

European Peer Learning Workshop Brussels

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The presentations can be downloaded from the project website:

<https://epatee.eu/events/4th-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 13th June 2019 the 4th EPATEE Peer-Learning Workshop was organised in Brussels. 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 in the European context.

The importance of evaluation from the perspective of EU institutions

Anna Zygierewicz from the European Parliament Research Service (EPRS) and Rados Horacek from the Directorate-General for Energy at the European Commission started the workshop by giving valuable insights into the role of evaluation in these two major EU institutions.

The **European Parliament Research Service (EPRS)** provides Members of the European Parliament and parliamentary committees with independent, objective and authoritative analysis to assist them in their parliamentary work. In the area of energy efficiency, there are European Implementation Assessments (EIAs) on the [Energy Efficiency Directive](#) and the [Ecodesign Directive](#). All EIAs are publically available at the [EPRS website](#). EPRS only provides evaluations for policies that have been implemented for more than five years because otherwise, there is not enough data available. All reports and findings are publicly accessible. After each report published by the Commission and during revisions of policies, EPRS checks whether their recommendations have been implemented and how their studies have influenced policy making. Usually the analysis done by EPRS includes surveys sent to public authorities and NGOs.

The **European Commission** is regularly performing assessments and evaluations of EU policies. For the recent revisions of EU directives (EED and EPBD) results of the respective policy evaluations were taken into account. At the moment the European Commission started evaluations inter alia for:

- Assessments of annual reports EED of the Member States
- Assessment of the policies implemented for Article 7 EED
- Assessment of NECPs

In case of ambition or delivery gaps the Commission will propose more EU and or national policies. The Commission is welcoming studies, and specifically ex-post evaluations, that can improve the evidence base helping to formulate proposals of new policies. So far the assessment of energy consumption within the EU shows that it has been rising since 2014 which leads to a bigger gap to the EU's target for energy efficiency.

In the course of the review obligations under the EED, the Commission is currently assessing the implementation of the definition of small and medium-sized enterprises for the purposes of Article 8 (4). With the target group being large enterprises, a more precise definition is favoured.

Member States' experiences with evaluations

The **Greek Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme** started in 2017 and from there covers all years until 2020. Its contribution to the overall savings target of Greece is at 10 %. There are roughly 30 obligated parties. As illustrated by Christos Tourkolia, the monitoring and evaluation of the EEO is based on a holistic framework:

- The efficient measurement of the achieved energy savings.
- The effective control and verification of the implemented energy efficiency measures.
- The precise and structured reporting of the achieved energy savings from the implemented energy efficiency measures for all the obligated parties.
- The continuous evaluation of the obligated parties' progress towards the established energy efficiency targets and the potential imposition of penalties.

To identify the impact of different factors on energy savings, a survey on the population affected by behavioural measures and on the free-rider phenomenon was conducted. Additionally, methodologies for the identification of unique customers in the transport sector and unique customers supplied with heating oil were developed.

On the basis of the evaluation of the French "**Investment for the future fund**" Catherine Guermont from ADEME presented experience with the evaluation of policies and projects in compliance with EU rules. It was highlighted that in order to comply with EU-regulations, different frameworks have to be followed and that there are no connections between different EU requirements which leads to increased efforts in performing a compliant evaluation. By giving examples on other evaluation requirements defined on EU- and national level or by committees for standardization and quality control, it was shown that just for environmental impact assessment more than 15 different methods can be identified. Therefore for consistent evaluations of energy & climate policies at the EU level it may be relevant to:

- Ensure cooperation between all EU policies stakeholders.
- Analyse ex-post impacts of existing measures before proposing revisions and anticipate the impact of new acts.
- Mutualize tools and data for robust multi-criterion assessment.

Several participants agreed on the challenge of different required evaluation methodologies and said that they are facing the same problems in their countries.

How the tools of EPATEE can support evaluations

In the afternoon the three main tools of EPATEE – knowledge base, case studies and toolbox – were presented and discussed together with participants in small groups. The topics discussed included:

The availability of the EPATEE tools after the project end. The project team investigated possibilities to make the EPATEE tools available for a longer time. The possibilities include looking for cooperation between the ODYSSEE MURE website and the JRC European Energy Efficiency platform.

The focus of EPATEE tools. The resources developed in EPATEE focus rather on impact evaluation and not so much on process evaluation but some interviews in the case studies can mention difficulties related to compliance. Additionally, the online toolbox includes references about process evaluation. EPATEE is not focused on the context of EED Article 7. Indeed, many evaluation customers reported that ex-post evaluations were primarily done for national reasons.

The target of EPATEE. One of the striking results from interviews and surveys of EPATEE was that a significant share of respondents stated that there are no sources, political will or priorities about evaluation. EPATEE was working on stimulating interest about evaluation.

The update of the knowledge base. For all studies that are not in English language, short summaries will be prepared in the upcoming months. Additionally, in the upcoming update, the knowledge base will be equipped with more recent materials and studies.

The terminology of EPATEE. From the beginning of the project it was attempted to use terminologies that are consistent with other ongoing activities. Especially it was made sure the EPATEE and ODYSSEE-MURE use the same terms to find a common language for knowledge exchange.

The online toolbox of EPATEE. The toolbox will be tested in more detail by chosen experts in the coming weeks in order to assess its smartness. The wizard represents an alternative gateway to the resources of EPATEE. The “Method overview” is a table that summarises comprehensively the different evaluation methods and assesses their main features as well as their pros and cons. It is important to note that the criteria are qualitative and are meant to give a first rough orientation for evaluation methods. The “Methodology finder” proposes evaluation methods for certain policy measures but also offers alternatives. This might be needed because of missing data or other reasons.

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