The evaluation of integration and civic integration policies

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Steunpunt beleidsrelevant onderzoek
3de generatie

Inburgering en Integratie

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Research questions

1. How are integration and civic integration policies evaluated in OECD countries?

2. What are the results of evaluations across the OECD countries? (in other words, what works?)

1. Design of an evaluation framework for the Flemish integration and civic integration policies
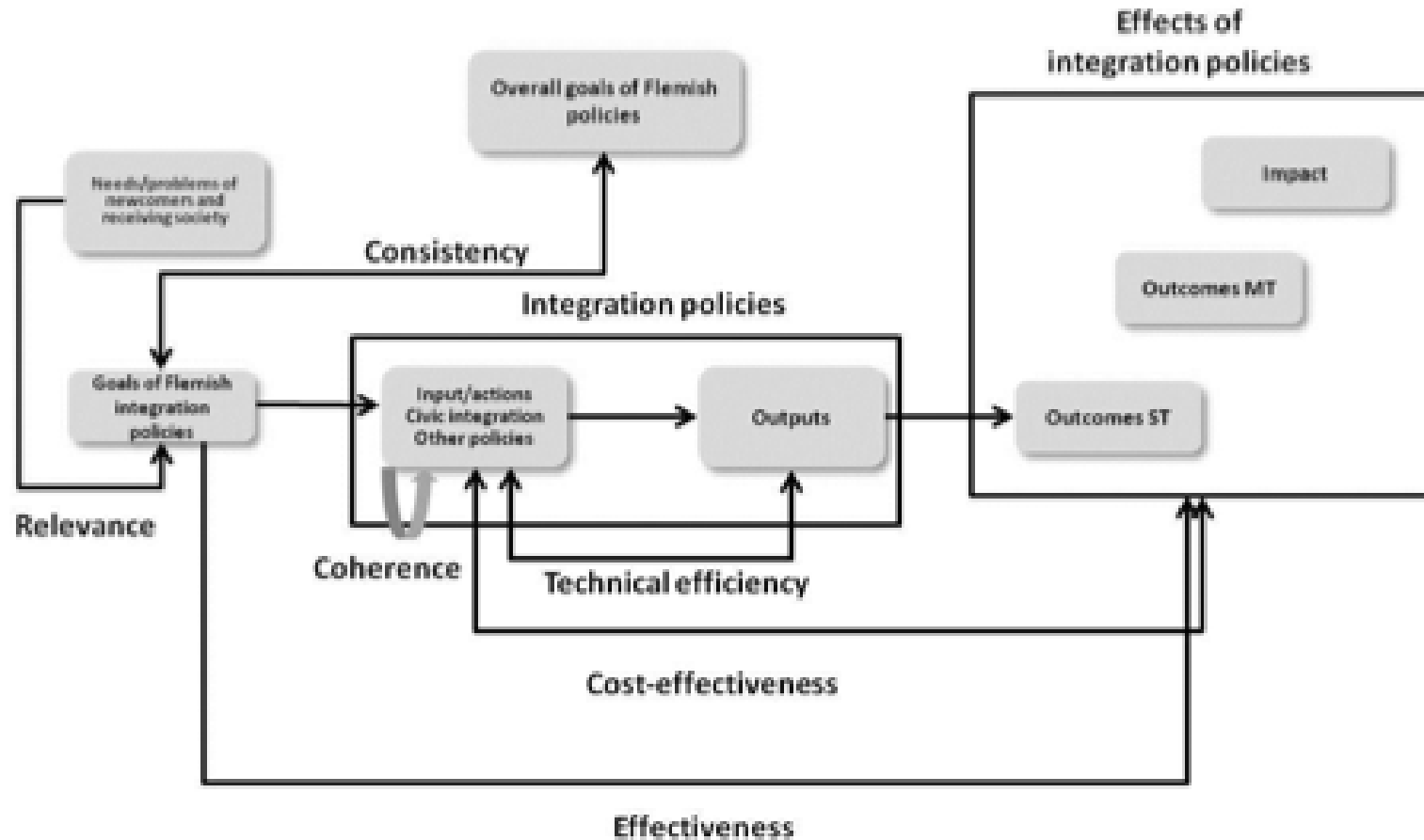
Context (1)

- Increasing emphasis on evidence-based policy and policy evaluation
  - -CBP 11: 'Developing clear goals, indicators and evaluation mechanisms are necessary to adjust policy, evaluate progress on integration and to make the exchange of information more effective.'

- BUT... what is evidence? Which evidence do we have?

Context (2)

- Evaluation
  - Normative assessment of a policy according to criteria
  - Effectiveness, efficiency, consistency, coherence, relevance…
  - Importance of evaluation plans or frameworks
  - Causality, contribution, attibution..
  - Part of policy cycle (design-implementation-evaluation)

Context (2)

Context (2)

• Evidence-based policy

- From health policy

- Focus on effectiveness and causality

- RCTs, experimental approaches

- Alternative voices

Method

- Definition of integration (EU definition of integration, target group, exclusiveness)

- Inclusion criteria of the studies (evaluative character, focus on outputs or outcomes, language, OECD countries)

- Search strategy: compilations and scientific literature

- Categorization and coding (descriptive vs. explanatory, six-point scale).

Results (1): Which type of evaluations?

- Most of the studies are one-off evaluations, not embedded in broader evaluation policies

- **Evaluation policies**
  = Prescriptive approach towards what an evaluation should be, criteria, goals, requirements…
  = How should an evaluation look like?

- **Where?**
  = Within integration ministries (DK)
  = Within a country, across policy domains (CA)
  = Outside the domain of integration: in international organisations (OECD, UNDP)

Results (1): Which type of evaluations?
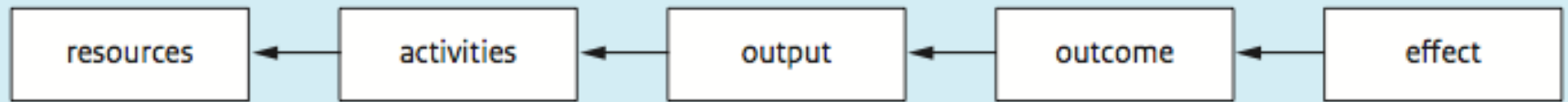
Canada

- Three levels: national, domain-specific and per instrument (language courses, pre-departure orientation, welcoming societies, etc).

- Monitoring: iCAMS (Immigration Contribution Accountability Measurement System), web-based, for service providers

- CIC Evaluation Policy
    - Standards
    - Roles and responsibilities: internal and external evaluations
    - Evaluation plan
    - Frequency
    - Management Response

Results (1): Which type of evaluations?

Denmark

• *Performance management* at the ministerial level

• Monitoring = benchmarking of municipalities, by means of administrative data (Statistics Denmark)

• External evaluations (AKF)

• Policy designed in function of desired effects

Results (1): Which type of evaluations?

resources ← activities ← output ← outcome ← effect

Results (2): Which instruments?

Instrument	Countries	Entries
Civic integration instruments	NL (3), DE (2), DK, NOR (2), FR, BE/VL (3)	12
Language instruments	DK (3), AUS, DE, SE, NOR (2), CA	9
Labor market instruments	SE (5), DK (3), IL, FIN, PT	11
Support services	AUS, PT(4), PT-GR-IT-SP-IE-DE	6
Mentoring	IE, DK, CA, UK	4
Settlement and dispersal instruments	DK(2), SE	3
Pre-departure orientation	AUS, CA	2
Total		**47**

Results (3): Which methods?

Method	Score	Entries
Longitudinal data analysis (e.g. duration models)	6	13
Cross-sectional regressions	5	6
Descriptive analysis on the basis of a survey	4	5
Descriptive data analysis	3	13
Qualitative methods (focus groups, interviews)	2	8
Quantitative (unknown)	1	3
Total		**47**

Results (3): Which criteria?

- Effectiveness

- Relevance, coherence and consistency: only Canada

- Efficiency: Denmark, Sweden (sometimes only suggested)

Results (4): A Flemish evaluation framework

- A lot of investment in monitoring and evaluation, but several gaps:

  - No definition of evaluation criteria
  - Only civic integration, no integration
  - No vision on causality: why do policies work?
  - No relevance
  - No longitudinal work

Results (4): A Flemish evaluation framework

•Development of evaluation framwork with a threefold function:

    -Formulates the policy process in terms of needs, goals, inputs, outputs and outcomes
    -Defines evaluation criteria
    -Offers a vision on causality

Conclusions

- No real evidence basis in the traditional sense of the word
- Challenges:
    - Quality of data
    - RCTs within integration policies? Ethical and methodological issues ("contamination")
    - Alternative vision of evidence within integration policies?