Basics in Policy Analysis
How Governments Should Design & Implement Policies
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How Governments Should Design & Implement Policies

By

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**Related resources:**
See the Training Path Policy Learning Programme 2009 for other related resources. Download the Programme Summary for background information and the Overview of the Programme Modules and Sessions for a complete list of resources developed for the Policy Learning Programme 2009.

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**About EASYPol**
The EASYPol home page is available at: www.fao.org/easypol
EASYPol is a multilingual repository of freely downloadable resources for policy making in agriculture, rural development and food security. The resources are the results of research and field work by policy experts at FAO. The site is maintained by FAO’s Policy Assistance Support Service, Policy and Programme Development Support Division, FAO.
Objectives

After this presentation, you should:

- understand policy analysis
- appreciate the relevance of policy analysis
- know the critical elements to conduct sound policy analysis (and design / implement sound policies)
Outline

1. Policy analysis and policy process

2. Definition of policy analysis

3. Steps in policy analysis
   • Identification of policy objectives
   • Identification / selection of policy instruments
   • Design policy implementation
   • Policy monitoring & evaluation
The policy process

- External Pressures
- STATE
- Interest Group
- Policy Spaces

Time
Elements of policy process

1. Livelihood/Socio-economic assessment
2. Context
3. Actors
4. Content
5. Impact
Elements of policy process

1. Livelihood/Socio-economic assessment
2. Context
3. Actors
4. Content
5. Impact

Main Stages
- Agenda setting
- Decision making
- Implementation
- M&E
Elements of policy process

Main Stages
- Agenda setting
- Decision making
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- M&E

Policy Analysis

1. Livelihood/Socio-economic assessment
2. Context
3. Actors
4. Content
5. Impact
Definition of policy analysis

Policy analysis:

- is an applied social **science** producing **information** for addressing **policy problems**

- analyses and evaluates public policy options ... **for choice by policy makers** (Paul, 1989 et al.).
Policy analysis versus other sciences

Policy analysis is not:

**Academic research**
- Economics
- Sociology
- Statistics
  ...

**Political science**
- Interest groups
- Collective actions
- Advocacy coalitions
  ...

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Policy analysis versus other sciences

Policy analysis is not:

Academic research
- Economics
- Sociology
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Political science
- Interest groups
- Collective actions
- Advocacy coalitions

Policy analysis makes ample use of academic research
Policy analysis versus other sciences

Policy analysis is not:

- Academic research
  - Economics
  - Sociology
  - Statistics
  ... ... ...

- Political science
  - Interest groups
  - Collective actions
  - Advocacy coalitions
  ... ... ...

Policy analysis makes ample use of academic research

Policy analysis takes into consideration different interests, positions, etc.
Steps in policy analysis

1. Identification of policy objectives
2. Identifying and selecting policy instruments
3. Designing policy implementation
4. Policy monitoring & evaluation
Steps in policy analysis

1. **Identification of policy objectives**
2. Identifying and selecting policy instruments
3. Designing policy implementation
4. Policy monitoring & evaluation
1. Identification of policy objectives

Policy agendas present generic policy goals / undesirable status quo (policy problem)
- poverty reduction
- increased productivity
- ... ...

Identify a causal chain explaining the status quo
- brainstorming
- narratives
- scientific analysis
- problem tree... ... ...
1. Identification of policy objectives

- Policy agendas present generic policy goals / undesirable status quo (policy problem)
  - poverty reduction
  - increased productivity
  - ... ... ...

- Identify a causal chain explaining the status quo
  - brainstorming
  - narratives
  - scientific analysis
  - problem tree... ... ...

The ‘source’ of the problem should be selected as the ‘policy objective’
1. Identification of policy objectives

- household income
- exports

+ animal mortality
- productivity

Foot & Mouth Disease Outbreak

direct contacts between animals
contaminated animal feed
artificial insemination

Policy objective

Example:
Problem tree analysis of Foot & Mouth Disease Outbreak
Steps in policy analysis

1. **Identification of policy objectives**
2. **Identifying and selecting policy instruments**
3. Designing policy implementation
4. Policy monitoring & evaluation
2. Identifying policy instruments

Identification of alternative policy instruments serving the policy objective(s)

- experiences from other countries
- public/expert opinion polls
- professional / academic journals
- ad hoc research findings
- ...

No defined rules to identify policy instruments!!!
2. Identifying policy instruments

Hints for identifying policy instruments:
- existing instruments included
- no ‘do everything’ instrument
- role of the State well identified
- small numbers to facilitate
- selection
2. Ranking policy instruments

Hints for selecting best policy instrument

- merit
- cost
- equity
- reliability
- simplicity
- consistency
- flexibility
- communicability
- ... ... ...
Steps in policy analysis

1. Identification of policy objectives
2. Identifying and selecting policy instruments
3. Designing policy implementation
3. Policy monitoring & evaluation
3. Policy Implementation

‘Policy reform failures [...] lack of consideration of how the policy reform is organized’ (Crosby, 1996)

‘Policy implementation brings together multiple agencies and groups that are intended to work in concert’ (Brinkerhoff, 1996)
3. Policy implementation tasks

1. Policy legitimisation
2. Resources
3. Institutional design
4. Monitoring & evaluation
3. Policy implementation tasks

1. Policy legitimisation
   - Stakeholder analysis & political mapping to create a policy constituency

2. Resources
   - Securing start-up & medium / long term funds

3. Institutional design
   - Accountability & incentives / penalties to ‘policy implementers’ to carry out new tasks

4. Monitoring & evaluation
   - Keep policy implementation on track & assess policy results & impacts
Steps in policy analysis

1. Identification of policy objectives
2. Identifying and selecting policy instruments
3. Designing policy implementation
4. Policy monitoring & evaluation
4. Policy monitoring & evaluation

**Monitoring**: ... collection of data providing indications of [...] progress in the use of **inputs** and achievement of **outputs**
4. Policy monitoring & evaluation

Evaluation: ... assessment of an ongoing [...] policy, its design, implementation and effects and impacts
4. Policy monitoring & evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inputs</td>
<td>Resources allocated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outputs</td>
<td>Immediate results brought about by inputs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effects</td>
<td>Direct and medium term effects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impacts</td>
<td>Long-term impacts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Policy monitoring & evaluation

Methodologies:
- performance indicators
- logical-framework approach
- interviews
- international benchmarking
- cost-benefit analysis
- pilot policy projects

Hints:
- evaluators ≠ implementers
- participatory M&E
- new rules & regulations
- rewards / penalties
Summary

1. identification of policy objectives
2. identification / selection of policy instruments
3. designing policy implementation
4. monitoring & evaluation

Policy analysis is a science providing information to address policy problems
Conclusions

Main Stages
- Agenda setting
- Decision making
- Implementation
- M&E

1. Livelihood/ Socio-economic assessment
2. Context
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5. Impact

Stages:
- Agenda setting
- Decision making
- Implementation
- M&E
Further readings

