



pep
partnership for
economic
policy



2019 PEP Annual Conference

Cape Town, South Africa

Policy Day – June 1, 2019

Evidence use in policymaking

How to integrate policy evaluation into policy design

Using scientific evidence to inform policy decisions is widely recognized as a best practice at the national and international levels. However, it remains largely underutilized in government practices. This is true of developed and developing countries.

Done well, evaluation can and should be a tool for informing policy as one of the core pillars of the evidence-based policy-making agenda. Yet, despite increasing investments in relevant expertise and activities over recent years, policy interventions – even those with clear scientific dimensions (e.g. agriculture, health, etc.) or major socioeconomic implications – continue to be designed and implemented without any expert scrutiny, nor any sort of assessment of their impact or effectiveness.

Indeed, when it comes to evaluation, policymakers tend to focus on the accountability purpose of evaluation, which is often misconstrued as punitive. Policy influence is more likely to happen when policymakers are incentivized to learn: when they see evaluations as sources of insight, and not merely tools to hold them accountable.

But what does it mean for independent evaluators and local knowledge producers? What part can they play in strengthening the link between evaluation and policy?

Discussing strategies at the PEP conference

As part of its 2019 Annual Conference, PEP will host two panel sessions on June 1 to discuss how researchers can contribute to facilitating the integration of policy evaluation and research-based evidence into policy design. Both panels will feature researchers, international experts and practitioners from around the world who have extensive policy advisory experience. The discussion will concentrate primarily on the policy needs and perspectives that researchers should understand to support decision-making effectively.

The conclusions will be synthesized and publicized widely by PEP. They will also inform PEP's strategies and activities to support researchers engaging with policy.

Overall objective of the conference

Help developing country researchers implement strategies to promote and facilitate the use of evaluation and research-based evidence in policy design in their home countries.

Expected outcomes

A better understanding of:

- The complexity involved in policy interventions and their context – including the many factors (other than evidence) that can affect policy decisions
- The constraints that policymakers and practitioners face in integrating evaluation, or using evaluative evidence when designing new or revising existing policies.
- How to adapt the “supply” of evaluation/evidence to respond to actual policy needs and considerations.
- Potential strategies that researchers can put in place to:
 - Engage more systematically with the demand-side of evaluation
 - Promote and support the “institutionalization” of evaluation practices at strategy and policy level.

Tentative program

8:30 – 9:00 Arrival & registration

9:00 – 9:30 **Welcome remarks and official opening**

- Jane Mariara, Executive Director of PEP
- Mustapha Nabli, Chair of the PEP Board of Directors
- Martha Melesse, Acting Program Leader, Employment and Growth, IDRC
- Rudi Dicks, Outcome Facilitator for Employment through Inclusive Growth, Department of Planning Monitoring and Evaluation in the Presidency, South Africa

9:30 **Integrating policy evaluation into policy design**

9:30 – 10:30 **Keynote presentation by Santiago Levy**

PEP Board of Directors, Senior Fellow (non-resident), Global Economy and Development Program, Brookings Institution

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break + group photo

11:00 – 12:30 **Panel discussion** + Q&A

- Abdoulaye Gounou - Head of the Office for Evaluation of Public Policies and Analysis of Government Action (C-B.E.A.), the Presidency of Republic of Benin
- Carolyn J. Heinrich - Professor of Public Policy and Education, Department of Leadership, Policy, and Organizations, Peabody College, United States
- Ruth Stewart – Director, African Center for Evidence, South Africa
- Guillermo Cruces – PEP Resource Person and Research Fellow, Deputy Director, CEDLAS, Argentina

Moderator: Maria Laura Alzua – PEP Research Director, Deputy Director, CEDLAS, Argentina

12:30 – 14:00 **Lunch break**

14:00

Promoting the use of evidence to inform policymaking

14:00 – 15:30 **Panel discussion** + Q&A

- Senakpon Dedehouanou – Researcher, University of Abomey Calavi, Benin
- Vaqar Ahmed – PEP Research Fellow, Joint Executive Director at Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Pakistan
- Veronica Amarante – PEP Research Fellow, Social Affairs Officer at UN-ECLAC, Chile
- Wilhelmina Quaye – Director, Science and Technology, Policy Research Institute of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Ghana

Moderator: Nayan Chakravarty – PEP Policy Outreach Committee Member, Associate Director for Policy & Outreach at IMFR-Lead, India

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break

UNDP presentation: Role of Academia in Adaptation Policy and Action

16:00 – 16:20 - **Guest:** Dr. Babatunde Abidoye – Senior Economist, Global Environmental Finance Unit, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, United Nations Development Programme

16:20 – 16:40 **Presentation of the 2019 PEP Best Practice Awards**

16:40 – 17:00 **Concluding remarks**