

9th
Evaluation
Conference
in Prague

Cohesion Policy:

Common Path to Results and Impacts

Exploring Causal Links: Experiences from the OPZ Call for proposal

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EVALUATION
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Call parameters

Purpose of the call

- to validate
- collaboration with public administration
- change of systems
- inspired by the project [Rapid Re-Housing](#)



Parameters of the call

- OP Employment
- 200 mill. CZK
- Projects 3 – 15 mill. CZK
- Evaluation as a fundamental requirement



Projects parameters

- 2 years implementation of projects activities (including evaluation and advocacy) + 1 year just evaluation and advocacy activities
- total of 11 projects
 - » regional development,, vocational rehabilitation, family prevention, social care and field services, domestic violence, imprisonment, autistic children, indebtedness, employment of people with disabilities



Parameters of evaluation

- Verification of causal relationships of interventions
- Evaluation goal: *To verify the impact of the intervention on the project's target group. The outcome of the evaluation should be the demonstration of whether there has been a change in the behavior, attitudes, or life situation of the target group and by what mechanism and why it occurred.*
- [Basis for evaluation in the call](#)

Parameters of evaluation

- 10 projects used CIE
 - » Propensity score matching, pre – post, difference in differences, timeline
 - » no experiment
- 1 TBIE with comparative case study
- all designs combined quantitative and qualitative approaches





How did CIE work?

Our experiences

- verification of assumptions for CIE
 - » stability of intervention and environment
 - » need for a lot work be done before CIE
 - » What constitutes a sufficiently developed intervention for causal verification?



Our experiences

- verification of assumptions for CIE
 - » enough people for intervention and control group is needed
 - » you need to pilot research instruments
 - » data collection - “non evaluators”
- sensitivity of research and evaluation instruments





Our experiences

Our experiences

- **Motivation of the project implementer**
- **Integration of research and the substantive part of the project**



Our experiences

- Evaluation and advocacy work very well together.
 - » The condition is the motivation of the implementer.
- Proper work with data interpretation
- Proving causality without Counterfactual Impact Evaluation is very difficult.



Our experiences

- Purely quantitative research in the social field does not work well; a combination with qualitative research is necessary.
 - » The situation of people/target groups is important.
 - » Good understanding of data.
 - » When the data don't show progress, it's good to know the details of why.



Conclusion

- Searching for causality and conducting CIE makes sense.
 - » But only sometimes and somewhere 😊.



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