

Impact Evaluation and Quality Assurance Recommendations

InternACTional 2021



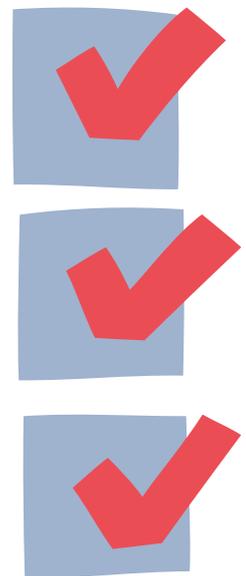
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IMPACT EVALUATION AND QUALITY ASSURANCE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STUDENTS AND INSTITUTIONS

Impact evaluation presents valuable data on the results already produced. It is applicable for future changes and growth. Like any other modern and unknown production, it might be challenging to predict the impact beforehand - it is new, changes while implementing and remains unpredictable. Typically the tangible impact can only be evaluated once the innovation is used in practice for some time and has executed some of the primary assignments. Evaluation can be used while implementing the innovation to discover a more precise direction for the future. Depending on the innovation specifics, different approaches for assessment should be taken. These recommendations might be used both by the students' teams and by institutions:

Main recommendations

- Define clear quantitative and/or qualitative criteria. Evaluate expected and achieved results.
- Collect data from target group/customers - open-ended questions about product/service quality, price, convenience, importance, etc. Evaluate the experience by analyzing and taking each opinion into account.
- Note if a new job position was created for your innovation - any new job position is already added value to the economy.
- Look at the global cost savings that innovation has brought to general processes and previous methods.
- Spotlight staff members who have acquired know-how of the field or developed additional education in it.
- Pay attention to the influence and awareness created by your innovation to a broader audience in media sources.
- Include all new collaborations produced and their outcomes.
- Estimate the growth or reduction of funding, grants and other incomes during the period, naming possible reasons.
- Look at the efficiency of transferred and adapted knowledge to society, policymakers, scientists, industry, etc.
- Evaluate the added value of each output, its practical usage.



OECD-DAC criteria

Many impact evaluations use the standard OECD-DAC criteria (OECD-DAC accessed 2015):

- **Relevance:** The extent to which the objectives of intervention are consistent with recipients' requirements, country needs, global priorities and partners' policies.
- **Effectiveness:** The extent to which the intervention's objectives were achieved or expected to be achieved, considering their relative importance.
- **Efficiency:** A measure of how economic resources/inputs (funds, expertise, time, equipment, etc.) are converted into results.
- **Impact:** Positive and negative primary and secondary long-term effects produced by the intervention, whether directly or indirectly, intended or unintended.
- **Sustainability:** The continuation of benefits from the intervention after major development assistance has ceased. Interventions must be both environmentally and financially sustainable. Where the emphasis is not on external assistance, sustainability can be defined as the ability of key stakeholders to sustain intervention benefits – after the cessation of donor funding – with efforts that use locally available resources.



Evaluation questionnaire

Another way to evaluate - define key evaluation questions. Use this template or generate a questionnaire for the specifics of your innovation (source - www.betterevaluation.org):

- What was the quality of the intervention design/content? (assessing relevance, equity, gender equality, human rights)
- How well was the intervention implemented and adapted as needed? (evaluating effectiveness, efficiency)
- Did the intervention produce the intended results in the short, medium and long term? If so, for whom, to what extent and in what circumstances? (assessing effectiveness, impact, equity, gender equality)
- What unintended results - positive and negative - did the intervention produce? How did these occur? (assessing effectiveness, impact, equity, gender equality, human rights)
- What were the barriers and enablers that made the difference between successful and disappointing intervention implementation and results? (assessing relevance, equity, gender equality, human rights)
- How valuable were the results to service providers, clients, the community and/or organizations involved? (assessing relevance, equity, gender equality, human rights)
- To what extent did the intervention represent the best possible use of available resources to achieve results of the greatest possible value to participants and the community? (assessing efficiency)
- Are any positive results likely to be sustained? In what circumstances? (assessing sustainability, equity, gender equality, human rights)



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