



Science & Policy: Understanding Policy Evaluation

Lecturer: Dr. Tobias Arnold, Interface
Location: ETH Zurich, CLA J 1
Dates: 13.03. & 10.04.2024 (9:00 – 17:00)
Credit Points: 2 ECTS

Course Description

The course provides insights in the theory and practice of policy evaluation. It approaches the broad field of policy evaluation by fostering the understanding of impact chains and their application in policy evaluation. Impact chains graphically illustrate how interventions – e.g., policies, but also research projects – (should) reveal desired effects. The use of impact chains in the different phases of the policy cycle will be discussed with a special focus on policy evaluation. By the means of group exercises, discussions with practitioners and case studies, the participants of the workshop are invited to reflect on how natural science can contribute to policy evaluation and on how research can become socially relevant. Participants might use impact chains to sketch the impact of future research (e.g., in funding proposals) or to illustrate how and in which stage their research findings should be fed into the policy cycle.

Course Program / Learning Objectives

- understand impact chains in the context of policy evaluation
- gain insights on how impact chains and policy evaluation help to improve policy implications
- apply impact chains in a case study

Prior Knowledge: enrolled students will be provided with preparatory literature; apart from this, no prior knowledge is required.

Number of Participants: 20

Individual Performance and Assessment:

Students work in case study groups fulfilling different tasks which have to be accepted by the case study supervisor. Please note: In the weeks between the two workshop days, you should plan for available time for group work and individual work of min. 30 hours.