

EPRS

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY RESEARCH SERVICE

Mastering challenges in "evidence-based policy making": the experience of EPRS

7th International seminar for Parliamentary research services

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EPRS blog www.epthinktank.eu



Agenda

- Serving a diverse and multi-national Parliament- the context
- EPRS products and services supporting parliamentary committees
- Dilemmas, difficulties a brief discussion

As a major player in a multi-institutional setting



EU power European Council structure **28** National leaders **European Commission** 1 president 27 commissioners **Council of the EU** European **Parliament** Ministers from each Directly elected Member State EU law + budget



Serving a diverse and multinational Parliament

- 751 Members
- 28 EU countries
- 205 parties / 8 political groups
- 24 languages
- 20 standing committees, 2 subcommittees, special committees



Members and parliamentary committees as clients



Helping decision-makers to master the challenges



Decisions to be taken on the basis of information which is often unstructured and unfit for purpose Multiple issues to be dealt with simultaneously

A political climate in which "evidence" is often disregarded

EPRS contributes by providing

- Facts

- Help with sense making and reducing complexity
- Contributions for the debate

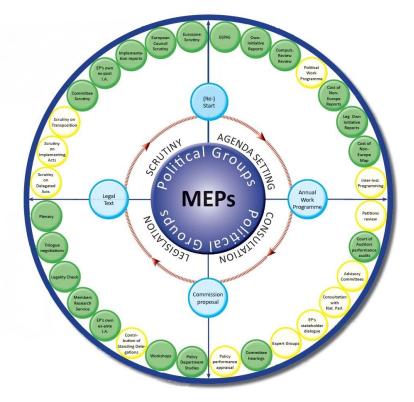


Philosophy and core values

- to be **independent**, objective and authoritative
- to be client oriented and to offer a rapid response to requests from Members and committees
- to provide a broad range of products and services, pro-actively and on request, closely tailored to the needs of Members and committees

Supporting parliamentary committees throughout the whole Parliament policy cycle – from agenda setting through consultation to legislation and scrutiny

- providing analytical work at the successive phases of the EU policy cycle;
- identifying the benefit of common action at European level;
- analysing the effectiveness of European legislation;
- enhancing EP scrutiny and oversight of the Executive.



Looking forward: Agenda setting and determining European Added Value (phase 1)



 Foresight : systematic monitoring of the changing global economic, social and political environment, identifying long-term trends, including in science and technology.

- European Added Value:

helping committees to justify legislative initiatives and in identifying areas where collective action at EU level can add value.





Gather information - Consultation (phase 2)





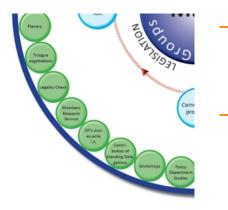
Systematic information on the operation of existing legislation, whenever a proposal to update such legislation is put forward.

- EPRS is

- consulting widely, including with national parliaments
- > reviewing citizens' correspondence and petitions

Legislation (phase 3)





- **Critical analysis** of 'Impact assessments'
- Further 'Impact assessment work' on request by committees such as, inter alia, assessing the impact of substantive EP amendments
- 'Legislation in progress': easy-toread, content-rich analysis on all (non-trivial) legislative proposals during all stages of the procedure



Scrutiny (phase 4)

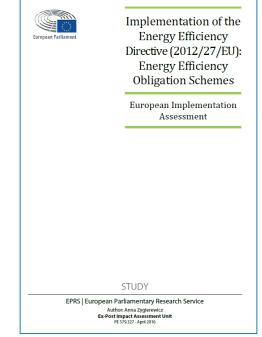




• **Monitoring and analysing** the implementation of EU law and policies

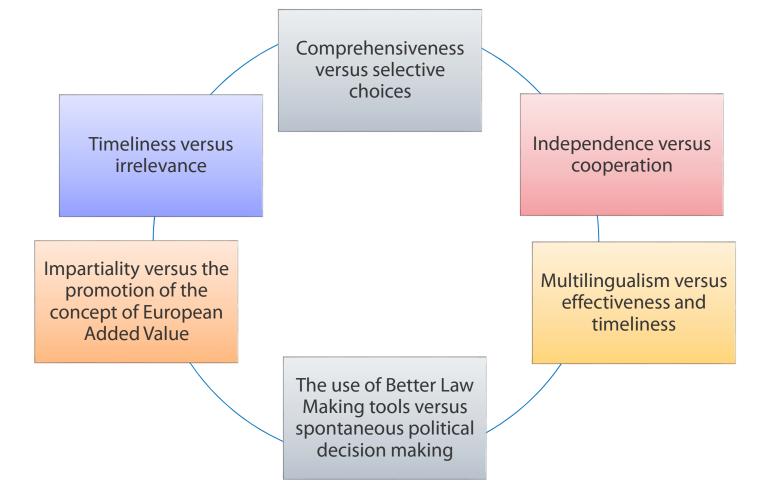
European Implementation
Assessments support EP
Committees when they undertake
'implementation reports'

Other kinds of 'Ex-post Impact Assessments'





Mastering dilemmas, difficulties – the experience of EPRS A brief discussion on selected issues





Making "evidence-based policy making" a success Together we can succeed!

Everybody is entitled to their own opinion. However nobody is entitled to their own set of facts.

- Evidence-based policy making under threat
- Turning the tide a common task of parliamentary research services
- Together we can make it happen!

Thank you!