

European Peer Learning Workshop Rome

Date: 30th November 2019

The presentations can be downloaded from the project website:

<https://epatee.eu/events/3rd-epatee-european-peer-learning-workshop>

The aim of EPATEE’s European Peer-Learning Workshops is to provide a platform for stakeholders to exchange knowledge and discuss existing practices of the evaluation of energy efficiency policies. The workshops serve at achieving one of EPATEE’s main targets: to share experiences and to enable capacity building.

On 30th November 2018 the 3rd EPATEE Peer-Learning Workshop was organised in Rome. Evaluation experts and evaluation users met to learn about EPATEE’s current results and to discuss issues related to the evaluation of energy efficiency policies. A main focus was put on the evaluation of policies for the implementation for Article 7 of the Energy Efficiency Directive.

Results of EPATEE

The **knowledge base** and the **case studies** were already presented at the 2nd EU peer-learning workshop in Vienna in April 2018. These EPATEE resources are available at <https://www.epatee-lib.eu> and <https://epatee.eu/case-studies>.

The β-version of the **online toolbox** was first shown to stakeholders during the workshop. The toolbox is designed to support stakeholders in different evaluation situations. Users can either get information on general principles or the value of evaluation or get specific guidance for concrete evaluation projects. The basic layout of the homepage is as follows:

Online tool for putting evaluation of energy savings into practice

This website provides practical tools and guides to facilitate the uptake of good evaluation practices according to various needs. The tools are meant to help step by step both evaluators and users of evaluation results in specifying the evaluation methods and effects, through:

- Providing a smart online toolbox with tools for integrating evaluation practice in the policy cycle.
- Clarification of how tools can be best applied by means of guidelines

<p>Specific evaluation guidance</p> <p>Select this box if you have questions related to the evaluation of a specific combination of policy instrument, sector and/or a certain type of evaluation method.</p>	<p>Evaluation principles & methods</p> <p>Select this box if you have questions about evaluation principles, about why and how to plan & prepare evaluations or about cross-cutting issues.</p>	<p>Knowledge base & case studies</p> <p>Select this box if you looking for practical examples or references to additional information.</p>
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One session was especially dedicated to show the features of the toolbox in small groups and to discuss with participants on possible further developments. The toolbox is seen as a valuable tool by participants; a number of useful feedbacks from this live test came up e.g. as regards the navigation structure and the support needed. These feedbacks will be taken into account for the further development of the toolbox which will be put online publicly in early 2019.

Experiences with evaluations

In this workshop special emphasis was put on showing experiences of Member States with the evaluation of energy efficiency policies.

In **Italy** the evaluation of subsidy schemes serves to identify (1) the energy savings, (2) the investment mobilised and (3) the cost-effectiveness of a policy. The first main evaluation of an energy efficiency programme was done in 1988. With an ex-post evaluation the real effects of policies can be shown. The future focus of evaluation will be on analysing the effects of behavioural measures. The Italian White Certificate Scheme is evaluated regularly. The evaluation in this case is an important driver of adapting the framework rules of the scheme in order to keep the market for certificates running.

The evaluation of the **French** White Certificate Scheme was tendered and started in fall 2018. The importance of a good preparation of the evaluation from the side of the public authority was highlighted as a crucial element. The tender clearly defined the goals of the evaluation taking into account the most important framework conditions as well as any existing constraints. The introductory presentation was followed by an overview of the planned evaluation project. Key elements (e.g. sampling, data availability, high number of beneficiaries and measures) were highlighted, as well as the challenges and solutions considered for this specific evaluation.

The third period of the **British** Energy Company Obligation Scheme (ECO) will start in December 2018. It has a focus on the support of low-income and fuel poor households. Previous evaluations of ECO were mostly focused on the process. They showed that the awareness of ECO among citizens was low but the effects of the scheme itself seem to be high. The evaluation of the next period will focus on the questions “How did it work, where and for whom?” For this, a detailed theory on how the policy works will be first built and then be compared to the evidence gathered in the course of the evaluation. One key aspect in the British approach is to plan evaluations so that results can be available at the right time in the decision making process.

The National Energy Efficiency Data-Framework (NEED) puts together several existing databases and data sources: national housing survey, metered energy consumption from the energy suppliers, data about the energy efficiency measures monitored for different policies. It was developed from 2011. Data from NEED was for example used to evaluate the effects of the ECO scheme using a difference-in-difference (DiD) method. This means that the energy consumption of a control group is compared to the energy consumption of households who conducted a measure reported for ECO. The presentation showed the value of a data-framework like NEED and discussed the pros and cons of the DiD method: use of large samples (high statistical significance) vs. time lag (18 to 30 months to collect, process and analyse the data) and no data to control for possible behavioural changes.

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