Maximising Effectiveness of "Evaluation to Policy Making" Process

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Clear Horizon

Who is in the room?

- Who has the experience working in policy research program?

- What is your role in the program?
  - Implementer
  - Evaluator
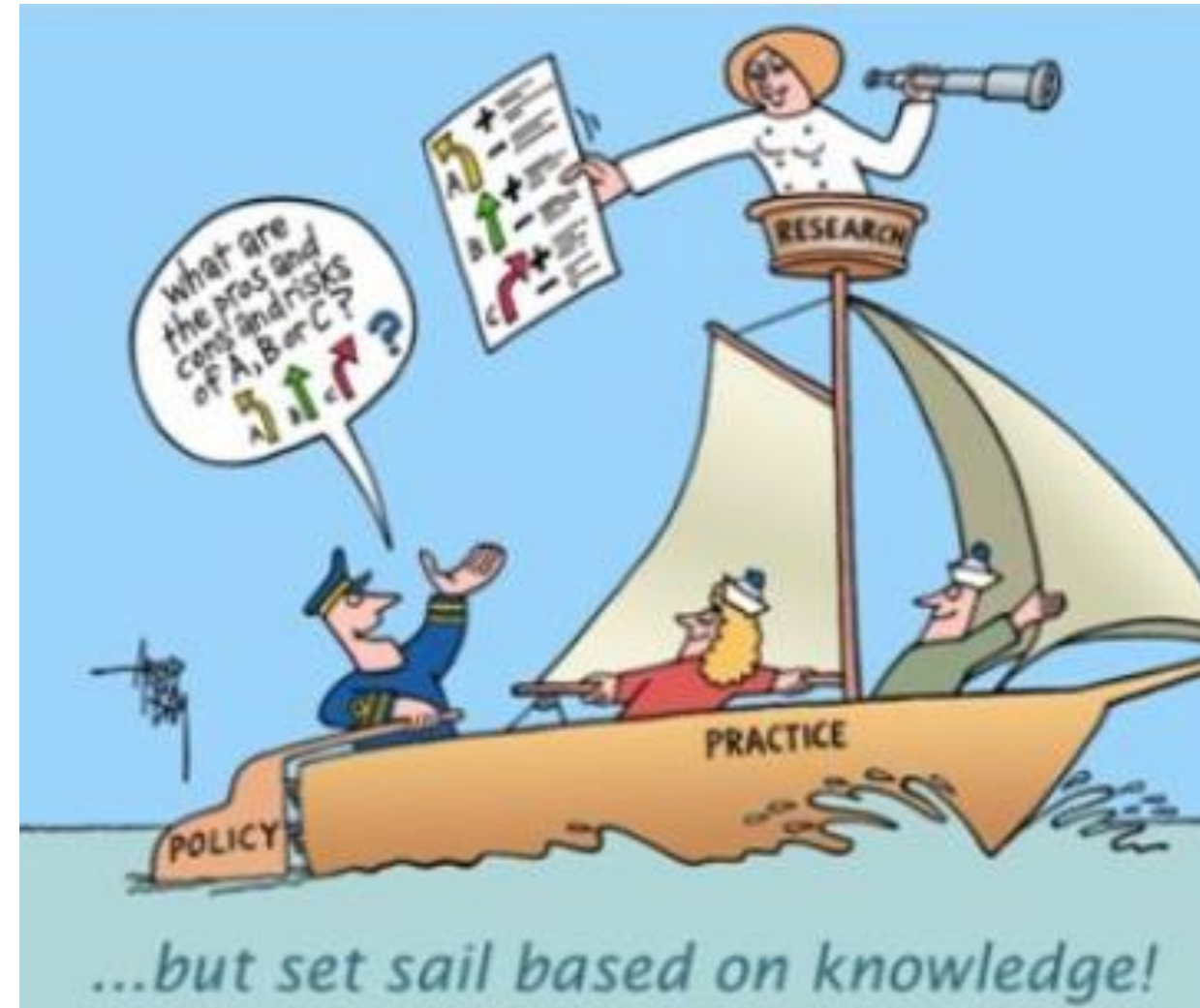 - Operational support

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Context

- Experience from international development sector

- Working directly with partners from various research and think tank organisations aim to deliver research and evaluation to support policy making

- The partners are based in low- & middle-income countries where often lack of intermediary organisations that carry research to policy support

- This presentation draws from our experience working with a broad range of research institutions

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The Question?

Evidence-based policy making is expected to bring better policy outcomes; however, utilisation and uptake of evaluation findings in all stages of the policy cycle could be improved.

- In the context where evaluation findings are available, what are effective ways to improve utilisation of evaluation findings?
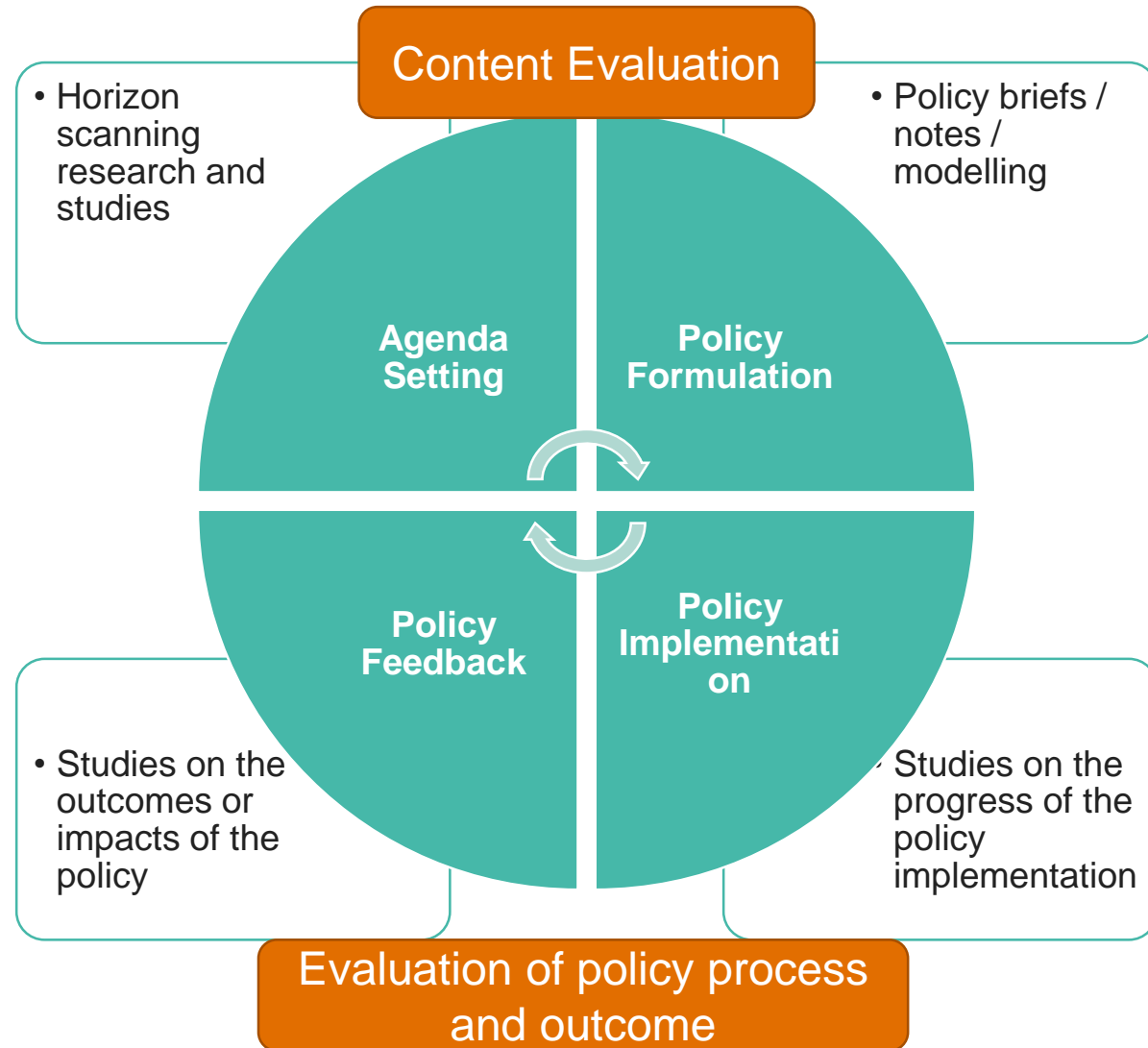
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The Expectation

https://www.cecan.ac.uk/blog/building-collaborative-narratives-and-developing-trust-policy-and-its-evaluation

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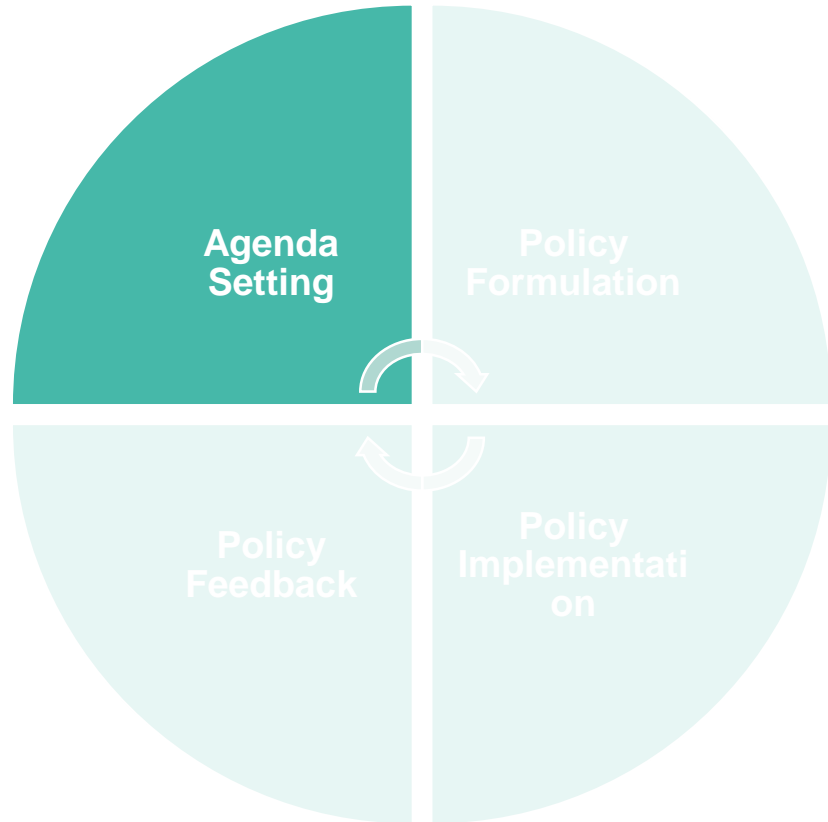
How to better utilise evaluation findings in all stages of policy cycle?

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Evaluation across Policy Cycle

Content Evaluation

- Horizon scanning research and studies

- Policy briefs / notes / modelling

Agenda Setting

Policy Formulation

Policy Feedback

Policy Implementation

- Studies on the outcomes or impacts of the policy

- Studies on the progress of the policy implementation

Evaluation of policy process and outcome
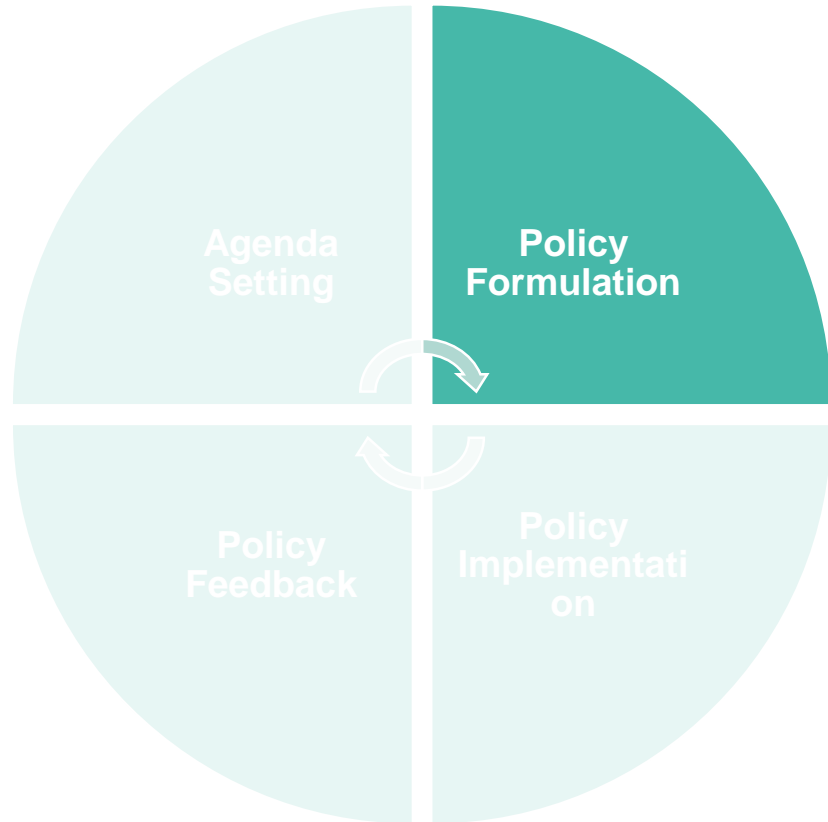
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Evaluation for Agenda Setting

- Type: content evaluation
- Purpose:
  - To define the problem and build awareness of and priority given to an issue or problem – evaluation as idea
  - To broaden policy horizons – the scarcity of policy options
  - To assess the needs of policy makers
- Activities & products: horizon scanning research; policy relevant research; and policy dialogues - to influence policy priority

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Reflection

- Establish useful evidence for policy makers – start by understanding the changing context

- The policy makers should see the evaluation findings as accurate, high-quality/credible, practical, relevance evidence for policy decisions

- Establish the credibility and technical expertise of the evaluators and conveyors of the evaluation findings

- To capitalise on similar initiatives and use cross-sector engagement in using the evaluation findings

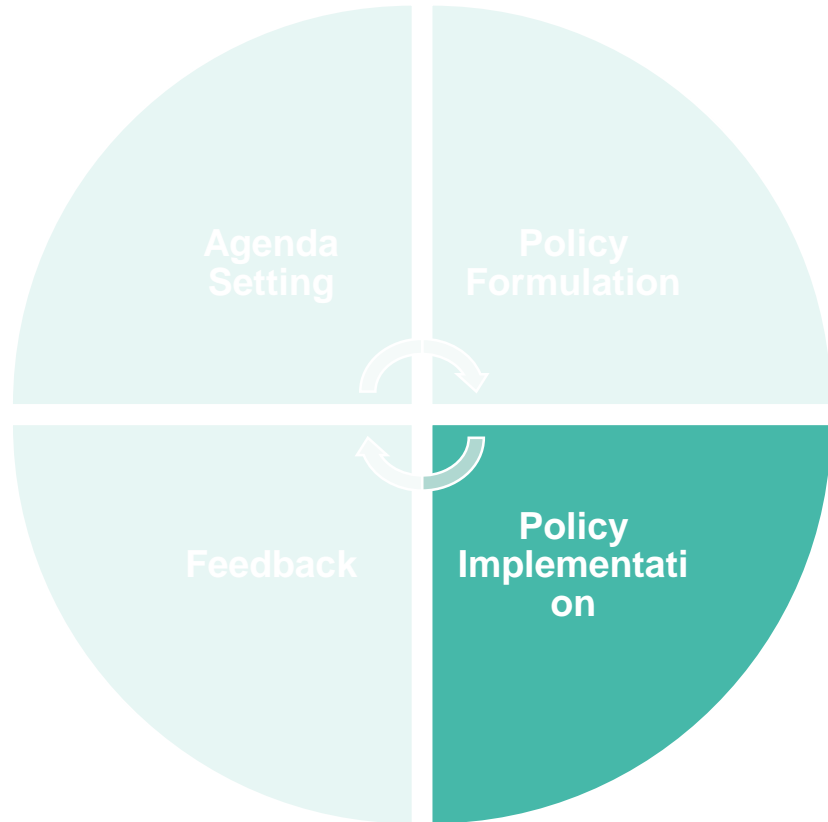Clear Horizon

Evaluation for Policy Formulation

- Type: content evaluation
- Purpose:
  - to provide policy solutions, thus policy makers can determine the policy options and select the preferred option
  - to assist policy decisions & improve organisational capacity framework
- Activities & products: policy options and modelling; prototyping and piloting policy options - to show the solutions to problems and the expected impacts of each policy option

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Reflection

- Evaluation findings should be portrayed as an a-political, neutral and objective policy tool

- Future looking evaluation could significantly influence the preferred option/s

- Understand the knowledge roles and function of the evaluator – to make it easier to monitor contributions to the policy decisions

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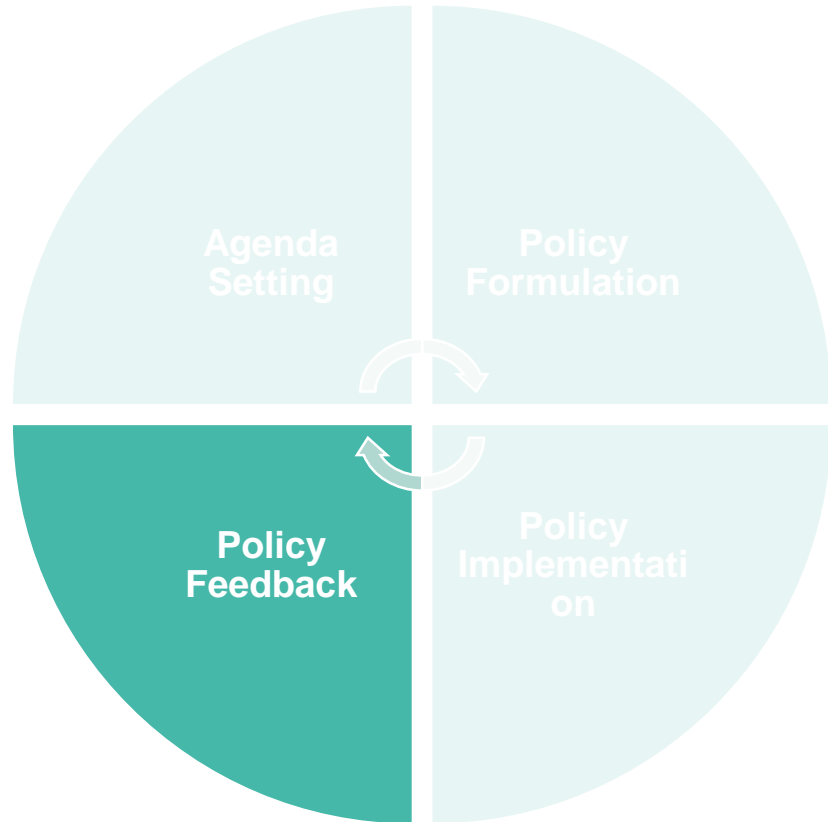
Evaluation for Policy Implementation

- Type: process / formative evaluation

- Purpose: to provide operational evidence to improve the policy effectiveness

- Activities & products: just in time analytics and technical inputs for the government counterparts - to provide evidence supporting the day-to-day policy management and decisions

Agenda Setting

Policy Formulation

Feedback

Policy Implementation

Clear Horizon

Reflection

- Build trusted relationship with the policy makers – just in time technical assistance

- Prepare and be ready with evidence (quick turn-around and anticipating future requests)

- A flexible program to support changing activities and immediate outcomes – theory of change

Evaluation for Policy Feedback

- Type: outcomes / summative evaluation

- Purpose: to provide assessment of the policy outcomes and impacts.

- Activities & products: evaluating policy impact and outcome

Agenda Setting

Policy Formulation

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Policy Implementation

Clear Horizon

Reflection

- Engage policy makers in the design and implementation of the evaluation

- The communication of the evaluation findings to stakeholders helps to support policy improvements

Clear Horizon