

The New European Commission Communication on Regulatory Fitness – Implications for Evaluation in the European Space

European Evaluation Society

Round Table

European Parliament 10/04/2013

Communication From The Commission to The European Parliament, The Council, The European Economic and Social Committee and The Committee of the Regions

EU Regulatory Fitness COM(2012) 746 final from December 2012

Policy context

- Current economic situation in Europe calls for EU legislation be more effective and efficient in achieving its public policy objectives
- In the Commission Communication the focus has been set on ensuring that the EU's regulatory framework:
 - demonstrates clear added value
 - delivers full benefits at minimum cost
 - respects the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality

What is New I?

- A greater focus on Regulatory Evaluation – or “Fitness Checks” defined as:

““Fitness checks” are comprehensive policy evaluations assessing whether the regulatory framework for a policy sector is fit for purpose. Their findings will serve as a basis for drawing policy conclusions on the future of the relevant regulatory framework.”

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/secretariat_general/evaluation/docs/fitness_check_en.pdf

- Planning will be public. “REFIT” evaluations will be publicly flagged in strengthened multiannual evaluation plans starting from 2014.

What is New II?

- The Commission is reviewing its evaluation system and will set out a revised framework for policy and programme evaluation in 2013, with a view to improving the political relevance and ownership of evaluation results
 - The new approach will examine how evaluation results could be better anchored in the policy development cycle
 - The evaluation process could be designed alongside the policy itself with better monitoring and reporting.
 - There is room for increased transparency in planning and greater stakeholder involvement

Questions to start off

- Pilot policy evaluations “Fitness checks” have been launched and implemented during 2010-2012 – with a focus on the regulatory “fitness” of the EU regulatory framework – what have been the main lessons learned from these pilots?

Questions to start off

The Communication emphasizes regulatory evaluation, with a Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme (REFIT) – what is the intersection with evaluation and in what way will evaluations play a role in the REFIT? What capacities and skills does evaluators need to develop to meet the demand?

Questions to start off

- With a view to improving the political relevance and ownership of evaluation results, the Commission is reviewing its evaluation system and will set out a revised framework for policy and programme evaluation in 2013. Utilizations seems to be at the core of this.
- How could evaluators contribute in a constructive way towards greater utilization? What could be learned from established evaluation cycles/procedures, for example the expenditure programmes?