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# Measuring youth policy: are we doing right things in a right way?

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# Why to measure policy?

Helps to

- **improve** the quality of decisions: more targeted and efficient public actions;
- **explain** the need to involve;
  - o Improve quality of information available to stakeholders
  - o Involve a wider range of interests and foster public dialogue on goals and means of public action
- **avoid** unnecessary government involvement;
- **implement** the policy;
- ...

# How to measure policy?

- Clear intervention logic needed:
  - What do we want to change and why?
  - Who are concerned? To whom is the change targeted?
  - How much change do we want ?
  - How can we do it?
  - What else beside our actions influences the change?

# How do I understand the change has taken place?

- An indicator produces ... information with a view to helping actors concerned with public interventions to communicate, negotiate or make decisions (Evalsed 2012)
- **A good indicator** is (5th Cohesion report of the EC)
  - clearly interpretable,
  - statistically validated,
  - truly responsive and
  - directly linked to policy intervention, and
  - promptly collected and published

But do you know somebody who knows somebody  
who has seen a good indicator?

## What do avoid when measuring policy?

### 5 most common mistakes indicated by Barca group 2009

1. The concepts of **input, output, outcome/result and impact** not being **clearly distinguished**.
2. **Indicators** being assigned a **marginal** (“technical”) **role** in programming documents, their selection being postponed until after the approval of the documents.
3. **No standards or methodological principles for indicators** being set and monitored by the external agency in charge for the development grants.
4. **Context indicators** – dashboard/scoreboards of indicators aimed at describing the overall national or regional context and at detecting strengths and weaknesses – **being confused with outcome indicators**, aimed at capturing the dimensions on which policy can reasonably claim to have an effect.
5. The achievement (failure) to achieve target is being confused with policy achievement (failure), as if no factors other than policy were at work.



# Where to start?

- Define the **real** problem: what do we want to change and **why**?
  - Where we are and where do we want to be?
  - Cause and effect?
  - Who will benefit?
  - Use of data (indicators!) when defining the problem!
  - **NB! Retaining a status quo might also be a challenge!**
- How do I understand that the change has taken place due to my actions?
  - Define the baseline!
  - What direction and how much movement from the baseline do I want to achieve?

# How do we measure youth policy in Estonia ?

## ESTONIAN YOUTH WORK STRATEGY 2006-2013

- **Youth work** as the area that shapes the principles and value attitudes of youth policy, is the creation of conditions that facilitate the development of youth, enable them to be active of their own free will outside their families, curriculum education and job.
- The aim of **education policy** is to give basic knowledge in formal education, vocational and social skills and to prepare youth for ensuring the sustainability of society and for managing in it.
- The aim of **employment policy** as regards youth is to increase the employment rate by improving social and professional skills.
- **Health policy** proceeds from the betterment of the young people's health and prevention of such conduct that would harm themselves or other people.
- The area of **environment** comprises activities that are aimed at increasing the environmental awareness of youth and at acquiring the principles of a saving and sustainable development.



# How do we measure youth policy in Estonia ?

## ESTONIAN YOUTH WORK STRATEGY 2006-2013

- One of the most essential aims of **culture policy** regarding youth is the shaping of youth culture carriers.
- The aim of **the social policy** regarding youth is the improvement of the youth's and children's development environment and protection of their rights.
- The aim of **family policy** regarding youth is to provide the best possible quality of life and safe environment, also in situations where a young person becomes a parent.
- **Crime prevention policy's** measures aimed at youth strive for the safety of the living environment of youth, i.e. the protection of the safety of youth by decreasing or eliminating environmental or situational danger factors and prevention of crimes committed by young people.

# How do we measure youth work Estonia ?

## ESTONIAN YOUTH WORK STRATEGY 2006-2013 Indicator?

- to raise the quality of youth work and the qualification of youth workers;
  - to increase youth involvement in youth work and availability of youth work services;
  - to develop the structure of youth work into an integral network;
  - to use the potential of youth work in the development of different spheres of life.
- Youth (7-26) involvement in youth work
  - Youth participation in youth associations
  - The number of youth work institutions increases (incl. open youth centres, information and counselling centres, hobby school), the number increases as regards open youth centres and information and counselling centres
  - Youth councils in every county and major town

Why do we think these are problems?

Do we aim actions or outcomes/changes?

What happens if we don't change anything?

Do we measure change?

# How do we measure youth work in Estonia beyond 2013 ?

## Is this, what we want to change?

1. More support to creativity, self-initiatives, joint actions /Toetada loovust, omaalgatust ja ühistegevuse võimalusi
2. Reduce the effect of social inequalities on youth development options and avoid social exclusion/Vähendada ebavõrdsete olude mõju noore arenguvõimalustele ja ennetada tõrjutust
3. Support youth participation/ Toetada noorte osalust
4. Contribute to the successful participation of youth on the labour market/Aidata kaasa noore edukusele tööturul
5. Develop the quality of youth policy and youth work/ Arendada noortepoliitika ja noorsootöö kvaliteeti

Do not forget,  
you will get what you measure!  
So, measure what you would want to  
get!

Thank you!  
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