

Experiments on youth policies in France

The need to combine several methods of evaluation and the case of randomization

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IMPULSING YOUTH POLICY

■ YOUTH POLICY ORIENTATION COUNCIL :

- ✓ **Created in 2016, large composition**
- ✓ **Administrative advisory body placed under the authority of the Prime Minister**
- ✓ **Main missions :**
 - Consultation and discussion
 - Proposition
 - Annual report

■ CROSS-MINISTERIAL COMITEE FOR YOUTH :

- ✓ **Definite priorities and elaborate measures in a transverse way**
- ✓ **Next meeting at the end of 2018**

MONITORING YOUTH POLICY : STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED

- **FIELD ACTORS :**
 - **NGO'S and local authorities**

- **INJEP : National Institute of Youth and Non-Formal Education**
 - **Youth Observatory = producing and monitoring center of knowledge on youth**
 - **Analyses, research, studies, experiment, evaluation, assessments, statistical data**
 - **Share knowledge to enlighten the public decision**

- **COOPERATION BETWEEN RESEARCH AND PUBLIC AUTHORITIES**

MONITORING YOUTH POLICY : DATA SOURCES

- **PUBLIC STATISTICAL DEPARTEMENT :**
 - **National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE)**
 - **Several Ministerial Statistical Departements**

- **INJEP FOR THE MINISTRY IN CHARGE OF YOUTH :**
 - **National Institute of Youth and Non-Formal Education**
 - **Analysis, Reports and Statistics Section**

- **COOPERATION**

MONITORING YOUTH POLICY : TOOLS AND INDICATORS

■ INDICATORS :

- « Youth Indicators Dashboard » 2018

- 78 indicators collected (demography, training, education, activity, employment, unemployment, living conditions, commitment, participation, leisure activities, sport, culture, health, handicap, safety, justice)

■ RESEARCH, STUDIES, SURVEY

■ PUBLICATIONS :

- Annual report on the « State of Youth »

- Annual « Barometre on Youth » since 2016

EXPERIMENTING YOUTH POLICIES : FEJ - 1

- **EXPERIMENTAL FUND FOR YOUTH :**
 - **Created by law in 2009**
 - **Funded by State and private partners**
 - **Associates research, field experience and policy making**
 - **Helps renewing youth public policies using experimentation**

- **GOALS :**
 - **To improve educational achievement**
 - **To improve the social and professional integration of young people**

EXPERIMENTING YOUTH POLICIES : FEJ - 2

■ PURPOSE :

- **Financing, monitoring and evaluating experimental projects on youth**
- **Highlighting the public authorities' interest in experiment**
- **Influencing an evidence-based building of youth policies**

■ A PUBLIC POLICY SOCIAL LAB / WHAT WORKS CENTRE

EXPERIMENTING YOUTH POLICIES : METHOD - 1

- **DEVELOPPING EVIDENCE BASED YOUTH POLICIES BY :**
 - **Promoting and supporting innovative local initiatives (bottom/up) and government's programs (top/down)**
 - **Rigorously assessing implementation and impact**
 - **Proving efficacy before deciding to scaled up**
 - **Capitalising on knowledge produced and spread it**

EXPERIMENTING YOUTH POLICIES : METHOD - 2

■ PRINCIPLES :

- **Thematic-based calls for projects**
- **Independent evaluation team from different fields**
(sociology, economics, anthropology, linguistics, geography, psychology...)
- **Joint responsibility project holder/evaluation team**
- **Make sure that the intervention is evaluated in a way that makes it possible to measure the efficacy of the project**

- TO RESUME :

AN INNOVATIVE PROJECT

+

A SCIENTIFIC PROTOCOL OF EVALUATION

=

AN EXPERIMENT

EXPERIMENTING YOUTH POLICIES : METHOD – 4

- **A PLURI DISCIPLINARY TEAM MONITORING EXPERIMENTS :**
 - **Experts in youth public policies**
 - **Experts in evaluation / assessment** (sociologists and economists)
 - **Juridical and financial experts**

- **KEY FIGURES :**
 - **26 calls for projects**
 - **almost 1000 ongoing or completed projects supported**
 - **many publications capitalising on the knowledge produced**

EXPERIMENTING YOUTH POLICIES : EVALUATION - 1

- **TWO TYPES OF OBJECTIVES :**
 - **The proof of efficiency / efficacy**
 - **The development of knowledge**

- **ONE GUARANTEE :**
 - **The FEJ guarantees the adaptation of an evaluative questioning and an adapted method**

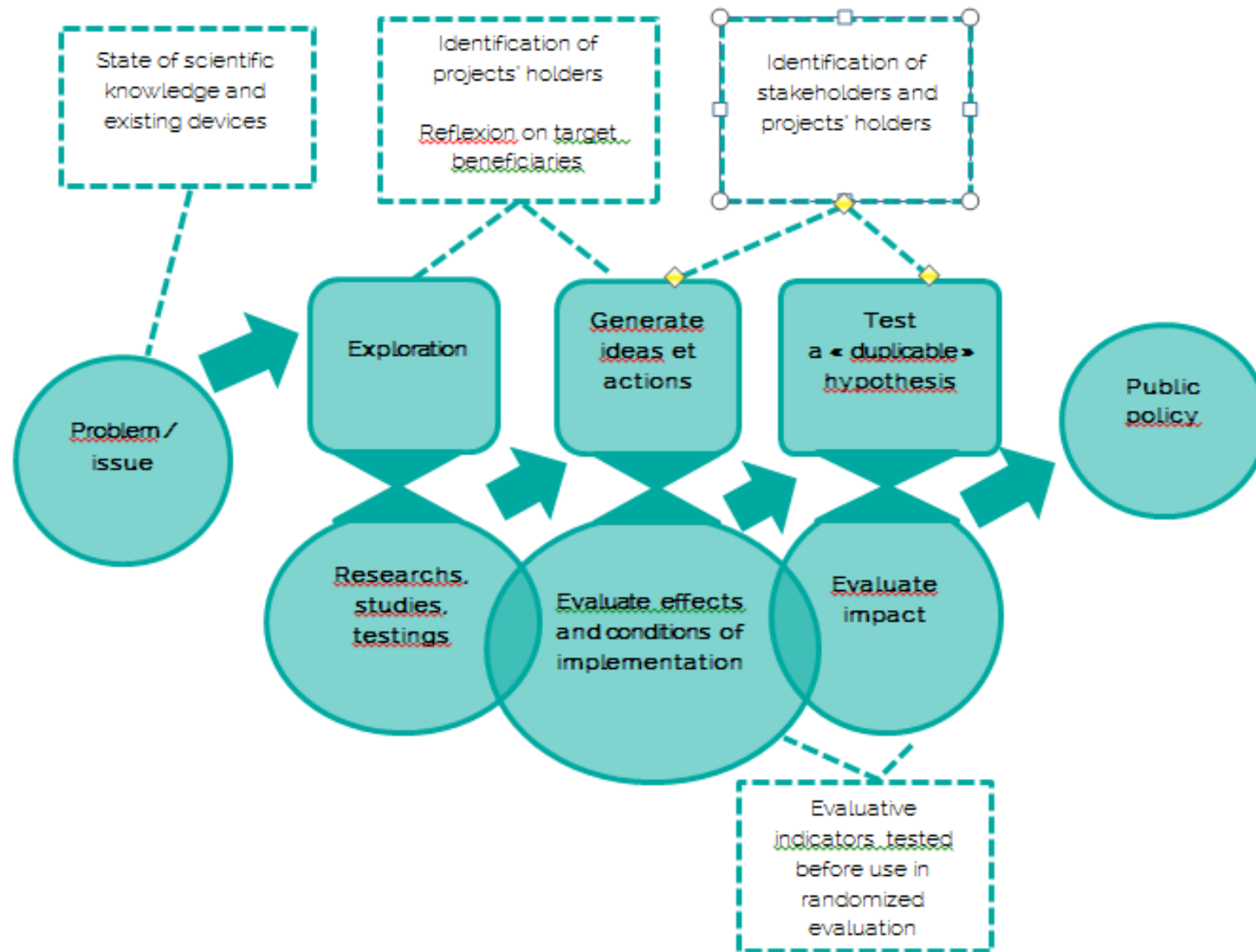
EXPERIMENTING YOUTH POLICIES : EVALUATION - 2

- **QUANTITATIVE METHODS :**
 - **Impact evaluation with a control group**
 - **Random assignement**

- **QUALITATIVE METHODS :**
 - **Survey, questionnaires, interviews**
 - **Observation sessions**

- **USEFULL COMBINATION OF METHODS**
 - ***In itinere* approach**

EXPERIMENTING YOUTH POLICIES : A SYSTEM SCHEME



EXPERIMENTING YOUTH POLICIES : CHOOSING THE APPROPRIATE EVALUATION METHOD – 1

- **COMPARISON BEFORE / AFTER : THE WAY TO KNOW WHAT MOVES IN THE SYSTEM :**
 - **Double collection of informations and data using questionnaires or interviews (before/after)**
 - **To observe the effects**
 - **To compare the situations**
 - **To report the upgrade and the effects on each actor involved**
 - **To make visible the evolution of practices**

EXPERIMENTING YOUTH POLICIES : CHOOSING THE APPROPRIATE EVALUATION METHOD - 2

- IN ITINERE METHOD TO UNDERSTAND THE CONDITIONS OF IMPLEMENTATION :
 - To collect data with several methods and tools
 - To produce knowledge on a situation or a device under construction
 - To understand the coherence and relevance
 - To make rectify a theoretical question vs ground issues
 - To emerge new issues not detected before from the field

EXPERIMENTING YOUTH POLICIES : CHOOSING THE APPROPRIATE EVALUATION METHOD - 3

- **RANDOM OR ALMOST RANDOM METHOD TO MEASURE EFFICACY :**
 - **Impact evaluation with a control group**
 - **Random assignement**
 - **Valid contrefactual**
 - **No selection bias**
 - **Integral part of the elaboration/design of the program**

- **LEVEL OF RANDOMIZATION :**
 - **To randomize individuals or to randomize whole groups?**

EXPERIMENTING YOUTH POLICIES : CHOOSING THE APPROPRIATE EVALUATION METHOD – 4

- **FEEDBACK ON RANDOMIZATION / FACTORS TO CONSIDER :**
 - **Is the randomization ethical?**

 - **Is it permitted? Does the community consent? Is it perceived as fair?**

 - **Can we carry out the tasks of delivering this program at this level?**

 - **Do we have the money? Is it the best use of the money?**

EXPERIMENTING YOUTH POLICIES : CHOOSING THE APPROPRIATE EVALUATION METHOD – 5

- **WHEN RANDOMIZATION IS NOT POSSIBLE, USE QUASI RANDOM METHODS OF EVALUATION SUCH AS :**
 - **The double difference method**
 - **The matching method**
 - **The regression by discontinuity method**

EXPERIMENTING YOUTH POLICIES : NEED TO COMBINE SEVERAL METHODS - 1

- **DIVERSIFY THE METHODS TO ADAPT TO VARIOUS CONTEXTS :**
 - **Several types of youngsters**
 - **Several types of actors**
 - **Several types of contexts**
 - **Several level of evaluative culture**

- **CHOICE OF EVALUATION METHODS WITH REGARD TO THE MATURITY OF THE PROGRAM AND THE DIAGNOSIS OF FEASIBILITY IN A GIVEN CONTEXT**

EXPERIMENTING YOUTH POLICIES : NEED TO COMBINE SEVERAL METHODS - 2

- **COMBINE METHODS FOR A MORE COMPLETE APPROACH OF THE REALITY :**
 - **To be closest to the reality**
 - **To optimize the degree of knowledge**
 - **To understand the conditions of implementation**
 - **To analyse the changes in the process**
 - **To spread out more easily**

EXPERIMENTING YOUTH POLICIES : NEED TO COMBINE SEVERAL METHODS - 3

- **IMPORTANT : HOW IMPACT DIFFERS FROM PROCESS?**
 - **Process evaluation : to answer a process question, to look at what happened**
 - **Impact evaluation : to compare what happened to what should have happened without the program**

AS A CONCLUSION

- 10 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE FOR FEJ

- AIMS TO CONNECT
 - **Field actors on youth**
 - **Researchers**
 - **Policy makers**
 - **Youngsters**

- ONE REGRET
 - **Research or experiment time is different from political or gouvernemental time to design policies**

THANK YOU.
HAVE YOU ANY QUESTION?

MORE INFORMATION ON

WWW.INJEP.FR

WWW.EXPERIMENTATIONS.JEUNES.GOUV.FR

