

Building Evidence Ecosystems in Education, and Employment through Training: A Peer Learning Event, 8-10 April 2025, Cairo

Co-Hosted by Egypt Impact Lab and European Training Foundation

The primary objectives of the event, co-hosted by the Egypt Impact Lab (EIL) and the European Training Foundation (ETF), was to connect policymakers with implementation expertise, build basic technical capacity in evaluation methodologies, as well as to foster mutual learning. The event focused primarily on the area of active labour market policies (ALMPs) and its intersection with TVET programs by exploring evaluation frameworks that enhance their cost-effectiveness, sharing evidence from existing evaluations, and discussing key success features for matching individuals with the right training programs and jobs.

Key topics discussed during the event included the purpose of the impact evaluations, theory of change, ethical considerations, and randomisation tools - a key feature for measuring programme impact effectively. The agenda also included keynote addresses from representatives of the Egyptian government and a panel discussion with international experts on the value of evaluation for policy making. Participants worked on case studies and contributed to peer exchanges through marketplace set-up, discussing the challenges and various practices. The event also included a presentation from the Swedish Public Employment Service on their use of evaluations to understand the impact of various measures and their design. Also, the representative of RAND Europe presented their experience in conducting randomized impact evaluation and the challenges related to translating evaluation findings into policies.

During the concluding session of the event, participants highlighted several recurring challenges in designing, implementing, disseminating and utilizing impact evaluations. Key barriers included limited funding and human resource capacity dedicated to evaluation, lack of coordination across institutions, and insufficient data availability or quality. Resistance from policymakers and stakeholders—particularly when results challenge political interests or expectations—was also noted as a major obstacle, along with a general lack of trust in data and fear among beneficiaries that evaluations might lead to reduced support for specific services.

To address these challenges, participants emphasized the need for early and continuous engagement with policymakers and stakeholders to build trust and ownership. Strengthening cooperation with academic institutions and international organizations was seen as essential for capacity building and technical support. Enhancing data systems—through digitalization, improved protocols, and inter-agency collaboration—was also identified as a priority to support more reliable and timely evaluations.

On dissemination and ensuring utilization, participants agreed that results should be communicated constructively and transparently, with efforts to frame findings as opportunities for learning and improvement. Involving the media strategically, promoting cost-effectiveness analyses, and fostering a culture of evaluation within government institutions were proposed as ways to increase the visibility and influence of evaluation findings in policy decisions.