

Expert Meeting

Institutionalisation, Quality & Use of Policy Evaluation

Draft Agenda

12-13 September 2019



**EXPERT GROUP MEETING -
INSTITUTIONALISATION, QUALITY & USE OF POLICY EVALUATION**

OECD Headquarters, Paris La Muette

Draft Annotated Agenda

CONTEXT

Policy evaluation has a critical role to play in improving the quality, responsiveness and accessibility of public services and of public policies. There is a need to better understand how policy evaluation and evidence can help resolve governance gaps and improve policy making. Policy evaluation can help policy makers understand why and how policies are successful or not. It offers insights on how to improve the links between policy decisions and outcomes, and promotes accountability as it provides information to citizens and stakeholders on the delivery and results of public programmes. This activity is undertaken as part of the Public Governance Committee Programme of Work and Budget for 2019-20.

GOAL OF THE MEETING

The goal of the expert meeting is to discuss preliminary results from the survey on policy evaluation launched in 2018 as part of the Public Governance Committee activities, to understand their policy relevance and ensure their factual accuracy. The preliminary results cover 42 countries to date. All responding countries are invited to join the expert meeting following their participation in OECD activities. The discussions will address the various dimensions of the survey, including the definitions, and the broad description of policy evaluation systems.

The **key issues** to be addressed include

- *How are countries experiencing policy evaluation systems and reflecting on the challenges faced in the area?*
- *What lessons can be drawn from cross country insights on the institutionalisation, quality and use of policy evaluation?*
- *How can we benefit from international experience and promote peer learning?*

A presentation of the key results of the report will be shared ahead of the meeting by the Secretariat.

THURSDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

13h00 – 13h.45 Welcome coffee.

Light sandwiches will be served.

13.45 – 14.00 Introduction

This introduction will set the stage for the day's discussions.

- **Opening Remarks: Martin Forst**, Head; Governance Reviews and Partnerships Division .

14.00 – 14.45 Session 1 – Main report findings

This session will present an introduction to the main findings and story line of the report to set the stage for the thematic discussions that will follow. It will discuss broad countries' experience with policy evaluation systems and reflect on the challenges faced in the area. Comments will be offered by the two countries that first piloted the survey, Belgium and Mexico.

- **Stephane Jacobzone**. Head of Unit, Evidence Monitoring and Policy Evaluation, OECD.

Commentators:

- *A representative of Belgium (TBC).*
- *A representative of CONEVAL, (Mexico) (TBC).*

14.45- 15.45 Session 2 – How can we define policy evaluation and frame policy evaluation systems ?

This session will focus on the introductory part of the report. After a brief introduction by the Secretariat, a country expert will introduce the discussion.

- **Emma Cantera**, Policy Analyst, OECD.
- **Vincent Aussilloux, Adam Baiz** Economics Department, France Strategie.

15.45– 16.00 Coffee Break

16.00 – 16.45 Session 4: Promoting Peer Learning, the case of the Irish Government Economic and Evaluation Service

The goal of this session will be to discuss preliminary results and findings of the current OECD study on IGEES in Ireland.

- **Dr. Daniel Acquah**, Head of Evaluation, Youth Endowment Fund, Early Intervention Foundation, UK.
- **Ms. Jasmina Beehan** Head of Irish Government Economic Evaluation Service, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, Ireland (TBC)

16.45 – 18.15 Session 3: Institutionalisation of Policy Evaluation

This session will discuss the institutionalisation of policy evaluation in governance systems, in terms of legal frameworks, key policy objectives and whole of government approaches.

- **Simon Schmitz, Ivan Stola**, Policy Analysts, Evidence Monitoring and policy Evaluation, OECD.
- **Dr. Diana Epstein**, Evaluation Lead, Office of Management and Budget, United States.
- **Patricia Moreno Agudelo**, senior advisor to the Director for Monitoring and Policy Evaluation, Department of National Planning Colombia (TBC).
- **A representative of Italy** (TBC)

Dinner (en ville). Participants will be offered the opportunity to join a team dinner on a self paying basis.

FRIDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

8h30 – 9h.00 Welcome coffee

9.00 – 10.30 Session 5. Ensuring the Quality of Policy Evaluation

This session will discuss the mechanisms used by governments to enhance the quality of evaluation within broad management frameworks.

- **Claire Salama**, Policy analyst, Evidence Monitoring and policy Evaluation, OECD.
- **Comments by country representatives.**

10.30 – 10.45 Coffee Break

10.45 – 12. 15 Session 6. Promoting the use of evaluation throughout government

This session will discuss approaches to strengthen the use of evaluation within government and to resolve the evaluation/evidence and science with the policy interface.

- **Claire Salama**, Policy analyst, Evidence Monitoring and policy Evaluation, OECD.
- **Nynke de Witte**, Deputy Head of the Strategic Analysis Unit; Ministry of Finance The Netherlands.

12.15-13.30 Lunch

13.30 – 14.30 Session 7. Drawing the policy implications of the findings

This session will explore with participants the main policy implications of the findings. Discussions will be organised in a tour de table format and will address the following questions:

- What are the benefits and also the limitations of the current survey findings and how can we resolve remaining information gaps ?*
- What lessons can be drawn from cross country insights on the institutionalisation, quality and use of policy evaluation?*
- How can we foster a comprehensive understanding of policy evaluation systems, including the institutions, processes and tools, as well as the staff and skills that are necessary to deliver results ?*

14.30 – 15.15 Session 4: Promoting Peer Learning, the case of the Monitoring and Evaluation for the Strategic Plan in Mexico

An introduction will be offered by representatives of the State of Nuevo Leon and of the Council of Nuevo Leon for the Strategic Plan followed by a preliminary discussion by the Secretariat and participating peers. This will offer an opportunity to discuss the broader case of monitoring and policy evaluation as helping core governance tools from the centre to help countries move on critical whole of government agendas and priorities.

- **A representative of the State of Nuevo Leon (TBC)**

Reactions from a cross country perspective:

- **Ivan Stola**, Policy analyst, Evidence Monitoring and policy Evaluation, OECD.
- **Reactions from Peers**

15.15 – 16.00 Related International Initiatives

This session will offer an opportunity to present and discuss related international initiatives in the area of the institutionalisation, quality and use of evaluation from a cross national perspective. Additional initiatives at European level will be included.

- **Nicolas Brunner**, Senior Counsellor, Cour des Comptes, France, introduction to the results of the 2019 INTOSAI survey on policy evaluation

16.00 – 16.30 Next steps for finalising the report

- **Stephane Jacobzone**, Head of Unit, Evidence Monitoring and policy Evaluation, OECD.

Adjourn.