Using the IntelComp platform in the process of science and innovation policy

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Evidence Based Policy Making in Europe Summit 2021

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1. Some ideas on "evidence-based policy-making" (Howlett, 2019)

- The concept of "evidence-based policy making" is complex and not yet clearly defined.

- The latest in a series of efforts to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of public policy-making through the application to policy formulation of an evaluative rationality.

- Evidence-based policy making represents an effort to reform the process of policy formulation in such a way as to minimize non-design spaces.

1. Some ideas on "evidence-based policy-making" (Howlett, 2019) (cont.)

- Evidence? The known relationships between policy instruments and policy goals, e.g. evaluation studies on the results or impacts of specific instruments, or the predictions of the impact of different instruments.

- Some concerns about the increased emphasis on evidence in policy making, e.g. the use of evidence in policy making requires that policy actors have the analytical capacity to carry out those evaluation studies or those predictions.

- The IntelComp platform is not designed to predict the impact of different instruments, but it may modestly help to monitor the impact of specific policy interventions.

2. IntelComp Platform basics

- It will be able to analyze large volumes of unstructured text data, using AI tools in High Performance Computers

- Designed to assist Public Administrations in several stages of the STI policy-cycle: agenda setting, implementation and monitoring

- It will be able to exploit text available in traditional and new sources of (open) data, in order to gather new (complementary) measurements.

- It will provide information for specific tasks and interventions of STI policy, which will not be applicable to other tasks or interventions.

3. Using the IntelComp Platform to monitor impact

- Monitoring? "A continuous and organized process of systematic data collection (or access) throughout the life cycle of an initiative to oversee its progress. Monitoring is necessary to generate information that feeds into future evaluation […]. Monitoring generally involves tracking progress with respect to previously identified targets or objectives" (EC, 2021)

- Impact? The effects of a policy intervention on its general objectives.

- In order to monitor progress towards the general objectives of an intervention, one has to measure inputs, outputs, results and impacts related to the intervention logic, to the extent of available data.

3. Using the IntelComp Platform to monitor impact (cont.)

- Given a specific intervention logic, the IntelComp platform will use text analysis:

  - *To describe direct links of impact to funding*. For instance, we can analyze the texts of inputs, outputs, results and impacts, related via acknowledgements.

  - *To detect indirect links of impact to funding*. For instance, we can analyze the texts of several collections of documents concerning inputs, outputs, results and impacts, not directly connected.

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