



ReSPA

Regional School
of Public Administration

BUILDING TOGETHER
GOVERNANCE FOR THE FUTURE

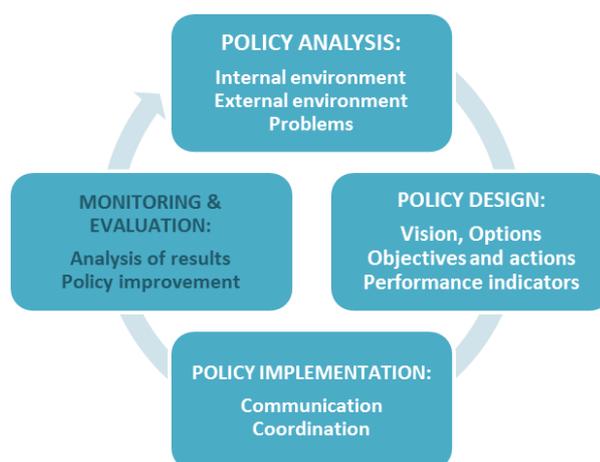
Seminar on Evaluation of Public Policies

*Training and exchange of experience for civil servants from
Western Balkans*

11-12 March 2021, Zoom platform

Programme and Agenda

Background



Evaluation is the more elaborate process of analysing the success of the strategy implementation, identifying what went right, examining the reasons behind what went wrong, and then re-adjusting the strategic direction accordingly. The design and execution of the evaluation stage is usually independent of the regular monitoring and reporting framework. Evaluation involves forming evaluation questions, collecting and analysing data to get answers to those questions, and gathering evidence to formulate conclusions and recommendations. The purpose of evaluation is to improve strategic policy implementation or its design. Good evaluation also is a critical accountability instrument and serves institutional strengthening, as well.

This seminar is focusing on the evaluation sequence of the policy development cycle. As being partially dependent on and connect to monitoring and reporting, it is also a continuation of the ReSPA seminar on monitoring and reporting, held in October 2020. During the course of the seminar, participants will be introduced to the general concepts of evaluation, some specific aspects and technicalities of good evaluation design and execution, as well as good international practices on these aspects. Achieving this the seminar will focus on:

1. the conceptual positioning of policy evaluation in the policy management cycle
2. the similarities and differences between policy evaluation and monitoring
3. the prerequisites for effective evaluation (why sound planning is a pretext for evaluability, why do we need good outcome- and result-level indicators)
4. the evaluation context, purpose and approaches (mid-term versus final; learning as a purpose; in-house, outsourced and mixed execution)
5. evaluation questions (the concept of the '3Es': efficiency, effectiveness and economy)
6. roles, responsibilities, processes and success factors for evaluation

7. advice on how to formulate good evaluation reports to various audiences and how to use reporting smartly for accountability, learning and policy (re)design purposes

The seminar will provide a forum to introduce and understand in details the SIGMA Toolkit for the preparation, implementation, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of public administration reform and sector strategies and its corresponding Annex 5 on Monitoring, reporting and evaluation.

Since, over the past few years the first attempts to introduce systematic policy evaluation has occurred in the Western Balkan economies, especially evaluation efforts related to their public administration reform frameworks, the seminar is also offering a platform to facilitate discussion amongst civil servants on recent developments, as well as on key challenges and how to overcome them. Consequently, this event is a mixture of knowledge transfer and capacity building through conceptualization, practical examples and exercises and facilitated networking of professionals to learn from each other and think jointly about the way forward.

Owing to the current Covid-19 pandemic, the seminar is organised online (i.e. as a Webinar), for two consecutive days, respecting the different circumstances of learning and exchange of views with the use of the online environment. Consequently, the length of the days and the details to be covered are adjusted to the limitations of the Webinar environment.

The first day of the Webinar, hence, is devoted to “set the stage” and share knowledge about the key elements of successful monitoring, while the second days is offered for exchange of views on the current practices in the Western Balkans and reflect to them in light of international good experience.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

DAY I: Thursday, 11 March 2021

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| 09.00 – 09.10 | <i>Arrival/login of participants, any technical setup arrangements</i> |
| 09.10 – 09.20 | Welcoming speech and introduction of ReSPA focuses on policy evaluation <i>Dragan Djuric, Programme Manager, ReSPA</i> |
| 09.20 – 09.40 | Opening of the seminar by setting the agenda and introduction of all participants <i>Peter Vagi, External ReSPA Expert, all participants</i> |
| 09.40 – 10.00 | Session 1: The position of evaluation in the policy cycle – conceptual basics for evaluation and its place vis-à-vis monitoring and reporting <i>Peter Vagi, External ReSPA Expert</i> |
| 10.00 – 10.30 | Session 2: Prerequisites for successful evaluation – evaluability and its connection to the planning design and details (including the concept and connections to the ‘3E’ evaluation questions) <i>Peter Vagi, External ReSPA Expert</i> |
| 10.30 – 10.45 | <i>Questions and answers on the concepts and prerequisites of good evaluation</i> |
| 10.45 – 11.00 | <i>Break</i> |
| 11.00 – 11.45 | Session 3: Key elements of a good evaluation setup – evaluation types and designs (including purposes, expectations, roles and processes) <i>Peter Vagi, External ReSPA Expert</i> |
| 11.45 – 12.15 | Session 4: Report writing – structure, length, details, language, tips and tricks to get to useful reports <i>Peter Vagi, External ReSPA Expert</i> |
| 12.15 – 12.25 | <i>Questions and answers on the roles, processes and report writing tricks</i> |
| 12.25 – 12.30 | <i>Wrap-up and closing of Day I</i> |

DAY II: Friday, 12 March 2021

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| 09.00 – 09.10 | <i>Login of participants, recap of Day I</i> |
| 09.10 – 10.50 | <p>Facilitated discussion about the Western Balkan current practices with policy evaluation</p> <p>Key questions to discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The national framework and obligations for policy evaluation • Standards for the structure, content and processes of evaluating policies/strategies (mid-term vs. final evaluation; evaluation questions and focuses) • Recent examples of evaluations (PAR and other sectors) • Key challenges with evaluation (experience, analytical skills, data availability, coordination and cooperation, etc.) • Expectations and plans for the future <p><i>Peter Vagi, External ReSPA Expert + contribution by all participants on their experience</i></p> |
| 10.50 – 11.00 | <i>Break</i> |
| 11.00 – 12.00 | <p>The case of the “PAR review” in Georgia – design, focus, challenges and lessons learned</p> <p><i>Martins Krievins, OECD/SIGMA Senior Policy Advisor and Kety Tsanova, Head of Public Administration Division, Administration of the Government of Georgia</i></p> |
| 12.00 – 12.20 | <p><i>Closing discussion – common lessons and potentials for progress</i></p> <p><i>Peter Vagi, External ReSPA Expert Dragan Djuric, Programme Manager Coordinator, ReSPA Gentian Xhaxhiu, Programme Manager – Legal</i></p> |