

DRAFT AGENDA

TITLE:

Effectiveness of active labour market policies:
from theory to research, from findings to action

SUBJECT:

Peer Learning event, 16-17 of June 2026, Bari

Venue: Mercure Villa Romanazzi Carducci, Address: Via Giuseppe Capruzzi, 326, 70124 Bari BA, Italy (Phone: +39 080 918 4704)

SUMMARY

The main objective of the event is to strengthen the capacity of employment institutions in the EU Neighbourhood and Enlargement regions to plan, organise, and commission impact evaluation of active labour market policies (ALMPs), and to make informed use of existing evaluation evidence.

The Peer Learning Event will focus on the following areas:

- understanding when and why impact evaluation is an appropriate tool for ALMPs;
- translating policy challenges into clear and feasible impact evaluation questions;
- institutional roles, organisational arrangements, and skills needed to commission and manage impact evaluation;
- ensuring access to the good quality data; and
- identifying and using existing sources of evaluation and impact evaluation evidence.

The event will primarily use a workshop format, combining short-targeted inputs with group work and plenary discussions. A common policy case will be used to support learning, while allowing participants to reflect on the relevance of the discussed approaches for different target groups, such as youth, persons with disabilities, and migrants.

The event will build on the Peer Learning Event on impact evaluation held in Cairo in April 2025, in which participants were introduced to core concepts of evaluation and impact evaluation, including theory of change, different methodological approaches, and key implementation constraints. Information about the event is available [here](#).

Recognising that participants may have different levels of recall and that some new participants may join the event, the Bari meeting will include a short, structured recap aimed at re-activating this shared knowledge base rather than revisiting content from the beginning. The recap will focus on clarifying

when and why impact evaluation is an appropriate tool for active labour market policies and will serve as a bridge to the main focus of the event: developing practical skills for planning, organising, and commissioning impact evaluation within public employment institutions.

Participants

The main target group of the event will be representatives of employment institutions, including ministries responsible for employment policies and public employment services, as well as experts, evaluators, and representatives of civil society organisations involved in labour market policy and evaluation. Participants will primarily represent EU Neighbourhood and Enlargement countries. Representatives of selected EU Member States will also be invited, with the aim of strengthening cooperation and facilitating the exchange of knowledge, experience, and practical solutions across different institutional and policy contexts.

Contribution of partner organisations

The event will draw on the expertise of selected partner organisations. INAPP will contribute practical perspectives on evaluation and impact evaluation in the context of labour market policies and public employment services. The European Commission (DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion) will provide a policy perspective on the role of evaluation and evidence in EU-level employment policy and programming. The European Evaluation Society will contribute methodological and professional insights, with a focus on quality standards, commissioning practices, and the role of evaluation in public institutions.

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DAY 1 – 16th June - Framing impact evaluation as an institutional task

Time	Agenda Item
09:00 - 09:20	Opening and objectives <i>Moderator: Piotr Stronkowski, Human Capital Development Expert, ETF</i> Welcome remarks, and presentation of the objectives and structure of the Peer Learning Event. The session will position the Bari meeting as a continuation of the peer learning process initiated in Cairo and introduce the learning approach used during the event.
09:20 - 10:30	Block 1 – Structured recap: Why to evaluate and theory of change <i>Moderator: Piotr Stronkowski, Human Capital Development Expert, ETF</i> <i>Presenter(s): Nayera Adly Hussein, Lead, and Zeina Osama, Senior Policy and Training Associate, Egypt Impact Lab Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab, J-PAL MENA</i> This session revisits key concepts related to the impact evaluation and impact evaluation and theory of change and clarify the key steps for building theory of change. <i>Presentation and group discussions</i>
10:30 - 11.00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00 - 12.30	Block 2 – Institutional roles and organisational arrangements for impact evaluation <i>Moderator: Piotr Stronkowski, Human Capital Development Expert, ETF</i> <i>Presenter(s): Tomasz Kot, European Funds Ombudsman, Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy, Poland</i> <i>Piotr Strzemboszewski, Head of National Evaluation Unit, Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy, Poland</i> This session explores how evaluation and impact evaluation functions are organised within public institutions. It focuses on institutional roles and responsibilities; coordination between policy, implementation and evaluation units; and evaluation planning and governance mechanisms. <i>Presentation and group discussions</i>
12:30 - 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 - 15:20	Block 3 – Access to high-quality data for impact evaluation: Italian and UK case studies <i>Moderator: Eva Jansova, Human Capital Development Expert, ETF</i>

Time	Agenda Item
	<i>Presenter(s): Irene Brunetti, Researcher, National Institute for Public Policy Analysis - Istituto nazionale per l'analisi delle politiche pubbliche - INAPP, Italy</i> <i>Olha Krasovska, Ukrainian Evaluation Association</i> This session explores the role of administrative and survey data in impact evaluation through selected case studies from Italy. The discussion will focus on: evaluation design; availability and accessibility of administrative data; data governance and data reliability. <i>Presentations and group work</i>
15:20 - 15:50	<i>Coffee break</i>
15:50 - 16:55	Block 4 – Skills needed for impact evaluation <i>Moderator: Eva Jansova, Human Capital Development Expert, ETF</i> <i>Presenter: Monika Bartosiewicz-Niziolek, President, Polish Evaluation Society, NESE</i> This session focuses on the skills required to plan, manage and oversee impact evaluation in public institutions <i>Presentation and group discussions</i>
16:55 – 17:	Closure of Day 1
20:00 – 22:00	Official Dinner – Giampaolo's Restaurant

DAY 2 – 17th June - Commissioning and using evaluation evidence

Time	Agenda Item
09:00 - 09:15	Opening and recap Day 1 <i>Moderator: Piotr Stronkowski, ETF</i> Short recap of key insights from Day 1
09:15 - 09:45	Monitoring of ALMPs and local labour market – Presentation of Puglia Case <i>Moderator: Piotr Stronkowski, ETF</i> <i>Presenter: Dr. Gianluca Budano, Director, Regional Agency for Active Labour Policies - Agenzia Regionale Politiche Attive del Lavoro – Puglia, Italy</i> <i>Presentation and Q&A</i>
09:45 - 11.15	Block 5 – Commissioning impact evaluation <i>Moderator: Piotr Stronkowski, ETF</i>

Time	Agenda Item
	Panel discussion <u>Speakers:</u> • <i>Mihajlo Djukic, Senior Researcher, Institute of Economic Sciences, Serbia, Western Balkan Evaluation Network – WBEN / NESE / EES</i> • <i>Dragica Ivanović, Head of Department for Active Employment Policy, Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs of the Republic of Serbia</i> • <i>Nicola Orlando, Associazione Italiana di Valutazione - Italian Evaluation Association – AIV, Italy</i> • <i>Elisabetta Venezia, Evaluation Board - Apulia Region & University of Bari Aldo Moro, Regione Puglia, Italy</i> This session focuses on practical aspects of commissioning impact evaluation studies and managing relationships with external evaluators. <i>Panel discussion and group work</i>
11:15 - 11.45	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:45 - 13:00	Block 6 – Finding and interpreting evaluation evidence <i>Moderator: Eva Jansova, ETF</i> <u>Presenter(s):</u> • <i>Ana Diakonidze, PhD, Associate Professor of Sociology Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Tbilisi State University, Georgia</i> • <i>Emrah Akin Ayan, Employment expert, Turkish Employment Agency - İŞKUR, Türkiye</i> This session introduces key sources of evaluation evidence at national, EU and international levels and discusses how existing evidence can inform policy decisions. <i>Presentation and group work</i>
13:00 - 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 - 15:00	Block 6 (continuation) – Using evaluation evidence in policy decisions <u>Continuation</u> of group exercise and discussion on how evaluation findings can influence policy design and reform.
15:15 - 15:45	Block 7 – Reflection and next steps <i>Moderators: Eva Jansova and Piotr Stronkowski, ETF</i>
15:45 - 16:00	Closing session Summary of key lessons and next steps.