(How) does European migration policy making use evaluation findings?

Contribution to session VIII: Making Progress: The Way Forward

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Workshop Managing Migration for Development: Policymaking, Assessment and Evaluation
13-15 June 2011
Evaluating migration policies and promoting coherence: more issues

- Where to draw border between ‘migration’ and ‘non-migration policies’?
- What does ‘coherent policy making’ mean in the area of migration and development?
- UN MDG Summit Sept 2010 called for (para 41) enhancing “policy coherence for development” through “mutually supportive and integrated policies across a wide range of economic, social and environmental issues for sustainable development” consistent with “objectives of sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development.”
EU migration policy making

Phase 1) The transparent part

Phase 2) The not so transparent part

Two years?
1) The transparent part (Commission prepares proposal)

- European Commission publishes **Annual Work Programme** outlining its planned legislative proposals
- For major initiatives the EC organises **public consultations**
- EC **Impact Assessments** explore potential economic, social and environmental consequences
- **Inter-service consultation**: coordination of proposals between Directorates-General
- Proposal adopted and sent to Member States and European Parliament for phase 2:
Phase 2...
Issues with Impact Assessments

1. Evidence-based policy making, or policy-based evidence making? (no IAs have advised against a policy measure)
2. Impact assessments lack balance in how they assess economic, social and environmental impacts; a lot of missing data for migration policies
3. difficult to promote and assess policy coherence for development if no ambition has been specified (read: objectives, targets, indicators)
4. European Parliament and Member States don’t use Impact Assessments a lot, the same goes for ex-post studies