



# **Evaluation for better regulation in environment and climate policies – Lessons from research and practice**



## Lead questions for thematic clusters

- 1) (state of play) Which are the key elements necessary for an evaluation supporting better regulation in environment and climate policy?
- 2) (obstacles) What are the key analytical and take-up obstacles for environmental evaluation in the context of “better regulation“?
- 3) (improvements) What are opportunities and priority areas for developing evaluation in the current political context?



# Feedback from Better Evaluation Track session

- New approaches
- Policy instruments
- Better regulation



# Feedback from Better Evaluation Track session

Different approaches:

1. Rapid impact evaluation (ARCeconomics)
2. Systematic reviews (Stockholm Environment Institute)
3. Integrating complexity (Centre for the Evaluation of Complexity across the Nexus CECAN)
4. (Mathematical) modelling EU wide fiscal policy (Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra)
5. Single country case study of policy mix – Transitions perspective (SYKE / SPRU)
6. Storytelling “beyond compliance” (Scottish EPA)
7. Systematising intelligence for risk-based assessment (Irish EPA)
8. State of Environment Reporting as a form of evaluation (Austrian EPA)



# Feedback from Better Evaluation Track session

Synthesising a few common threads:

1. The tool box contains a wide range of tools (keep “fit-for-purpose” in mind)
2. Mixed methods evaluation is desirable (as is interdisciplinary collaboration)
3. The knowledge process is more important than the knowledge product
4. Timing of evaluation in the policy cycle is essential
5. Tension between the effort invested in scientific rigour and the effort invested in use of findings

*“An appropriate answer to the right question is worth a good deal more than the exact answer to an approximate problem” John W. Tukey*



# Feedback from Better Evaluation Track session

Some appropriate answers to one (hopefully) right question to 4 Environment Agency bosses?

Assuming state of the environment (SoE) reporting is a form of policy evaluation, what input would you ask of the European Environmental Evaluators Network?

1. Help us strengthen the role of SoE reporting in the policy process, e.g. through external review of the process.
2. Help us understand the role of stories, e.g. by taking ex-post analysis of what works and turning it into success stories.
3. Help us better understand behavioural change.
4. Help us bring more specific policy evaluation knowledge and language into our SoE reports.