law, an economic reform, or even a natural disaster. It helps address problems of selection bias and allows for more credible causal inference where traditional econometric methods are insufficient.

Steps of conducting synthetic control method:

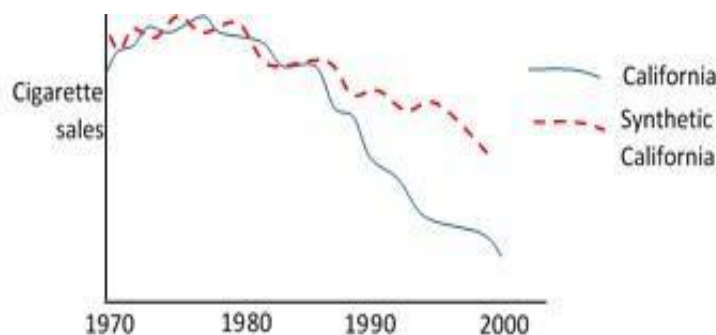
1. **Identify the treated unit and intervention.** Determine the unit receiving the intervention (e.g., a region, city, or country) and specify the timing and nature of the treatment (Abadie, Diamond, & Hainmueller, 2010).
2. **Select potential control units.** Gather a set of units that did not receive the intervention. These will serve as the donor pool from which the synthetic control is constructed.
3. **Choose predictors and outcome variables.** Identify the relevant pre-intervention characteristics and outcomes that need to be matched between the treated unit and potential control units.
4. **Construct the synthetic control.** Assign weights to the control units to create a weighted combination that closely replicates the treated unit's pre-intervention trajectory. This weighted combination forms the "synthetic clone."
5. **Compare post-intervention outcomes** of the treated unit with those of the synthetic control after the intervention. The difference estimates the causal effect of the treatment.

6. **Conduct robustness checks.** Perform placebo tests, leave-one-out analyses, or sensitivity analyses to assess whether the estimated effects are robust to changes in specification or the inclusion of particular control units (Abadie et al., 2010).

Application

The synthetic control method is frequently employed at the macro level for policy evaluation, especially when only a limited number of units receive the intervention. A common application involves areas such as counties or villages. This method constructs a "synthetic clone" by creating a weighted average of potential control units that closely match the treated unit's pre-intervention characteristics. Historical data is used to determine these weights, which are then applied to project the synthetic control's outcomes over time. A notable example is the evaluation of California's Tobacco Control Program, where per-capita cigarette sales in California were compared to a synthetic control formed from other states. The synthetic control was constructed using data from 1970 to 1988, and its projected sales trajectory was contrasted with California's actual sales post-intervention. The analysis revealed that cigarette sales in California declined more rapidly than in the synthetic control, suggesting the program's effectiveness (Figure 6).

Figure 6. California cigarette sales analysis using synthetic control method (HM Treasury 2020)



Benefits and challenges

Pros:

- A major strength of the synthetic control method is its ability to generate a meaningful and easily interpretable point of comparison when no obvious control units are available.
- It is especially useful for evaluating policy interventions aimed at specific local economic outcomes or other contexts where extensive secondary data exist (HM Treasury, 2020).

Cons:

- The method can only be applied when a clear historical relationship can be established between the treated unit and potential control units (HM Treasury, 2020).

PROFEEDcourse

- <https://profeedback.eu/profeedcourse3-2/>

Further readings

- Abadie, A. (2021). *Using synthetic controls: Feasibility, data requirements, and methodological aspects*. *Journal of Economic Literature*, 59(2), 391–423. <https://doi.org/10.1257/jel.20191450>
- Abadie, A., Diamond, A., & Hainmueller, J. (2015). Comparative politics and the synthetic control method. *American Journal of Political Science*, 59(2), 495–510.

Practice abstract

Janet Bouttell, Peter Craig, James Lewsey, Mark Robinson, Frank Popham

Synthetic control methodology as a tool for evaluating population-level health interventions

Overview

This study examines the potential of the synthetic control method as a tool for evaluating public health interventions where randomized controlled trials are not feasible. Drawing on a case study of German reunification and its impact on life expectancy, the paper explores how synthetic controls can be used to construct credible counterfactuals and improve causal inference in health policy research.

Methods

The paper reviews the assumptions, strengths, and limitations of the synthetic control method and demonstrates its application in evaluating life expectancy trends in post-reunification Germany. The approach is particularly useful when only a small number of treated and control units are available.

Results

Findings show that the method can generate credible intervention effects when a strong pre-intervention fit between the treated unit and synthetic control is achieved. While it avoids the parallel-trends requirement of difference-in-differences, key challenges remain, including defining a “good fit” and selecting comparable control units. Despite these limitations, the method is underused in public health and should be more widely applied.

Bouttell, J., Craig, P., Lewsey, J., Robinson, M., & Popham, F. (2018). Synthetic control methodology as a tool for evaluating population-level health interventions. *J Epidemiol Community Health*, 72(8), 673–678.

3.5 Difference in differences

Definition and Purpose

Difference-in-differences (DiD) is the most common and oldest quasi-experimental econometric method to measure the impact of an intervention, policy, or program (Goodman-Bacon, 2021). As Abadie (2005) put it, “the difference-in-differences estimator is one of the most popular tools for applied research in economics to evaluate the effects of public interventions and other treatments of interest on some relevant outcome variables.” The difference-in-differences technique estimates the effect of an intervention by comparing the change in outcomes over time within the treatment (treated) group to the corresponding change in a control (not-treated) group, with the effect calculated as the difference between these two differences. The aim is to filter out common trends and effects that affect both groups, capturing only the specific impact of the treatment or intervention (Goodman-Bacon, 2021).

Application in Evaluation

Difference-in-differences is primarily used in the impact assessment of programs, measures and interventions, often when randomised experiments are not feasible.

The logic of difference-in-differences in evaluation is as follows:

- We select a treatment group that is affected by the intervention.
- We select a control group that is not affected.
- We look at the changes in both groups before and after the intervention.
- The difference-in-differences estimates the effect of the intervention.

Typical applications of the difference-in-differences method include evaluating the impacts of health programs on health outcomes, assessing labour market effects like the impact of wage on employment, examining other public policies, such as educational interventions, and even applications in the field of psychology (Lechner, 2010).

Benefits and challenges

One of the advantages of DiD is that its basic idea is intuitive and easy to understand. It filters out factors that affect both the treatment and control groups (e.g., national economic growth). In addition, it is flexible, as it can be easily incorporated into a regression framework with multiple control variables. It is also often cheaper and more ethical than a randomised experiment. Moreover, in many real social, economic, and political situations, it is not possible to conduct experiments. DiD provides a quasi-experimental alternative in these cases (Lechner, 2010).

As with many other techniques, one of the disadvantages or challenges of DiD is that if the parallel trends assumption is violated, the estimate will be biased (Abadie, 2005). This assumption states that if there had been no intervention, the treated and control groups would have changed over time in the same way / would have remained constant over time, i.e., their rate of change (trend) would be parallel (Angrist & Pischke, 2009). Once again, if this condition is violated, DiD can overestimate the effect of the intervention. In addition, if the control group is not sufficiently similar to the treated group, the results may be misleading. It is also possible that if another event affecting only the treated group occurs at the same time as the intervention, we may mistakenly attribute it to the effect of the intervention. Since DiD usually measures at two points in time, before and after the intervention, it is sensitive to the structure and quantity of the data and to heterogeneous treatment effects that vary within groups or time (Goodman-Bacon, 2021).

Further readings

- Bertrand, M., Duflo, E., Mullainathan, S. (2004). How Much Should We Trust Differences-in-Differences Estimates?, *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 119(1), 249-275. DOI 10.3386/w8841
- BetterEvaluation – Difference-in-differences
<https://www.betterevaluation.org/methods-approaches/methods/difference-difference>
- Wing, C., Simon, K., Bello-Gomez, R. A. (2018). Designing Difference in Difference Studies: Best Practices for Public Health Policy Research. *Annual review of public health*, 39, 453-469. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-publhealth-040617-013507>

- <https://profeedback.eu/profeedcourse3-2/>

Practice abstracts

Tamás Szabó, HÉTFA Research Institute, Hungary

Impacts of the COVID-19 recession and border policy on firms based on their geographical location

Overview

This paper investigates how the COVID-19 crisis affected firms located near Hungary's borders, particularly in the Carpathian Basin and the Szeklerland. The author is interested in whether these near-border firms, compared to firms situated in the country's inner districts, experienced greater economic difficulties, with a special emphasis on employment changes and balance sheet outcomes.

Methods

The analysis relies on two data sources: monthly employment statistics published by the Hungarian National Tax and Customs Administration between April and December 2020, and a firm-level database containing sectoral information and past balance sheets. The author divides the firms into two groups: the treated group consisting of companies located in border districts and the control group consisting of companies in inner districts. To improve comparability, they use propensity score matching based on past financial values and sector. After forming matched pairs, they employ econometric techniques including difference-in-differences (DiD) and fixed effects regressions to estimate the effect of the crisis on employment and sales.

Results

The findings indicate that statistically significant employment losses occurred only among border firms in the tourism sector. These firms also suffered notable declines in sales and employment during the first year of the pandemic, although the negative impact on sales disappeared once the difference-in-differences parameter was accounted for, meaning that border firms did not perform worse than their counterparts in inner districts once underlying trends were controlled for. No significant differences emerged across specific border regions. The authors conclude that the recession caused by COVID-19 had heterogeneous effects by sector, particularly in tourism, but did not reveal meaningful differences between border and non-border firms. This suggests that policymakers should target support based on sectoral vulnerabilities rather than geographical location.

PROFEEDbook vol 1: Evaluation of public policy responses to black swans, COST CA20112, 2022

Meldina Kokorović Jukan, Jasmina Okičić Džindo

Methodological Framework(s) for Impact Evaluations of Government Subsidies – The Case of Impact Evaluation of Government Subsidies on the SME's Performance

Overview

This study focuses on evaluating the impact of government subsidies on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), using the Tuzla Canton subsidy programs in Bosnia and Herzegovina as a case study. The research addresses both methodological challenges in evaluating such programs and the practical effects of financial assistance on firm performance, including sales, exports, profits, assets, and employment. The study situates itself within the broader discussion of experimental versus quasi-experimental designs for policy evaluation, noting that subsidies cannot typically be randomly assigned, making quasi-experimental methods more appropriate.

Methods

The study employs a quasi-experimental design based on a difference-in-differences (DiD) approach to estimate the causal impact of government subsidies. A propensity score matching procedure is used to construct a comparable control group of non-treated firms, ensuring that key variables affecting outcomes are balanced between treated and control firms. After matching, the difference-in-differences method compares pre- and post-subsidy performance between the two groups, allowing the researchers to isolate the effect of receiving financial support from other confounding factors. This methodological framework explicitly aims to provide an unbiased estimate of the subsidies' impact on firm-level outcomes.

Results

The findings suggest that government subsidies had a positive effect on all measured outcome variables for SMEs, including sales, exports, operational profit, profit from regular activity, net profit, fixed assets, and employment. The results are presented across all sampled beneficiary companies, regardless of which ministry provided the financial support. The study demonstrates that rigorous application of propensity score matching combined with the DiD approach can yield credible evidence of program effectiveness, providing useful guidance for both policymakers and future impact evaluations.

PROFEEDbook vol 7: Business development, SMEs, Entrepreneurship and competitiveness COST CA20112, 2024

3.6 Regression discontinuity

Definition and Purpose

Regression discontinuity (RD) is a quasi-experimental method for estimating the causal effect of an intervention by comparing units just above and below a predetermined cutoff score on a continuous assignment variable (HM Treasury, 2020). The method relies on the assumption that the individuals just below and above a cutoff threshold will be similar, with the only significant difference between the 2 groups being whether they received the intervention or not. By comparing the value of the outcome variable for the individuals just above and below the cutoff threshold, the method infers the impact of the intervention, providing strong evidence of impact where randomization isn't feasible.

In a sharp RD, the rule is strict—everyone above the cutoff gets treated, and everyone below does not—while in a fuzzy RD, the probability of treatment increases sharply at the cutoff but isn't perfectly enforced. By focusing on observations close to the threshold and estimating the size of the jump, credible causal effects can be recovered, though these effects apply only to units near the cutoff (Imbens & Lemieux, 2008).

Steps of conducting RD (Imbens & Lemieux, 2008; van der Klaauw, 2008):

1. Define the treatment rule and cutoff

- Identify the **running variable** (forcing variable) that determines treatment assignment.
- Confirm the **cutoff value** where treatment eligibility changes.

2. Check validity of the design

- Ensure the cutoff rule is strictly (or at least strongly) enforced.
- Test for **manipulation** of the running variable (e.g., income misreporting to qualify).
- Verify that other observable characteristics are **balanced** on either side of the cutoff.

3. Choose sharp vs. fuzzy design

- **Sharp RDD:** treatment status changes deterministically at the cutoff.
 - **Fuzzy RDD:** treatment probability jumps at the cutoff but not perfectly (use instrumental variable methods).
- 4. Select bandwidth and sample**
 - Focus on observations **close to the cutoff** (since they are most comparable).
 - Use statistical methods (e.g., cross-validation) to select an optimal bandwidth.
 - 5. Estimate the treatment effect**
 - Fit local regressions (e.g., local linear regression) on each side of the cutoff.
 - Compare predicted outcomes at the cutoff—this “jump” is the estimated causal effect.
 - 6. Perform robustness checks**
 - Vary bandwidth choices and functional forms (linear, quadratic) to test sensitivity.
 - Check placebo cutoffs (at points where no treatment rule exists) to confirm no false discontinuities.
 - Inspect whether covariates also “jump” at the cutoff (they shouldn’t).
 - 7. Interpret results**
 - Report the **local average treatment effect (LATE)**—the effect applies only to individuals near the cutoff.

Application in Evaluation

RD can be used in evaluation when (Imbens & Lemieux, 2008; van der Klaauw, 2008; Hoxby & Todd, 2009; Deaton & Cartwright, 2018; Deaton & Cartwright, 2018; Treasury, 2020):

- **Treatment assignment is based on a cutoff rule:** For example, a program, subsidy, or policy applies only if a score, income, or age is above or below a threshold.
- **Randomized experiments aren’t feasible or ethical:** RDD takes advantage of “as good as random” comparisons near the threshold instead of random assignment.
- **There is enough data close to the cutoff:** Reliable estimates require many observations just above and below the threshold.
- **The cutoff is strictly enforced (sharp RD) or strongly influences treatment (fuzzy RD):** The design relies on a clear discontinuity in treatment probability.
- **Manipulation around the cutoff is unlikely:** If people can game their score to qualify (e.g., misreporting income), the design’s validity breaks down.

Benefits and challenges

Pros:

- Provides a valuable alternative when random assignment cannot be implemented in the design of an intervention.

Cons:

- Estimates the effect of the intervention only for individuals near the threshold (a local average treatment effect), which may not generalize to those farther from the cutoff.
- Like other quasi-experimental approaches, it relies on several assumptions to establish causal attribution.

PROFEEDcourse

- <https://profeedback.eu/profeedcourse3-2/>

Further readings

- Cattaneo, M. D., & Titiunik, R. (2022). Regression discontinuity designs. *Annual Review of Economics*, 14(1), 821-851.
- Hausman, C., & Rapson, D. S. (2018). Regression discontinuity in time: Considerations for empirical applications. *Annual Review of Resource Economics*, 10(1), 533-552.
- Lee, D. S., & Lemieux, T. (2010). Regression discontinuity designs in economics. *Journal of economic literature*, 48(2), 281-355.

Practice abstracts

Porter, K., Reardon, S. F., Unlu, F., Bloom, H., & Robinson-Cimpian, J. P.

Estimating causal effects of education interventions using a two-rating regression discontinuity design

Overview

This study evaluates methods for estimating treatment effects in multiple-rating regression discontinuity designs (MRRDDs). Using simulations of two-rating RDDs (2RRDDs), it compares four common approaches—the surface, frontier, binding-score, and fuzzy instrumental variables methods—in terms of bias, precision, and mean squared error. The analysis is further illustrated with data from an English learner reclassification policy.

Methods

A series of simulation experiments were conducted across varying data-generating models to test each method's performance in terms of bias, precision, and mean squared error. Optimal bandwidth selection was used to mirror real-world implementation. The study also applied the methods to empirical data and explored how local linear regression can support valid inference in MRRDD applications.

Results

The findings show important trade-offs between the methods, with some offering greater precision while others reduce bias under specific conditions. The study delivers practical recommendations for choosing among MRRDD approaches, highlights best practices for implementation, and strengthens the methodological toolkit available for evaluating programs with multiple treatment thresholds.

Porter, K., Reardon, S. F., Unlu, F., Bloom, H., & Robinson-Cimpian, J. P. (2017). Estimating causal effects of education interventions using a two-rating regression discontinuity design. *Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness*, 10(1), 138-167.

Buddelmeyer, H., & Skoufias, E.

An evaluation of the performance of regression discontinuity design on PROGRESA

Overview

This study examines the validity of regression discontinuity design (RDD) as a quasi-experimental method for evaluating social programs, using Mexico's PROGRESA poverty alleviation program as a test case. Since randomized experiments, while reliable, often face political and ethical barriers, the research explores whether RDD can provide comparable impact estimates. The analysis focuses on two central outcomes of the program—child school attendance and child labour—and benchmarks RDD results against experimental estimates from the PROGRESA evaluation.

Methods

The study used household survey data collected in rural Mexico as part of the experimental evaluation of PROGRESA. RDD was applied using program eligibility thresholds, and the resulting impact estimates were compared to those from the randomized experimental design. Additional robustness checks were conducted using children from non-eligible households in control localities as a comparison group.

Results

RDD estimates closely matched the experimental results in 10 of 12 cases, indicating strong performance of the quasi-experimental method. The only discrepancies were in the first year of implementation, where RDD failed to detect program effects on school attendance for both boys and girls. Overall, the findings suggest that RDD can serve as a credible alternative to randomized experiments in evaluating program impacts, especially when experimental designs are not feasible. Buddelmeyer, H., & Skoufias, E. (2003). An evaluation of the performance of regression discontinuity design on PROGRESA (IZA Discussion Paper No. 827). Bonn, Germany: Institute for the Study of Labor.

3.7 Comparative statistical analysis

Definition and Purpose

A wide range of comparative statistical methods involves using mathematical and statistical tools to draw conclusions from quantitative data. Statistical analysis enables us to compare groups, variables and data, and to draw conclusions from these comparisons. For example, we can analyse relationships, changes, or trends. Some statistical methods enable us to describe and present changes and differences, while others allow us to determine whether the observed differences are statistically significant. The purpose of comparative statistical analysis is to evaluate hypotheses, inform policy decisions and provide empirical evidence for or against theory or intervention (Babbie, 2010; Creswell, 2014).

Statistical methods can be applied to both primary and secondary data. Secondary data are becoming increasingly relevant for evaluations given the growing volume and accessibility of generated data (European Commission, 2024).

Descriptive statistics are used to present data. For example, mean values (such as the average and median) and dispersion indicators (such as the standard deviation and range) can be calculated. They can also be used to create graphs and diagrams. When evaluating a poverty reduction intervention, for instance, descriptive statistics can be employed to calculate household income averages and medians, and to analyse income distribution before and after the intervention.

The purpose of inferential statistics is to draw general conclusions from the data. This method can be used to test hypotheses and estimate population parameters, but it is based on certain assumptions and is therefore not always completely accurate. In the case of a poverty reduction intervention, for example, it can be used to estimate the extent to which the intervention has impacted poverty reduction.

Regression analysis and univariate, bivariate and multivariate analyses are also types of inferential statistics that can be used to identify relationships between variables and make predictions about future values.

Application in Evaluations

Comparative statistics are used in countless areas for evaluation purposes. They can be useful in the following situations:

- comparative analysis of data collected during impact assessments (whether during the intervention or secondarily), for assessing effects or benchmarking,
- can also be used when experimental or quasi-experimental methods are not feasible for cross-sectoral, longitudinal or panel data comparisons,
- comparative statistics can also be used for equity analysis, e.g. gender or income-based comparisons.

Benefits and Challenges

- One of its advantages of comparative statistical analysis is that it can be applied to small or large datasets across many contexts. It can test for statistically significant differences across groups and can inform policy through evidence-based comparisons (OECD, 2013; Creswell, 2014).
- But it is often criticized as its results depend on the accuracy and completeness of data. And in many cases statistical significance does not imply practical significance, and comparative statistics does not prove causation unless embedded in a strong design (e.g. DiD, matching) (Babbie, 2010; Creswell, 2014).

Further readings

- OECD (2013). *Evaluating Development Activities: 12 Lessons from the OECD DAC*. <https://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/daccriteriaforevaluatingdevelopmentassistance.htm>
- Babbie, E. R. (2010). *The Practice of Social Research* (12th ed.). Wadsworth.

PROFEEDcourse

- <https://profeedback.eu/profeedcourse3-2/>

Practice abstracts

Lucia Kováčová, Lucia Mýtna Kureková, Miroslav Štefánik:

Explaining the Gaps Between Roma and Non-Roma Job-Seekers in the Access to Employment Programmes in Slovakia

Overview

The study aims to explore the differences in access to employment programmes between Roma and non-Roma job seekers in Slovakia. The research focuses on members of marginalised Roma communities (MRCs), who face severe disadvantages in areas such as education, housing, healthcare and labour market participation. As inactivity and unemployment are much higher among the Roma population, increasing formal employment may be key to their social integration.

Methods used

The authors uniquely linked data on marginalised Roma communities at settlement level (Atlas of Roma Communities, 2019) with administrative data on registered job seekers in Slovakia in 2017. The analysis also covered participation in various active labour market programmes (ALMPs) and the probability of ceasing to seek employment (either by finding a job or being removed from the

register). Logistic regression models were employed to estimate job seekers' chances, paying particular attention to the effect of Roma population density in their place of residence.

Results

Of the 503,731 job seekers surveyed, 46% lived in settlements in which the Roma population exceeded 5%. The higher the proportion of the Roma population, the higher the unemployment rate and the lower the probability of job placement, while the chance of exclusion from the register increased. Although participation in the ALMP was higher in regions with high unemployment, more intensive (and expensive) programmes were less accessible in settlements with a high proportion of Roma. The research suggests that current employment policy instruments are not suitable for integrating multiply disadvantaged groups (in terms of ethnicity, education, health and gender). According to the authors, public policy must adapt to these complex challenges to provide real opportunities for the labour market integration of Roma communities.

PROFEEDbook vol 3: Evaluation on Rural and Territorial Development, Urban Development, COST CA20112, 2023

Gábor Jakab, András Varró

Sustainable Performance Framework Index (SPFI)

Overview

The research aimed to develop a system of indicators (SPFI) that could measure the impact of social and economic decisions on national resources. Using indicators that go beyond GDP provides a more complex picture of a country's social and environmental performance, particularly with regard to the state of the production factors that underpin prosperity: human, social, economic and natural resources.

Methods used

In order to develop the indicator system, the authors conducted an extensive review of literature on composite indices, recommendations from international organisations and sustainable development strategies adopted by various countries. The indicator system was developed with the involvement of several experts, including economists, environmental engineers, and impact assessment specialists. The indicators were defined through interviews and validation workshops, with the scoring methodology based on OECD recommendations.

Results

The research resulted in the creation of the Sustainable Performance Framework Index (SPFI): a flexible, multi-level, aggregate, composite indicator system that can signal improvements or deteriorations in the status of individual production factors. The SPFI can be aggregated at three levels: group level (e.g. education and biodiversity), resource level (human, social, economic and natural resources), and as a comprehensive aggregate index. This system enables the overall level of sustainability to be assessed and individual components to be examined in detail. The indicator was calculated for ten countries on a trial basis, revealing that, for example, although governance and infrastructure improved in Hungary between 2010 and 2021, social capital declined significantly. This enables decision-makers to easily identify areas requiring intervention.

PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023

3.8 Cost-Benefit Analysis

Definition and Purpose

Cost-benefit analysis (CBA) is defined as a systematic approach to assessing public policies, programs or projects by comparing the total expected benefits with the total expected costs, both expressed in monetary terms. At its core, CBA seeks to measure the net social benefits of an intervention, the extent to which the benefits to society outweigh the costs. The purpose of the method is to facilitate more efficient allocation of scarce resources by providing policymakers with an evidence-based rationale for choosing one action over another. By quantifying costs and benefits in a common unit (money), CBA allows for direct comparisons across alternative actions, making trade-offs more transparent and decisions more consistent (Boardman et al., 1996).

Application in Evaluation

CBA provides a structured framework that can help decision-making in complex environments such as public infrastructures, education, healthcare or other development projects.

In evaluation, CBA can be applied in several ways:

- Ex ante (pre-project) analysis is conducted before a project begins and helps determine whether it should go forward,
- In medias res analysis takes place during a project's implementation and can inform adjustments,
- Ex post (post-project or retrospective) analysis occurs after completion to assess actual outcomes and to draw lessons for future projects.

The application typically involves several steps: identifying whose costs and benefits count, specifying alternatives, predicting the impacts of each option, monetising these impacts, discounting future values to the present (i.e., net present value – NPV), and then comparing net benefits across alternatives. For example, in evaluating a new transportation project, analysts would quantify time savings, accident reductions, construction expenses and environmental impacts, assign them money values and then calculate whether the project's benefits outweigh its costs (Boardman et al., 1996).

Benefits and challenges

By quantifying and comparing impacts, CBA highlights trade-offs that might otherwise remain hidden and helps identify projects that could improve social welfare. Moreover, it generates information that can be used not only for specific decisions but also for the future and broader learning across similar interventions.

However, predicting impacts over the life of a project can be uncertain, particularly for complex or long-term initiatives, and the quality of results relies heavily on the available data. Monetising intangible effects, such as the value of life, environmental quality or cultural heritage, can also be controversial and methodologically difficult. In addition, political and bureaucratic actors may distort analyses, with some stakeholders emphasising or downplaying certain impacts to support their interests. Finally, critics argue that CBA's utilitarian basis neglects distributional concerns, since benefits and costs to different groups are aggregated without necessarily accounting for distributional equity or justice (Boardman et al., 1996).

Further readings

- BetterEvaluation – Cost-Benefit Analysis
<https://www.betterevaluation.org/methods-approaches/methods/cost-benefit-analysis>
- Brent, R. J. (2006). Applied cost-benefit analysis (2nd ed.). Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Sen, A. (2000). The Discipline of Cost-Benefit Analysis. The Journal of Legal Studies, 29(S2) 931-952. <https://doi.org/10.1086/468100>
- Zerbe, R. O., & Dively, D. (1994). Benefit-Cost Analysis in Theory and Practice. New York: HarperCollins College Publishers.

PROFEEDcourse

- <https://profeedback.eu/profeedcourse3-2/>

Practice abstracts

Gabriel Falcini dos Santos, Sergio Luiz Monteiro Salles-Filho, Ana Carolina Spatti

Connecting University, Research Organisations and Industry

Overview

The study explores the role of Embrapii (Associação Brasileira de Pesquisa e Inovação Industrial – a Brazilian Company of Research and Industrial Innovation) in fostering collaborative research between research organisations and industry, with a particular focus on whether this model helps overcome Brazil's historical challenges in stimulating private Research and Development (R&D) investment. The broader theme is how innovation policies and collaborative R&D models can drive economic growth, social progress, and environmental improvements, especially in the context of the Global South.

Methods

The research uses a mixed-methods impact evaluation approach (cause-and-effect analysis), following high evaluation standards by Gertler et al. (2016). Specifically, the study employed quantitative data; a sample of 840 completed projects (2015-2021) across 47 Embrapii Units (UEs) and 565 companies. The questionnaire was completed by 179 companies (28% of the sample) and 43 UEs (92%), and input-output analysis and cost-benefit analysis were used to assess economic impacts. The qualitative data incorporated 6 interviews with company representatives, 4 interviews with UE representatives and a literature review about Embrapii and similar models (with 21 relevant studies identified).

Results

Embrapii positively contributes to innovation generation in partner companies, particularly in small firms, attracts private investment and provides significant economic and social returns, although a causal relation cannot be definitely established, since the impact evaluation did not disregard the influence of external factors.

PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024

3.9 Output and performance monitoring

Definition and Purpose

Output or performance monitoring is the process of collecting data at regular intervals to track the development of outputs and performance continuously. It is an important tool for effective programme management as it provides management and decision-makers with continuous

feedback on how implementation is progressing. Outputs are usually the immediate, tangible products of programme activities (e.g. the number of training sessions conducted, or roads built) while performance monitoring examines whether these outputs contribute to the desired outcomes. Monitoring usually collects data based on specific, defined indicators (OECD DAC 2002).

Monitoring enables programme implementers to receive feedback on progress and intervene if necessary. In addition, continuously collected data increases transparency and contributes to the evaluation and impact assessment of interventions (HM Treasury 2020).

In many cases, monitoring is integrated into intervention management processes. In addition to performance monitoring, it supports risk assessment, financial management and fundraising. It is worth preparing a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plan during interventions to bring together the various activities relating to gathering and using data. This plan should include the following:

- the elements of the monitoring and evaluation system,
- a definition of output, outcome and impact indicators,
- data collection methods and timing,
- stakeholders and their responsibilities,
- evaluation methods and timeline.

Application in Evaluations

Although monitoring's primary function is to support implementation as a management tool, it can also provide a wealth of information and data for evaluation purposes. Furthermore, monitoring is often part of a comprehensive M&E strategy. Monitoring can contribute to evaluation in the following ways:

- it provides ongoing performance data, enabling regular feedback,
- output indicator data can be an important part of an evaluation,
- it provides easily communicable, regular information on progress,
- in certain cases, it enables outcomes to be measured in addition to outputs.

Benefits and Challenges

- One advantage of the monitoring system is that it provides regular, timely data on programme performance, meaning there is no need to wait for evaluation results. The data is often routinely collected and is therefore cheap and easy to gather.
- However, staff may find performance monitoring oppressive, or they may lack the capacity to collect the data. Therefore, it is necessary to consider what data to monitor in order to ensure that performance monitoring provides added value. The quality of the data collected by staff can vary, and in the case of strong counterincentives, it may even become distorted.

Further readings

- OECD DAC. (2002). *Glossary of Key Terms in Evaluation and Results-Based Management*. https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/glossary-of-key-terms-in-evaluation-and-results-based-management-for-sustainable-development-second-edition_632da462-en-fr-es.html

- World Bank. (2011). *Making Monitoring and Evaluation Systems Work: A Capacity Development Toolkit*.
<https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/708391468331216900/making-monitoring-and-evaluation-systems-work-a-capacity-development-toolkit>
- Better evaluation – Monitoring
<https://www.betterevaluation.org/methods-approaches/themes/monitoring>

PROFEEDcourse

<https://profeedback.eu/profeedcourse3-2/>

Practice abstracts

Florian Wittmann, Sarah Seus, Valentin Wagner

Development of an impact-oriented monitoring system for a research funding organisation

Overview

This paper aims to develop an impact-oriented monitoring system for research funding organisations, using the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation as a case study. Given the growing importance of the social impact of science, funders are under increasing pressure to demonstrate the impact of their funding activities in measurable terms. The authors intend to create a flexible, modular monitoring framework that can be applied to different types of funding programmes, and which can measure not only direct outputs, but also longer-term results and impacts.

Methods used

The research framework was based on the "influencing spheres" model, which distinguishes between elements that can be directly influenced (inputs, activities and outputs), outcomes that can be influenced indirectly, and external impacts that are relevant. The authors conducted a document analysis and reviewed programme descriptions, as well as interviewing the foundation's programme managers. As a result, they identified six key impact pathways describing the logic and objectives of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's funding activities.

The impact pathways cover: 1) supporting outstanding researchers; 2) strengthening Germany as a research location; 3) developing a culture of cooperation; 4) promoting intercultural dialogue; 5) contributing to scientific and social discourse; and 6) addressing societal challenges. These are aimed at different target groups (e.g. researchers, universities and society).

Results

The developed monitoring model enables the consistent evaluation of different programmes on a uniform, logical basis. The modular impact pathways can be combined to enable comparison of different programmes and aggregated monitoring. The framework not only makes the impacts of individual programmes more transparent, but also the results of the entire funding portfolio. While the authors acknowledge that the methodology can be applied to other international scholarship programmes, they emphasise that further research is required to refine internal management processes and indicator development.

PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024

Volpini Giulia, Joly Pierre-Benoit, Matt Mireille:

Formative and Impact-Oriented Evaluation as a Project Management Tool: From KPI to KSD

Overview

This study examines the role of formative and impact-oriented monitoring and evaluation in managing innovation projects aimed at transformation, particularly in cases of complex socio-ecological challenges, such as the transition to agroecology. The authors criticise the traditional performance-based approach (e.g. KPIs) in favour of a more flexible, participatory and learning-based method developed in collaboration with French innovation projects within the ASIRPART framework.

Methods used

The study outlines the monitoring process, which consists of two main phases. The first phase involves analysing the project objectives and the socio-ecological context. The second phase involves mapping the logical relationships between the actions taken and the desired transformations. The second phase involves active monitoring to check the project's progress and make any necessary adjustments. The authors present three tools:

- The Impact Pathway (IP) is a graphical representation of the process leading to impact.
- Impact Narrative, which is an interpretive description of the process.
- Key Steering Descriptors (KSDs), which are non-standardised qualitative or quantitative characteristics that describe the project's decision-making turning points and support adaptive project management.

KSDs are measurement tools that are jointly defined and continuously developed by project members. They do not correspond to an external standard, but rather to dynamic goals that are tailored to the project. The ASIRPART methodology is based on the principles of adaptive management, encouraging regular reflection and active participation from all project stakeholders.

Results:

Based on the experience gained during the research, the formative and impact-oriented approach, especially the use of Key Success Drivers (KSDs), is better suited to managing innovation projects aimed at transformation than the classic KPI-based model. This method better supports collaboration, continuous learning and adaptive decision-making. The authors argue that KSDs are more flexible and participatory than rigid, quantitative indicators, and are better suited to tracking social change. This approach improves accountability for results and enhances the internal learning and adaptability of projects.

PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024

3.10 References

- Abadie, A. (2005). Semiparametric Difference-in-Differences Estimators, *The Review of Economic Studies*, 72(1), 1-19. <https://doi.org/10.1111/0034-6527.00321>
- Abadie, A. (2021). Using synthetic controls: Feasibility, data requirements, and methodologic aspects. *Journal of Economic Literature*, 59(2), 391-425. <https://doi.org/10.1257/jel.20191450>
- Abadie, A., Diamond, A., & Hainmueller, J. (2015). Comparative politics and the synthetic control method. *American Journal of Political Science*, 59(2), 495-510.
- Angrist, J. D., Pischke, J.-S. (2009). *Mostly Harmless Econometrics: An Empiricist's Companion*. Princeton University Press. <https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctvc4j72>
- Austin P. C. (2011). An Introduction to Propensity Score Methods for Reducing the Effects of Confounding in Observational Studies. *Multivariate behavioral research*, 46(3), 399-424. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00273171.2011.568786>
- Babbie, E. R. (2010). *The Practice of Social Research* (12th ed.). Wadsworth.
- Bouttell, J., Craig, P., Lewsey, J., Robinson, M., & Popham, F. (2018). Synthetic control methodology as a tool for evaluating population-level health interventions. *J Epidemiol Community Health*, 72(8), 673-678.
- Boardman, A. E., Greenberg, D. H., Vining, A. R., & Weimer, D. L. (1996). *Cost-Benefit Analysis: Concepts and Practice* (3rd ed.). Prentice Hall.
- Bryson, A., Dorsett, R., & Purdon, S. (2002). The use of propensity score matching in the evaluation of active labour market policies.
- Buddelmeyer, H., & Skoufias, E. (2003). An evaluation of the performance of regression discontinuity design on PROGRESA (IZA Discussion Paper No. 827). Bonn, Germany: Institute for the Study of Labor.
- Creswell, J. W. (2014). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Method Approaches* (4th ed.). SAGE Publications.
- de Vocht, F., Campbell, R., Brennan, A., Mooney, J., Angus, C., & Hickman, M. (2016). Propensity score matching for selection of local areas as controls for evaluation of effects of alcohol policies in case series and quasi case-control designs. *Public Health*, 132, 40-49.
- Duflo, E., Glennerster, R., & Kremer, M. (2007). Using randomization in development economic research: A toolkit. *Handbook of development economics*, 4, 3895-3962.
- European Commission (2024): EVALUATION HANDBOOK <https://doi.org/10.2841/340793>
- Ferron, J., & Rendina-Gobioff, G. (2005). Interrupted time series design. *Wiley StatsRef: Statistics Reference Online*.
- Funnell, C. (2004). Developing and using a program theory matrix for program evaluation and performance monitoring. *Indigenous evaluation*, 2000 (7) pp. 91-101.
- Gascoigne, C. (2024). A Bayesian interrupted time series framework for evaluating the effect of the United Kingdom's Universal Credit welfare reform on self-reported mental well-being. *Journal of Affective Disorders*, 312, 29-36. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jad.2022.06.042>
- Goodman-Bacon, A. (2021). Difference-in-differences with variation in treatment timing. *Journal of Econometrics*, 225(2), 254-277. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jeconom.2021.03.014>.
- Haynes, Laura and Service, Owain and Goldacre, Ben and Torgerson, David, Test, Learn, Adapt: Developing Public Policy with Randomised Controlled Trials (2012). Cabinet Office - Behavioural Insights Team, SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=2131581> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.2131581>
- HM Treasury: Magenta Book - Central Government guidance on evaluation March 2020
- Imbens, G. W., & Lemieux, T. (2008). Regression discontinuity designs: A guide to practice. *Journal of econometrics*, 142(2), 615-635.

- Jiang, H., Feng, X., Lange, S., Tran, A., Manthey, J., & Rehm, J. (2022). Estimating effects of health policy interventions using interrupted time-series analyses: A simulation study. BMC Medical Research Methodology, 22, 235. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12874-022-01716-4>
- Lechner, M. (2010). The estimation of causal effects by difference-in-difference method. Foundations and Trends® in Econometrics 4(3), 165-224. DOI: 10.1561/08000000014
- OECD DAC. (2002). Glossary of Key Terms in Evaluation and Results-Based Management. https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/glossary-of-key-terms-in-evaluation-and-results-based-management-for-sustainable-development-second-edition_632da462-en-fr-es.html
- Poppe, A., & Maskileyson, D. (2022). The effect of non-pharmaceutical policy interventions on COVID-19 transmission across three cities in Colombia. Frontiers in Public Health, 10, 937644.
- Porter, K., Reardon, S. F., Unlu, F., Bloom, H., & Robinson-Cimpian, J. P. (2017). Estimating causal effects of education interventions using a two-rating regression discontinuity design. Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness, 10(1), 138-167.
- Ruiz, M. S. (2016). Impact evaluation of a policy intervention for HIV prevention in Washington D.C. Health Services Research, 51(6), 2397-2416. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1475-6773.12456>
- Thoemmes, F. (2012). Propensity score matching in SPSS. arXiv preprint arXiv:1201.6385.
- University of North Carolina, University of Ghana, Food & Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (2014) Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty Program Impact Evaluation North Carolina.
- van der Klaauw, W. H. (2008). Regression-discontinuity Analysis: A Survey of Recent Developments in Economics. Labour Economics, 15(4), 718-730.
- World Bank. (2011). Making Monitoring and Evaluation Systems Work: A Capacity Development Toolkit. <https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/708391468331216900/making-monitoring-and-evaluation-systems-work-a-capacity-development-toolkit>

4 Qualitative methods

Qualitative evaluation methods are key to gaining a deeper understanding of the mechanism, context and meaning of a programme, intervention or policy. Rather than focusing on quantifiable results, these methods focus on the experiences, meanings, intentions, and social processes of participants. Qualitative methods help us to understand how and why a change occurred. They are particularly well suited to evaluating and assessing the impact of complex interventions and social changes.

Methods such as interviews, case studies and meta-ethnography provide insight into the perspectives of different stakeholders and participants.

4.1 Systematic reviews

Definition and Purpose

A systematic review is a rigorous and structured method of reviewing literature. It uses a transparent, repeatable protocol to collect, evaluate and analyse all relevant empirical studies related to a given research question. This approach minimises bias by adhering to predefined inclusion and exclusion criteria, searching multiple sources and applying consistent data extraction and synthesis methods (Petticrew – Roberts, 2006).

Systematic reviews focus on specific research or evaluation questions, aiming to process all existing relevant knowledge. Unlike a literature review, a systematic review has a precisely defined scope and specific information sources, supporting the processing of high-quality, relevant scientific results (HM Treasury 2020, Khan et al.).

To identify the most relevant literature, a systematic review involves conducting a thorough search of various databases, grey literature and other pertinent sources. The literature to be reviewed is then identified based on predefined criteria. The relevant information is processed according to a standardised protocol. The extracted data is synthesised using statistical methods (e.g. meta-analysis) to provide an overall summary of the evidence.

Application in Evaluations

The systematic review method is widely used in evaluations and has a particularly significant history in the context of health and education interventions. In evaluation, it can be used in the following ways:

- it can be combined with other quantitative methods in impact assessments,
- it can be used to evaluate interventions and policies that have already been tested and evaluated in several places,
- it is often used to evaluate healthcare programmes.

Benefits and Challenges

- Among the advantages of this method is that it synthesizes all available evidence, not just selected studies. In addition, it uses an explicit and replicable search protocol, which makes the results reliable. It should also be noted that it can be used for meta-analysis.
- Its disadvantages include the fact that developing a well-designed systematic review protocol and conducting the analysis is resource- and time-intensive. In addition, it can only be implemented in areas where a large amount of evidence is available.

Further readings

- Higgins, J. P. T., Thomas, J., Chandler, J., et al. (2022). *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions (Version 6.3)*. Cochrane. <https://training.cochrane.org/handbook/current>
- Petticrew, M., & Roberts, H. (2006). *Systematic reviews in the social sciences: A practical guide*. Blackwell Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.1002/9780470754887>
- Cochrane Collaboration: <https://www.cochrane.org/>

PROFEEDcourse

- <https://profeedback.eu/profeedcourse4-2/>

Practice abstracts

Lazar Mičić

Economics and regulation of obtaining energy from biomass in the countries of European Union and Serbia

Overview

This study examines the economic and regulatory aspects of energy production from biomass in the European Union's member states and Serbia. As a renewable energy source, biomass is playing an increasingly important role in energy production, particularly in the heating and transport sectors. The author aims to explore the incentives, regulations and economic factors influencing the adoption of biomass energy, as well as the associated challenges and opportunities for its further development, with a particular focus on Serbia.

Methods used

The study employs a combination of scientific methods, including a systematic review, statistical analysis and comparative analysis, to map the current situation and development trends of biomass-based energy. The study provides a detailed analysis of the legal and regulatory environment in the EU and Serbia, as well as the economic incentive systems that promote biomass energy production.

Results

Since 2005, the European Union has used a complex system of incentives to support renewable energy sources, with around a quarter of these focused on biomass. Financial incentives are the most common form of support, accounting for 60% of measures. Demand for bioenergy is growing worldwide, particularly in Asia. Serbia has created a legal basis for the wider use of bioenergy and has taken concrete steps, such as constructing biogas power plants. Most of these facilities are located in Vojvodina, and a further 73 biogas power plants with a total capacity of around 70 MW are under construction.

PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023

Vincent Caruana

Insights from fair trade evaluation: advancing social inclusion and quality of life

Overview

This study examines the impact of Fair Trade on social inclusion and quality of life. Taking an interdisciplinary approach that includes education for sustainability (ESD) and evaluation and participation, the study aims to explore how Fair Trade contributes to expanding the economic opportunities of marginalised communities and strengthening community resilience and social cohesion, as well as its role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Methods used

The research employs a mixed-methods approach. Firstly, a systematic review is conducted based on scientific literature, policy documents and reports related to Fair Trade. Secondly, it relies on empirical data collected through semi-structured interviews with Fair Trade stakeholders in Egypt (as part of a dissertation) and Beirut (ongoing research). These qualitative interviews provide insight into the participants' experiences, challenges, and perceived outcomes. The research highlights the importance of resource mobilisation, capacity building and network collaboration for the sustainability of Fair Trade. It also analyses the vulnerabilities of local processes, such as project dependency and the effects of the political environment.

Results

Preliminary results show that Fair Trade significantly improves quality of life and strengthens social inclusion among participating individuals and communities. The cooperation between Fair Trade consumers, solidarity groups and supporting organisations creates a new type of partnership that goes beyond the traditional aid-based approach. At the same time, the research emphasises the importance of considering long-term sustainability goals as well as immediate results. Further research is required to examine the need for deeper institutional changes and support for inclusive,

accountable structures. The author highlights the need for longitudinal studies to better understand the long-term effects of Fair Trade in different socio-cultural contexts.

PROFEEDbook vol 6: Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies II., COST CA20112, 2024

4.2 Policy review

Definition and Purpose

Policy review is a systematic process of examining existing policies to ensure they remain relevant, effective, and aligned with current needs. As a governance tool, it helps organizations and institutions identify outdated practices, address policy gaps, and adapt to emerging issues or legislative changes. By clarifying responsibilities, improving consistency, and promoting transparency, policy review strengthens decision-making and supports the achievement of institutional goals. The following sections outline the key aspects of policy review and its application in organisational and public governance contexts.

Policy review refers to the structured assessment of existing policies to determine whether they continue to serve their intended purpose effectively and remain consistent with evolving laws, organizational priorities, and societal needs. Through this process, gaps, inefficiencies, or outdated elements can be detected, creating the basis for necessary revisions, updates, or the retirement of the policy (Chehab, 2017).

Application in Evaluations

Policy reviews provide a structured way to assess the relevance, coherence and effectiveness of policies by comparing objectives with implementation outcomes (OECD, 2025).

- They support institutionalisation of evaluation by embedding review processes into government cycles and ensuring accountability.
- Policy reviews enhance the quality of evaluations through clear standards, systematic data use and transparent reporting.
- They increase impact by making evaluation findings accessible for decision-makers and by fostering a culture of evidence-informed policymaking (OECD, 2025).

Benefits and Challenges

- Benefits: Policy reviews promote accountability and transparency, while strengthening evidence-informed policymaking.
- They provide a structured framework for evaluation processes, supporting learning, quality improvement, and institutionalisation.
- Challenges: Common barriers include limited capacity, weak coordination, and the limited use of evaluation results in decision-making (OECD, 2020).

Further readings:

- *The Ultimate Guide to Policy Review Best Practices – Enhancing Policy Effectiveness through Rigorous Evaluation and Stakeholder Engagement:*
<https://www.numberanalytics.com/blog/policy-review-best-practices>

- *A model for higher education policy review: the case study of an assessment policy*
<https://doi.org/10.1080/1360080X.2013.861051>
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/1360080X.2013.861051>
- Goldman, M. L., Swartz, M. S., Norquist, G. S., Horvitz-Lennon, M., Balasuriya, L., Jorgensen, S., Greiner, M., Brinkley, A., Hayes, H., Isom, J., Dixon, L. B., & Druss, B. G. (2022). Building bridges between evidence and policy in mental health services research: Introducing the policy review article type. *Psychiatric Services*, 73(10), 1125–1128.
<https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.ps.202100428>

PROFEEDcourse:

- <https://profeedback.eu/profeedcourse4-2/>

Practice abstracts

Ajtene Avdullahi, Vivien Surman, Altina Avdullahi

Lifelong Guidance as a Tool for Empowerment and Inclusion**Overview**

The study examines lifelong guidance as a policy instrument to promote empowerment and inclusion. It emphasizes the role of guidance services in supporting equal access to opportunities, resilience, and adaptation to dynamic labour market conditions.

Methods

The analysis is based on a policy review, with particular reference to European and international frameworks (ELGPN, UNESCO). Comparative case studies of Finland, Ireland, and Kosovo illustrate different stages of development in lifelong guidance systems.

Results

The review indicates that in Finland and Ireland lifelong guidance is embedded in education and labour market systems, contributing to social cohesion, smoother school-to-work transitions, and enhanced employability. In Kosovo, systemic weaknesses are observed, including high youth unemployment, skills mismatches, and fragmented or under-resourced guidance services. The findings underline that effective lifelong guidance requires policy integration, institutional commitment, and equitable access. The authors conclude that guidance should be regarded not only as a service but as a long-term investment in inclusive and sustainable societal development.

PROFEEDbook vol 10: Shaping the Future: Evaluating Programs and Policies in Public Education and Youth Development, COST CA20112, 2025

4.3 Meta-ethnography

Meta ethnography is a rigorous and well-regarded approach to synthesising qualitative research. Researchers identify, analyse, and interpret qualitative studies to address tightly focused questions on a given topic generating new insights and conclusions.

Definition and Purpose

Meta-ethnography is a qualitative synthesis method designed to interpret and translate findings across multiple studies, creating a higher-level, integrative understanding that goes beyond the conclusions of individual research projects (Luong, Bearman, & MacLeod, 2023). The outcome is middle-range theoretical conclusions and testable hypotheses that offer more consolidated and actionable insights for both practice and policy (Britten et al., 2002).

The process consists of seven steps. First, the focus and research questions are defined to guide the review. Second, relevant studies are identified and selected based on agreed criteria. Third, the studies are read in depth to identify key concepts and meanings. Fourth, the relationships between the studies are explored, highlighting similarities and differences. Fifth, the studies are *translated into one another*, which involves aligning concepts, interpreting contradictions, and building an overarching theoretical model. Sixth, these translations are synthesized into a new, integrated interpretation. Finally, in the seventh step, the synthesis is reported in a structured way, for example, following the eMERGe reporting guidelines (Luong, Bearman, & MacLeod, 2023).

Application in Evaluations

- Shapes evaluation frameworks: generates middle-range theories and testable hypotheses that guide evaluation questions and theories of change.
- Enables cross-context learning: translates key concepts while preserving original meaning (e.g., via concept grids), making comparisons across settings feasible.
- Produces practice- and policy-oriented outputs: offers more concise, usable syntheses than single studies or narrative reviews; helps navigate tensions (e.g., sanctions vs. open communication).
- Strengthens credibility: uses member validation with original authors and deliberate inclusion of diverse contexts to reach higher-level abstractions and more robust conclusions (Britten et al., 2002).

Benefits and Challenges

Pros:

- Enables interpretive, theory-building synthesis by translating concepts across studies, producing cumulative understanding.
- When reported transparently (per eMERGe), findings are more usable and credible for decision-making (France et al., 2019).

Cons:

- Reporting and transparency are often insufficient in practice, which undermines trust and reusability.
- Consistently applying the steps and scaling to large bodies of literature is challenging (France et al., 2019).

Further readings:

- Afshari, P., & Yazdani, S. (2024). Meta-ethnography, a method for the synthesis of qualitative research: A narrative review. *Journal of Qualitative Research in Health Sciences*, 13(2), 111–117.
- Kakos, M., & Fritzsche, B. (2017). Meta-ethnography E&E [Editorial]. *Ethnography and Education*, 12(2), 129–133.
- Luong, V., Bearman, M., & MacLeod, A. (2023). A beginner's guide to meta-ethnography. *Journal of Graduate Medical Education*, 15(1), 46–47.

PROFEEDcourse:

- <https://profeedback.eu/profeedcourse4-2/>

Practice abstracts

Dennis Beach; Tuuli From; Monica Johansson; Elisabet Öhrn

Educational and spatial justice in rural and urban areas in three Nordic countries: A meta-ethnographic analysis.

Overview

The article explores educational and spatial justice in rural and urban areas of Finland, Norway, and Sweden, focusing on the impact of market-oriented educational reforms. Using Soja's concept of spatial justice, it examines how inequalities are geographically shaped and reproduced. The study highlights how school closures, centralization of education, and limited access to quality schooling affect disadvantaged rural and peri-urban communities. Particular attention is given to Sweden, where the introduction of school choice and for-profit schools has been most extensive.

Methods

The study uses meta-ethnography to synthesize findings from 31 ethnographic studies published between 2000 and 2017. These studies include monographs, articles, and book chapters exploring educational justice in different Nordic contexts. The analysis followed a five-step process, including identifying relevant studies, extracting key concepts, linking them across cases, and developing a line-of-argument narrative.

Results

The findings reveal deepening spatial inequalities between rural, peri-urban, and urban areas. Rural schools face closures and resource shortages, forcing young people to migrate to cities for education and work, which disrupts communities and family ties. Market reforms have intensified territorial stigmatisation and material deprivation, framing certain areas and their residents as deficient. Despite these challenges, rural communities show resilience and creativity, but their strengths are often ignored in policy and public discourse.

Beach, D., From, T., Johansson, M., & Öhrn, E. (2018). Educational and spatial justice in rural and urban areas in three Nordic countries: A meta-ethnographic analysis. *Education Inquiry*, 9(1), 4–21.

Stephanie L. Morris; Emma R. Lawlor; Louise Foley; Carolyn Summerbell; Jenna Panter; Jean Adams; Russell Jago; Tessa M. Pollard

Children's experiences of the journey between home and school: A qualitative synthesis using meta-ethnography.

Overview

This study explores the experiences of children aged 5–13 during their journeys to and from school, focusing on how they interact with and shape their socio-material environments. The aim was to synthesize existing qualitative and ethnographic research to understand how social and physical factors influence active school travel and how these journeys contribute to children's autonomy, agency, and risk management skills.

Methods

The research used meta-ethnography, conducting a systematic literature search across five databases using the SPIDER framework. A total of 21 papers (18 studies) were included, employing qualitative methods such as interviews, focus groups, participant observation, and creative visual techniques like photovoice and participatory mapping. The analysis involved identifying second- and third-order constructs, which were synthesized into four overarching themes and a final "line of argument."

Results

Children's school journeys were organized into four key themes: (1) feelings of vulnerability related to traffic, the physical environment, and encounters with humans or animals; (2) negotiating and

managing risks through learning safety skills and developing collective care practices; (3) enjoyment of shared and solitary mobility, including social interactions, conversations, and moments of reflection; (4) exploring and engaging with their environments. The findings show that school journeys are not merely about transportation but represent a process of learning, exploration, and development that strengthens children's independence and sense of place.

Morris, S. L., Lawlor, E. R., Foley, L., Summerbell, C., Panter, J., Adams, J., Jago, R., & Pollard, T. M. (2022). Children's experiences of the journey between home and school: A qualitative synthesis using meta-ethnography. *Health & Place*, 76, 102819

4.4 Interviews

Definition and Purpose

The semi-structured interview is a qualitative research technique designed to collect and interpret information about the interviewee's lifeworld and perception of reality in relation to the research question. It is built upon the interaction between interviewer and respondent, characterized by flexibility and mutual attentiveness (Kvale, 1994). Due to its adaptable nature, it can be applied across a wide range of research fields and contexts, enabling the exploration of individual meanings, personal experiences, and narrative reconstructions that also serve to complement or validate quantitative findings (King, 1994).

In research practice, interviewing refers to a method of direct verbal inquiry, where information is obtained through structured interaction between the researcher and the participant. It may take multiple forms—structured, semi-structured, or unstructured—depending on the degree of guidance and openness required. Despite these variations, all interviews share the central aim of gaining deeper understanding of participants' perspectives, experiences, and interpretations while also serving as a versatile tool throughout different stages of research design and implementation (Babbie, 2020).

Application in Evaluations

Interviews are widely applied in evaluation as they provide deeper insight into participant experiences and program processes. They are particularly useful for exploring how interventions are perceived, what changes they generate in practice, and how these changes are embedded in everyday contexts. Beyond capturing individual perspectives, interviews also help clarify unexpected quantitative findings and reveal mechanisms that drive program outcomes. They further allow for the collection of rich personal narratives that demonstrate the complexity of program impacts and ensure that participants' voices are represented authentically in evaluation reports (Pathfinder International 2006).

Benefits and Challenges

- Enables a deeper understanding of participants' perspectives and program processes, adding context and authenticity to evaluation findings (Summit LLC, 2021).
- Challenge of interviews that they are resource-intensive, as they require significant time, skilled facilitation, and careful analysis to avoid bias (Pathfinder International, 2019).

Further readings

- Monroe, M. C. (2002). *Evaluation's friendly voice: The structured open-ended interview*. *Applied Environmental Education and Communication: An International Journal*, 1(2), 101-106.
- Camacho Garland, G., Beach, D., & Schmitt, J. (2025). *Working with interviews in Process: Tracing evaluation methods*. *Evaluation*, 31(2), 262-281.

PROFEEDcourse

- <https://profeedback.eu/profeedcourse4-2/>

Practice abstracts

Ileana-Sabina Chiaburu

Developing an Internal Evaluation System in the Romanian Public Procurement System

Overview

The study explores how to design an internal evaluation structure within Romania's Public Procurement System (PPS) so the administration can learn, improve performance, and mitigate the effects of rare "Black Swan" events. Conceptually aligned with the second pillar of the OECD methodology and inspired by the Kalman filter, the model links public administration, science, and organizational management, and integrates green procurement targets already at the planning phase.

Methods

Semi-structured and structured interviews (including Chatham House-style sessions) are central, complemented by questionnaires (closed/open), observation, and a review of specialized literature and open databases from Romanian, European, and international organizations (European Commission, World Bank, OECD, WEF). Data collection ran from November 2020 to May 2021 under a transformational evaluation design and continued within the author's doctoral research.

Results

The paper sets out the framework, context, and a "problem tree," identifies vulnerable points, and proposes a robust, ongoing internal evaluation unit to support analysis, learning, and green-procurement objectives. Empirical findings shows that fewer than 10% of department managers had been in post for more than two years; no reports were found on planning or ex-post evaluation of contracts financed from national funds; and an inverse relationship emerged between long-tenured administration experts and political decision-makers regarding how useful the proposed structure would be for systemic learning. Overall, the recommendation is to institutionalize a continuous internal evaluation structure to strengthen learning capacity and crisis resilience.

PROFEEDbook vol 1: Evaluation of public policy responses to black swans, COST CA20112, 2022

prof. Jaroslav Dvorak

Implementation of the COVID-19 Anti-Crisis Policy in Lithuania: Goals, Resources, Key Actors

Overview

The study evaluates how Lithuania implemented its COVID-19 crisis-management policy by examining the core tasks, resources, and key actors involved. It situates frontline delivery within the

theory of street-level bureaucracy, focusing on how emergency rules and resource constraints reshaped discretion and everyday practices for doctors and social workers.

Methods

Qualitative interviews with doctors, social workers, and municipal officials across five municipalities (Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipėda, Marijampolė, Ukmergė; April–May 2020) form the empirical core, using both story-eliciting and semi-structured formats. These are complemented by analysis of statistical data and legal acts to triangulate implementation dynamics.

Results

The research identifies inconsistencies and ambiguities in the legal framework (e.g., PPE rules, client interaction, remote work) that affected willingness and capacity to implement measures. Clear, binding rules proved crucial early on; at the same time, some flexible recommendations helped institutions tailor responses. Organizationally, new routines emerged: team-based work and spatial reorganization reduced individual autonomy but improved safety and cohesion; patient-flow triage narrowed professional discretion for some staff. Institutions with more experienced specialists (especially in infection control) managed the transition more effectively.

PROFEEDbook vol 1: Evaluation of public policy responses to black swans, COST CA20112, 2022

Xiao Cu

Impact of COVID-19 on consumer behavior: A comparative study in Hungary and China.

Overview

The study compares how the pandemic shaped food-purchase attitudes and behaviours among consumers in Hungary and China, two countries with markedly different COVID-19 control policies. It examines perceptions, hygiene concerns, mask-wearing, shopping frequency/stockpiling, and whether newly formed habits persisted into the post-pandemic period.

Methods

Semi-structured interviews (online/offline) are combined with a questionnaire survey; data were collected via email, Tencent Questionnaire, and meetings in Feb–Mar 2022. The sample comprised 320 responses (11 excluded), yielding $n=308$ valid cases—154 from Hungary and 154 from China; analysis included a KMO test to support the hypothesis checks.

Results

Perceptions and behaviours differed substantially: only 3.2% of Chinese respondents said their lives were unaffected vs 18.2% in Hungary; most in both countries reported impact without fundamental change (HU 46.8%, CN 51.3%). Chinese respondents were more likely to shop less often, stock up, and wear masks in supermarkets; Hungarian respondents mostly did not wear masks. Some habits (online meal ordering, eating at home, cashless payments) seem likely to persist, but most pandemic-era habits are unlikely to remain long-term.

PROFEEDbook vol 1: Evaluation of public policy responses to black swans, COST CA20112, 2022

4.5 Case studies

Definition and purpose

A case is defined as a phenomenon that is limited to a specific space and observed at a specific point in time or during a specific period. A case study is an intensive, in-depth investigation of one or a small number of such cases (Gerring, 2007). Some scholars classify case studies as a form of qualitative research (Hancock & Algozzine, 2006, cited in Gerring, 2007), while others view

them as a distinct approach that transcends the qualitative-quantitative divide and can incorporate both dimensions simultaneously (Yin, 2009).

In social research, case studies are typically embedded in a structured design process. Standard considerations include epistemological foundations, the type or design of the case study, methods of data collection (e.g., interviews, observation, document analysis), strategies for analysis and interpretation, approaches to writing the case study, and procedures for ensuring quality and validity.

Yin (2009) defines the case study as:

“... an empirical inquiry that investigates a contemporary phenomenon in depth and within its real-life context, especially when the boundaries between phenomenon and context are not clearly evident and the investigator has little control over events”
(Yin, 2009).

He further distinguishes four types of case studies according to their purpose and ambitions:

- descriptive,
- explanatory,
- cross-case syntheses,
- evaluative.

Application in Evaluations

Case studies are often explanatory in nature, examining causal mechanisms and relationships. In evaluation case studies, specific interventions can be illustrated as to how and why they succeed or fail, providing nuanced insights that support evidence-based decision-making (HM Treasury 2020). According to Blatter and Haverland (2012, cited in Gerring, 2007), case studies can address causal questions from two perspectives or angles:

- Identifying the effect of a particular factor X on an outcome Y (i.e., what values of Y are implied by different values of X, holding other factors constant or unchanged).
- Tracing which configuration of causal factors produced or led to a given outcome Y.

Case selection requires several decisions, including:

- defining the unit of analysis,
- identifying the population of cases,
- establishing principles of selection (based on research purpose, typologies, or attributes),
- determining access and availability of relevant data.

The primary qualitative methods used in case study research include interviews, focus groups (typically with 8-12 participants and two facilitators), observation and document analysis.

Benefits and challenges

- Case studies offer several advantages. They provide rich context into social phenomena and allow researchers to capture complexity and dynamics in detail. They are particularly well-suited for exploring causal mechanisms, validating explanations, and testing theories (Baxter & Jack, 2008).

- However, case studies also present challenges. Their findings are often context-specific which limits statistical generalisability. In addition, the use of multiple methods and sources of evidence, while increasing rigour, can make the research process time-consuming and resource intensive.

Further readings

- Baškarada, S. (2014). Qualitative case study guidelines. *The Qualitative Report*, 19(40), 1-25.
- BetterEvaluation – Case Study
<https://www.betterevaluation.org/methods-approaches/approaches/case-study>

PROFEEDcourse

- <https://profeedback.eu/profeedcourse4-2/>

Practice abstracts

Zvi Weinstein

Entrepreneurship, innovation and creative industry as a driver of regional development: a case study of Caesarea Industrial Park in Israel

Overview

The study examines the development and evaluation of the Caesarea Smart Regional Industrial Park (SIP) in Israel as a model for eco-industrial regional planning. It focuses on how integrated planning – combining economic, social, cultural, environmental and technological factors – can create a successful and sustainable industrial ecosystem.

Methods

The research is based on a case study approach. A structured set of evaluative questions was applied to assess the park's planning and operation, with particular attention to partnerships between stakeholders (government, academia, industry), infrastructure, natural and cultural assets, and the influence of the fourth industrial revolution.

Results

Findings show that the Caesarea SIP owes its success to a holistic vision, strong leadership, and favourable local conditions, including geography, infrastructure and stakeholder collaboration. The park has become a benchmark for other Israeli and international industrial parks, demonstrating that smart and eco-industrial development requires adaptive, interdisciplinary policies.

PROFEEDbook vol 3: Evaluation on Rural and Territorial Development, Urban Development, COST CA20112, 2023

Vesna Paraušić, Nataša Kljajić, Ivana Domazet

Does farm certification for sustainable agriculture contribute to food export? A case study in middle-income countries

Overview

The study investigates how private agricultural standards, specifically the GLOBALG.A.P. certification, influence sustainability and export performance in the fruit and vegetable sector. It

addresses the role of certification in promoting environmentally responsible farming and enhancing access to high-value international markets.

Methods

The research is designed as a case study of 13 middle-income countries in Europe and Central Asia over the period 2010-2021. Within this case study framework, the authors applied descriptive statistics and panel regression analysis to examine how the number of GLOBALG.A.P.-certified farmers affected export outcomes.

Results

The findings show a statistically significant effect of GLOBALG.A.P. certification on export performance. Increases in certified farmers were linked to: (a) higher export values in the fruit and vegetable sector, (b) increased exports of fruit and vegetables to high-value markets, and (c) a greater percentage share of fruit and vegetable exports directed to high-value markets, compared to the total export of these two sectors. These results confirm that GLOBALG.A.P. certification supports both sustainability goals and improved market competitiveness.

PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023

4.6 Focus groups

Definition and Purpose

Focus groups are structured discussions led by a moderator and designed to gather collective insights on specific topics from participants. As a qualitative research method, they can significantly enhance programme evaluations by capturing stakeholder perceptions, needs and experiences. Focus groups involve guided discussions among a selected group of individuals to explore their views on a particular subject (Dil et al., 2024) – they are particularly useful for understanding complex issues as they facilitate in-depth conversations and interactions among participants.

Application in Evaluations

Focus groups can assess stakeholder needs, programme benefits and areas for improvement, particularly in mental health programmes for children and families (Nabors et al., 2001).

- They provide quick feedback and empower participants, making them suitable for evaluations involving low-income clients (Magill, 1993).
- In educational settings, focus groups have played a key role in evaluating the effectiveness of new programmes and generating detailed information efficiently (Nestel et al., 2012).

Benefits and Challenges

- Benefits include cost-effectiveness, speed of data collection and the ability to generate rich qualitative data (Magill, 1993; Nestel et al., 2012).
- Challenges may involve managing group dynamics and ensuring that all voices are heard, which can affect the quality of the data collected (Nabors et al., 2001). Although focus groups are valuable for gathering qualitative insights, they may not always accurately represent the views of the broader population, potentially leading to biased conclusions if not carefully managed.

Further reading

- Nestel, D., Ivkovic, A. T., Hill, R. A., Warrens, A. N., Paraskevas, P., McDonnell, J. A., Mudarikwa, R. S., & Browne, C. (2012). Benefits and challenges of focus groups in the evaluation of a new graduate entry medical programme. *Assessment & Evaluation in Higher Education*, 37(1), 1–17. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02602938.2010.494232>
- <https://www.betterevaluation.org/methods-approaches/methods/focus-groups>

PROFEEDcourse

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLU3NoqgGjM>

Practice abstracts

Mart Laatsit, Markus Grillitsch, Harald Rohrer Lund University, CIRCLE, Sweden
Lund University, CIRCLE, Sweden
Linköping University, Sweden

Assessing the Transformative Potential of Policy Instruments: The Case of Sweden

Overview

The study investigates the transformative potential of innovation policy instruments in Sweden, within the framework of Transformative Innovation Policy (TIP). It aims to understand how established and novel policy tools contribute to socio-technical system transformation and whether current policy mixes support systemic change.

Methods

The research is based on a conceptual model developed by Laatsit et al. (2022), which assesses innovation policy instruments through the lens of four “transformative failures”: directionality, demand articulation, coordination, and reflexivity. The study is carried out in collaboration with Swedish innovation agency Vinnova and includes three main steps:

1. Interactive development of research design with policymakers.
2. Data collection through interviews, focus groups, and desk research on selected policy instruments.
3. Qualitative content analysis of collected data, followed by a seminar with policymakers to discuss findings.

Results

Preliminary findings suggest that traditional innovation policy instruments have notable potential to address directionality and demand articulation failures but are less effective at addressing coordination and reflexivity. These gaps can be mitigated through the use of mission-oriented instruments, experimental and regulatory policies, and innovative governance approaches. The study highlights challenges related to policy layering, where new transformative goals are overlaid on older evaluation paradigms, potentially limiting the effectiveness of transformation-oriented policies.

PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024

4.7 References

- Alshenqeeti, H. (2014). Interviewing as a data collection method: A critical review. *English Linguistics Research*, 3(1), 39–45.
- Babbie, E. R. (2020). *The practice of social research*. Cengage AU.
- Baxter, P., & Jack, S. (2008). Qualitative Case Study Methodology: Study Design and Implementation for Novice Researchers. *The Qualitative Report*, 13(4), 544–559. <https://doi.org/10.46743/2160-3715/2008.1573>
- Beach, D., From, T., Johansson, M., & Öhrn, E. (2018). Educational and spatial justice in rural and urban areas in three Nordic countries: A meta-ethnographic analysis. *Education Inquiry*, 9(1), 4–21.
- Britten, N., Campbell, R., Pope, C., Donovan, J., Morgan, M., & Pill, R. (2002). Using meta-ethnography to synthesise qualitative research: A worked example. *Journal of Health Services Research & Policy*, 7(4), 209–215.
- Camacho Garland, G., Beach, D., & Schmitt, J. (2025). Working with interviews in Process Tracing evaluation methods. *Evaluation*, 31(2), 262–281.
- Chehab, M. A. H. (2017). Community medicine training program. *ResearchGate*. <https://doi.org/10.13140/RC.2.2.33840.15363>
- Chiaburu, I.-S. (2022). Developing an internal evaluation system in the Romanian public procurement system. In *PROFEEDbook1: Evaluation of public policy responses to black swans* (pp. 94–106). HÉTFA Research Institute (COST Action CA20112 PROFEEDBACK)
- Cu, X. (2022). Impact of COVID-19 on consumer behavior: A comparative study in Hungary and China. In *PROFEEDbook1: Evaluation of public policy responses to black swans* (pp. 166–174). HÉTFA Research Institute (COST Action CA20112 PROFEEDBACK).
- de Leeuw, E.D., Hox, J., & Dillman, D. (2008). The cornerstones of survey research. In de Leeuw, E.D., Hox, J., & Dillman, D. (Eds.). *International Handbook of Survey Methodology* (1st ed., pp. 1–17). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203843123>
- Dvorak, J. (2022). Implementation of the COVID-19 anti-crisis policy in Lithuania: Goal resources, key actors. In *PROFEEDbook1: Evaluation of public policy responses to black swans* (pp. 107–117). HÉTFA Research Institute (COST Action CA20112 PROFEEDBACK).
- Fitzpatrick, J., Christie, C., & Mark, M. M. (Eds.). (2008). *Evaluation in action: Interviews with expert evaluators*. Sage Publications.
- France, E. F., Cunningham, M., Ring, N., Uny, I., Duncan, E. A. S., Jepson, R., Noyes, J. (2019). Improving reporting of meta-ethnography: The eMERGe reporting guidance. *BMC Medical Research Methodology*, 19, 64.
- Gerring, J. (2007). *Case Study Research: Principles and Practices*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
- Glasow, P. A. (2005). *Fundamentals of Survey Research Methodology*. MITRE, C3 Center
- Goldman, M. L., Swartz, M. S., Norquist, G. S., Horvitz-Lennon, M., Balasuriya, L., Jorgensen, S., Greiner, M., Brinkley, A., Hayes, H., Isom, J., Dixon, L. B., & Druss, B. G. (2022). Building bridges between evidence and policy in mental health services research: Introducing the policy review article type. *Psychiatric Services*, 73(10), 1125–1127. <https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.ps.202100428>
- Groves, R. M., Fowler Jr., F. J., Couper, M. P., Lepkowski, J. M., Singer, E., & Tourangeau, R. (2009). *Survey Methodology* (2nd ed.). Wiley.
- Higgins, J. P. T., Thomas, J., Chandler, J., et al. (2022). *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions* (Version 6.3). Cochrane. <https://training.cochrane.org/handbook/current>

- HM Treasury. (2020). The Magenta Book: Central government guidance on evaluation. UK Government. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-magenta-book>
- Kakos, M., & Fritzsche, B. (2017). Meta-ethnography E&E [Editorial]. *Ethnography and Education* 12(2), 129–133.
- Khan, K.; Kunz, R.; Kleijnen, J. and Antes, G. (2003). Five steps to conducting a literature review. *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*, 96 (3) pp. 118–121.
- King, N. (1994). The qualitative research interview. In C. Cassell & G. Symon (Eds.), *Qualitative methods in organizational research: A practical guide* (pp. 14–36). Sage Publications.
- Kvale, S. (1994). Ten standard objections to qualitative research interviews. *Journal of Phenomenological Psychology*, 25(2), 147–173. <https://doi.org/10.1163/156916294X00016>
- Lee, S. (2025, May 25). The ultimate guide to policy review best practices – Enhancing policy effectiveness through rigorous evaluation and stakeholder engagement. NumberAnalytics <https://www.numberanalytics.com/blog/policy-review-best-practices>
- Luong, V., Bearman, M., & MacLeod, A. (2023). A beginner’s guide to meta-ethnography. *Journal of Graduate Medical Education*, 15(1), 46–47.
- Monroe, M. C. (2002). Evaluation’s friendly voice: The structured open-ended interview. *Applied Environmental Education and Communication: An International Journal*, 1(2), 101–106.
- Morris, S. L., Lawlor, E. R., Foley, L., Summerbell, C., Panter, J., Adams, J., Jago, R., & Pollard, T. M. (2022). Children’s experiences of the journey between home and school: A qualitative synthesis using meta-ethnography. *Health & Place*, 76, 102819
- OECD. (2020). Improving governance with policy evaluation: Lessons from country experience. OECD Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.1787/89b1577d-en>
- OECD. (2025). Implementation toolkit for the OECD recommendation on public policy evaluation. OECD Publishing https://www.oecd.org/content/dam/oecd/en/publications/reports/2025/02/implementation-toolkit-for-the-oecd-recommendation-on-public-policy-evaluation_f24516be/77faa4fe-en.pdf
- Pathfinder International. (2006). In-depth interviews: A guide for design and implementation. New York: Health Foundation.
- Petticrew, M., & Roberts, H. (2006). *Systematic reviews in the social sciences: A practical guide*. Blackwell Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.1002/9780470754887>
- Summit LLC. (2021, January 12). The alchemy of program evaluation, part 4: Semi-structured interviews. Summit L
- Tilleard, R., Shakhina, N., & Wittels, A. (2019). Evaluating leadership and management programmes: A methodology for evaluating leadership and management programmes in Sub-Saharan Africa for CDC Group plc and The Africa List. Behavioural Insights Team.
- Trowler, P., Fanghanel, J., & Wareham, T. (2013). A model for higher education policy review: The case study of an assessment policy. *Tertiary Education and Management*, 19(4), 329–351. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1360080X.2013.861051>
- Yin R. K. (2009). *Case study research: Design and methods* (4th ed.). Library of Congress Cataloguing-in-Publication Data, USA.

5 Participatory methods

5.1 The Most Significant Change

Definition and Purpose

The Most Significant Change (MSC) technique represents a participatory approach to monitoring and evaluation, particularly suitable for complex interventions (Davies & Dart, 2004). This method involves the systemic collection of qualitative “significant change” stories emerging from the research field, followed by a structured selection procedure conducted by project stakeholders to capture the most meaningful changes of a certain intervention (Evaluation Handbook, 2024). Decisions regarding which stories are identified, documented, analysed, and prioritized are made collectively by designated stakeholders. This ensures that the evaluation process incorporates multiple perspectives. Instead of using pre-defined indicators, the Most Significant Change (MSC) technique serves as a flexible monitoring tool that can be applied throughout the entire program cycle. In addition, it can also contribute to the evaluation by providing information about impact and outcomes that are perceived contextually relevant by stakeholders.

Key characteristics of the Most Significant Approach include:

- The systemic collection and participatory selection of significant change stories (Evaluation Handbook, 2024).
- The identification of both positive and negative changes that stakeholders consider essential, valuable, meaningful, beneficial, or transformative.

Application in Evaluations

The MSC approach can be particularly beneficial in the following cases (HM Treasury, 2020):

- When the outcomes are difficult or impossible to predict.
- When outcomes are expected to vary significantly across different groups of beneficiaries.
- When there is limited or no mutual understanding or agreement among stakeholders regarding the relevance or importance of specific outcomes.
- When interventions are designed to be predominantly participatory in nature.

Benefits and Challenges

The MSC approach is particularly beneficial in contexts where outcomes are highly diverse across multiple stakeholder groups, difficult to predict, or where there is no shared understanding, consensus, or definition regarding which outcomes should be considered essential. By identifying and capturing multiple perspectives, the MSC approach helps evaluators to analyse outcomes that would otherwise not be recognized. However, its application can also present challenges, as the process is often “time consuming and resource intensive and needs robust facilitation” (HM Treasury, 2020). Having a highly skilled and experienced facilitator is also essential to ensure inclusivity and consistency in the identification and analysis of change stories.

Further readings:

- Asadullah, S. - Muñiz, S. (2015). Participatory Video and the Most Significant Change – a guide for facilitators. InsightShare. <https://insightshare.org/resources/participatory-video-and-the-most-significant-change/>
- Davies, R. - Dart, J. (2005). The 'Most Significant Change' (MSC) Technique: A Guide to Its Use. <https://www.auckland.ac.nz/content/dam/ua/auckland/education/research/docs/CCRE-MSCGuide.pdf>
- Hassnain, H. - McHugh, K. - Lorenzoni, M. - Alvarez, V. et al. (2024). Evaluation Handbook for the Directorate-General for International Partnerships, Publications Office of the European Union, European Commission. <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2841/340793>
- HM Treasury. (2020). The Magenta Book: Central Government guidance on evaluation. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-magenta-book>
- Most Significant Change (MSC). (1997 -). Monitoring and Evaluation NEWS: A news service focusing on developments in monitoring and evaluation methods relevant to development programmes with social development objectives. Managed by Rick Davies. <https://mande.co.uk/special-issues/most-significant-change-msc/>

PROFEEDcourse:

- <https://profeedback.eu/profeedcourse4-2/>

Practice abstracts

Khrais Tala

Evaluation of the empowering women for leadership roles project in Jordan using the most significant change (MSC)

Overview

The study investigates the Empowering Women for Leadership Roles project in Jordan, which applies the Most Significant Change (MSC) participatory evaluation approach. The main goal is to evaluate the project's impact by capturing significant changes across multiple levels and analysing how these changes have affected collective decision-making, knowledge exchange, and inclusivity. In doing so, the study aims to provide a deeper insight into the ways in which participatory evaluation methods can shed light on both intended and unintended outcomes in the context of women's empowerment and leadership.

Methods

The research applies the Most Significant Change (MSC) technique as its primary evaluation method. Qualitative data that emerged from participants' stories was reviewed and assessed by a diverse group of stakeholders. The selected stories were categorized to better understand and analyse changes at the individual, institutional, community, and environmental levels. An evaluation matrix, an invitation letter, and a project overview document were utilized as tools for data collection and stakeholder engagement. Stakeholder opinions, narratives, and perceptions were thoroughly documented during the research, with a focus on women leaders' involvement in decision-making processes and their contributions to knowledge exchange.

Results

Most Significant Change (MSC) stories were collected and analysed in relation to the four immediate outcomes, providing evidence of the project's effectiveness.

PROFEEDbook vol 5: Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies I., COST CA20112, 2024

5.2 Outcome harvesting

Definition and Purpose

Outcome Harvesting is a participatory evaluation method designed to retrospectively identify, collect, and analyse evidence of change, as well as investigate the role of a particular intervention to that change (Evaluation Handbook, 2024). This method starts with the definition of the observed outcomes, and then it investigates backwards to understand how these changes were achieved.

Outcome Harvesting focuses on the following aspects:

- What has changed?
- How has it changed?
- In what ways did the intervention contribute to that change?

By answering these guiding questions, this approach helps to better understand the type of outcomes that have emerged. Due to its participatory setting, Outcome Harvesting provides the opportunity to stakeholders to actively engage in real time in both the identification and analysis of the outcomes throughout the ongoing monitoring process. Outcome Harvesting can also be applied in complex research environments where interventions and their causality are less clear.

Application in Evaluations

Outcome Harvesting can be applied throughout the monitoring process of an intervention to generate real-time data on observable changes.

Outcome Harvesting typically involves six distinct steps (HM Treasury, 2020):

1. Design the harvest,
2. Collect data and draft outcome descriptions,
3. Engage informants,
4. Substantiate outcomes,
5. Analyse and interpret outcomes,
6. Support the use of findings.

Outcome Harvesting is mainly used in complex environments, in which outcomes are not possible to predict in advance (Evaluation Handbook, 2024).

Benefits and Challenges

- Outcome Harvesting is particularly beneficial in the context of complex interventions, as it helps the identification and clarification of different outcomes. It also provides accessibility to a wide range of stakeholders.
- One of the challenges of the application of Outcome Harvesting is that it is a time-consuming approach, and it also requires highly skilled facilitation and the long-term commitment of stakeholders to collect and to analyse outcomes.

Further readings:

- Hassnain, H. - McHugh, K. - Lorenzoni, M. - Alvarez, V. et al. (2024). Evaluation Handbook. Directorate-General for International Partnerships, Publications Office of the European Union, European Commission. <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2841/340793>
- HM Treasury. (2020). The Magenta Book: Central Government guidance on evaluation. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-magenta-book>
- <https://www.betterevaluation.org/methods-approaches/approaches/outcome-harvesting>
- Introduction to Outcome Harvesting Open Contracting Programme. <https://hivos.org/assets/2021/02/Outcome-Harvesting-Presentation.pdf>
- The World Bank (2014). Cases in Outcome Harvesting: Ten pilot experiences identify new learning from multi-stakeholder projects to improve results. <https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/419021468330946583/cases-in-outcome-harvesting-ten-pilot-experiences-identify-new-learning-from-multi-stakeholder-projects-to-improve-results>

PROFEEDcourse:

- <https://profeedback.eu/profeedcourse4-2/>

Practice abstracts

Tamara Nikolic And Sabine Palmreuther

Strengthening capacities of local governments in Southeast Europe

Overview

The study examines how the Urban Partnership Program (UPP), supported by the World Bank Institute and the Austrian government, strengthens the capacities of local governments in Southeast Europe. Emerging from a history of ethnic conflict, decentralization, and weak institutions, cities in the region face challenges such as corruption, inefficient land use, underused infrastructure, and vulnerability to fiscal crises. The program aims to promote liveable and sustainable cities by fostering accountability, transparency, participatory governance, and regional networks for collaboration, while equipping local leaders and officials with practical tools for urban planning, financial management, and anti-corruption reforms.

Methods

To assess its impact, the World Bank Institute applied a customized outcome harvesting tool between April and July 2013. This method mapped the results of the program by documenting and visually illustrating how city leaders, coalitions, and organizations acted as change agents. Outcomes were formulated and analysed based on their significance and the ways in which WBI contributed to them, whether directly or indirectly. Roughly 20% of these outcomes were

independently substantiated to ensure credibility. The analysis grouped changes into three major paths: fostering innovative solutions, developing participatory and accountable city-owned strategies, and strengthening regional networks for knowledge exchange and policy support.

Results

The findings show that the UPP facilitated significant progress in building more accountable, participatory, and innovative local governance in Southeast Europe. City leaders became more aware of challenges, committed resources, and collaborated with citizens, civil society, and the private sector to design reforms. Municipal staff improved their capacity to analyse and publicly communicate urban issues, enhancing transparency and accountability. Regional organizations like NALAS developed stronger skills for data collection, dissemination, and policy guidance, fostering a cross-country exchange of good practices. Overall, the program contributed to the development of sustainable cities by addressing fiscal vulnerabilities, outdated practices, weak service delivery, and corruption risks, while creating networks and strategies that continue to drive institutional change.

The World Bank (2014). Cases in Outcome Harvesting: Ten pilot experiences identify new learning from multi-stakeholder projects to improve results.

5.3 Consultative deliberative methods

Definition and Purpose

Consultative and deliberative methods are participatory techniques designed to engage individuals or groups in structured discussions and collective decision-making on complex issues (HM Treasury, 2020). The objective of this approach is “(...) to reach a considered judgment on an issue through a process of public reasoning (which may involve justifying opinions in relation to others)” (Burchardt, 2012). These approaches emphasize reasoned dialogue, collective decision-making processes, and critical inquiry of information.

According to Burchardt (2012), consultative and deliberative methods differ from traditional research processes in three key aspects:

- Their primary objective is to guide participants through a process of public reasoning that concludes with a considered judgment on a specific policy issue.
- They require researchers to share relevant information with participants to assist them in forming their critical reflections and well-balanced judgments.
- They envisage the potential transformation of participants' beliefs and values following the consultative and deliberative processes.

The most common types of Consultative & Deliberative Methods:

- Deliberative workshops: Structured small-group discussions guided by facilitators, often based on shared evidence or scenarios.
- Citizen juries / panels: Diverse lay participants assess evidence and deliberate on an issue, often providing recommendations.
- Consensus conferences: Stakeholders or laypeople engage with experts to reach consensus on a complex topic.
- Public dialogues: Facilitated community-level dialogues on controversial issues.
- Nominal group technique: Structured brainstorming and ranking exercises.
- Delphi method: Anonymous expert consultation in multiple rounds to form consensus.

- World cafés: Rotating table discussions that foster wide idea exchange in informal settings.

Application in Evaluations

Deliberative and consultative methods can be applied as evaluation tools to meaningfully engage citizens in reasoned dialogue and structured discussions focusing on complex policy issues (HM Treasury, 2020). These approaches are usually implemented through citizen assemblies, citizens' juries, interviews, or deliberative polling. Compared to traditional research methods, they typically require greater preparation, skilled facilitation, and sustained participant engagement.

Benefits and Challenges

- Consultative and deliberative methods promote inclusivity, encourage critical thinking and foster informed reasoning, thereby enhancing the legitimacy and democratic nature of collective decision-making processes.
- These approaches are often time-intensive and require lengthy preparatory phase as well as long-term commitment from participants.

Further readings

- Burchardt, T. (2012). Deliberative research as a tool to make value judgements. CASE paper 159, Centre for Analysis of Exclusion, London School of Economics, London.
- Evaluation Guidelines for Representative Deliberative Processes. OECD, 2020. https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/evaluation-guidelines-for-representative-deliberative-e-processes_10ccbfcb-en/full-report.html
- HM Treasury. (2020). The Magenta Book: Central Government guidance on evaluation. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-magenta-book>
- OECD Database of Representative Deliberative Processes and Institutions, 2020. <https://cop-demos.jrc.ec.europa.eu/resources/oecd-database-representative-deliberative-processes-and-institutions#resources>

PROFEEDcourse:

- <https://profeedback.eu/profeedcourse4-2/>

Practice abstracts

Dr. Muhammad Asaduzzaman, Elena Boriani

Pragmatic and sustainable models of systems thinking for multidisciplinary stakeholder engagement: A case study on food value chain

Overview

This study explores pragmatic and sustainable models of systems thinking to enhance multidisciplinary stakeholder engagement, focusing on the food value chain as a case study. It situates itself within the broader frameworks of One Health and Planetary Health, which emphasize interconnectedness across human, animal, and environmental systems. The research highlights the challenges of translating theoretical systems approaches into practice, stressing the need for

simple, intuitive, and accessible models that allow professionals, policymakers, and researchers to collaborate across disciplinary, institutional, and cultural boundaries.

Methods

The authors propose an innovative stakeholder engagement procedure rooted in systems thinking, designed to integrate fragmented disciplinary perspectives into holistic knowledge. Methods such as stakeholder analysis, the Delphi technique, and multi-criteria analysis are combined with participatory tools like systems mapping and causal loop diagrams. This simplified cognitive process leverages graphical representations to clarify system components, stakeholder expertise, and interdependencies, while allowing iterative and collaborative engagement. The model is structured to identify necessary activities, assign responsibilities, and guide transdisciplinary problem-solving in health-related contexts.

Results

The findings suggest that the proposed approach improves collaboration among stakeholders by making systemic knowledge more accessible and actionable. By simplifying integration while retaining theoretical rigor, the model supports more efficient and coordinated responses to complex issues in the food value chain and beyond. The process not only facilitates better policy strategies and resource allocation but also has potential benefits for public health outcomes, such as more effective health care protocols and higher citizen welfare standards. If proven effective, the method could strengthen global health initiatives by enabling stakeholders at different levels to address multifaceted challenges with greater coherence and impact.

PROFEEDbook vol 8: Participation in evaluation, participatory evaluation, COST CA20112, 2024

Martina Kubíková

Assessing Digitalisation: A Rural Stakeholder Engagement Approach

Overview

This study investigates digitalization in rural regions of the Czech Republic, highlighting disparities in digital infrastructure and adoption compared to urban centres. While the European Commission's Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI) provides valuable national-level data, it fails to capture regional nuances. The research emphasizes the importance of inclusive policy-making and participatory evaluation to bridge data gaps and ensure that rural perspectives are represented in digital policy development.

Methods

The study applied a participatory evaluation approach involving 241 rural stakeholders to assess local digitalization processes. Expert interviews complemented this approach, enabling a deeper understanding of regional dynamics and digital adoption challenges. Stakeholder engagement facilitated a two-way exchange of knowledge, capturing practical experiences and diverse viewpoints. Despite methodological challenges—such as balancing varied perspectives and ensuring rigor—the process enriched the analysis and produced context-specific insights into rural digitalization.

Results

Findings confirm a positive correlation between strong digital infrastructure and proactive digital adoption in planning processes at the regional level. The participatory evaluation not only filled data gaps left by national-level indicators but also fostered collaboration among stakeholders in shaping digital strategies. The study demonstrates that participatory approaches can strengthen policy relevance, contribute methodological and ethical insights, and support more inclusive digital development in rural areas. These lessons hold broader applicability for digital policy evaluations across different regions and countries.

5.4 Participatory Action Research

Definition and Purpose

Participatory Action Research (PAR) is based on the active and meaningful engagement of stakeholders throughout the entire evaluation process (Evaluation Handbook, 2024). Rather than serving as passive objects of inquiry, stakeholders actively contribute their insights, expertise, and lived experiences beginning with the initial design of the evaluation through the implementation phase. This approach not only enhances the relevance of the evaluation but also strengthens co-ownership, collective awareness, and shared responsibility among stakeholders. Participatory Action Research (PAR) promotes inclusivity, long-term dialogue, collaborative learning, mutual accountability, and capacity-building in the stakeholder community. It also enhances the responsiveness of interventions in regard to the needs, challenges, priorities, and concerns of those most directly affected. By applying this approach, multiple and diverse perspectives can meaningfully be incorporated into the design and implementation of the evaluation process. PAR is widely recognized as a knowledge-sharing tool with transformative and empowering capacity.

Application in Evaluations

Participatory Action Research is used to avoid conceptualizing the problems of “others” and instead focuses on community engagement, supporting participants to co-create their own knowledge that can drive social action (Participatory Action Research – A Toolkit, 2023).

Benefits and Challenges

- PAR strengthens co-ownership, collaboration, the credibility of data collection, shared learning processes, and collective empowerment among stakeholders.
- This approach can be highly time-intensive as it often requires an initial phase of open dialogue and trust-building, which is essential for establishing genuine relationships and engagement. However, this aspect is often overlooked in project planning and not adequately supported by available funding.

Further readings

- Burns, D. – Howard, J. – Ospina, S. M.: The SAGE Handbook of Participatory Research and Inquiry. SAGE Publications Ltd., 2011.
- European Commission: Directorate-General for International Partnerships, Hassnain, H., McHugh, K., Lorenzoni, M., Alvarez, V. et al., Evaluation handbook, Publications Office of the European Union, 2024. <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2841/340793>
- Participatory Action Research – A Toolkit. University of Reading, 2023. <https://research.reading.ac.uk/community-based-research/wp-content/uploads/sites/114/2023/06/PAR-Toolkit-v10.pdf>

PROFEEDcourse:

- <https://profeedback.eu/profeedcourse4-2/>

Practice abstracts

Zeller-Berkman, Sarah; Muñoz-Proto, Carolina; Torre, María Elena

A Youth Development Approach to Evaluation: Critical Participatory Action Research

Overview

The study examines how youth development principles can be embedded in evaluation through the use of critical participatory action research (CPAR) and youth participatory evaluation (YPE). Against a backdrop of increasing accountability pressures on community-based organizations (CBOs) to demonstrate “evidence-based” outcomes, the authors argue that traditional evaluation models often overlook youth voices and experiences. Instead, they propose participatory approaches that view young people as co-researchers and experts of their own lives, aligning evaluation with youth development values such as caring relationships, high expectations, and opportunities to contribute.

Methods

The study investigated how five community-based organizations incorporated CPAR and YPE after attending the 2012 Critical Participatory Action Research Institute. Data collection included semi-structured interviews with staff before the institute, ethnographic observations during the five-day training, a follow-up focus group immediately afterward, and interviews three to four months later. Using grounded theory methodology, the authors analysed how these organizations adopted participatory practices, the strategies they used with youth, and the challenges they encountered in embedding participatory evaluation in their programs.

Results

Findings showed that participatory evaluation produced multiple benefits: increased youth engagement and leadership, stronger youth-adult partnerships, wider diffusion of participatory practices across organizations, and improved quality and validity of research. Youth gained confidence, including those marginalized in school settings, while staff reported shifts in power dynamics that encouraged more equitable collaboration. At the organizational level, participatory approaches began influencing program culture beyond research activities. Challenges included time constraints, limited funding, and the difficulty of institutionalizing participatory practices. Nevertheless, the study suggests that CPAR and YPE can unleash a “virtuous cycle,” where evaluation processes not only measure but also reinforce the very conditions—trust, agency, and collaboration—that youth development programs aim to cultivate.

Zeller-Berkman, Sarah; Muñoz-Proto, Carolina; Torre, María Elena: A Youth Development Approach to Evaluation: Critical Participatory Action Research, *Afterschool Matters*, n22 p24-31 Fall 2015

5.5 References

- Asadullah, S. - Muñiz, S. (2015). Participatory Video and the Most Significant Change – A guide for facilitators. InsightShare <https://insightshare.org/resources/participatory-video-and-the-most-significant-change/>
- Burchardt, T. (2012). Deliberative research as a tool to make value judgements. CASE paper 15 Centre for Analysis of Exclusion, London School of Economics, London.
- Burns, D. – Howard, J. – Ospina, S. M.: The SAGE Handbook of Participatory Research and Inquiry. SAGE Publications Ltd., 2011.
- Davies, R. - Dart, J. (2005). The 'Most Significant Change' (MSC) Technique: A Guide to Its Use <https://www.auckland.ac.nz/content/dam/uoa/auckland/education/research/docs/CCRE-MSCGuide.pdf>
- Dil, N., Castiglioni, A., Kim, K., Aravind, N., & Torre, D. M. (2024). Use and implementation of focus groups. Medical Teacher, 1–3. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0142159x.2024.2304451>
- European Commission: Directorate-General for International Partnerships, Hassnain, H., McHugh, K., Lorenzoni, M., Alvarez, V. et al., Evaluation handbook, Publications Office of the European Union, 2024. <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2841/340793>
- Evaluation Guidelines for Representative Deliberative Processes. OECD, 2022. https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/evaluation-guidelines-for-representative-deliberative-processes_10ccbfcb-en/full-report.html
- HM Treasury. (2020). The Magenta Book: Central Government guidance on evaluation <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-magenta-book>
- Introduction to Outcome Harvesting Open Contracting Programme <https://hivos.org/assets/2021/02/Outcome-Harvesting-Presentation.pdf>
- Magill, R. S. (1993). Focus Groups, Program Evaluation, and the Poor. Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare, 20(1), <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2059&context=jssw>
- Most Significant Change (MSC). (1997 -). Monitoring and Evaluation NEWS: A news service focusing on developments in monitoring and evaluation methods relevant to development programmes with social development objectives. Managed by Rick Davies <https://mande.co.uk/special-issues/most-significant-change-msc/>
- Nabors, L., Ramos, V., & Weist, M. D. (2001). Use of Focus Groups as a Tool for Evaluating Programs for Children and Families. Journal of Educational and Psychological Consultation 12(3), 243–256. https://doi.org/10.1207/S1532768XJEPC1203_04
- Nestel, D., Ivkovic, A. T., Hill, R. A., Warrens, A. N., Paraskevas, P., McDonnell, J. A., Mudarikwa, S., & Browne, C. (2012). Benefits and challenges of focus groups in the evaluation of a new graduate entry medical programme. Assessment & Evaluation in Higher Education, 37(1), 1–11. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02602938.2010.494232>
- OECD Database of Representative Deliberative Processes and Institutions, 2022. <https://cop-demos.jrc.ec.europa.eu/resources/oecd-database-representative-deliberative-processes-and-institutions#resources>
- Participatory Action Research – A Toolkit. University of Reading, 2023. <https://research.reading.ac.uk/community-based-research/wp-content/uploads/sites/114/2023/06/PAR-Toolkit-v10.pdf>

6 ProfeedBook references

PROFEEDbook vol 1: Evaluation of public policy responses to black swans, COST CA20112, 2022

PROFEEDbook vol 2: Evaluation of Policies on Social Inclusion, Migration, in particular interventions related to integration, COST CA20112, 2022

PROFEEDbook vol 3: Evaluation on Rural and Territorial Development, Urban Development, COST CA20112, 2023

PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023

PROFEEDbook vol 5: Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies COST CA20112, 2024

PROFEEDbook vol 6: Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies COST CA20112, 2024

PROFEEDbook vol 7: Business development, SMEs, Entrepreneurship and competitiveness COST CA20112, 2024

PROFEEDbook vol 8: Participation in evaluation, participatory evaluation, COST CA20112, 2024

PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024

PROFEEDbook vol 10: Shaping the Future: Evaluating Programs and Policies in Public Education and Youth Development, COST CA20112, 2025

7 PROFEEDBACK evaluation database

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
Ajtene Avdullahi, Vivien Surman, Altina Avdullahi: Lifelong Guidance as a tool for empowerment and inclusion	Finland, Ireland, Kosovo	Social inclusion	Comparing lifelong guidance systems and successful practices between different countries	Quantitative	Comparative research, data analyse	PROFEEDbook vol 10: Shaping the Future: Evaluating Programs and Policies in Public Education and Youth Development, COST CA20112, 2024
ALBENA VUTSOVA, TODOR YALAMOV, MARTINA ARABADZHIEVA: Promoting Social Economy	Bulgaria	Entrepreneurship	Policy framework for social economy	Qualitative	Qualitative + desk review	PROFEEDbook vol 2: Evaluation of Policies on Social Inclusion, Migration, in particular interventions related to integration, COST CA20112, 2022
Aleksandar Zdravković, Petar Mitić: The Nexus Between Co2 Emissions And Renewable Energy In CEE countries: A Panel Approach.	CEE countries	Sustainability	Energy and emissions	Quantitative	Panel analysis data	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
Ana Batričević, Ivana Stevanović: Environmental And Energy Policies In Serbia In The Context Of Child's Rights Protection.	Serbia	Sustainability	Children's rights and energy policy	Qualitative	Policy review	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
Anabela Santos, Francesco Molica, Andrea Conte: Drivers Of Economic And Innovation Divide Across European Regions: The Role Of European Funds	Europe	Economy and Innovation	European Funds role in economy and innovation	Quantitative	Statistical analysis, Indexing	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Andrea Éltető, Judit Ritz: Captured Green Industrial Policy In Hybrid Regimes: The Case Of Hungary	Hungary	Sustainability	Industrial policy and sustainability	Qualitative	Qualitative political economy	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
Andrea Wandinger, João Rocha Gomes: Collaborative Curatorial Practices: Navigating Challenges And Leveraging Participatory Methods	Germany, Portugal	Education	Participatory methods in student-led exhibitions	Qualitative	Case studies, interviews, document analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 8: Participation in evaluation, participatory evaluation, COST CA20112, 2024
Angela Wroblewski: Era Action 5 And Its Monitoring – Instruments To Strengthen Gender Equality In The European Research Area?	Austria	Gender Equality	Strengthening Gender Equality in European research	Qualitative	policy monitoring	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Anke Reinhardt: Development Of The Evaluation Activities Of The Deutscheforschungsgemeinschaft (Dfg): Examples Of Recent Projects	Germany	Research	Research Evaluation	Qualitative	Case study	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Anna Csizovszky: Community Resilience – The Case Of Hungarian Districts	Hungary	Regional development	Community resilience	Qualitative	Case study	PROFEEDbook vol 3: Evaluation on Rural and Territorial Development, Urban Development, COST CA20112, 2023
Anna Mária Mitrová, Ladislav Bakay: Agroforestry As An Essential Element For Rural Development	Slovakia	Regional development	Agroforestry	Qualitative	Policy and sustainability evaluation	PROFEEDbook vol 3: Evaluation on Rural and Territorial Development, Urban Development, COST CA20112, 2023
Arash Farnoosh, Xinzhan Jia: Economic Loss Assessment Of Regional Industrial Chains Under Extreme Climate Risk: Based On Torrential Rain And Drought Disasters	China	Sustainability	Climate risk and food systems	Quantitative	Model-based assessment	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
Aura Kivilaakso, Johanna Kolhinen: Research Assessment As A Tool For Strategic management	Finland	Research	Research Assessment	Theoretical	Case study	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
Aureliano Da Ponte, Gonzalo León: European Technological Sovereignty In Global Innovation Governance	Europe	Innovation	Innovation governance in crises	Qualitative	Policy review	PROFEEDbook vol 1: Evaluation of public policy responses to black swans, COST CA20112, 2022
B. Müge Vular: Regional Patterns Of Social Exclusion In Turkish Economy	Turkey	Social inclusion	Social exclusion and labour market	Quantitative	Regional data analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 5: Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies I., COST CA20112, 2024
Balázs Telegdy, Blanka Bálint, Ede Lázár: The Impact Of COVID 19 Pandemic On The 25+ Neets	Hungary	Youth	COVID-19 impact on NEETs	Quantitative	Impact evaluation	PROFEEDbook vol 3: Evaluation on Rural and Territorial Development, Urban Development, COST CA20112, 2023
Bálint Herczeg: Financial Instruments And COVID Extended Results	Hungary	Finance	Effectiveness of EU-funded financial instruments	Qualitative	Survey + financial data merge, t-tests	PROFEEDbook vol 1: Evaluation of public policy responses to black swans, COST CA20112, 2022
Bálint Herczeg, Luca Koltai, Kinga Tóth: The Effects Of The Crossroads Programme On Early School Leaving And Secondary School Choice	Hungary	Education	School dropout prevention	Quantitative	Impact analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 5: Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies I., COST CA20112, 2024
Bálint Herczeg: Effect of universities' programs on the tertiary drop-out probability in Hungary	Hungary	Education	Participatory evaluation in youth policy and democratic program development across Europe	Qualitative	Linear probability models	PROFEEDbook vol 10: Shaping the Future: Evaluating Programs and Policies in Public Education and Youth Development, COST CA20112, 2024
Barbara Glinsner, Dorothea Sturn, Anton Geyer: The Transformative Potential Of Impact-Driven Innovation	Austria	Innovation	Assessing impact-driven innovation for transformative potential	Qualitative	Impact pathway development, case analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
Bence Varga, András Igari: Inner And Outer Peripheries Of Hungary	Hungary	Regional development	Peripheries and regional development	Theoretical	Territorial and spatial analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 3: Evaluation on Rural and Territorial Development, Urban Development, COST CA20112, 2023
Blanka Bálint, Ede Lázár, Balázs Telegdy: Qualitative Comparative Analysis: A Possibility In Evaluation Methodology	Hungary	Governance	Evaluation methodology	Qualitative	Qualitative comparative analysis (QCA)	PROFEEDbook vol 5: Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies I., COST CA20112, 2024
Bogdan Gergely Armin: Support For Congestion Pricing Among Budapest Motorists	Emerging and frontier countries	Sustainability	Risk assessment	Quantitative	generalized structure component analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
Bogdan Gergely Armin: Support For Congestion Pricing Among Budapest Motorists	Hungary	Economy	Congestion pricing policy	Quantitative	Survey-based analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
Burçak Müge Vular, Sedef Akgüngör: Evaluation Of Innovation Efficiency In Europe	Europe	Innovation	Innovation efficiency	Quantitative	Malmquist Productivity Index	PROFEEDbook vol 7: Business development, SMEs, Entrepreneurship and competitiveness COST CA20112, 2024
Burçak Müge Vural, Emine Sedef Akgüngör: Agricultural Productivity And Carbon Emissions In Europe	Europe	Sustainability	Agriculture and climate	Quantitative	Panel analysis data	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
CAO XU, YOULIN XIE: Engaging The Social Participation Of Young People In Rural Areas	China	Youth	Youth participation in rural China	Qualitative	desk review + field survey	PROFEEDbook vol 2: Evaluation of Policies on Social Inclusion, Migration, in particular interventions related to integration, COST CA20112, 2022

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
Carlos Vergara: Ref 2028 Environmental Commission Indicators	United Kingdom	Research	Assessing Research Performance in Higher education	Mixed method	Generative AI-based qualitative analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Christina Schuh, Sonja Fringes, Daniel Schwertfeger: Evaluating 'Learning And Experimental Spaces': When A Traditional Approach Reaches Its Limits	Germany	Innovation	Evaluation of experimental spaces in research and innovation policy	Qualitative	Qualitative case study, participatory methods, interviews	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Christos Chrysoulas, Spyros Themelis: Young People And New Tech In Addressing Climate Change	Greece	Youth	Youth, technology, and climate change	Qualitative	Qualitative participatory youth work	PROFEEDbook vol 3: Evaluation on Rural and Territorial Development, Urban Development, COST CA20112, 2023
Christos Chrysoulas: A Smart Water Management System (Swam) To Support The Socio-Economic Growth Of Nigeria	Nigeria	Sustainability	Smart water system and socioeconomic growth	Qualitative	Technology evaluation and modelling	PROFEEDbook vol 5: Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies I., COST CA20112, 2024
Claudia Petrescu & Adriana Negut: Comparing Evaluation Methods And Mapping Examples Of Evaluations Supporting Policy Repsonses To Black Swans	Romania	Social inclusion	Evaluative cases in social response	Qualitative	Case analysis study	PROFEEDbook vol 1: Evaluation of public policy responses to black swans, COST CA20112, 2022
Claudia Petrescu, Bogdan Voicu: Impact Of Policy Measures On Youth Inclusion A Cross-Country Analysis Of Main Policies For Youth Inclusion In The Last 12 Year	Europe	Youth	Youth inclusion and NEETs	Qualitative	Cross-country comparative policy analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 5: Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies I., COST CA20112, 2024
Constanze Fetting: Monitoring Transformative Adaptation For Socio-Technical Ecological System Change	Germany	Innovation	Monitoring and of evaluation transformative ecological adaptation	Quantitative	Indicator-based framework, conceptual modelling	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
Craig Willis, Enrique Uribe-Jongbloed: Evaluating The Introduction Of Scottish Gaelic Public Broadcasting	United Kingdom	Social inclusion	Cultural policy and minority language media	Qualitative	Logic framework analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 5: Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies I., COST CA20112, 2024
Cristina Rosemberg Montes, Neil Brown: A Holistic Approach To Measuring The Impacts Of Research Programmes: The Case Of The Uk Strategic Priorities Fund	United Kingdom	Policy	Holistic impact measurement of national research funding	Quantitative	Impact assessment framework, data synthesis	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Daniela Serra Castilhos: Advancing Sustainable Practices: A Case Study Of Green Public Procurement In Portugal	Portugal	Sustainability	Evaluation of green policy adaptation	Mixed method	Content analysis, documentary research, case studies, literature review	PROFEEDbook vol 6: Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies II., COST CA20112, 2024
Daniela Serra Castilhos: Sustainability As An Ethical Value For The European Union	Europe	Sustainability	Sustainability as ethical value	Qualitative	Literature and policy review	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
Danijel Baturina, Gojko Bežovan: Assessment Of The Possibilities And Limitations Of Lags Activities	Croatia	Regional development	Local Action Groups	Mixed method	focus group, data analysis, case study	PROFEEDbook vol 3: Evaluation on Rural and Territorial Development, Urban Development, COST CA20112, 2023
Danijel Baturina, Jelena Matančević, Gojko Bežovan: Assessment Of The Current State And Capacities Of The Croatian Welfare State For The Implementation Of The European Pillar Of Social Rights	Croatia	Social inclusion	Welfare state and social rights	Qualitative	Expert interviews, framework analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 5: Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies I., COST CA20112, 2024
Danijel Baturina, Jelena Matančević: Challenges Of Sustainable Development: Insights From Social Innovations	Croatia	Sustainability	Social innovation and sustainability	Qualitative	Case study analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
Danijel Baturina: Assessment of the pathways of inclusion of youth in Croatian welfare state	Croatia	Youth	Assessment on Croatian social policy's readiness, the importance of social investment in youth	Quantitative	EU recommendation s	PROFEEDbook vol 10: Shaping the Future: Evaluating Programs and Policies in Public Education and Youth Development, COST CA20112, 2024
Dehua Xia, Xu Cao: What Role Does Board Composition Play In ESG Disclosure? Evidence From V4countries	V4 countries	Sustainability	Corporate governance and ESG	Quantitative	Panel data analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
DIEGO MUÑOZ-HIGUERAS, RAFAEL GRANELL, AMADEO FUENMAYOR: Non-Take-Up In Spain	Spain	Social inclusion	Minimum income schemes	Quantitative	Secondary source data analysis + microsimulation model estimation	PROFEEDbook vol 2: Evaluation of Policies on Social Inclusion, Migration, in particular interventions related to integration, COST CA20112, 2022
Dijana Štrbac, Lazar Živković: Green Transition In Serbia's Manufacturing Sector: Eco Innovation And Policy Outcomes	Serbia	Economy	Eco-innovation in manufacturing	Quantitative	ANOVA, survey data (CIS)	PROFEEDbook vol 7: Business development, SMEs, Entrepreneurship and competitiveness COST CA20112, 2024
DIJANA ŠTRBAC: Social Entrepreneurship And Social Economy In The Republic Of Serbia	Serbia	Entrepreneurship	Social economy and entrepreneurship	Qualitative	Descriptive + case analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 2: Evaluation of Policies on Social Inclusion, Migration, in particular interventions related to integration, COST CA20112, 2022
Diogo Machado: The Meaning Of Scientific Novelty In Expert Reviews	Portugal	Governance	Novelty assessment in peer review	Qualitative	Interview-based analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Diogo Machado: The Meaning Of Scientific Novelty: Learning From Expert Reviews	Portugal	Innovation	Understanding how scientific novelty is evaluated	Qualitative	Qualitative analysis of expert reviews	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
DORIANA MATRAKU: Positive And Negative Impact Of Migration In Albania	Albania	Social inclusion	Impact of migration	Mixed method	Secondary source data analysis+ policy analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 2: Evaluation of Policies on Social Inclusion, Migration, in particular interventions related to integration, COST CA20112, 2022
Dr Elizabeth Gadd, Laura Himanen, Erica Conte, Marianne Gauffriau, Tanja Strom, Baron Wolf: The Informs Scope Framework-Bridging The Policy-Practice Divide	International	Policy	SCOPE framework for responsible research assessment	Participatory	Framework development, stakeholder consultation	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Dr. Dagmar Simon: Everyone Is Equal In The Lottery Drum	Germany	Research	Publication acceptance in Research	Mixed method	Interviews, Survey, Qualitative content analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Dr. Elizabeth Gadd: The 'Wicked' Problem Of Global University Rankings And How To Fix It	United Kingdom	Education	University rankings and research evaluation	Qualitative	Policy review, framework development	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Dr. Eriada Cela: Despite being a girl, she..." Evaluating gender mainstreaming in basic education in Albania	Albania	Education	Exploring innovative and participatory methods to reduce inequalities	Qualitative	Focus groups, participatory observations	PROFEEDbook vol 10: Shaping the Future: Evaluating Programs and Policies in Public Education and Youth Development, COST CA20112, 2024
Dr. Filip Zielinski: Evaluating Impact Networks With Quip	Europe	Research	Evaluating the impact of impact networks	Qualitative	Qualitative Impact Protocol	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Dr. Giovanna Lima, Latiffah Salima Baldeh, Balint Hardy: Enabling Impactful Academic Careers	Various (Global South focus)	Innovation	Supportive conditions for impactful research careers	Qualitative	Policy review, interviews, survey data	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
Dr. Jan Stede, Dr. Swaroop Rao, Marc Blauert, Dr. Barbara Schlomann, Julian Schaper: Evaluating Electric Car Subsidies: An Ex-Post Approach Leading Into An Exante Approach	Germany	Research	Evaluating electric car subsidies	Quantitative	Impact evaluation	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Dr. Julian Emmeler, Sophie Von Knebel, Laura Barking, Dr. Felix Gaisbauer, Frida Salge-Peters: NAVIGATING EVALUATION COMPLEXITIES: INSIGHTS FROM ASSESSING EUROPEAN FUNDING PROGRAMMES	Europe	Policy	Complexities in evaluation of EU funding programmes	Qualitative	Meta-evaluation, comparative analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Dr. Mehtap Çakmak Barsbay: POLICY STRATEGY TO INNOVATE IN HEALTH? A TEXT-MINING APPROACH IN HEALTH POLICIES In TÜRKİYE	Turkey	Health	Health policy innovation	Qualitative	Text-mining and topic modelling	PROFEEDbook vol 7: Business development, SMEs, Entrepreneurship and competitiveness COST CA20112, 2024
Dr. Muhammad Asaduzzaman, Elena Borian: Pragmatic And Sustainable Models Of Systems Thinking For Multidisciplinary Stakeholder Engagement: A Case Study On Food Value	Norway	Sustainability	Systems thinking in stakeholder engagement	Qualitative	Stakeholder mapping, cognitive systems diagrams, participatory design	PROFEEDbook vol 8: Participation in evaluation, participatory evaluation, COST CA20112, 2024
Dr. Rūta Brazienė, Justina Krauledaitė: Evaluation of the EU youth dialogue	Lithuania, Italy	Youth	COVID-19 impact on NEETs	Quantitative	Survey, data analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 10: Shaping the Future: Evaluating Programs and Policies in Public Education and Youth Development, COST CA20112, 2024
Dr. Seyithan Ahmet Ateş, Muradiye Ateş, Dr. Zeynep Burcu Uğur: Recognizing The Modernation Effect Of Technofairs On Entrepreneurial Intention: Social Cognitive Career Theory	Turkey	Entrepreneurship	Entrepreneurship and technology fairs	Quantitative	Social Cognitive Career Theory (SCCT)	PROFEEDbook vol 7: Business development, SMEs, Entrepreneurship and competitiveness COST CA20112, 2024

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
Dr. Zvi Weinstein: Implementing Circular Economy Policy In "Cycle" Enterprise	Israel	Sustainability	Enterprise sustainability	Qualitative	Field study	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
Dr.In Petra Biberhofer, Mag.A Alette Dörflinger, Prof. Dr. Christian Pohl, Dr. Uwe Von Ahsen: REFLECTIONS ON THE #CONNECTINGMINDS PROGRAMME OF THE AUSTRIAN SCIENCE FUND FWF: KEY LEARNINGS IN COMPETENCE BUILDING ON TRANSDISCIPLINARITY	Austria	Innovation	Transdisciplinarity and competence development in research funding	Qualitative	Reflective analysis, case documentation, qualitative feedback	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Eda Orhun: Bibliometric Analysis Of Circular Economy And Digitalization	Global	Sustainability	Circular economy	Quantitative	Bibliometric review	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
Eduardo Medeiros, Oto Potluka: Governance Indicators for the NEB	Europe	Social inclusion	Social inclusiveness in NEB	Quantitative	Matrix framework proposal	PROFEEDbook vol 5: Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies I., COST CA20112, 2024
Eduardo Medeiros: Using The Impact Web GIS Platform	Portugal	Sustainability	GIS for impact assessment	Quantitative	Web-based GIS analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 3: Evaluation on Rural and Territorial Development, Urban Development, COST CA20112, 2023
Eglantina Dervishi, Arjana Mucaj, Albana Canollari-Baze, Miranda Mansaku: Breaking The Silence: Investigating Segregation And Discrimination In Education For Minority Youth In Albania	Albania	Education	Minority youth and education	Qualitative	focus group	PROFEEDbook vol 5: Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies I., COST CA20112, 2024

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
Eglantina Dervishi, Arjana Mucaj, Albana Canollari-Baze, Miranda Mansaku: Breaking The Silence: Investigating Segregation And Discrimination In Education For Minority Youth In Albania	Albania	Education and Youth	Investigating segregation and discrimination in education	Qualitative	Focus group	PROFEEDbook vol 6: Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies II., COST CA20112, 2024
Eglantina Dervishi, Arjana Mucaj, Albana Canollari-Baze, Miranda Mansaku: Enhancing Employment Opportunities For Autistic Individuals Through Assistive Technology And Inclusive Practices	Albania	Social inclusion	Disability employment inclusion	Qualitative	Literature review and CRPD framework	PROFEEDbook vol 7: Business development, SMEs, Entrepreneurship and competitiveness COST CA20112, 2024
Eglantina Dervishi, Fatjona Qeti: The impact of internet addiction and social isolation on well-being among youth	Albania	Youth	Internet behaviours, well-being and negative effects of internet addiction, social isolation	Quantitative	Surveys, Online questionnaire	PROFEEDbook vol 10: Shaping the Future: Evaluating Programs and Policies in Public Education and Youth Development, COST CA20112, 2024
Elena Jovičić, Nevena Jolović: China's Green Finance Development: Perspectives And Challenges	China	Sustainability	Green finance	Qualitative	literature review	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
Elena Răilean: The Impact Of Covid19 In Regard With The Quality Of Life	Romania	Health	Pandemic and wellbeing	Quantitative	Impact analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 5: Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies I., COST CA20112, 2024
Elisabetta Venezia: Regional Development Policies: The Transport Sector Role	Italy	Transport	Transport and regional development	Mixed method	Mixed methods, Theory-based, Counterfactual analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 3: Evaluation on Rural and Territorial Development, Urban Development, COST CA20112, 2023

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
Elisabetta Venezia: Urban Travel Behaviour And Sustainability: A New Culture For Long-Term Solutions	Italy	Regional development	Mobility and sustainability	Qualitative	Urban planning review	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
Elizabeth Koier, Yvonne Lisman-Van Leeuwen: WHAT WE LEARNED FROM 6 YEARS OF MODERN RESEARCH ASSESSMENT	Netherlands	Research,	Assessment of Academic and Research in the University Medical Center Groningen	Mixed method	survey, focus groups	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Ema Brunovská: Who is Missing? Inclusion through the eyes of youth	Slovakia	Youth	Policy reform for marginalized young people for social inclusion	Participatory	case study, qualitative and quantitative survey	PROFEEDbook vol 10: Shaping the Future: Evaluating Programs and Policies in Public Education and Youth Development, COST CA20112, 2024
Emanuela Reale, Andrea Vargiu, Andrea Orazio Spinello, Valentina Ghibellini: Assessing Transformative Community Engagement Open Issues And Challenges	Italy	Innovation	Community engagement in transformative research		Case study, conceptual analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Emily Lalonde, Matthias Egger: Evaluating The Transformative Outcomes Of The Ocean Cleanup's River Projects	Global	Sustainability	Impact evaluation of environmental innovation projects	Qualitative	Case study, impact framework application	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Emmanouil Sofos, Aikaterini Tsakmakidou: Immigrants' Inclusion, Adult Education	Greece	Education	Inclusion through adult education	Qualitative	Policy analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 2: Evaluation of Policies on Social Inclusion, Migration, in particular interventions related to integration, COST CA20112, 2022
Eriada Çela: Evaluating Rural Development Through The Lenses Of Gender Equality Projects	Albania	Regional development	Gender and rural development	Qualitative	Evaluation of equality-focused interventions	PROFEEDbook vol 3: Evaluation on Rural and Territorial Development, Urban Development, COST CA20112, 2023

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
Erik Arnold, Tomas Åström: Can Old Dogs Learn Transitional Tricks?	European Union	Policy	Evaluating transition strategies in legacy institutions	Qualitative	Policy evaluation, institutional review	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Erik Canton: A Portfolio Approach To Research Funding	Europe	Innovation and Research	R&I Funding	Qualitative	Literature review	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Erika Hajdu, Dr Giovanna Lima, Dr Stefan De Jong: DESIGNING A THEORY OF CHANGE IN LESS THAN AN HOUR	General/Europe	Innovation	Practical application of Theory of Change (ToC) in evaluation workshops	Participatory	Workshop-based ToC development, participatory methods	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Eriona Shtembari, Dr. Irisi Kasapi: What Motivates Women To Start A New Venture?	Albania	Entrepreneurship	Women entrepreneurship	Qualitative	Qualitative interviews	PROFEEDbook vol 7: Business development, SMEs, Entrepreneurship and competitiveness COST CA20112, 2024
Eriona Shtembari, Eda Koni: Youth unemployment and education in Albania	Albania	Youth	Exploratory research about youth labour market and youth unemployment	Quantitative	Data analysing, data triangulation	PROFEEDbook vol 10: Shaping the Future: Evaluating Programs and Policies in Public Education and Youth Development, COST CA20112, 2024
Eriona Shtëmbari: Employment Policies To Overcome Demographic Changes In The Balkans	Balkans	Social inclusion	Demographic transition and employment	Qualitative	Comparative policy analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 3: Evaluation on Rural and Territorial Development, Urban Development, COST CA20112, 2023
Etem Karakaya, Sedat Alataş, Burcu Hiçyılmaz: The Rebound Effect Of Resource Efficiency For The EU and Its Major Trading Partners: A Stochastic Frontier Analysis	Europe	Sustainability	Efficiency and environmental trade-offs	Quantitative	Stochastic frontier analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
FATIMA CASTRO MOREIRA, BÁRBARA MAGALHÃES: The Portuguese Special Protection Regime	Portugal	Social inclusion	Special protection for migrants	Qualitative	Legal and policy evaluation	PROFEEDbook vol 2: Evaluation of Policies on Social Inclusion, Migration, in particular interventions related to integration, COST CA20112, 2022
Ferlanda Luna, Rosmel Rodríguez Barroso: Urban Vulnerabilities And The Climate Crisis	Cities of global south	Regional development	Urban climate vulnerabilities	Qualitative	Qualitative urban field analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 3: Evaluation on Rural and Territorial Development, Urban Development, COST CA20112, 2023
Ferlanda Luna: Democracy, Capitalism And Inequalities: Public Housing Finance Policies In Brazil And Chile	Brazil and Chile	Social inclusion	Public housing policy	Qualitative	Comparative case study	PROFEEDbook vol 5: Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies I., COST CA20112, 2024
Ferlanda Luna: Eyes And Voices On The Street: Marginalized Communities And The Climate Crisis	Brazil	Social inclusion	Urban climate justice and resilience	Qualitative	Ethnographic study	PROFEEDbook vol 8: Participation in evaluation, participatory evaluation, COST CA20112, 2024
Florence Benoit, Erik Canton, Valentina Di Girolamo, Dario Diodato, Julien Ravet.: Why Complexity Is Key To Assess EU R&I Policy	multiple	Innovation	R&I policy complexity	Qualitative	Complex systems evaluation	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Florence Benoit, Erik Canton, Valentina Di Girolamo, Dario Diodato, Julien Ravet: Why Complexity Is Key To Assess Eu R&I Policy	European Union	Innovation	Complexity in research and innovation policy evaluation	Qualitative	Complex systems analysis, policy evaluation	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Florentine Frantz, Tobias Dudenboste, Philipp Aiginger-Evangelisti: Challenges Of Accompanying Cycles Of Learning	Austria	Education	Evaluation challenges in continuous policy learning cycles	Qualitative	Conceptual analysis, case synthesis	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
Florian Bayer: Valuing Research In Ssh Fields: How Ssh Scholars Value Research And Publication Practices In The Face Of Epistemic Capitalism	Austria	Innovation	Valuation practices of Social Sciences and Humanities scholars	Qualitative	Qualitative interviews, thematic analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Florian Wittmann, Sarah Seus, Valentin Wagner: Development Of An Impact-Oriented Monitoring System For A Research Funding Organisation	Germany	Policy	Developing impact monitoring systems for funding agencies	Qualitative	Monitoring framework design, expert consultation	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Francesco Cappellano, Francesco Molica: Evaluating Regional Smart Specialization Against The Mission-Oriented Approach	Europe	Governance	Transformative innovation	Quantitative	Indicators and metrics framework	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Gábor Jakab, András Varró: Sustainable Performance Framework Index (Spfi)	Hungary	Sustainability	Sustainability indicator framework	Quantitative	Composite index design	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
Gábor Jakab, Tamás Szabó, András Varró: Macroeconomic Impacts Of The 'Fit For 55' Package	Hungary	Sustainability	Macroeconomic modelling of EU Green Deal	Quantitative	CGE modelling, counterfactual simulation	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
Gabriel Falcini Dos Santos, Sergio Luiz Monteiro Salles-Filho, Ana Carolina Spatti: CONNECTING UNIVERSITY, RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS AND INDUSTRY	Brazil	Innovation	Impact evaluation of Embrapii model linking research organisations and industry	Mixed methods	Impact evaluation, input-output analysis, cost-benefit analysis, surveys, interviews	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Gabriel Okasa, Michaela Strinzel, Anne Jorstad, Katrin Milzow, Matthias Egger, Alberto De León, Stefan, Müller: UNDERSTANDING GRANT PEER REVIEW USING MACHINE LEARNING	Switzerland	Research	Evaluation of grant peer review process	Mixed method	Machine Learning, Qualitative coding. Sentiment analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
Gabrijela Popović, Aleksandra Fedajev, Dragiša Stanujkić: The Mcdm-Based Assessment Of Solutions For Transition To Sustainable Industry 4.0	Serbia	Sustainability	Sustainable industry	Quantitative	Multi-criteria decision making (MCDM)	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
Gaston Heimeriks, Anna J. Wiczorek, Orlando Martin, Vazquez Villegas, Oscar Yandy Romero-Goyeneche, Jonas Torrens, Anna Shindler: Transformative Research At Technical Universities	International	Innovation	Transformative capacity in technical university research	Qualitative	Comparative case studies, interviews, framework application	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Georg Mildenberger, Achim Oberg, Maria Rabadjieva, Elisa Sauerbier, Judith Terstriep, Dominika Wruk, Filip Zieliński: Evaluating Impacts Of Social Innovations With Field-Specific Models	Various (European context)	Innovation	Field-specific approaches to social innovation impact evaluation	Qualitative	Field-specific modelling, comparative case studies	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Gergely Bogdán: Assessing The Financial Sustainability Of Municipalities In Hungary	Hungary	Finance	Municipal finance	Quantitative	Indicator-based financial assessment	PROFEEDbook vol 3: Evaluation on Rural and Territorial Development, Urban Development, COST CA20112, 2023
Grozdana Marinković: ESG Performance In Serbian Real Sector	Serbia	Sustainability	Sustainability reporting	Quantitative	ESG indicator analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
GUIDO TRAFICANTE, YLENIA CARUSO: Evaluation Of Single Permit Directive (2011/98/EU Directive)	Europe	Social inclusion	Evaluation of Directive on migrants' work and residence	Qualitative	Legal and policy analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 2: Evaluation of Policies on Social Inclusion, Migration, in particular interventions related to integration, COST CA20112, 2022

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
Hanife Akar, Sedef Akgüngör: Evidence-based skill mismatch and job mismatch to transform educational systems for inclusive adult learning	OECD countries	Education	Inclusive lifelong learning and adult skills development to address labour market mismatches across economies	Qualitative	Survey research	PROFEEDbook vol 10: Shaping the Future: Evaluating Programs and Policies in Public Education and Youth Development, COST CA20112, 2024
HANIFE AKAR, SEDEF AKGÜNGÖR: Immigrant Students In Türkiye	Turkey	Social inclusion	Social inclusion and academic performance of immigrant students	Mixed method	Mixed-method: PISA 2018 data + meta-synthesis	PROFEEDbook vol 2: Evaluation of Policies on Social Inclusion, Migration, in particular interventions related to integration, COST CA20112, 2022
Hendrik Berghäuser: Combining Excellence And Societal Impact In Research Assessment: Do Change Agent Qualities Make A Difference?	Germany / Developing and emerging countries	Innovation	Balancing scientific excellence and societal impact in research fellowships	Participatory	Triangulation: participant observation, interviews, online surveys, bibliometric control group	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Hendrik Berghäuser: Combining Excellence And Societal Impact In Research Assessment: Do Change Agent Qualities Make A Difference?	Germany	Governance	Research excellence and societal impact	Mixed method	Mixed-methods, surveys, interviews	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Hendrik Berghäuser: Evaluating A Moving Target: Insights From The Ongoing Evaluation Of The Federal Agency For Disruptive Innovation In Germany (Sprind GmbH)	Germany	Innovation	Evaluation of a federal innovation agency	Mixed method	Ongoing evaluation, mixed methods	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Igor Oliveira, Bianca Cavicchi: Assessing R&I Policy For Transformative Change With System Dynamics	Brazil / Italy	Innovation	System dynamics in R&I policy evaluation for transformative change	Qualitative	System dynamics modelling, policy analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
Ileana-Sabina Chiaburu: Internal Evaluation System In Romanian Public Procurement	Romania	Governance	Public procurement evaluation	Qualitative	Institutional analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 1: Evaluation of public policy responses to black swans, COST CA20112, 2022
Ileana-Sabina Chiaburu: Systemic Evaluation Of Public Procurement Applying Transdisciplinary Lens	Romania	Governance	Systemic evaluation and public procurement	Mixed method	Mixed-methods, stakeholder interviews, SPSS, Vensim	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
Ioanna Grypari, Dimitris Pappas, Haris Papageorgiou: Advancing Research Impact Evaluation In The Digital Era: Insights From Eufunded Rare Disease Projects	Europe	Health and Research	Evaluation of Eu rare disease project	Quantitative	Natural Language Processing (NLP), Big Data	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Irina Lonean: Youth Centres Impact On Young People Transitions During COVID-19 Pandemic	Romania	Youth	Youth policy during crisis	Qualitative	Process tracing, qualitative tools	PROFEEDbook vol 1: Evaluation of public policy responses to black swans, COST CA20112, 2022
Irina Lonean: Evaluation Of Educational Programmes Supporting Children At Risk Of Poverty, Social Exclusion, And Dropout	Romania	Social inclusion	Child poverty and education	Qualitative	Policy evaluation+ interviews	PROFEEDbook vol 5: Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies I., COST CA20112, 2024
Irina Lonean: Evaluation of the EU youth dialogue	Belgium	Youth	Youth thoughts and opinions about EU policy making	Qualitative	Interviews, document analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 10: Shaping the Future: Evaluating Programs and Policies in Public Education and Youth Development, COST CA20112, 2024

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
IRINA LONEAN: Non-Discrimination In Romania	Romania	Social inclusion	Anti-discrimination policy evaluation	Qualitative	Legal/policy review	PROFEEDbook vol 2: Evaluation of Policies on Social Inclusion, Migration, in particular interventions related to integration, COST CA20112, 2022
Isidora Beraha, Nikola Vasilić: The Dynamic Interrelationship Between Research Output In The Energy Field And Carbon Dioxide Emission: Empirical Evidence From G7 Countries	G7 countries	Sustainability	Energy research and emissions	Quantitative	Empirical correlation analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
Ivan Nikolić: Why EWSs Of Financial Crisis Failed During The Covid Pandemic	Serbia	Governance	Early warning systems & decision-making	Quantitative	Comparative crisis analysis, statistical system overview	PROFEEDbook vol 1: Evaluation of public policy responses to black swans, COST CA20112, 2022
Ivan Nikolić: Why Do Regional Disparities Persist In Serbia?	Serbia	Regional development	Regional disparities	Quantitative	Panel data, RE model	PROFEEDbook vol 3: Evaluation on Rural and Territorial Development, Urban Development, COST CA20112, 2023
IVANA DJURIC: Croatia And The EU's Migrant Integration Policy	Croatia	Social inclusion	Integration policy of EU and Croatia	Qualitative	Policy analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 2: Evaluation of Policies on Social Inclusion, Migration, in particular interventions related to integration, COST CA20112, 2022
Ivana Studená, Miroslav Štefánik: Adult Learning Policies In Slovakia	Slovakia	Employment	Adult learning and accessibility	Qualitative	Counterfactual analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 3: Evaluation on Rural and Territorial Development, Urban Development, COST CA20112, 2023

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
Jakob Kofler, Jelena Angelis, Elina Griniece, Matthijs Janssen, Peter Kaufmann, Alasdair Reid, Harald Wieser: How Are The Eu Missions Achieving Their Goals? A Theory Of Change Assessment Of Scaling Processes	European Union	Policy	Assessment of EU Missions and their scalability using theory of change	Qualitative	Documentary analysis, interviews, theory of change development	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Janne Pölönen, Reetta Muhonen, Mira Söderman, Maria Pietila, Tiina Sipola, Laura Niemi, Anna-Kaisa Hyrkkänen: Researchers' Views On Diversity Of Career Assessment Criteria In Finland	Finland	Innovation	Career assessment criteria and diversity in academic evaluation	Quantitative	Survey research, statistical analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Jaqueline Damasceno, Fabiana Saddi, Stephen Peckham, Germano Coelho, Maria Barretos, Mariana Andrade, Alexandra Emanuela Novais, Gabriela Alves, Cristiane Lemos: Bridging The Gap: How Can We Use A Qualitative Synthesis Evaluation To Assess The Relationship Between Health System Strengthening And Policy And Performance Drivers?	Brazil	Health	Health policy evaluation	Qualitative	Qualitative synthesis evaluation	PROFEEDbook vol 6: Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies II., COST CA20112, 2024
Jaqueline Damasceno: Economic Crises And Health Equity: A Microdata Study Using Adept Software For The Brazilian Case Between 1998 And 2019	Brazil	Health	Economic crises and health	Quantitative	Microdata evaluation using ADEPT	PROFEEDbook vol 5: Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies I., COST CA20112, 2024

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
JAROSLAV DVORAK, GALYNA MISHENINA: Transformation Of Budgeting Technologies	Lithuania, Ukraine	Governance	Public finance and budgeting	Qualitative	Qualitative expert assessment +	PROFEEDbook vol 2: Evaluation of Policies on Social Inclusion, Migration, in particular interventions related to integration, COST CA20112, 2022
Jaroslav Dvorak, Valentina Burkšienė: The Impact Of Climate Change On Nonprofits Themselves: A Review Of Literature.	Lithuania	Social inclusion	Nonprofits and climate risk	Qualitative	Literature review	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
Jaroslav Dvorak: Implementation Of The COVID-19 Anti-Crisis Policy In Lithuania	Lithuania	Governance	Administrative response to crisis	Qualitative	Semi-structured interviews, narrative methods	PROFEEDbook vol 1: Evaluation of public policy responses to black swans, COST CA20112, 2022
Jelena Banović, Aleksandra Bradić-Martinović: The Digital Pathway To Sustainable Development: The Role Of ICT Skills	Serbia	Digital	ICT and sustainability	Qualitative	Literature review	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
Jiří Vyhlídal, Blanka Plasová: Diagnostic Decisions Of Frontline Workers In The Activation Of The Unemployed	Czech Republic	Employment	Frontline workers in unemployment services	Quantitative	Factorial survey experiment	PROFEEDbook vol 5: Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies I., COST CA20112, 2024
Jiří Vyhlídal: Activation Programmes And The Hiring Decision-Making Process	Czech Republic	Employment	Labour integration market	Quantitative	Survey-based decision modelling	PROFEEDbook vol 3: Evaluation on Rural and Territorial Development, Urban Development, COST CA20112, 2023

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
João Rocha Gomes, Rodrigo Valdoeiros E Silva: LEVERAGING PARTICIPATORY METHODS FOR EVALUATING DIGITAL HEALTH INTERVENTIONS: A CASE STUDY APPROACH	Portugal	Health	Digital health and stakeholder engagement	Qualitative	Mixed methods: interviews, focus groups, case studies	PROFEEDbook vol 8: Participation in evaluation, participatory evaluation, COST CA20112, 2024
João Rocha-Gomes, Mário Amorim-Lopes, Judite Gonçalves, Pedro S. Martins: What Is (Behind) The Gender Gap In Sickness Benefits? Evidence From Administrative Data	Portugal	Social inclusion	Gender inequality in welfare	Quantitative	Administrative data analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 5: Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies I., COST CA20112, 2024
Jon Mikel Zabala Iturriagagoitia, Stephanie Francis Grimbert, Juan Carlos Salazar Elena: Measuring Public Procurement For Innovation In Europe	Europe	Innovation	Measurement of public procurement for innovation	Quantitative	Natural Language Processing (NLP) and machine learning	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Jonathan Dudek, Jeroen Van Honk, Isabel Basson, Carole De Bordes, Ismael Rafols, Rodrigo Costas: Funding Flows In Africa From Foreign Sources: Topics, Dependencies And Implications	Africa	Research	Analysis of research funding	Quantitative	Quantitative mapping and descriptive statistical analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Julia Melkers, Nicolas Robinson-Garcia, Luyu Du: They Collaborate, But Do They “Co-Produce?” Examining Academic Scientists’ Collaborative Patterns With Non-academic	Global	Innovation	Collaboration and co-production between academics and non-academics	Quantitative	Bibliometric analysis, survey research	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Jürgen Janger, Kathrin Hofmann, Martin Unger, Michael Ploder, Angelika Sauer: Evaluating The Economic And Societal Impact Of Grant-Funded Basic Research In Austria	Austria	Innovation	Impact evaluation of basic research funding	Quantitative	Econometric analysis, indicator development, stakeholder interviews	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
KATALIN BÖRDÖS: Needs In Hungary: A Summary On The Evaluations Of Policies And Challenges	Hungary	Youth	Youth unemployment and NEETs	Quantitative	impact evaluation	PROFEEDbook vol 2: Evaluation of Policies on Social Inclusion, Migration, in particular interventions related to integration, COST CA20112, 2022
Katarína Cavojská: Unaccompanied minors in Slovakia: A challenge for the Slovak care system	Slovakia	Social inclusion	Evaluation of Slovak care system for UAM and people with disabilities	Qualitative	Desk research, interviews, focus groups	PROFEEDbook vol 10: Shaping the Future: Evaluating Programs and Policies in Public Education and Youth Development, COST CA20112, 2024
Katharina Warta, Michael Stampfer: A Science Funding Organisation, A Severe Societal Crisis, And A Very Rapid Response	Austria	Innovation	Crisis response and evaluation in science funding	Qualitative	Case-based policy analysis, organizational review	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Kathleen Toepel: Unveiling Innovation: Using Innovation Biographies In Evaluation Practice: A Reflection	Germany	Innovation	Reconstructing impact pathways in evaluation practice	Qualitative	innovation biographies	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Kathrin Hofmann: University Research Performance: All 'Bout The Money?	Germany	Innovation	University funding and performance evaluation	Quantitative	Quantitative funding data analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Khrais Tala: Evaluation Of The Empowering Women For Leadership Roles Project In Jordan Using The Most Significant Change (Msc)	Jordan	Social inclusion	Women's leadership and evaluation	Qualitative	Most Significant Change (MSC) methodology	PROFEEDbook vol 5: Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies I., COST CA20112, 2024
Klaus Schuch, Olga Bolibok: Fp10 - A Field Of Tension Between Openness To Research And Strategic Directionality	German	Innovation	Assessment of R&I sector in Germany	Mixed method	Surveys, Interviews,	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
Kosovka Ognjenović, Mihajlo Đukić: Assessing Economic And Social Policies' Responses To COVID-19	Serbia	Finance	Evaluation of fiscal and social COVID-19 measures	Qualitative	Problem-solution tree, inventory analysis, survey and expert-based	PROFEEDbook vol 1: Evaluation of public policy responses to black swans, COST CA20112, 2022
Kosovka Ognjenović: Exploratory Study On The Entrepreneurial Intentions Of Students And Active Entrepreneurs In Cee Countries	CEE countries	Entrepreneurship	Entrepreneurial ecosystems and youth entrepreneurship	Quantitative	Survey, structural equation modelling	PROFEEDbook vol 7: Business development, SMEs, Entrepreneurship and competitiveness COST CA20112, 2024
Kristina Masevičiūtė: The Evolution And Future Directions Of Lithuania's Research Performance Assessment System: A Case Study	Lithuania	Innovation	Evolution of national research performance evaluation system	Qualitative	Case study, system analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Lasse Bundgaard, Mireille Matt, Matthias Weber: Comparing Turning Points: A Tool To Assess Urban Transformations	France / Austria	Regional development	Tool for assessing turning points in urban transformations	Qualitative	Comparative case studies, framework application	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Lazar Mičić: Economics And Regulation Of Obtaining Energy From Biomass In The Countries Of European Union And Serbia.	Serbia	Sustainability	Biomass energy policy	Qualitative	Regulatory and economic analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
Lena Pfeifer: Unfolding Societal Impact: Application Of The Systemic Research Impact Assessment Framework For The Development Of A Formative Ex Ante Approach	Germany	Innovation	Systemic framework for societal impact assessment	Qualitative	Formative evaluation, impact framework	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Lena Tsipouri, Maria D. Argyrou: Procurement Of Innovation As Smart Specialization Tool Enhancing The Ce: Evidence From Greece.	Greece	Governance	Innovation procurement	Qualitative	Policy evaluation	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
Lena Tsipouri, Sofia Liarti, Dimitris Pappas, Nikos Maroulis, Haris Papageorgiou: Evaluating The Rtdi Systems Of Widening Countries	Greece	Research	Assessing RTD systems and policies	Mixed method	Mixed-methods evaluation approach	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Leonie Dworsky, David Pipke, Juliet Tschank: Short-term results and long-term lessons: Evidence from the raise-up pilot to prevent early school leaving in Italian vet	Italy	Education	Addressing early school leaving in VET schools: the raise-up intervention	Mixed method	Survey	PROFEEDbook vol 10: Shaping the Future: Evaluating Programs and Policies in Public Education and Youth Development, COST CA20112, 2024
Leonie Van Drooge, Niki Vermeulen: EVALUATING THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIETAL IMPACT OF GRANT-FUNDED BASIC RESEARCH IN AUSTRIA	Austria	Innovation	Perspective on societal and economic value from basic research	Qualitative	Qualitative research, policy reflection	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Lisa Neusel, Simon Hirzel: Energy And Resource Efficiency In The Economy: The Evaluation Of Germany's Largest Industrial Funding Programme Using Mixed-Methods	Germany	Economy	Resource efficiency in the economy	Mixed method	Impact evaluation, policy evaluation	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Lluís Rovira, Ferran Lavall: A Proved Methodology For The Performance Assessment Of Research Institutes	Spain	Innovation	Performance assessment methodology for research institutes	Qualitative	Benchmarking, framework testing, indicator analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Lottie Provost, Giulia Malaguernara, Zenia Xenou, Angeliki Tzouganatou: Reframing Research Assessment: Towards A Comprehensive Framework For Researcher Profiles	Europe	Innovation	Development of inclusive frameworks for assessing researchers	Qualitative	Framework development, literature review, stakeholder input	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Louise Kragh: The Dual Nature Of Research Evaluation	Denmark	Governance	Evaluation theory	Qualitative	Narrative and reflexive review	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
Luca Koltai, Nóra Teller: Evaluation Of The "Focus On The Child" Programme In Hungary	Hungary	Social inclusion	Child-centred evaluation	Mixed method	interviews + quantitative data analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 5: Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies I., COST CA20112, 2024
Luca Koltai, Tamás Szabó, Kinga Tóth: Social Enterprises In Hungary	Hungary	Entrepreneurship	Impact of subsidies on social enterprises	Quantitative	Survey, interviews, document analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 2: Evaluation of Policies on Social Inclusion, Migration, in particular interventions related to integration, COST CA20112, 2022
Luca Koltai: COVID-19 And Female Entrepreneurs Throughout Europe	Europe	Economy	Gendered economic resilience	Quantitative	Data analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 1: Evaluation of public policy responses to black swans, COST CA20112, 2022
Lucia Kováčová, Lucia Mýtna Kureková, Miroslav Štefánik: Gaps Between Roma And Non-Roma Job-Seekers	Slovakia	Employment	Employment inequality	Mixed method	Comparative statistical analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 3: Evaluation on Rural and Territorial Development, Urban Development, COST CA20112, 2023
Magdalena Wicher: Moving Beyond Cycles Of Fund And Forget – Research And Innovation Governance Bridging The Gaps In Translation From Policy Design To Practice	European Union	Innovation	Bridging policy design and implementation in R&I governance	Qualitative	Policy analysis, institutional gap assessment	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Maria Coelho, Natacha Goncalves: Around conversations project: Civic participation as a strategy for promoting young people's mental health	Global	Youth	Promote the importance of mental health and well-being among young people	Quantitative	Questionnaires, Data analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 10: Shaping the Future: Evaluating Programs and Policies in Public Education and Youth Development, COST CA20112, 2024

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
Maria Emília Teixeira: Financial Inclusion: Fintech	Portugal	Finance	Fintech and financial inclusion	Qualitative	Literature review, comparative analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 2: Evaluation of Policies on Social Inclusion, Migration, in particular interventions related to integration, COST CA20112, 2022
Maria Jeliaskova, Douhomir Minev, Veneta Krasteva: (Im)Possibilities For A Just Green Transition In Bulgaria	Bulgaria	Sustainability	Just transition and social equity	Qualitative	Case study	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
Maria-Ascensión Barajas, Marina Onetti, Stefanie Schuerz: Evaluating Social Impact Of R&D Public Programmes: A Participatory Approach	Spain / Austria	Innovation	Evaluation of social impact in public R&D using participatory methods	Participatory	Participatory evaluation, stakeholder engagement	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Marko Jeločnik, Jonel Subić, Zorica Vasiljević: Supporting Programs For The Development Of Cooperatives	Serbia	Entrepreneurship	Cooperative support programmes	Qualitative	Desk research + programme evaluation	PROFEEDbook vol 3: Evaluation on Rural and Territorial Development, Urban Development, COST CA20112, 2023
Marko Miljković: 'Green' Energy In 'Red' Yugoslavia: The Failure Of Renewable Energy In Yugoslavia Between The 1960s And 1980s	Yugoslavia	Sustainability	History of renewable policy	Qualitative	Historical policy review	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
Markus Vogl, Holger Scheffler: Critical Success Factors, Sustainability And Climate Change: Hybrid Flood Protection And Drinking Water Supply In A German Water Association	Germany	Sustainability	Water security and climate change	Qualitative	Case study	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
Markus Vogl, Milena Kojić: Green Bond Predictions With Wavelet-Neural-Network	Bond market	Sustainability	Green finance forecasting	Quantitative	Neural network modeling	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
Mart Laatsit, Magnus Nilsson, Asa Lindholm Dahlstrand: Capturing The System-Level Effects Of Innovation Policy	Sweden	Innovation	Innovation systems	Qualitative	System-level analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Mart Laatsit, Markus Grillitsch, Harald Rohrer: Assessing The Transformative Potential Of Policy Instruments: The Case Of Sweden	Sweden	Innovation	Transformative potential of innovation policy instruments	Qualitative	Case study analysis, conceptual frameworks	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Marta de Oliveira Rodrigues, Ana Carvalho, Armando Loureiro: Atypical academic pathways: Addressing educational challenges in Portugal	Portugal	Education	Socio-Educational Programs and Academic Pathways of at-risk students in Portugal	Mixed method	Interviews, data analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 10: Shaping the Future: Evaluating Programs and Policies in Public Education and Youth Development, COST CA20112, 2024
Martina Kubíková: Assessing Digitalisation: A Rural Stakeholder Engagement Approach	Czech Republic	Regional development	Digitalisation in rural regions	Qualitative	Stakeholder interviews, participatory evaluation	PROFEEDbook vol 8: Participation in evaluation, participatory evaluation, COST CA20112, 2024
Matteo Moscatelli, Elisabetta Carrà: Multifaceted Family Impact Analysis In Italy: Countering Inequalities By Creating Family Impact Checklists To Help Professionals "Think Family"	Italy	Social inclusion	Family-sensitive policymaking	Quantitative	Checklist development and pilot	PROFEEDbook vol 5: Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies I., COST CA20112, 2024
Matteo Moscatelli, Nicoletta Pavesi, Elisabetta Carrà: Evaluating The Importance Of Families Wellbeing For Local Welfare Planning: A Case Study Of The Veneto Region Using The Participatory Familens© Approach	Italy	Social inclusion	Family wellbeing and participatory welfare planning	Qualitative	FamILens© approach, content analysis, surveys, expert validation	PROFEEDbook vol 8: Participation in evaluation, participatory evaluation, COST CA20112, 2024
Matthias Weber: Strategic Approaches To Future-Proof R&I Policy	Europe	Innovation	Evaluating and approaching the future of European R&I policy	Mixed method	scenario development, interviews, surveys	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
Matthijs Kallenbach, Matthijs J. Janssen: Evaluating The Role Of Policy In Transition Mechanisms: The Success Case Of The Electric Bus In The	Netherlands	Innovation	Policy's role in technological transition – electric bus case	Qualitative	Case study, policy analysis, system dynamics	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Meldina Kokorovic Jukan, Danijel Hopic, Jasmina Okicic: Impact evaluation of life skills curriculum implementation in primary schools in Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Education	Evaluating the life skills program in Bosnia and Herzegovina	Qualitative	Data collection, survey	PROFEEDbook vol 10: Shaping the Future: Evaluating Programs and Policies in Public Education and Youth Development, COST CA20112, 2024
Meldina Kokorović Jukan, Jasmina Okičić Džindo: Frameworks For Evaluating Government Subsidies	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Entrepreneurship	Impact evaluation of SME subsidies	Quantitative	Quasi-experimental: DID, PSM	PROFEEDbook vol 7: Business development, SMEs, Entrepreneurship and competitiveness COST CA20112, 2024
Meldina Kokorovic Jukan: Evaluation And "Dos And Don'ts" When Creating Social Cohesion Initiatives: The Case Of Social Cohesion Initiative In Bosnia And Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Social inclusion	Social cohesion and migration	Mixed method	literature review + case study	PROFEEDbook vol 5: Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies I., COST CA20112, 2024
Michael Dinges, Christiane Kerlen, Jakob Kofler, Kathleen Toepel: The Contribution Of R&I Programmes To The Green Transition And The Energy Transition: Evidence From Incorporating A Multi-Level-Perspective In Socio-Technical Transitions Research	Austria / Germany	Sustainability	Green and energy transition via R&I programs	Qualitative	Multi-level perspective, transitions research, case studies	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
Michael Dinges, Gaïtan Coatanroch, Christiane Kerlen, Kathleen Toepel, Vitaliy Soloviy: HORIZON EUROPE AND THE GREEN TRANSITION: EVALUATION EVIDENCE AND POLICY CONCLUSIONS	Europe	Digital and Sustainability	The Impact of European Green Deal via Horizon on Europe economic, societal, and industrial transformations towards a twin Green and Digital Transition.	Mixed method	Theory-based evaluation	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Michael Dinges, Klaus Schuch: Designing Tailored Impact Pathways For Mission-Oriented R&I Policies	Austria	Innovation	Mission R&I impact assessment	Qualitative	Pathway modelling	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Michael Ornetzeder, Steffen Bettin, Jakob Kofler, Michael Wedler, Harald Wieser: A Readiness Assessment Framework For Urban System Innovation	Global / UK	Innovation	Critique and reform of global university rankings	Qualitative	Policy analysis, institutional case studies, development of responsible assessment frameworks	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Mihaela Iorgulescu – Aioanei: Comparative Analysis Of The EU Competitive Sector Programmes In Turkey	Turkey	Economy	EU programme evaluation	Qualitative	Comparative analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 3: Evaluation on Rural and Territorial Development, Urban Development, COST CA20112, 2023
Mihajlo Djukic, Dejana Pavlovic, Dusko Bodroza: Review of the alcohol control policies and the alcohol consumption preferences among youth - European perspective	European Union	Youth	Exploratory research about alcohol consumption among youth	Quantitative	Desk research, comparative analysis, quantitative analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 10: Shaping the Future: Evaluating Programs and Policies in Public Education and Youth Development, COST CA20112, 2024
Mihajlo Djukic, Kosovka Ognjenovic: Assessment of the capacity of local youth offices for the implementation of YG in Serbia	Serbia	Youth	Strengthening Employability and education opportunities: Evaluating youth guarantee implementation at the local level in Serbia	Qualitative	Survey	PROFEEDbook vol 10: Shaping the Future: Evaluating Programs and Policies in Public Education and Youth Development, COST CA20112, 2024

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
Mihajlo Djukić, Marina Savković: Just Transition From The Local Socio-Economic Development Perspective – The Case Of 10 Municipalities In The Republic Of Serbia	Serbia	Sustainability	Socio-economic transition	Qualitative	Case study analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
Milica Kolaković-Bojović, Marina Matić Bošković: (Re)Defining The Rule Of Law Standards	Serbia	Governance	Rule of law post-pandemic	Qualitative	Policy and legal review	PROFEEDbook vol 1: Evaluation of public policy responses to black swans, COST CA20112, 2022
Mirela Cerkez: Evaluating For Extremistan And Mediocristan	Theoretical	Governance	Evaluation frameworks for high-uncertainty scenarios	Theoretical	Conceptual critique, evaluation theory	PROFEEDbook vol 1: Evaluation of public policy responses to black swans, COST CA20112, 2022
Mirela Tase: Labour Market In Albania And The Effectiveness Of Local Governance	Albania	Youth	School-to-work transition	Qualitative	Policy analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 3: Evaluation on Rural and Territorial Development, Urban Development, COST CA20112, 2023
Mirjana Miletić, Marija Mosurović Ružičić: Innovation Strategies For Improving Environmental Aspects Of Energy Efficiency.	Serbia	Sustainability	Energy efficiency and innovation	Qualitative	Qualitative policy analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
Miroslav Štefánik, Lukáš Lafférs: Locking In Or Pushing Out: The Caseworker Dilemma	Slovakia	Employment	Caseworker strategies	Quantitative	Behavioural economics approach	PROFEEDbook vol 3: Evaluation on Rural and Territorial Development, Urban Development, COST CA20112, 2023
Muhammad Asaduzzaman: District Health Information Software (Dhis2) For One Health Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance: Qualitative Evaluation Of the Feasibility And Acceptability	Ethiopia	Health	Platform Evaluation	Qualitative	key informant interviews	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
Muhammet Berigel, Gabriela Neagu, Gizem Dilan Boztas, Antonella Rocca: Clustering analysis of the youth guarantee program: Insight into NEET reduction across EU member states	European Union	Youth	Policy recommendations to strengthen Youth Guarantee's inclusion in education and employment	Quantitative	Analyse data, cluster analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 10: Shaping the Future: Evaluating Programs and Policies in Public Education and Youth Development, COST CA20112, 2024
Muradiye Ates, Dr. Seyithan Ahmet Ateş: How To Overcome “Middle Welfare Trap”: Leveraging Well-Being Through Social Innovation	Turkey	Social inclusion	Social innovation and wellbeing	Qualitative	Case analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 5: Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies I., COST CA20112, 2024
Muradiye Ates: Causes Of Failure Among Women’s Cooperatives	Turkey	Entrepreneurship	Women's cooperatives	Qualitative	Case study	PROFEEDbook vol 3: Evaluation on Rural and Territorial Development, Urban Development, COST CA20112, 2023
Muradiye Ateş: Mapping The Digital Entrepreneurship And Young Employment Bibliometric Review Using The Web Of Science (Wos) Database	Global	Youth	Youth employment and digitalization	Quantitative	Bibliometric analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 7: Business development, SMEs, Entrepreneurship and competitiveness COST CA20112, 2024
Muradiye Ates: Social Innovation And Social Entrepreneurship Ecosystem In Türkiye: Best Practices And Implications For Quality Of Life	Turkey	Entrepreneurship	Social enterprise and wellbeing	Qualitative	Best practices review	PROFEEDbook vol 5: Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies I., COST CA20112, 2024
Natasha Daniloska, Tatjana Petkovska Mirchevska, Diana Boshkovska: Implications Of Environmental Credence Attributes On Food Marketing	North Macedonia	Economy	Marketing and environmental labelling	Qualitative	Consumer behaviour study	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
Nazife Öztürk: Exploring social innovation: The role of community spaces in supporting youth mental health	European Union	Youth	Evaluating community spaces for youth mental health and social connectedness	Mixed method	Literature review, analyse youth programs, focus groups	PROFEEDbook vol 10: Shaping the Future: Evaluating Programs and Policies in Public Education and Youth Development, COST CA20112, 2024
Nevena Jolović, Elena-Alexandra Sinoi, Sonja Đuričin: GREEN Municipal Bonds Issuance: An Insight Into The Future Prospects Of Serbia And Romania	Serbia, Romania	Sustainability	Green bonds and municipal finance	Quantitative	Financial analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
Nikoleta Sláviková: Labour Migration Of Roma From The Perspective Of The Family	Slovakia	Employment	Roma labour migration	Qualitative	Qualitative family-centred analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 3: Evaluation on Rural and Territorial Development, Urban Development, COST CA20112, 2023
Nikolina Tošić, Marko Muhadinovic, Tijana Marinkovic, Isidora Berežni, Nemanja Stanisavljević: Contribution Of Biodegradable Waste Treatment To Circular Economy Policy.	Serbia	Sustainability	Waste management	Quantitative	Scenario analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
Nima E. Gorji, Mark Mirigian: Powder Recycling For Reducing The Price Of Additive Manufacturing Products And Reducing Metallic Waste Disposal To Environment	Ireland	Sustainability	Metal waste reduction	Quantitative	Technical analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
Nima E. Gorji: SOCIAL INCLUSION IN REMOTE TEAM-WORKING DURING COVID19: LESSONS LEARNED FROM MANAGERS AND WORKERS	Global	Employment	Remote work during COVID-19	Qualitative	Qualitative interviews	PROFEEDbook vol 5: Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies I., COST CA20112, 2024

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
Nima E. Groji: ADVANCING MONITORING AND EVALUATION IN TRANSFORMATIVE INNOVATION Policy: Insights From Eu Cohesion Projects	Europe	Research	Evaluating the monitoring and evaluating methods of EU Cohesion Funds	Mixed method	Mission-oriented monitoring and evaluation	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Nino Gogadze, Lasha Macharashvili: Towards Responsible Research Assessment: Insights From Post-Soviet Countries	Georgia	Research	Research Assessment	Mixed method	Case study, desk research, stakeholder-interviews, document analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Noémia Bessa Vilela, José Caramelo Gomes – The Limits Imposed By The TFEU When Facing A Health Crisis	Portugal	Governance	Legal constraints in pandemic responses	Qualitative	Legal doctrinal analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 1: Evaluation of public policy responses to black swans, COST CA20112, 2022
Noémia Bessa Vilela, Olesea Plotnic, Flavia Chencea, Anthony Murphy, Zan Jan Oplotnik: Climate Changed Laws, But How Can Laws Change The Climate?.	Europe	Sustainability	Climate legislation and policy effectiveness	Qualitative	Doctrinal and legal analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
NOÉMIA BESSA VILELA, VALENTYNA ROMANOVA: Ukraine's Social Inclusion Policies	Ukraine	Social inclusion	Inclusion of internally displaced persons	Qualitative	Comparative policy analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 2: Evaluation of Policies on Social Inclusion, Migration, in particular interventions related to integration, COST CA20112, 2022
Olha Krasovska: How To 'Clear Impact' Of Combined Authorities: The Case Of The UK	United Kingdom	Governance	Impact evaluation of combined authorities	Mixed method	Mixed methods, case study	PROFEEDbook vol 3: Evaluation on Rural and Territorial Development, Urban Development, COST CA20112, 2023
Olja Munitlak Ivanović: The Role Of Waste In The Linear And/Or Circular Economy Model	Serbia	Sustainability	Waste policy models	Qualitative	desk-research	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
Oto Potluka, Lenka Svecova, Lenka Mynarikova: Ehealth Technologies In Help To Improve Psychological Quality Of Life In Elderly People	Switzerland	Health	E-health impact on well-being	Mixed method	interview, survey, statistical analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 6: Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies II., COST CA20112, 2024
Oto Potluka, Lina Schubnell: Non-Profit Organizations And Territorial Cohesion	Switzerland	Regional development	NPOs and cohesion	Quantitative	PLS-SEM approach	PROFEEDbook vol 3: Evaluation on Rural and Territorial Development, Urban Development, COST CA20112, 2023
Oto Potluka, Ylva Norén Bretzer, Jaroslav Dvorak, Eva Bláhová, Ileana Sabina Chiaburu: Evaluation Of Quality Of Life Through The Lenses Of The SDGs	Europe	Social inclusion	SDG-based assessment QoL	Quantitative	Indicator-based framework	PROFEEDbook vol 5: Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies I., COST CA20112, 2024
Oto Potluka: Evaluation Of Ehealth Assistance In-Hospital Care For Improved Quality Of Life In Patients	Czech Republic	Health	eHealth for hospital patients during COVID	Quantitative	Randomized controlled trial (RCT), exclusion criteria, usability testing	PROFEEDbook vol 1: Evaluation of public policy responses to black swans, COST CA20112, 2022
Oto Potluka: The New European Bauhaus: A New Methodological Challenge For Evaluators	Switzerland	Regional development	Evaluation of aesthetics and sustainability	Qualitative	Case study analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
Paloma Martin, Doorenbos Pascale: 'Project Pathway To Impact' Versus 'Key Impact Pathways' In Horizon Europe Cluster 2	Europe	Innovation	Evaluation the Impact of Horizon Europe	Mixed method	Impact design, statistical analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Peter Kolarz: Inside The Funding Process	Austria	Research	Research funding	Qualitative	Systematic assessment by generative AI	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
Philipp Brugner, Neil Winn, Robert Kissack, Thomas Henökl: Transversal Impacts Of Cumulative Crises	Europe	Governance	Political opportunism and democratic institutions in black swan events	Theoretical	Theoretical analysis, social movement theory	PROFEEDbook vol 1: Evaluation of public policy responses to black swans, COST CA20112, 2022
Rahman Nurković: Potential Of Wind Energy In Bosnia And Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Sustainability	Wind energy development	Qualitative	Technical and regional analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
Rahman Nurković: Transformation Of Urban And Rural Areas In Bosnia And Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Regional development	Urban-rural transformation	Mixed method	Mixed methods: statistical, interviews, spatial analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 3: Evaluation on Rural and Territorial Development, Urban Development, COST CA20112, 2023
Rahmi Deniz Özbay, Hassan Syed, Klemens Katterbauer, Sema Yilmaz Genç: The Islamic Economy: Promoting Sustainable Development Goals Through Justice, Sustainability, Transparency, And Solidarity.	Global	Sustainability	Justice and sustainability in Islamic economics	Qualitative	Conceptual and policy analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
Renata Martins Pacheco , Vincent Caruana: Sustainable Evaluation Of Wildfire Policies For Ecosystem Resilience: A Holistic Approach	Portugal	Sustainability	Ecosystem resilience and wildfire policies	Qualitative	Survey with wildfire experts, TEEB framework	PROFEEDbook vol 8: Participation in evaluation, participatory evaluation, COST CA20112, 2024
Renée Van Dis, Mireille Matt, Allison Loconto: EVALUATING 'LEARNING AND EXPERIMENTAL SPACES': WHEN A TRADITIONAL APPROACH REACHES ITS LIMITS	France	Education	Evaluation of innovation spaces in policy contexts	Participatory	Case study, collaborative evaluation, stakeholder engagement	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Revaz Charkviani, Kartlos Karumidze: Evaluating the impact of youth work on emancipative values and democratic development in Estonia: A case study	Estonia	Youth	Implications of Participatory Evaluation for Youth policy and democratic program development in Europe	Qualitative	Semi-structured interviews	PROFEEDbook vol 10: Shaping the Future: Evaluating Programs and Policies in Public Education and Youth Development, COST CA20112, 2024

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
Robert Petraru, Mihaela Iorgulescu-Aioanei: Evaluation Methods, Policy Response To Black Swans	Multiple	Governance	Adequate methods for evaluating black swan events	Theoretical	Desk review, expert interviews	PROFEEDbook vol 1: Evaluation of public policy responses to black swans, COST CA20112, 2022
Robert Petraru: Assessment Of The Socio-Economic Impact Of The Covid-19 Pandemic On Children And Their Families, With A Focus On The Vulnerable Ones	Romania	Social inclusion	Pandemic effects on families	Quantitative	Impact analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 5: Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies I., COST CA20112, 2024
Robert Petraru: The Effect Of The Interventions Of The Human Capital Operational Programme	Romania	Social inclusion	Human capital programme impact	Quantitative	Counterfactual analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 3: Evaluation on Rural and Territorial Development, Urban Development, COST CA20112, 2023
Rosmel Rodriguez Barroso: Climate Justice And Urban Resilience: A Look At Venezuela's Favelas	Venezuela	Sustainability	Climate justice and favelas	Mixed method	case studies + literature reviews + policy analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 5: Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies I., COST CA20112, 2024
Rosmel Rodriguez Barroso, Ferlanda Luna: Local Powers And Cadastral Method For The Implementation Of The Sustainable Development Goals In The State Of Bahia: Brazil	Brazil	Sustainability	Local governance and SDGs	Qualitative	Territorial policy study	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
RUBÉN TAMBOLEO GARCÍA: The Transformation Of Social Policy In The City Of Madrid	Spain	Social inclusion	Urban social policy reform	Qualitative	Policy review	PROFEEDbook vol 2: Evaluation of Policies on Social Inclusion, Migration, in particular interventions related to integration, COST CA20112, 2022

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
Salome Dolidze: Evaluating municipal policies for NEET youth in Georgia	Georgia	Youth	Enhance participation in governance processes among youth people	Participatory	Mixed-methods, Systematic document analysis, focus groups discussions, in-depth interviews	PROFEEDbook vol 10: Shaping the Future: Evaluating Programs and Policies in Public Education and Youth Development, COST CA20112, 2024
Sanja Vojvodić, Amanda Domingos: Sustainability Criteria In Project Evaluations: Embedded Contradictions	Serbia, Brazil	Sustainability	Sustainability evaluation criteria	Theoretical	Framing method, literature review	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
Sanja Vojvodić: A Just Green Transition But For Whom?	Croatia	Sustainability	Social justice and green transition	Qualitative	Equity-focused evaluation	PROFEEDbook vol 3: Evaluation on Rural and Territorial Development, Urban Development, COST CA20112, 2023
Sanja Vojvodić: Evaluating Environmental Sustainability Through The Lens Of Positive Peace	Balkans	Sustainability	Evaluating environmental sustainability	Qualitative	Evaluation	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Sarah Seus, Florian Wittmann, Nele Weiblen: Exploring Unintended Consequences In Sti Evaluations And Monitoring	Germany	Policy	Identifying unintended effects in science, technology and innovation evaluations	Qualitative	Qualitative analysis, evaluation theory	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Sasho Josimovski, Lidija Pulevska-Ivanovska, Zoran Janevski, Tea Josimovska: Monitoring And Evaluation Tools Embedded In The Smart Specialization Strategy Of The Republic Of North Macedonia	North Macedonia	Innovation	Innovation policy evaluation	Quantitative	Three-axes evaluation approach	PROFEEDbook vol 7: Business development, SMEs, Entrepreneurship and competitiveness COST CA20112, 2024
Sedef Akgüngör, Dr. Hanife Akar: A Critical Discussion Of The Quality And Equity Of Ecosystems Policy For Enhancing Social Justice For The Future Of Children	Turkey	Youth and Social inclusion	Quality of ecosystems, social justice	Quantitative	Statistical analysis of data	PROFEEDbook vol 6: Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies II., COST CA20112, 2024

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
Sedef Akgüngör, Dr. Hanife Akar, Oto Potluka, Vriti Sharma: Integrating Entrepreneurial Competencies Into Education: A Comparative Analysis In Europe	Europe	Entrepreneurship	Entrepreneurship education	Quantitative	PISA analysis, 2022 cluster analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 7: Business development, SMEs, Entrepreneurship and competitiveness COST CA20112, 2024
Sedef Akgüngör, Hanife Akar: THE REFLECTIONS OF GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE POLICIES ON EDUCATION: ACROSS NATIONAL COMPARISON OF PISA RESULTS	Global	Education	Education and climate awareness	Quantitative	Cluster analysis using PISA 2018	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
Sema Yılmaz Genç, Rahmi Deniz Özbay: Exploring Perspectives On The Circular Economy: A Review Of Key Sources And Insights	Turkey	Sustainability	Circular economy review	Qualitative	Source review	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
Sema Yılmaz Genç: Resources Affecting The Development Of Sustainability Philosophy	Turkey	Sustainability	Sustainability philosophy	Qualitative	Literature review	PROFEEDbook vol 3: Evaluation on Rural and Territorial Development, Urban Development, COST CA20112, 2023
Semițar Nicolae: Risk Assessment In The Implementation Of The Strategic Framework For The Digitalization Of Social Services Within The Restart Social Assistance System Reform	Romania	Digital	Risk assessment in digital reforms	Qualitative	Strategic policy framework	PROFEEDbook vol 5: Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies I., COST CA20112, 2024
Serghei Sprincean: Public Policies For Strengthening Personal Safety And Human Security	Moldova	Security	Human security and safety	Qualitative	Policy analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 2: Evaluation of Policies on Social Inclusion, Migration, in particular interventions related to integration, COST CA20112, 2022
Sergio Barbosa: On The Urgency Of Digital Literacy Policies	Portugal	Digital	Digital literacy	Qualitative	Policy analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 3: Evaluation on Rural and Territorial Development, Urban Development, COST CA20112, 2023

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
Seyithan Ahmet Ates: Cross Sectoral Innovation As A Driver Of Local Development	Turkey	Innovation	Cross-sectoral innovation	Mixed method	Desk research, document analysis interviews	PROFEEDbook vol 3: Evaluation on Rural and Territorial Development, Urban Development, COST CA20112, 2023
Seyithan Ahmet Ates: Crowdfunding For Climate Change Mitigation: A SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW OF THE CROWDFUNDING PRACTICES TO FINANCE CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION	Turkey	Sustainability	Crowdfunding in climate action	Qualitative	Systematic literature review	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
Silvia Dobre, Andrew Plume: Sizing The Movement: The Trajectory Of Research Culture In The Uk	United Kingdom	Innovation	Cultural changes in UK research environments	Qualitative	Survey, qualitative interviews, historical analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Sîrbu Alexandrina, Pănoiu Laura, Ciochină Iuliana: Entrepreneurship Education	Romania	Entrepreneurship	Entrepreneurship education	Qualitative	Descriptive and policy overview	PROFEEDbook vol 3: Evaluation on Rural and Territorial Development, Urban Development, COST CA20112, 2023
Snezana Kostadinovska Miloska, Vladimir Petkovski: Influence Of Socio-Economic Conditions On Climate Changes In The Ohrid-Prespa Region In The Republic North Macedonia	North Macedonia	Regional development	Climate change and regional development	Quantitative	Regional socio-economic analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
Sónia Teixeira, Renata Pacheco: Artificial Intelligence as a policy evaluation tool: A review of current applications and its challenges	Global	Research	Policy evaluation	Qualitative	literature review	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Soohong Eum: Researchers' Responses And Strategies To Changes In Mission-Driven Funding Schemes: A Case Study Of South Korea's Green Mission	South Korea	Innovation	Researcher adaptation to mission-driven funding changes	Qualitative	Case study, interviews, policy feedback analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
Sorin Bogdea, Roxana Păduraru: Evaluation Of Under-Accessed Measures	Romania	Governance	Policy implementation challenges	Qualitative	Policy evaluation+ interviews	PROFEEDbook vol 3: Evaluation on Rural and Territorial Development, Urban Development, COST CA20112, 2023
Stefan Đerasimović: Energy Intensity Decrease – Still A Privilege Of Developed Countries?	Global	Sustainability	Energy intensity trends	Quantitative	Comparative statistical analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
Stefanie Schuerz, Barbara Kieslinger, Teresa Schaefer: Impact Pathways Assessment For Citizen Science	Austria	Innovation	Evaluating citizen science through impact pathways	Qualitative	Case studies, framework application	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Stefanie Schuerz, Charlotte D'elloy, Michael Dinges: The Intersection Of Ai And Rti (Policy) Evaluation	Austria	Research and Innovation	R&I evaluation	Qualitative	Literature review	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Stefano Bianchini, Valentina Di Girolamo, Julien Ravet, David Arranz: Artificial Intelligence In Science: Promises And Perils For Productivity	European Union	Innovation	Impact of AI on scientific productivity	Qualitative	Literature review, conceptual analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Stephan Köppe: Evaluating Ireland's Paternity Leave	Ireland	Social inclusion	Family leave policies	Qualitative	Policy evaluation	PROFEEDbook vol 2: Evaluation of Policies on Social Inclusion, Migration, in particular interventions related to integration, COST CA20112, 2022
Stephanie Francis Grimberty, Nicholas Vonortas: An Attention-Augmented Real Options Approach To Public R&D Investments	global	Innovation	Public R&D investment	Qualitative	Literature review	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
Susanne Buehrer, Sarah Seus, Florian Wittmann: A New Approach To Open The Black Box For The Impact Analysis Of A Mission-Oriented Research Strategy	Germany	Innovation	Impact analysis of mission-oriented research strategies	Qualitative	Theory-based impact analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Suzana Trajkovska: Circular Thinking: Driving Economic And Environmental Innovation In North Macedonia	North Macedonia	Sustainability	Circular economy innovation	Qualitative	Case study	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
Tamara Rajić, Ivan Nikolić: Determinants Of Local Food Consumption: Proposal Of A Conceptual Model	Serbia	Sustainability	Local food systems	Qualitative	Systematic literature review	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
Tamás Szabó: Impacts Of COVID-19 Recession And Border Policy On Firms	Hungary	Security	Border location effects on business	Quantitative	Propensity score matching, descriptive and econometric analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 1: Evaluation of public policy responses to black swans, COST CA20112, 2022
Tamás Szabó: Evaluating The Economic Impact Of Improved Accessibility: An Analysis Of Effective Density And Firm-level Productivity In Budapest	Hungary	Regional development	Infrastructure and productivity	Quantitative	Panel data regression	PROFEEDbook vol 7: Business development, SMEs, Entrepreneurship and competitiveness COST CA20112, 2024
Tamás Szabó: Impact Evaluation Of Eu Subsidies For R&D On The Hungarian Firms	Hungary	Innovation	IMPACT EVALUATION OF EU SUBSIDIES FOR R&D	Quantitative	Impact evaluation	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Thomas Czepionka, Christian Kimmich, Elisabeth Laa, Liliana Mateeva, Kerstin Plank, Sebastian Poledna, Klausweyerstrass, Hannes Zenz: MACROECONOMIC EFFECTS OF HEAT-RELATED LABOR PRODUCTIVITY LOSSES IN AUSTRIA	Austria	Sustainability	Climate and labour productivity	Quantitative	Macroeconomic modelling	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
Thomas Palfinger: Artificial Intelligence Is Coming. How To React?.	Austria	Research	The role of AI in Research and Technology policy evaluation	Qualitative	Qualitative, theory-building process	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Thomas Palfinger: Turning Mission Into Action: The Cancer Mission Lab	Austria	Health and	Mission-oriented, transdisciplinary collaborative approach. Creating a Three-phase process designed to enable easy interactions with the funding instrument,	Participatory	Mission-Oriented Research	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Tomasz Plachecki: The usefulness and limitations of the Polish secondary school graduates' career tracking system. The usefulness of theory-based evaluation	Poland	Youth	Evaluating the secondary school graduates' career tracking system in Poland	Mixed method	Triangulation: analysis, interviews	PROFEEDbook vol 10: Shaping the Future: Evaluating Programs and Policies in Public Education and Youth Development, COST CA20112, 2024
Ulrike Felt, Maximilian Fochler: Hiring Excellence: Between Ideal Value Registers And Quality Assessment In Practice	Austria	Innovation	Institutional hiring practices and evaluation of excellence	Qualitative	Ethnographic methods, interviews, document analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Vahit Yiğit, Hatice Esen, Nazife Öztürk: Impact Of Air Pollution On Burden Of Disease In Turkey	Turkey	Health	Environmental health	Quantitative	Epidemiological analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 5: Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies I., COST CA20112, 2024
Veneta Krasteva: Analysis of a policy instrument for school to work transition in Bulgaria: It's strengths and weaknesses	Bulgaria	Social inclusion	Exploring skills in order to support people making transitions to labour market	Quantitative	Analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 10: Shaping the Future: Evaluating Programs and Policies in Public Education and Youth Development, COST CA20112, 2024

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
Verena Régen, Brigitte Ecke: Evaluating Transformative Innovation Policy Instruments	Austria	Innovation	Gender and innovation policy	Qualitative	Formative evaluation, participatory	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Verena Régen, Brigitte Ecke: Evaluating Transformative Innovation Policy Instruments	Austria	Innovation	Evaluation of transformative innovation policy instruments (TIP), focusing on gender and interdisciplinary innovation support	Qualitative	Qualitative evaluation, participatory and mixed methods, interviews, surveys, workshops, theory of change	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Vesna Paraušić, Nataša Kljajić, Ivana Domazet: Does Farm Certification For Sustainable Agriculture Contribute To Food Export? A Case Study In Middle-Income Countries.	Multiple	Sustainability	Agricultural certification	Qualitative	Case study	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
Vincent Caruana: Education For Sustainability – The Missing Link In Policy Making For The Green Transition	Malta	Sustainability	Education and green transition	Qualitative	Policy analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
Vincent Caruana: Flogging A Dead Horse Or The Nine Lives Of Cats?	Malta	Sustainability	Local Agenda 21 and sustainable development	Qualitative	Case analysis study	PROFEEDbook vol 3: Evaluation on Rural and Territorial Development, Urban Development, COST CA20112, 2023
Vincent Caruana: Insights From Fair Trade Evaluation: Advancing Social Inclusion And Quality Of Life	Malta	Social inclusion	Social inclusion through trade	Mixed method	PLS-SEM approach	PROFEEDbook vol 5: Good practices and lessons learned in the evaluation of social policies I., COST CA20112, 2024
Vincent Caruana: Participatory Evaluation In Sustainable Campuses: Case Studies From The University Of Malta And Brazil	Malta, Brazil	Sustainability	Sustainability in higher education	Qualitative	STARS framework, participatory workshops	PROFEEDbook vol 8: Participation in evaluation, participatory evaluation, COST CA20112, 2024

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
Vitalii Gryga, Olha Krasovska, Yuliia Ryzhkova: Evaluation Of R&D And Innovation Policy In Ukraine: Missing Elements	Ukraine	Innovation	Evaluation of R&D and R&I performance	Quantitative	Statistical analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Vladimir Andrić: Long Waves In Energy Behaviour	Global	Sustainability	Energy cycles	Quantitative	Historical data review	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023
Volpini Giulia, Joly Pierre-Benoît, Matt Mireille: Formative And Impact-Oriented Evaluation As A Project Management Tool: From KPI To KSD	Global	Research	New project evaluation methodology	Theoretical	Formative assessment methodology	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Wolfgang Polt, Michela Magas, Louise Staffas, Anders Holmgren: Ex-Ante Assessment Of Mission-Oriented Programmes: The Case Of The Swedish Impact Innovation Programme	Sweden	Innovation	Ex-ante evaluation of mission-oriented innovation programmes	Qualitative	Impact framework, ex-ante analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 9: Cooperation with the Revaluation conference, COST CA20112, 2024
Xao Cu: Impact Of COVID-19 On Consumer Behavior: A Comparative Study In Hungary And China	Hungary & China	Economy	Comparative consumer behaviour under COVID	Quantitative	Cross-country empirical study	PROFEEDbook vol 1: Evaluation of public policy responses to black swans, COST CA20112, 2022
Yang Yang: Participatory Methods In China Discipline Assessment	China	Education	Higher education using participatory approaches	Qualitative	SWOT analysis, surveys, interviews	PROFEEDbook vol 8: Participation in evaluation, participatory evaluation, COST CA20112, 2024
Yiannis Bassiakos, Lena Tsipouri, Sofia Liarti: The Good, The Bad And The Ugly	Europe	Governance	Institutional learning and adaptation	Theoretical	Case-based reflection	PROFEEDbook vol 1: Evaluation of public policy responses to black swans, COST CA20112, 2022

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
Youlin Xie, Xu Cao: Revitalizing Rural Communities Through Sustainable Tourism	China	Regional development	Sustainable tourism rural	Qualitative	Qualitative field study	PROFEEDbook vol 3: Evaluation on Rural and Territorial Development, Urban Development, COST CA20112, 2023
Zuzana Košťálová, Lukáš Laffers, Miroslav Štefánik: Evaluation Of Requalification Programmes: Double Machine Learning Approach	Slovakia	Employment	Labour requalification market and automation	Quantitative	Double machine learning	PROFEEDbook vol 7: Business development, SMEs, Entrepreneurship and competitiveness COST CA20112, 2024
Zuzana Košťálová, Miroslav Štefánik: Afraid Of Robots? Get Trained!	Slovakia	Digital	Digital skills and automation	Quantitative	Quantitative survey analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 3: Evaluation on Rural and Territorial Development, Urban Development, COST CA20112, 2023
ZUZANA POLAČKOVÁ, DANIEL ŠKOBLA: Community Centres And Their Roles	Slovakia	Social inclusion	Integration of Roma communities	Qualitative	Data analysis, interviews, surveys	PROFEEDbook vol 2: Evaluation of Policies on Social Inclusion, Migration, in particular interventions related to integration, COST CA20112, 2022
Zvi Weinstein: Entrepreneurship, Innovation And Creative Industry	Israel	Economy	Creative industries and innovation	Theoretical	Theoretical policy review	PROFEEDbook vol 3: Evaluation on Rural and Territorial Development, Urban Development, COST CA20112, 2023
Zvi Weinstein: Environmental Citizenship – An Instrument To Enhance Sustained Environment Policy Through Community Gardens	Israel	Social inclusion	Community-based sustainability	Qualitative	Case study	PROFEEDbook vol 4: Environmental and Energy Economics, COST CA20112, 2023

Author & Title	Country or Area Concerned	Thematic area	Topic	Type	Methods Used	Source
Zvi Weinstein: Sustainable Cities: Overview Actions And Local Policies	Israel	Sustainability	Urban sustainability policies	Qualitative	Descriptive policy analysis	PROFEEDbook vol 2: Evaluation of Policies on Social Inclusion, Migration, in particular interventions related to integration, COST CA20112, 2022
Zsuzsa Blaskó: The use of meta-analysis in programme evaluations. The case of the Erasmus+ programme evaluation support study	European Union	Education	Collections of meta-analyses in the context of Erasmus+	Quantitative	Meta-analysis, case studies	PROFEEDbook vol 10: Shaping the Future: Evaluating Programs and Policies in Public Education and Youth Development, COST CA20112, 2024

This publication is based upon work from COST Action CA20112 PROFEEDBACK, supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology). COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a funding agency for research and innovation networks. Our Actions help connect research initiatives across Europe and enable scientists to grow their ideas by sharing them with their peers. This boosts their research, career and innovation. Visit www.cost.eu