

Introduction to the project

Gregor Thenius
Austrian Energy Agency

2nd CA EED Plenary Meeting

*The importance of evidence based evaluation in view of
future energy related targets and reporting requirements*

23 March 2018, Vienna





*“Policies are living creatures and need to be adjusted periodically to take into account changes in context, markets, policy priorities, etc. A timely **evaluation** can provide the necessary basis for this”*

“The biggest difficulty is to justify the efforts (time and budget) needed to collect the energy-related data”

*“One may have **fear** to do an ex-post impact evaluation, because it may show smaller results than expected. However this increases the robustness of the results and therefore the **confidence** in the policy”*

“It was really worth the efforts needed to collect data and perform the evaluation”

“Empirical verifications represent a small budget compared to the whole budget of the scheme. Our experience with the ex-post impact evaluation is that it is really worth it”



1. Introducing EPATEE
2. Identifying stakeholders needs with regard to policy evaluation
3. Showing stakeholders how EPATEE could support them
4. Collecting feedback from stakeholders that can be used to develop and tailor-made EPATEE's outputs to their needs
5. Continuation from session 2.5: Offering participants a forum to exchange their views and priorities with regard to upcoming planning and reporting requirements



- In general:
 - evaluation results = information needed to report accountability
 - evaluation recommendations = inputs for decision-making
- More specifically in practice:
 - **Improving the targeting:** updating eligibility criteria, incentive rates, standardized energy savings credits, etc.
 - **Improving requirements:** updating requirements about additionality, quality processes, etc.
 - **Understanding (and/or quantifying) specific issues:** factors explaining comfort taking, factors explaining differences between estimated and observed results, etc.
 - **Understanding what makes a scheme attractive or not:** adapting administrative processes, improving communication, etc.
 - **Finding new ideas:** introducing new flexibility options, criteria to favour actions with longer lifetime, using quality labels, etc.



The specific objectives of the project are to **create the favourable conditions** for improving the number and effective use of **ex-post impact evaluations** of energy efficiency policies.

The main general concept of EPATEE is that improving key stakeholders' evaluation practices help **bridging the gap** between their **need for effective policy making** and their **lack of data and analysis about the impacts**.

1. **Asses** needs and existing evaluation practices
2. **Improve** stakeholders' capacity
3. **Enable** regular exchange

Means to achieve project targets

Building resources based on up-to-date knowledge and concrete experience feedback

Creating the conditions for an effective use of these resources

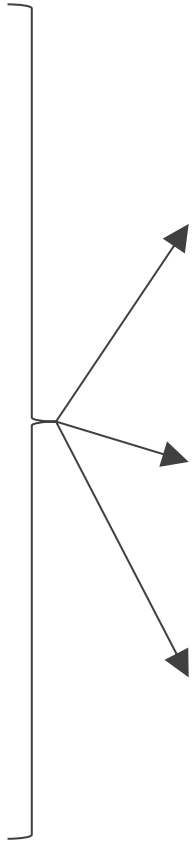
Knowledge Base
(user-oriented database of references)



Guidance and support



Case studies
(about ex-post evaluations)



Online toolbox
making resources easy to use

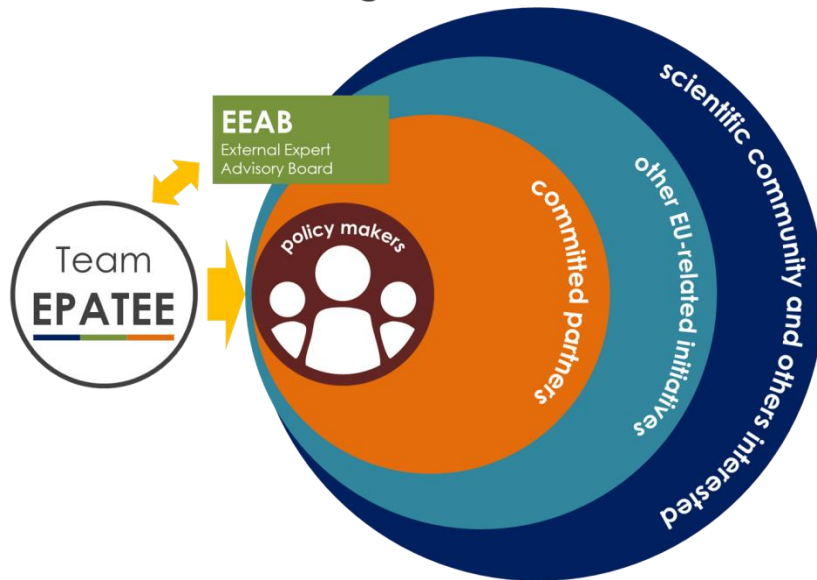
Experience sharing
targeted workshops, webinars, etc.

Dissemination
of results



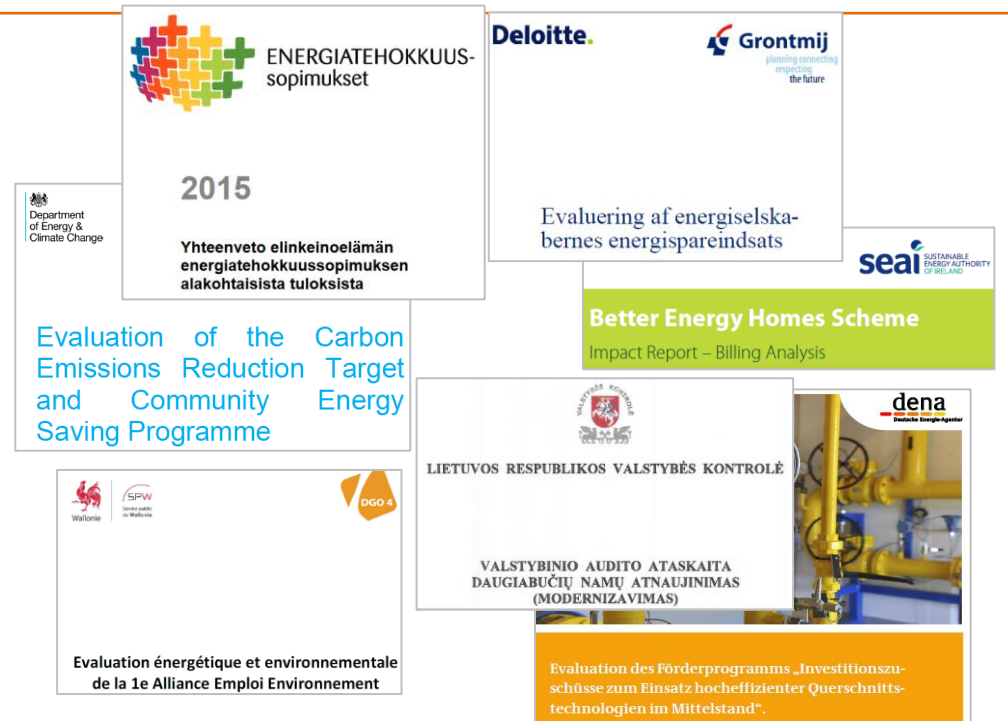
Stakeholder involvement

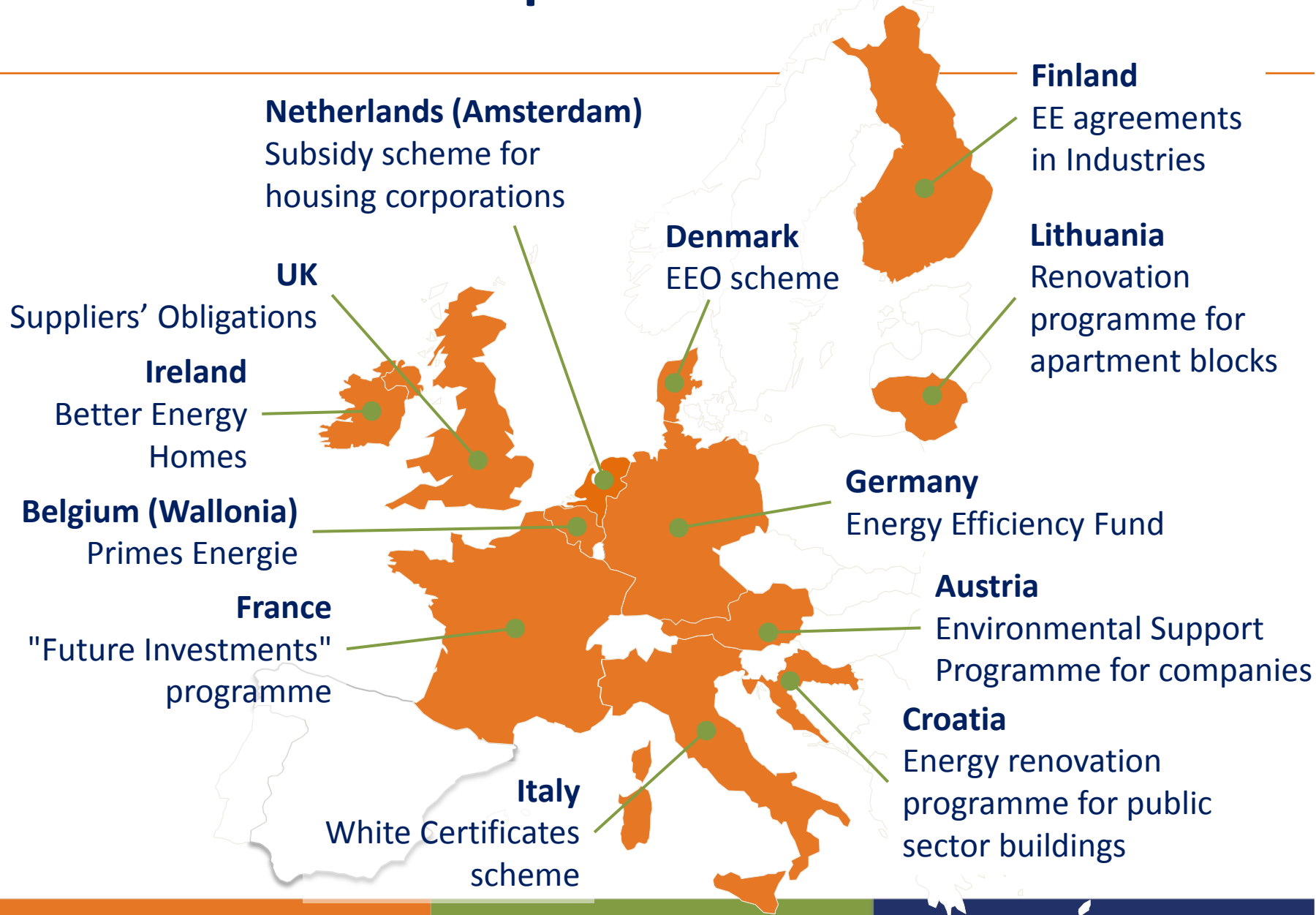
EPATEE's coverage



- Interviews with key stakeholders
- Surveys on evaluation practices
- EU peer-learning workshops
- National peer-learning workshops
- Webinars
- Direct support
- EPATEE newsletter
<https://epatee.eu/subscribe-our-newsletter>

- Making information easily **accessible**
- Providing information as **transparent** as possible
- Analysing **concrete examples**
 - **why** evaluation is used
 - **how** it is performed
- No intention to be exhaustive or representative







Short description of the measure

Key data about means and outputs

Data on energy savings

Details about the evaluation method(s)

Insights about other aspects monitored or evaluated

Focus on key evaluation issue(s) or practice(s)

+ interview(s) with the evaluation customer and/or evaluator

→ direct experience feedback

+ references

Available at: <https://epatee.eu/case-studies>



Challenges

- priority given to implementation
- data needs for monitoring and for evaluation may be different (and only data collection for monitoring was planned)
- data that were assumed to be available could finally not be used

Examples of difficulties reported in the case studies:

- ➔ to get reliable data about cost (e.g. for assessing cost-effectiveness indicators)
- ➔ to get approval from participants to get energy bills' data
- ➔ to match databases when combining different data sources (for example because addresses were not reliable identifiers)
- ➔ difficulties to collect reliable data about the “before” situation

EPATEE Interactive online toolbox

Overall objective:

- Develop a smart online toolbox with information and guidance for practitioners on integrating evaluation practice in the policy cycle for energy efficiency policies.

Target groups

- Primarily policy makers and evaluators, who are not necessarily experts in the field of evaluations and/or energy efficiency

The online toolbox will offer

- General guidelines and ‘best practices’ examples on energy efficiency policy evaluation
- Guidance on logical steps of an evaluation
- Guidance on evaluation methodologies
- Guidance on different types of impacts
- Practical examples, with references
- do’s and don’ts
- per sector, per policy measure, in different countries
- Recommendations and support on energy efficiency policy design
- Further readings



The three main barriers perceived by stakeholders:

- insufficient financial resources
- **lack of interest from policy makers and public managers** (i.e. a cultural barrier that exposes Member States and local governments to an ineffective use of the available resources and reduces the possibility to learn by doing);
- lack of reliable data to evaluate non energy effects (i.e. important aspects and impacts of policies are not covered by the evaluation process).



Support is needed:

- Measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) methods
- Indicators to verify the cost-effectiveness of policy
- Data and approaches needed to analyse non-energy effects of the policies
- Need of standardised procedures to facilitate the evaluation action and to allow a meaningful comparison among different policies and countries?
- Means to ensure that evaluation is an independent process
- How to determine the resources to allocate in order to put in place an effective evaluation

How EPATEE can support

- **General**
 - Workshops
 - Webinars
 - Online toolbox
 - Website

- **Specific**
 - Direct support to stakeholders for concrete policies or evaluations planned
 - Bilateral exchanges on selected issues

Questions

1. Are you aware of evaluations (in your country or elsewhere) that could serve as case studies for EPATEE?
2. What are challenges for ex-post evaluation?
3. What helps in successful ex-post evaluation?
4. What aspects of ex-post evaluation should the support in EPATEE focus on? What questions would you like to have answered by the project?
5. Are you aware of a planned or ongoing evaluation in your country that could use support from EPATEE? Are you interested in bilateral exchanges with the project?

EPATEE

www.epatee.eu

https://twitter.com/epatee_eu

Gregor Thenius
Austrian Energy Agency
gregor.thenius@energyagency.at

