EPATEE

Evaluation into Practice: what can we learn from the experience feedback of stakeholders?

Insights from a first set of case studies

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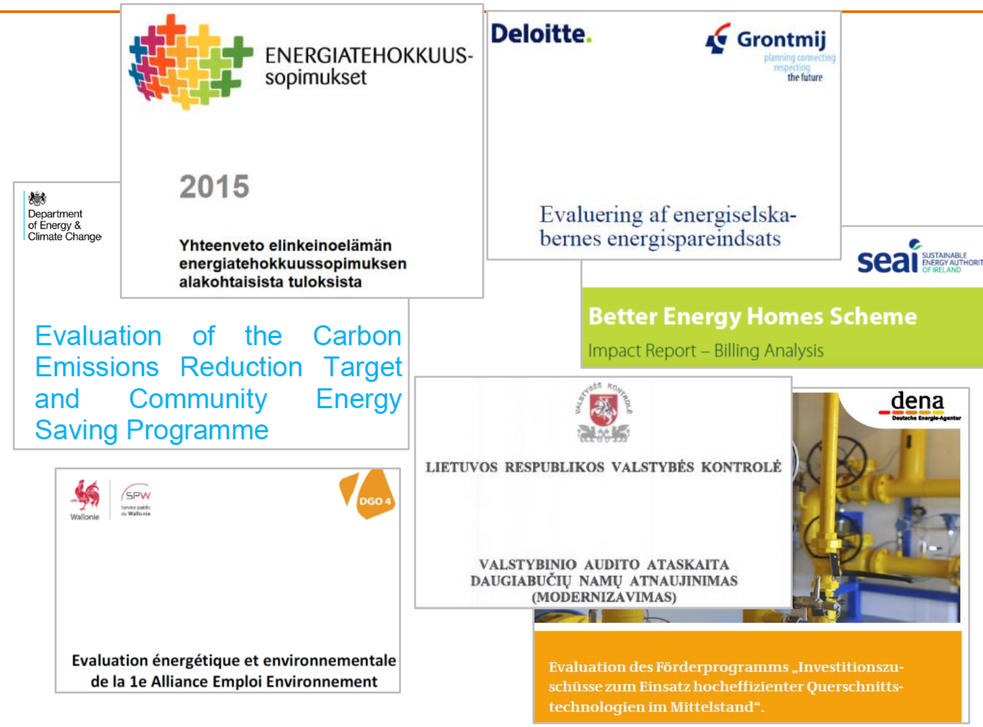
Outline

- Objectives and overview of the case studies
- First insights from experience feedback

Objectives of the case studies

- Making information easily **accessible**
- Providing data as **transparent** as possible



- Analysing **concrete examples** about
  - **why** evaluation is used
  - **how** it is performed
- Producing **materials for experience sharing**

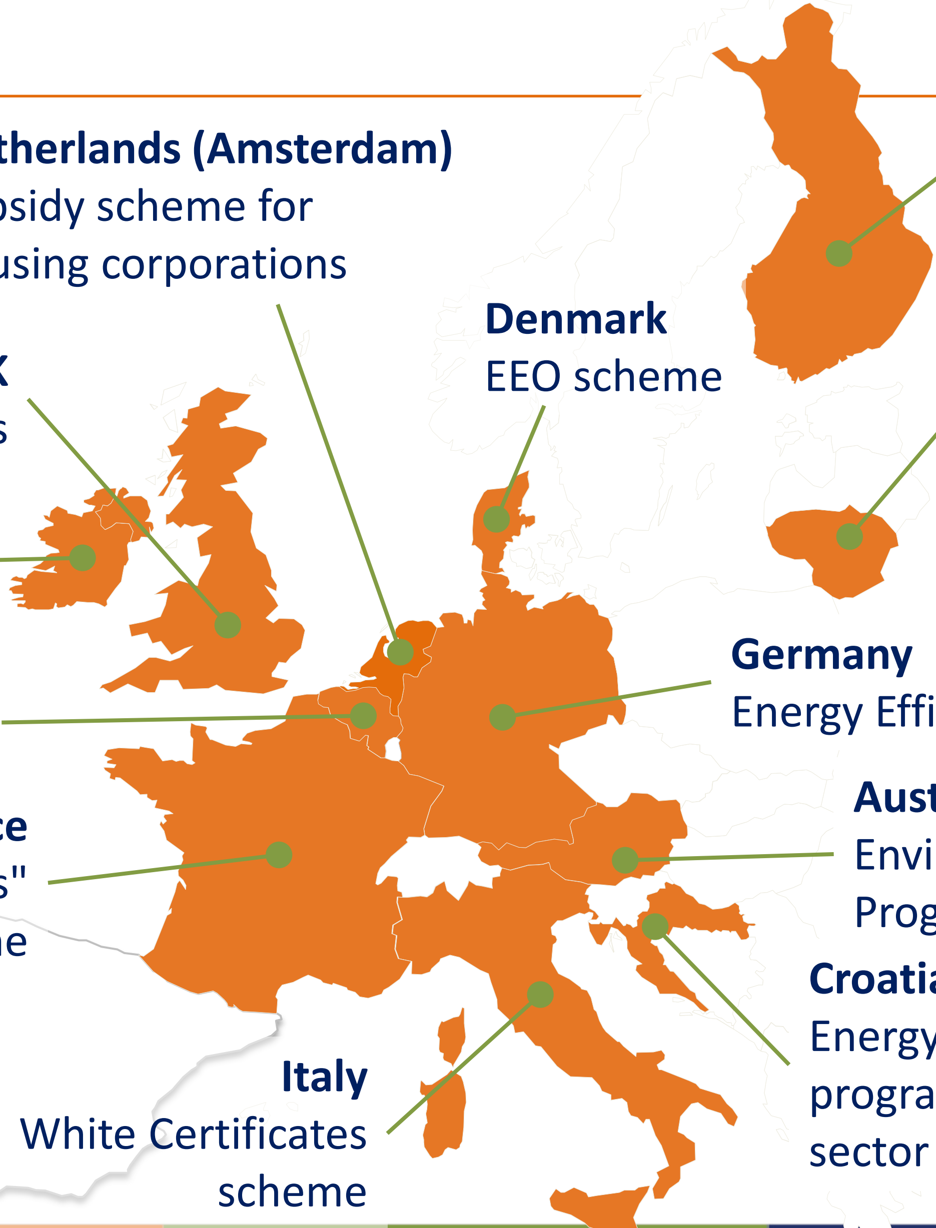
"Our experience with the ex-post impact evaluation is that it's really worth the effort."

Objectives of the case studies

- Looking for cases with
  - ✓ **enough information available**
  - ✓ **interesting experience feedback** (including possibility to interview evaluation customers and/or evaluators)

- **NO INTENTION TO BE EXHAUSTIVE OR REPRESENTATIVE**

Overview of the 12 first case studies



Netherlands (Amsterdam)
Subsidy scheme for housing corporations

UK
Suppliers' Obligations

Ireland
Better Energy Homes

Belgium (Wallonia)
Primes Energie

France
"Future Investments" programme

Italy
White Certificates scheme

Denmark
EEO scheme

Finland
EE agreements in Industries

Lithuania
Renovation programme for apartment blocks

Germany
Energy Efficiency Fund

Austria
Environmental Support Programme for companies

Croatia
Energy renovation programme for public sector buildings

Overview of the first case studies

- Content of the case studies:

Short description of the measure	Data on energy savings	Insights about other aspects monitored or evaluated
Key data about means and outputs	Details about the evaluation method(s)	Focus on key evaluation issue(s) or practice(s)

+ interview(s) with the evaluation customer and/or evaluator

→ direct experience feedback

+ references

Soon available at: https://epatee.eu/results

Overview of the first case studies

Most schemes **> 10 years old**, and 3 younger schemes (3 to 6 years)	→ **Old enough for impacts to be observed**; evaluation also done in first years of new schemes to decide about continuation, adaption and/or expansion
All schemes represent **significant public budget or private stakeholders' costs** (up to 700 M€/year)	→ Evaluation = **accountability** (value for money), often used for policy review by the Court of Auditors (or similar body)
Focus often on "**gross**" results	→ Difficult in practice to evaluate what would have happened in the absence of the scheme (**counterfactual**)

Overview of the first case studies

(statistics including 5 other case studies to come ;
one case may correspond to several categories)

SECTOR	Nb. of cases
Residential	9
Transversal	4
Services	2
Industry	2
Energy sector	1
Transport	0

Policy instrument	Nb. of cases
Financial incentives	11
EEO	3
EE Fund	1
Voluntary agreements	1
Capacity market	1

Evaluation method	Nb. of cases
Deemed savings	7
Scaled savings	5
Metered savings	1
Stock modelling	1
Comparisons	2

→ Examples of evaluations easier to find for policies including financial incentives
+ most cases about residential sector as main target of EE policies
+ deemed or scaled savings most frequently used, because easiest to implement
+ few cases comparing estimations with metered data

Next phase

- More case studies to **get complementary experience feedback**

Transport Industry Services

Regulations "Soft" measures

Statistical methods Metered savings

- **Detailed analysis** on key evaluation issues or practices

Stakeholders' **priorities**

What is available?

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Experience feedback: **evaluation, it's worth the effort!**

"It was really worth the efforts needed to collect data and perform the evaluation"

"The success factors of this well-working policy measure have been good monitoring and evaluation, strong results and communication of results."

"Policies are living creatures and need to be adjusted periodically to take into account changes in context, markets, policy priorities, etc. A timely evaluation can provide the necessary basis for this"

"There were no more questions about the rationale or interest to implement this scheme. At the opposite, the questions were about how to make the scheme grow."

+ see the **interviews** in the case study to see many **concrete examples of lessons learnt and improvements** made thanks to evaluations

Experience feedback: **evaluation, it's worth the effort! (2)**

"The biggest difficulty is to justify the efforts (time and budget) needed to collect the energy-related data."

"One may have fear to do an ex-post impact evaluation, because it may show smaller results than based on the engineering estimates. However this increases the robustness of the results and therefore the confidence funders can have in them"

Why putting some time/money in evaluation is not always self-evident for all → **useful to share experience about why evaluations have been useful**

"Empirical verifications represent a small budget compared to the whole budget of the scheme. Our experience with the ex-post impact evaluation is that it is really worth it"

Experience feedback: data issues – general

- Everyone knows that anticipating data collection is critical… but it is not always done!

"You need to think about evaluation when you start the scheme, embed it in the design and make sure data is collected from the start."

"The first point is a no-brainer, but always useful to remind: evaluation should be thought from the start, meaning when designing and starting each new policy. This is essential to organise the data collection and to ensure that the data needed for the evaluation will be available. This also helps to optimise costs for data collection."

Possible reasons / problems:

- priority given to implementation
- data needs for monitoring and for evaluation may be different (and only data collection for monitoring was planned)
- data that were assumed to be available could finally not be used

➔ Key issue: **lack of data = major practical barrier to evaluation**

Experience feedback: data issues – more in the details

Examples of difficulties reported in the case studies:

- to get reliable data about cost (e.g. for assessing cost-effectiveness indicators)
- to get approval from participants to get energy bills' data
- to match databases when combining different data sources (for example because addresses were not reliable identifiers)
- difficulties to collect reliable data about the "before" situation

"It is often not possible to check the "before" situation once the action is implemented. For example, it is difficult to verify what boiler (type and age) was replaced or what level of insulation was already in place. One way can be to ask for a picture of the building or equipment before the implementation of the action. However, it is still possible for installers to cheat..."

Experience feedback: data issues – solutions

Examples of solutions/good practices reported in the case studies:

- Early planning of evaluation (including organisation of data collection)
- Explain why data is needed and why data collection is beneficial
- Consider the different options possible to collect data, and see who could be involved
- Provide technical support to stakeholders involved in data collection
- Include requirements about data collection in the rules of the scheme

"We therefore strongly recommend to put a condition when setting the scheme to ensure the access to data, and that the legal team checks the validity of this condition. This should be possible for any grant scheme, as participants will very likely agree on this condition to be able to get the grant. This can save a lot of data collection efforts."

Experience feedback: additionality

Examples of key messages from the case studies

- It is not necessarily cost-effective to strive for 100% additionality
- Additionality should be defined in a pragmatic and concrete way
- Additionality and cost-effectiveness should not be looked at in a too narrow way
- Defining a counterfactual may be easier in the case of new policies, if it is thought before starting the policy
- As it is often difficult to find a relevant control group, the most common approach found in the case studies to evaluate ex-post free-rider effects was to use surveys
- Assessing free-rider effects is one part of assessing additionality, but not all: spill over and market transformation effects should not be overlooked

Experience feedback: evaluation use

- In general:
  - evaluation results = information needed to report accountability
  - evaluation recommendations = inputs for decision-making
- More specifically in practice:
  - **Improving the targeting**: updating eligibility criteria, incentive rates, standardized energy savings credits, etc.
  - **Improving requirements**: updating requirements about additionality, quality processes, etc.
  - **Understanding (and/or quantifying) specific issues**: factors explaining comfort taking, factors explaining differences between estimated and observed results, etc.
  - **Understanding what makes a scheme attractive or not**: adapting administrative processes, improving communication, etc.
  - **Finding new ideas**: introducing new flexibility options, criteria to favour actions with longer lifetime, using quality labels, etc.

Compilation of inputs from the case studies has just started

More case studies to analyse

Comparing inputs from case studies with results from survey and content of the Knowledge Base

Making inputs available in a user-friendly way through the online toolbox

Thank you for your attention !

Questions are welcome

And we also have questions for you:

- what type of cases/evaluation issues are you the most interested in?
- are there experiences you would like to share?
- do you know cases that would be interesting to look at?