

AGENDA

TITLE:

How to Measure the Impact of Public Policies

Focus on employability and skills development

SUBJECT

An introduction to experimental and non-experimental methods for assessing policy impact.

European Training Foundation, Sala Europa (and online), 9-10 September 2025

SUMMARY:

Objective:

To expand and systematize knowledge on rigorous methods for measuring the impact of public policies, particularly in the area of human capital development. Special emphasis will be placed on randomized controlled trials (RCTs).

Target Audience:

ETF staff and representatives of J-PAL MENA and Egypt Impact Lab, Public Employment Service of Sweden, researchers and Italian organisations specialised in employment and skills development.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

Participants will be equipped to advise public authorities in the ETF Partner countries and EU services on:

- Selecting appropriate evaluation methods, including when and how to apply randomized controlled trials or quasi-experimental designs.
 - Designing evaluation methodologies, including defining required data, sampling strategies, research methods, tools, and analysis techniques.
 - Managing evaluation implementation, addressing common challenges, and practical issues.
 - Translating findings into policy recommendations.
 - Promoting a culture of evaluation and building evaluation capacity in partner countries.
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Key Contributors:

- **[The Egypt Impact Lab \(EIL\):](#)**

EIL is a joint initiative of J-PAL MENA and the Egyptian Ministry of Planning, Economic Development, and International Cooperation. It aims to improve the effectiveness of public policies in Egypt through rigorous evaluations and evidence-based approaches.

- [Arbetsförmedlingen - Public Employment Services Sweden:](#)

Public employment services in Sweden have extensive experience in conducting impact evaluations—particularly randomized controlled trials—using administrative data. A representative from Sweden Public Employment Service will share their expertise and practical case studies in impact evaluation.

- [Dr. Joanna Hofman](#)

Expert in evaluation, with over 15 years of evaluation experience, familiar with various evaluation approaches and designs, specialises in qualitative research methods. Managed and/or contributed to a range of evaluation studies related to health, education, employment, social and gender issues. Recently deputy director in Rand Europe, responsible for evaluation in the field of employment. Soon she will take over the position of the Director at Ipsos Europe.

- [The National Institute for Public Policy Analysis \(Inapp\)](#)

An Italian, national public research institution operating under the supervision of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, the institute is dedicated to the study, research, monitoring, and evaluation of public policies related to labour, education and training, social protection, active and passive labour measures, the third sector, social inclusion, and all initiatives impacting the labour market.

Format and Organisation:

- **Morning sessions:**
Lectures combined with group discussions to introduce key concepts.
- **Afternoon sessions:**
In-depth case study discussions for a smaller group of interested participants, focusing on specific methodological aspects.
- **Case studies:**
A case study exposition from the Neighbourhood Countries will accompany the sessions.

Thematic Focus

This training is tailored for professionals involved in advising public authorities and EU services on such processes. The emphasis will be on understanding how to design and oversee evaluations and how to effectively apply the findings, not on the technical details of conducting evaluations.

Core Topics Include:

- What are experimental (randomized) approaches? Key differences between randomized and quasi-experimental designs.
- Conditions for using experimental methods: feasibility, barriers, and limitations.
- How to design randomized evaluations: identifying data needs, sampling strategies, tools, methods, analysis, and reporting.
- Common implementation challenges and how to address them.
- Generalizing results: drawing conclusions and making evidence-based policy recommendations.

Tuesday, 9 September 2025

Time	Agenda Item	Owner
09:00 - 09:30	Arrival and registration	ETF
09:30 - 10:00	Welcome remarks and introduction Participants' expectations	Cristina Mereuta, ETF Dr Reham Rizk, J-PAL MENA, Egypt Impact Lab Piotr Stronkowski, ETF
10:00 – 10.45	Session 1 Why Evaluate and Theory of Change A discussion on the importance of impact evaluation in public policy and the role of theory of change in guiding effective evaluation. Q&A	Arwa Adel and Zeina Osama J-PAL MENA's EIL
10.45 – 11.15	Break	
11:15 - 12:00	Session 2 Why Randomize? Explanation of Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs) and quasi-experimental designs, with examples of each approach. Q&A	Nayera Adly Husseiny J-PAL MENA
12:00 - 13:00	Session 3 How to Randomize and Sample Size How to plan and set up a randomized controlled trial, including identification of what data is required and how to select and manage samples. Q&A	Dr. Reham Rizk J-PAL MENA's EIL
13.00 – 14.00	Break	
14:00-14:30	Impact Assessment of Labour Market Policies in Italy – Case Studies	Dr. Irene Brunetti The National Institute for Public Policy Analysis (Inapp)
14:30 – 16:00	Case Studies: Job Training and Matching Walkthrough of a real-life example: how to plan and set up a randomized controlled trial.	Arwa Adel and Zeina Osama J-PAL MENA's EIL
	Wrap up of first day	ETF

Wednesday, 10 September 2025

Time	Agenda Item	Owner
09:30 - 10:30	<p>Session 4 Experiences of Public Employment Services in Sweden</p> <p>A real-life example of RCTs in public employment services, with emphasis on using administrative data.</p> <p>Q&A</p>	Dr. Gisela Waisman, Public Employment Service, Sweden
10:30 – 11.30	<p>Session 5 Generalizability Framework</p> <p>How to turn evaluation findings into useful policy advice and assess how results can be shared across countries or contexts.</p> <p>Q&A</p>	Nayera Adly Hussein J-PAL MENA
11.30 – 11.45	Break	
11:45 - 12:45	<p>Session 6 Application of evaluation findings to enhance policy making</p> <p>Roles, functions and models of What Works Centres in knowledge generation and management</p> <p>Q&A</p>	Dr. Joanna Hofman, Evaluation expert, Researcher
12:45 - 13:00	Wrap up of the second day and next steps	ETF