



7th European Environmental Evaluators Network Forum: The impact of evaluating environment and climate policies

THE IMPACT OF EVALUATING ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE POLICIES EXPERIENCE OF THE RSB

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BRUSSELS, NOVEMBER 23, 2018

Outline

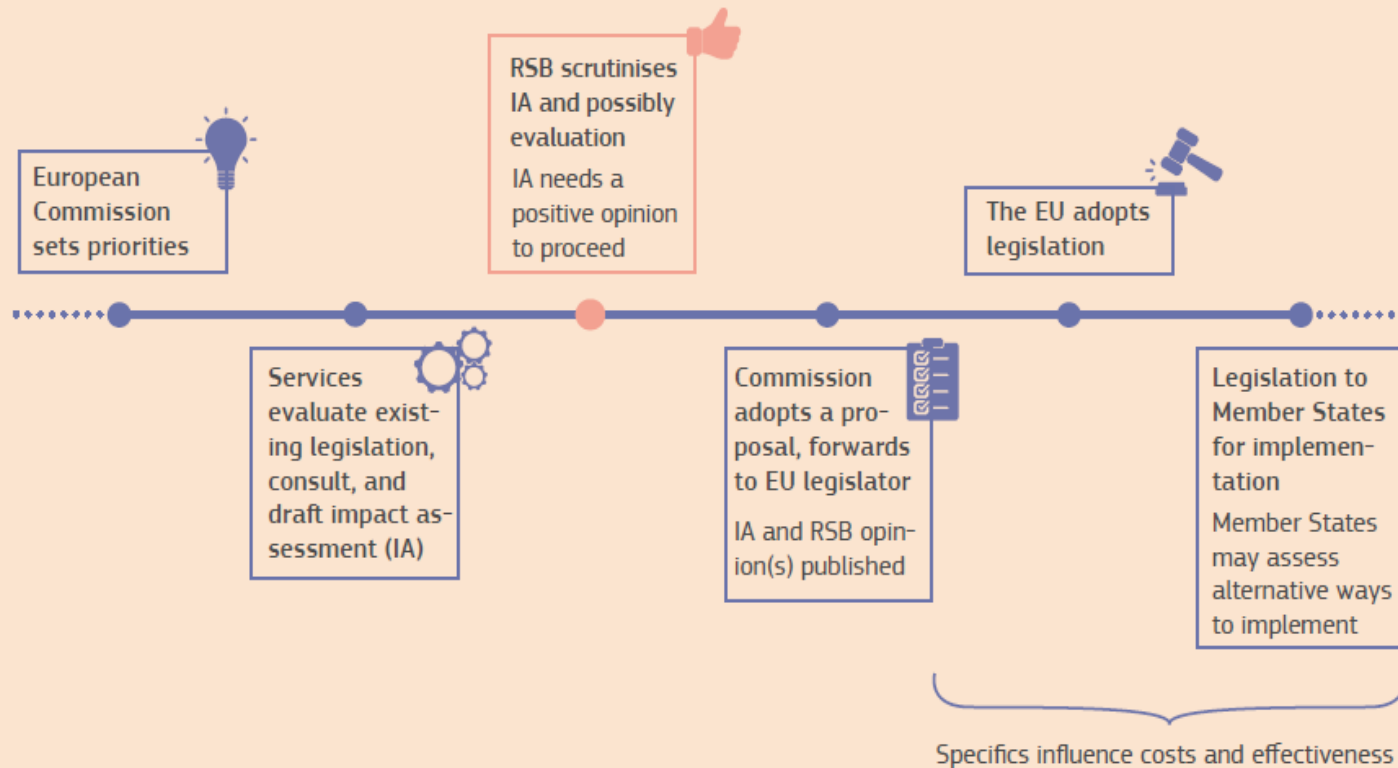
1. Scrutiny in the policy cycle: the role of RSB
2. RSB's observations on evaluations
3. Particular features of evaluations of environmental and climate policies
4. Suggestions for improvements

Scrutiny in the policy cycle: the role of RSB



European
Commission

The role of RSB in delivering better EU regulation



RSB's observations on evaluations

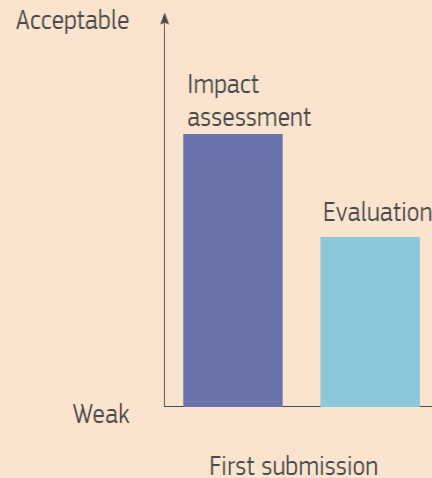
Scrutiny of evaluations in the policy cycle: RSB's role

1. The Board's scrutiny focusses on the lessons learned for future impact assessments.
2. This is in line with the "evaluation first" principle.
3. This learning function is not always the primary concern of evaluations.
4. The link with future impact evaluations is not always present in evaluations.

RSB's observations on evaluations

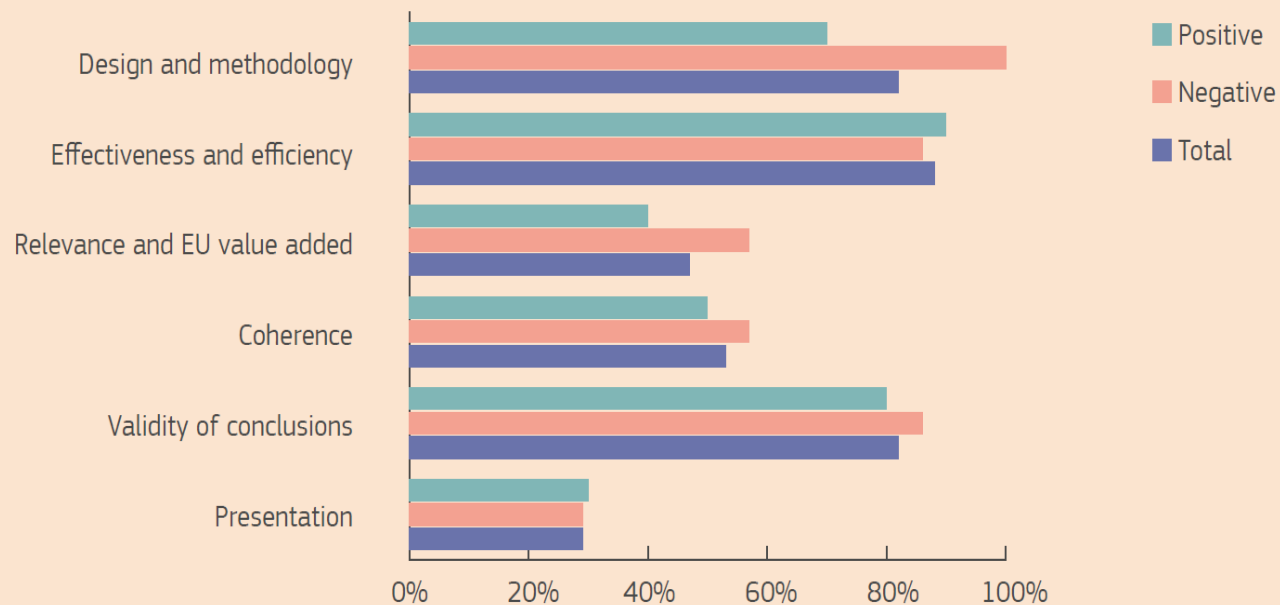
Evaluations are of lower quality than impact assessments

Figure 12. Comparison of quality of scrutinised impact assessments and evaluations, first submission



RSB's observations on evaluations

Figure 10. Frequency of different issues featuring in Board opinions on evaluations



RSB's observations on evaluations

Figure 8. Impact assessments supported by evaluations are becoming more prevalent, but evaluation results are not always well used



Particular features of evaluations of environmental and climate policies

Evaluations of environmental and climate policies the Board has seen

- 5 major evaluations that were not linked to immediate impact assessments

Fitness Check on Monitoring and Reporting Obligations in EU Environment Policy	ENV	2017/ENV/002
Greening of the Common Agricultural Policy	AGRI	2017/AGRI/002
Mid-Term Evaluation of the LIFE Programme for Environment and Climate Action	ENV	2017/ENV/001
Evaluation of the EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change	CLIMA	2016/CLIMA/011
REACH Evaluation	ENV; GROW	2017/ENV/005

- All of these received positive opinions (with 41 % negatives overall)
- Many more evaluations were done “back-to-back” with impact assessments for new initiatives.

Evaluations of environmental and climate policies the Board has seen

- Larger number of “evaluations first” in preparation of impact assessments
 - **Transport**
Incentives to reduce energy use in transport, for modal shift, standards
 - **GROW, ENER**
Eco-design standards
- 25 percent did “evaluate first”
- 25 percent got a “positive opinion”, 45 percent a “positive with reservations”, and 30 percent a “negative opinion”.

Evaluations of environmental and climate policies the Board has seen

Overall results “evaluation first”

- 26 impact assessments with climate or environmental policy objectives
- 18 of them needed an evaluation.
- About 40 percent of the evaluations were rated inadequate.



Evaluations of environmental and climate policies the Board has seen

Results for 2018 look worse

- 9 cases with environmental or climate policy objectives
- 25 percent did “evaluate first”
- 25 percent got a “positive opinion”, 45 percent a “positive with reservations”, and 30 percent a “negative opinion”.

Explained by a large number of cases that implemented a path of increasing ambitions for technical standards.

Suggestions for improvements

Immediate conclusions

- Evaluation performance for climate and environmental cases is above the average.
- Evaluation performance is serving positive outcomes for impact assessments.
 - **Less than 20 percent of IAs with adequate eval. got a negative opinion.**
 - **50 percent of IAs without adequate eval. got a negative opinion.**

How ENV and CLIMA experience can help general evaluation performance

- Make use of ENV and CLIMA experience in formal empirical analysis for other sectors.
- Avoid add-ons to evaluation in other sectors, integrate environmental analysis.
- Avoid routine revisions of legislation without evaluation.
- Avoid mechanical re-application of models and methods.
- Simplify methods used for environmental and climate policy evaluations.



Thank you

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