Potential contributions of the evaluation to the policy making process. Based on the external evaluation of RAIS Fundación’s “Habitat” Programme

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The drivers of policy making

- Inertia
- Beliefs and social convictions
- Pressure from stakeholders
- Pressure from citizens, beneficiaries and political parties
- Situation analysis

¿Is policy making always influenced by rationality criteria?
What can be the contribution of systematic evaluation in policy making?

- Rationality in the decision making process
- More efficient social investments
- Legitimacy
- Evidenced-based decisions
Types of evaluation models

- Assessment Needs
- Process/implementation/evaluation
- Cost-Benefit Analysis
- Impact Evaluation
Do we have an evaluation culture?

- Limited financial resources
- Lack of knowledge and experience among staff
- Poor connections between evaluation and decision making

Very little culture of evaluation
Some examples of evaluations of policies in Spain

Analysis of the minimum income system in Spain from the perspective of its effectiveness

ERSISI Project, Government of Navarra

Habitat, RAIS Foundation
The pilot evaluation of Habitat by RAIS Foundation, the first of its kind

An evaluation based on 3 aspects:

- Fidelity assessment to the Housing First model
- Evaluation of results (impact on the lives of people)
- Evaluation of costs
What the internal evaluation showed:

1. 100% of the beneficiaries of the programme remain in their home after 24 months.
2. There is a considerable improvement on beneficiaries’s health.
3. The use of emergency services and hospitalisation by beneficiaries is considerably reduced.
4. There is an increase of use of primary healthcare services.
5. The percentage of beneficiaries that recover their relation with their family has doubled.
6. The quality of life of beneficiaries has improved considerably (QoLI)
Limitations of internal evaluation

Subjectivity → Bias → Less legitimacy
The external evaluation of Habitat 2016-2020 in Spain

OBJECTIVES

Carry out a systematic and external evaluation of HF programmes promoted by RAIS

Contribute to creating a culture of evaluation based on evidence of public policies aimed at tackling homelessness

Promote knowledge and research in Spain on homelessness and evaluation of HF programmes

Contribute to guaranteeing that research and evaluation of HF programmes are carried out based on equality standards and scientific methods
The external evaluation
Experimental Group: 150 / Control Group: 375

Selection of the evaluation team and transfer of the evaluation to the new evaluation team
• 2016

Revision of the evaluation method and tools
• 2016-2017

Implementation of the evaluation
• 2016-2019

Draft of reports, debate & dissemination of results
• 2018 and 2020
### Methodology and Evaluation Tools

#### Design
- Based in Pathways to Housing (Tsemberis y Asmussen, 1999; Tsemberis y Elfenbein, 1999)
- Experimental Group
- Contrafactual Group
- Norms pre and post test
- Every 6 months

#### Beneficiaries Selection
- Profile verification
- Objectivity
- Established criteria
- Stratified random sampling
- Disaggregation by gender

#### Tools
- Structured interview
- Questionnaires to professional
- Satisfaction questionnaire (Experimental group)
Areas of analysis

- Alcohol and other substances abuse
- Support provided
- Health
- Satisfaction with the program
- Empowerment
- Support needs
- Quality of life indicators and material living conditions
- Access to resources
- Community integration and conflicts
- Social support

European Research Conference
CHANGING PROFILES OF HOMELESSNESS: IMPLICATIONS FOR SERVICES.
BARCELONA, September 22nd, 2017
What does evaluation need to influence policy making?

- Independence
- Legitimacy of the processes and participation of public authorities
- Stability and continuity
- Contrast and comparison
- Consistency of data based on scientific methods
**How can we better connect evaluation with policy making?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spread the culture of evaluation so that they become systematic and part of the policy making process.</th>
<th>Evaluations need to be planned before the policy is implemented, at the design phase: they need to become part of the policies and plans.</th>
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<td>Results need to be shared in a visible and understandable way: they are not only a report to be kept in a drawer.</td>
<td>Results should be alive and discussed with a variety of stakeholders so as to draw recommendations and guidance for the future.</td>
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