



Federal Ministry
for Economic Affairs
and Energy

Policy learning on evidence-based decisions –insights from the German government

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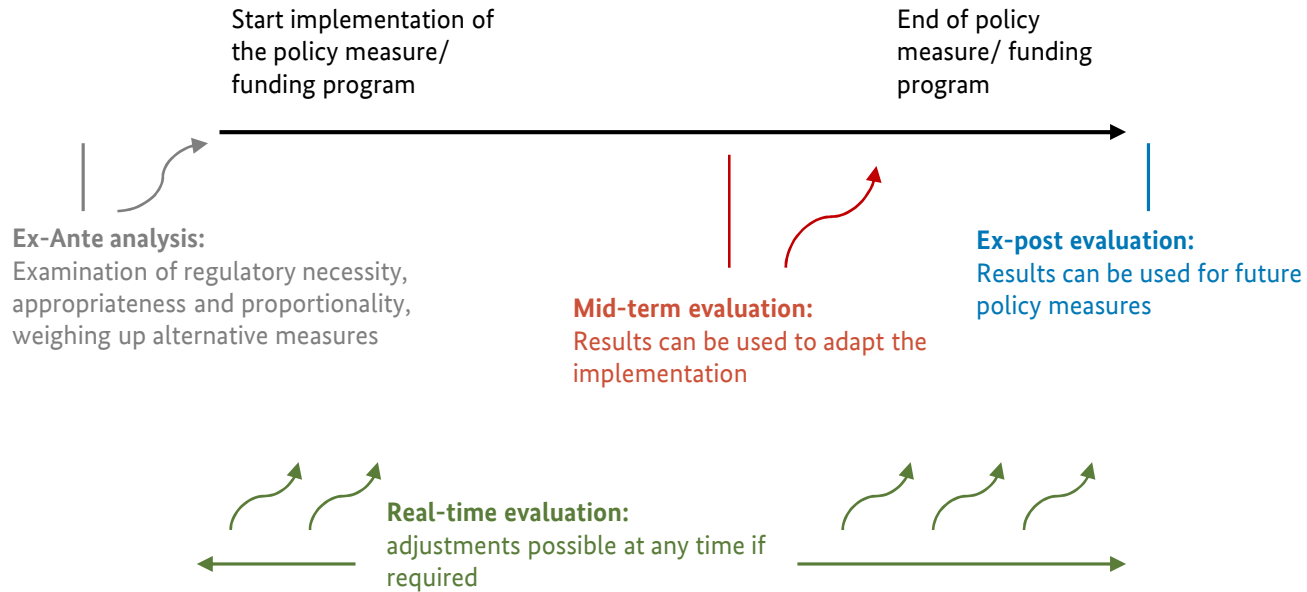
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Evidence-based economic policy

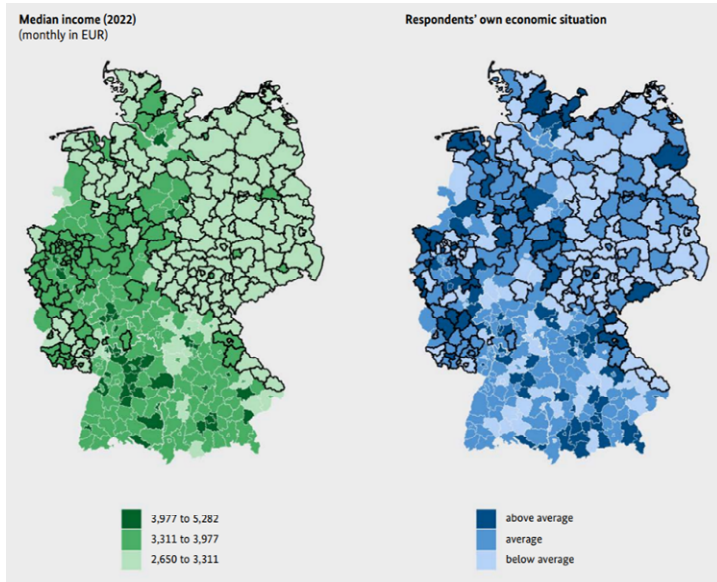
Without evidence, we are flying blind.

- With evidence-based policy, we are able to assess the actual effects of political measures and funding programs.
- Political action is always associated with opportunity costs.
- Especially in times of tight budgets, evidence-based policy helps us to prioritize measures and projects based on data.

Evidence-based economic policy



Evidence-based approach in German cohesion and structural policy, example I



Median income compared with satisfaction with respondents' own economic situation

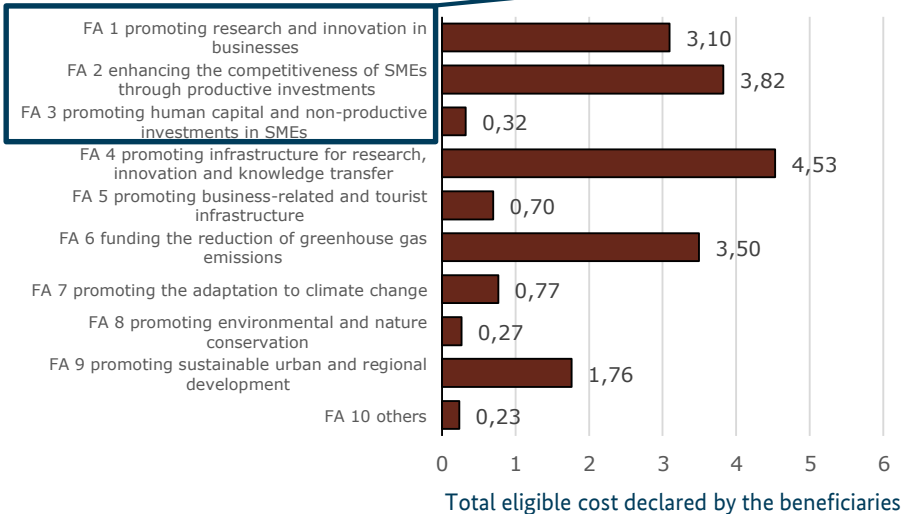
Source: [Equivalence Report 2024](#)

Equivalence Report 2024 as the basis for Cohesion and Structural Policy:

- Comprehensive data based on German districts and independent cities (“Landkreise”)
- Analysis of the state and development of regional living conditions
- Including subjective perceptions with the help of a population survey

Evidence-based approach in German cohesion and structural policy, example II

Identified ERDF funding areas in Germany for the analysis



- ✓ **Counterfactual analysis for ERFD funded companies**
 - comparison of employment before and after funding for comparable treatment and control groups
- ✓ **Results (preliminary) show positive employment effects:**
 - increase in the number of employees of 12.5 %
 - effects greater for smaller companies, equity investments and R&D promotion

Aggregated effects from 141 evaluations for German ERDF programmes covering all funding areas

Expert interviews



Focus groups

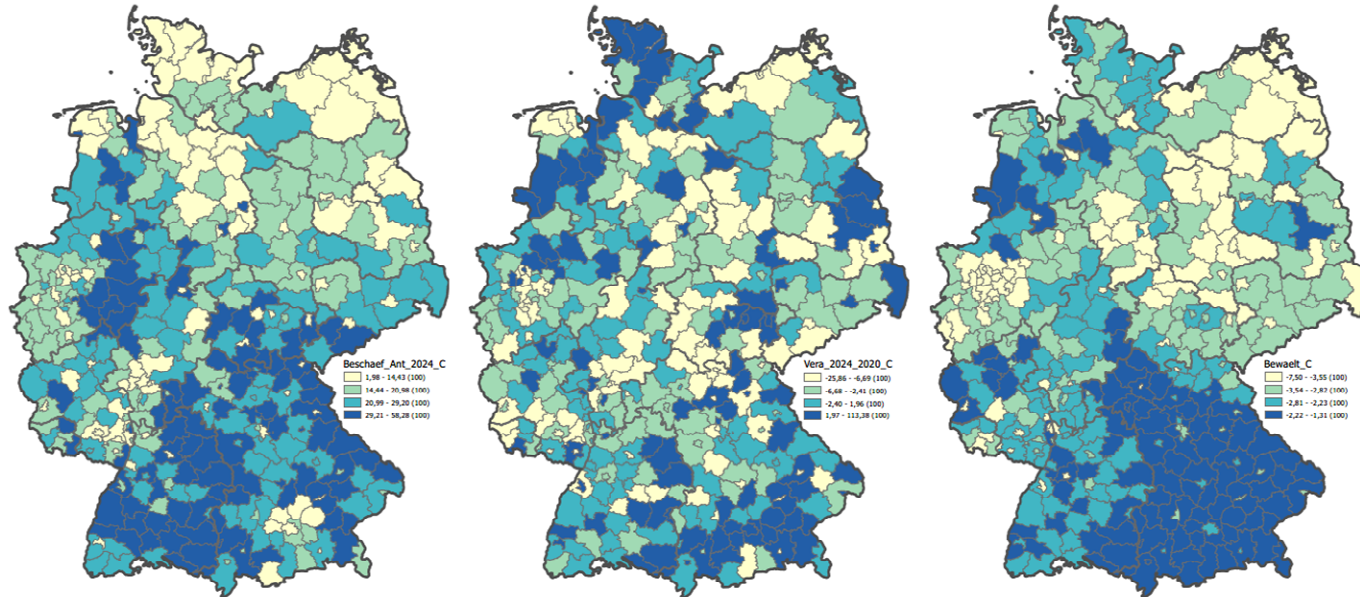
Surveys

Monitoring data

Case studies



Evidence-based approach in German cohesion and structural policy, example III



Automotive industry in Germany: regional share of employees 2024, development 2020-2024, and coping capacity

Source: *German Federal Employment Agency, Institute for Employment Research (IAB)*,
calculations and presentation by Fuchs, Sujata, Weyh

Conclusions

- With evidence-based decision making, we can ensure the sustainable improvement of our measures and projects.
- The most important prerequisites for this:
 - Careful planning of metrics and target dimensions from the outset
 - The availability of the required data

Let's move forward together with evidence

– to ensure that policy no longer flies blind.

Thank you very much for your attention.

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