



Five years of trying to make “what works” work ...

– what have we learned so far?

Ian Vollbracht

14th International Evaluation Conference, 27th-28th of May 2021 (organised by the Polish Agency for Enterprise Development and the Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy)

Structure of my 15 minutes...(1/6)

1. Introducing CC ME @JRC
2. The theoretical and policy backdrop
3. CC ME work
4. Lessons learned (so far!)
5. Hopefully some questions 😊

Structure of my 15 minutes...(2/6)

1. **Introducing CC ME**
2. The theoretical and policy backdrop
3. CC ME work
4. Lessons learned (so far!)
5. Hopefully some questions 😊

JRC.I1.CC-ME

People@CC-ME in 2019



Launch: 16 May 2016
(CRIE since 2013)

Mission: “To enhance EU policies through data-driven micro-econometric analysis and to provide causal evidence on what works”

Works with: EU institutions, Member States, Researchers

Services: (i) analysis
(ii) methodological advice
(iii) capacity building

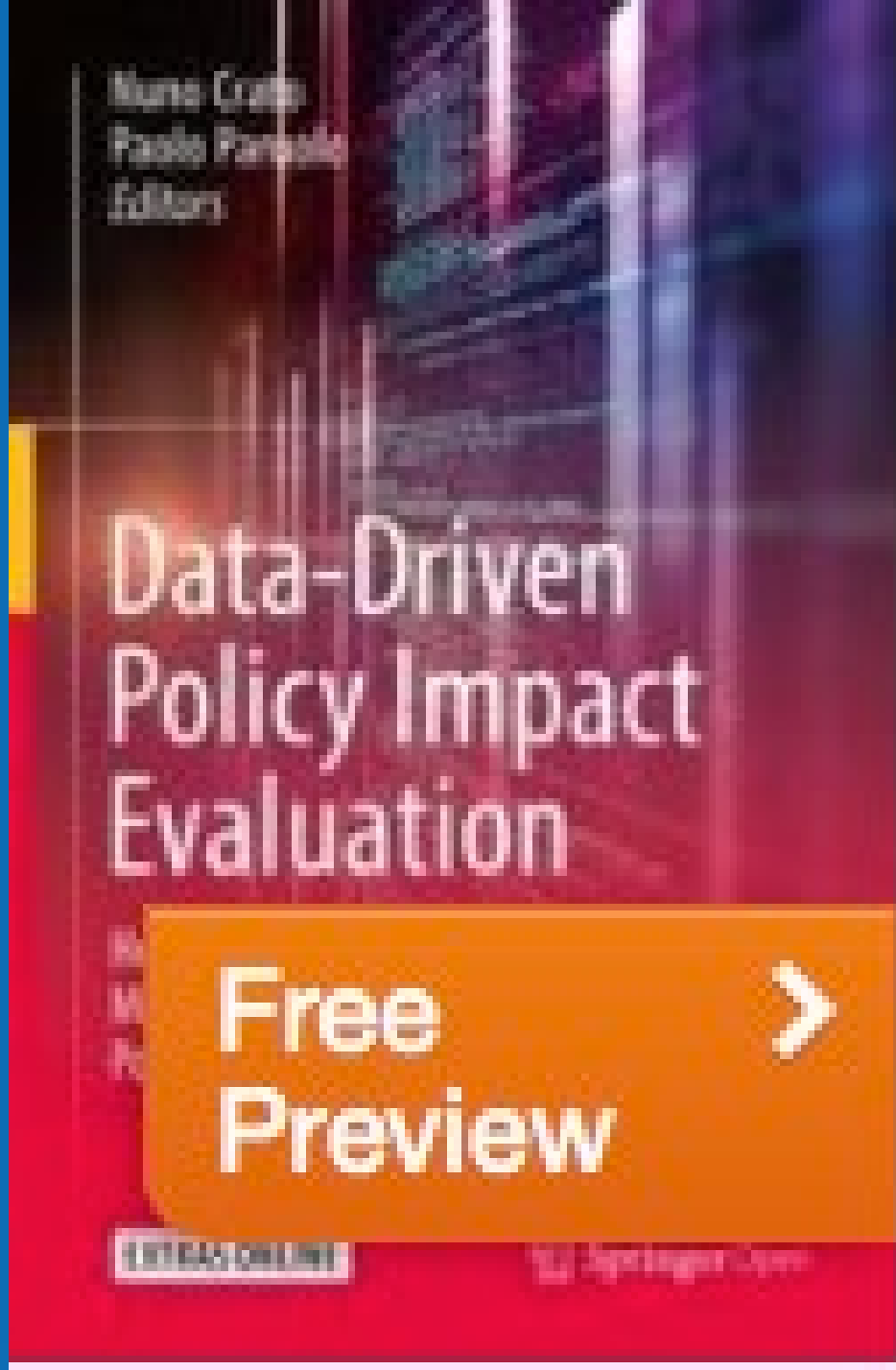
Structure of my 15 minutes...(3/6)

1. Introducing CC ME
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Data-Driven Policy Impact Evaluation

- “Causality revolution”
- “What works”

• <https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783319784601>





Better Regulation Joining forces to make better laws



Better Regulation(1/3)

6.3. Enhancing evaluations to improve use of their findings



A large majority of the Commission's legislative proposals are revisions of existing legislation, including for spending programmes. For them to produce the best results, we need to check whether EU policies and funding programmes have delivered results as intended and remain relevant and fit for purpose. This is how we learn.

Therefore, we will stay strongly committed to the 'evaluate first' principle. Already, over 80% of the Commission's impact assessments supporting legislative revisions are based on an evaluation.

Evaluations and subsequent impact assessments rely heavily on the quality, availability and the reuse of data⁷². Hence, it is crucial to monitor the performance of legislative provisions on the ground. At the same time, such monitoring and the related reporting obligations place administrative burdens on businesses and public authorities. Therefore, there needs to be a balance between only gathering what is strictly necessary and having enough data available for future evaluations. For this reason, we call on the co-legislators to safeguard that all legislation contains monitoring and reporting clauses that guarantee sufficient relevant data to evaluate it.

Better Regulation(2/3)

6.3. Enhancing evaluations to improve use of their findings



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Better Regulation(3/3)

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Counterfactual impact evaluations



How to use **administrative data** for European Social Funds counterfactual impact evaluations

A **step-by-step** guide for managing authorities

KEY STEPS FOR USING ADMINISTRATIVE DATA FOR COUNTERFACTUAL IMPACT EVALUATION

Step 1: Analyse the intervention (especially its objectives and the mechanism used to select participants) to decide on the data needs and the CIE method to be used.

Step 2: Identify the data sources for (1) monitoring data (data on participants, details and timing of the intervention); (2) pre-intervention information (demographic characteristics, pre-intervention outcomes, territorial information); (3) post-intervention information (outcomes related to the intervention's objectives).

Step 3: Identify the institutions collecting the data identified in the second step

Step 4: Learn about the data access rules of each data holder and reach a new agreement if necessary

Step 5: Link and anonymise or pseudonymise the data

Step 6: Aggregate the data in bigger categories

Step 7: Distribute the data to evaluators, choosing one of three options: physical transfer, secure access or secure labs

Structure of my 15 minutes...(4/6)

1. Introducing CC ME
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Activity report 2020

- CC-ME Open Days (OP)
- Methodological Support (MS) on Evaluation
- Upstream Meetings (UM) of the Regulatory Scrutiny Board (RSB)
- Team Up (TU) on Evaluation
- Administrative Agreements (AA)
- Community of practice and training (CT)
- CC-ME Seminar Series (SEM)
- [COMPIE](#) Counterfactual Methods for Policy Impact Evaluation conference
- [HEW](#) Health Econometrics Workshop

Activities:		AA	TU	MS			OP	RSB			
				ISC	ISSG	ISG		UM	FU	UMUM	
Policy DG:	AGRI		1								
	BUDG	1									
	CLIMA					2		4			
	CNECT	1						3			
	COMP	1	1	1				3	2	1	
	EAC		1								
	ECFIN							1			
	ECHO						1				
	EMPL	2		1							
	ENER							2			
	ENV		1					10	1		
	ESTAT				1						
	FISMA							10	1		
	GROW					2		2			
	HOME					2		3			
	INTPA	1									
	JUST							5	2		
	JRC		1					1			
	MOVE					2		2			
	REFORM							2			
	RTD		2								
	SANTE							1			
	TAXUD							2			
	TRADE							1			
Total	24	6	7	2	1	8	3	50	6	1	

Table 1: Summary of the CC-ME Support Activities by policy DG. Color intensity proportional to the number of Activities. Legend: AA: Administrative Agreements; TU: Team up on evaluation; MS: methodological support, including InterService Consultations (ISC), InterService Steering Groups (ISSG), InterService Groups (ISG); OP: Open days; RSB: participation to RSB upstream meetings (UM), follow-ups (FU), upstream meetings of the UM (UMUM). All numbers are colored using a gradient from cyan to blue on a scale from 0 to 10, except for the total 50.

JobsPlus evaluation

Abstract: The aim of this evaluation is to provide evidence on the effectiveness of JobsPlus, a financial incentive launched in 2013 and consisting of employment subsidies for long-term unemployed. The JobsPlus scheme provides two treatment types: a subsidy of euro 7,500 for employees who had been unemployed for between one and two years, and a subsidy of euro 10,000 for employees who had been unemployed for more than two years. This analysis covers entrants from the scheme inception in July 2013 to April 2016. The effect of JobsPlus is estimated separately for the two types of subsidy exploiting the detailed information on unemployed past working histories, available in the Jobseekers Longitudinal Dataset (JLD) administrative database, applying a matching approach. The results point to a positive impact of the subsidy on JobsPlus participants who, after the programme, are less likely to be in receipt of unemployment-related benefits and show a higher probability to earn more and to work for more weeks in a year. For those we can observe over the longest duration subsequent to their JobsPlus start (four years), the difference between the two groups in their probability of receiving unemployment benefits is between 11.1 percentage points (unemployed for at least one year) and 16.4 percentage points (unemployed for at least two years).

Authors: CRONIN Hugh; FERRARA Antonella; GERACI Andrea; HARDIMAN Saidhbhín; JUDGE Ciaran; MAZZARELLA Gianluca; SANTANGELO Giulia

The evaluation of the Youth Employment Initiative

The evaluation of the Youth Employment Initiative in Portugal using Counterfactual Impact Evaluation methods

Abstract: The Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) in Portugal is the framework for a set of specific actions to take place in regions experiencing youth unemployment rates above 25%, and which aim to help young individuals who are not in education, employment, or training. This report evaluates the YEI implementation in Portugal, using counterfactual impact evaluation (CIE) methods to estimate its causal impact on young individuals' labour market outcomes. The analysis was carried out using Portuguese administrative data from the Public Employment Service, and Social Security registers. Findings showed that when young individuals participated in internships or hiring support schemes funded by the European Social Fund (ESF), there was a positive and long-lasting effect on the individuals' labour market outcomes. This effect varied in magnitude according to the type of intervention, and across specific population groups.

Authors: DUARTE Nuno; GERACI Andrea; GRANATO Silvia; MAZZARELLA Gianluca; MORTAGUA Maria Joao



Structure of my 15 minutes...(5a/6)

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Structure of my 15 minutes...(5b/6)

6. Understand the policy context
7. Have a data plan
8. Two different reports may be needed for policy/ academic audiences

Structure of my 15 minutes...(6/6)

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Thank you



https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/microeconomic-evaluation_en

<https://microeconomicevaluation.jrc.ec.europa.eu/> (tools)



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