

## Final Conference

**Date:** 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019

**The presentations can be downloaded from the project website:**

<https://epatee.eu/events/final-epatee-conference>

### **09:30-09:45 – Welcome by the project coordinator – EPATEE in a nutshell | Gregor Thenius (AEA)**

Gregor Thenius, coordinator of the project, briefly introduced the reasons and motivations that lead to the idea of the EPATEE project. In particular, the need for experience sharing across Europe regarding the evaluation process of energy efficiency policies was put forward.

The conference participants connected to the *Menti* application. It allowed them to ask questions to the speakers or share their comments and opinions throughout the conference.

Finally, Gregor Thenius presented the agenda of the conference.

### **09:45-10:15 – Why evaluation matters? | Kathleen Gaffney (IEA)**

Kathleen Gaffney started her presentation with a reminder of the great challenges ahead regarding the need to quickly reduce our global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. There is a lot at stake and energy efficiency is one of the main keys to achieve a global energy transition and to complete our greenhouse gases emissions reduction goals. Indeed, “energy efficiency can contribute over 40% of the abatement required to be in line with the Paris agreement”. However, annual EE investments need to be doubled by 2025 and doubled again by 2040 if we want to reach the energy efficiency goals we have set.

It is also key to remind policy makers and stakeholders that energy efficiency represents a great occasion to save money. This economical factor should be highlighted more often in the selected evaluation criteria, as it is a great argument in favour of the implementation of energy efficiency policies. Indeed, it is often hard to realise and has to be explained that energy efficiency is actually “free money”.

For Mrs Gaffney, the EPATEE tools add value to the evaluation process and the project itself significantly helped rising awareness for the evaluation issue which often is not considered enough. In fact, even if we have very different points of view from Europe and other parts of the world, the evaluation issue can bring communities thinking and working together. There is a lot at stake and evaluation has a big role to play showing that some policies have real impacts and improving these policies continuously. However, there is still scope to improve the evaluation processes themselves (engineering calculations, cost estimates, data gathering, etc.) and also to diversify them: lots of impact evaluations focussing on energy savings are conducted but we also need to run multiple benefits, process and markets evaluations.

The Q&A session following the presentation gave an occasion to discuss about the role that the evaluators have to undertake as it is now critical to act urgently by putting energy efficiency first. To answer this situation, evaluation has to be taken into account at the very beginning of the policy life cycle. Evaluation must become a requirement to any energy efficiency policy as it represents a crucial

guarantee of quality and proper resources must be allocated to the evaluation process. As a conclusion: “evaluators must prove the value of evaluation” to then prove the importance of energy efficiency.

This reflexion aroused the question on budget: which proportion of policy budget should be allocated to the evaluation process? For instance, would 1% be a good and sufficient estimate? As a first answer, it is to be noted that 1 to 5% of the policy budget is quite typical. But, regardless of the allocated amount, the key challenge is to determine which aspects of the policy can be problematic or controversial so it is possible to target, study and finally enhance them. Although the best scenario remains to establish the evaluation budget and the evaluation process itself while setting up the policy scheme.

### **10:15-10:45 – Evaluation of the French Regional Advisers Scheme | Catherine Guermont (ADEME)**

Catherine Guermont from the French energy agency ADEME presented the evaluation, key lessons and perspectives, of a governmental program aiming at improving innovation and energy efficiency at a regional level.

A recent study from an ADEME regional division showed that the country is in a state of social tension and that, as a consequence, energy efficiency measures can be forgotten by local politicians while allocating their public budgets. This suggests that a program allowing different small local authorities to share an energy advisor would help supporting public effort and investment into energy efficiency. It is to be noted that, on average, local authorities spend 4% of their budget on energy but this rate is much higher (around 7%) for small local authorities. Therefore, the cost savings due to energy efficiency measures is a strong argument in such context.

The objective of the evaluation of this particular “energy advisor sharing scheme” is to assess its impacts in terms of costs and energy consumption, to identify constraints and opportunities to enhance this scheme and to draw local perspective including fundings. The evaluation covers a period of 8 years, from 2009 to 2017.

Catherine Guermont introduced the chosen evaluation process and the identification process of the data sources. Four methods have been identified for quantitative evaluation to estimate the energy savings and to understand the possible significant differences between estimation and measured savings.

One of the main recommendations from this evaluation process is that it is crucial to check that the energy advisor and the local politicians use the right tools in order to make evaluation possible right from the beginning of the energy efficiency actions implementation.

The Q&A session following the presentation addressed the way to convince local politicians to get involved into energy efficiency by presenting the expected energy savings in terms of financial savings. Indeed, even if their budget is limited, the share dedicated to energy is higher for the small local authorities, so, at the end of the day, investing in energy efficiency measures and data collection for further evaluation is a win-win for them.

The risk of double counting while evaluating was also discussed (not the case here, as it concerns the evaluation of just one isolated scheme): the conclusion being that even the risk exists, it may not prevent from doing an evaluation highlighting clearly this risk, referring to other related measures/policies, and estimating potential contribution of them.

**10:45-11:15 – Results of EPATEE & Integration of evaluation into the policy cycle | Gregor Thenius (AEA) & Jean-Sébastien Broc (IEECP)**

Gregor Thenius and Jean-Sébastien Broc presented the results of the EPATEE project in terms of impact and tools (Case Studies, Knowledge Base, Online Toolbox) and then focused more particularly on bottom-up methods to assess energy savings and on the integration of evaluation into the policy cycle.

The various evaluation feedbacks gathered in the EPATEE Case Studies showed the diversity of existing evaluation processes and, while choosing the evaluation method, the importance of defining the objectives and timings one wants to achieve: regular reviews or ex-post evaluations? Engineering methods lead with regular monitoring or billing analysis? etc.

As a result, everything is not about evaluating impacts, there is a wide variety of more qualitative criteria that can be considered. The differences between engineering calculations and metered data are relevant and must be studied to highlight the external effects causing these discrepancies and affecting, in a way or another, the effects of a policy (rebound effect, performance gap, sampling bias, weather corrections, etc.).

Then, Jean-Sébastien Broc introduced the challenges involved into the process of integrating evaluation into the policy cycle. First, there is no doubt about the fact that evaluation is an indispensable tool to be able to continuously improve a policy (clarify policy objectives and impacts, creating alternatives and new policy designs, etc.). However, there are still issues and barriers in this evaluation integration process that have to be overcome (lack of interest or budget, fear of results, difficulties to match the timeframe for evaluation and timeframe for decision processes, differences in the cultures or habits between decisional level and operational or technical level, etc.). To face these various obstacles, solutions and good practices exist and must be spread among the policy makers and the stakeholders. Those good practices can be found into the EPATEE Online Toolbox.

The Q&A session gave an occasion to discuss on how the results of the project could be disseminated and updated in the future and on the importance of spreading those good practices among all EU Member States and relevant stakeholders.

**11:45-12:15 – Panel session: the future role of evaluation | Charles Michaelis (Strategy Development Solutions)**

The panel session gathered the following experts to discuss the future role of evaluation for energy efficiency policies:

- Moderator: Charles Michaelis | Strategy Development Solutions
- Lelde Kiela-Vilumsone | DG Energy, European Commission
- Dominique Osso | EDF
- Jürgen Salay | DG Environment, European Commission
- Michaela Valentová | Czech Technical University

All members of the panel introduced themselves and their experience regarding evaluation of energy efficiency policies and shared their opinions on the evaluation issue and the impacts and outputs that the EPATEE project provided to this key matter.

## **First question to the panel: Should the primary focus of evaluation in the future be on the overall policy mix or individual policies?**

For Dominique Osso and based on his experience, it is important to evaluate individual policies, but also to keep in mind that there are often interactions between different policies that have to be taken into account when evaluating one policy.

To Michaela Valentová, both aspects are important. To properly evaluate a single policy, you have to know the whole framework. One significant barrier is that policies fall under different ministries, which makes it hard to evaluate a full set of policies instead of single ones.

For Lelde Kiela-Vilumsone, you need to see how single policies work, especially if they are quite costly. However, it is important to evaluate the whole mix to see which ones contribute the most to the targets achievement and to accordingly adapt the policy mix.

## **Second question to the panel: Is it important to attribute impact to individual policies, to overall policy intervention or not at all?**

For the panel, the context has to be studied and is key to answer these questions: What are the expected multiple benefits, other than energy savings? What are the efforts put into the implementation of the actions? Which criteria will be crucial to make improvements into the next cycle? How do we make an individual policy more efficient?

## **Third question to the panel: What should be done: what do policy makers need from evaluation?**

The panel answered that policy makers mainly need data, as much as possible, to assess and evaluate how the EU policies work in the different Member States, taking into account each particular context. Data is key to answer what works and what does not and to determine what kind of additional support each Member State needs to achieve the common goals.

The importance of transparency was raised by Michaela Valentová: we need to build trust by communicating about the limits of the policies and their estimated or calculated results.

Jürgen Salay insisted on the importance of data availability which can be achieved by clearly defining to stakeholders which data will be needed and what kind of results will be delivered with this data. This also means that other factors and benefits than energy savings and cost effectiveness must be considered and have value in the evaluation process.

## **12:45-13:15 - Overview of the US Department of Energy's Uniform Methods Project | John Mayernik & Charles Kurnik (National Renewable Energy Laboratory)**

Due to technical difficulties, the live presentation from the US could not be conducted. Therefore, a webinar was organised on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October. All information can be found at:

<https://epatee.eu/events/webinar-us-department-energys-uniform-methods-project-protocols-determining-energy-savings>

## **13:15-14:30 - Poster session including lunch**

During lunch, the consortium presented posters that highlighted topics tackled during the project's lifetime:

- The EPATEE Knowledge Base
- The EPATEE Case Studies
- The EPATEE Online Toolbox
- Direct support offered by EPATEE
- Stakeholder work within EPATEE
- Examples of evaluations (Croatia, France and Finland)

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