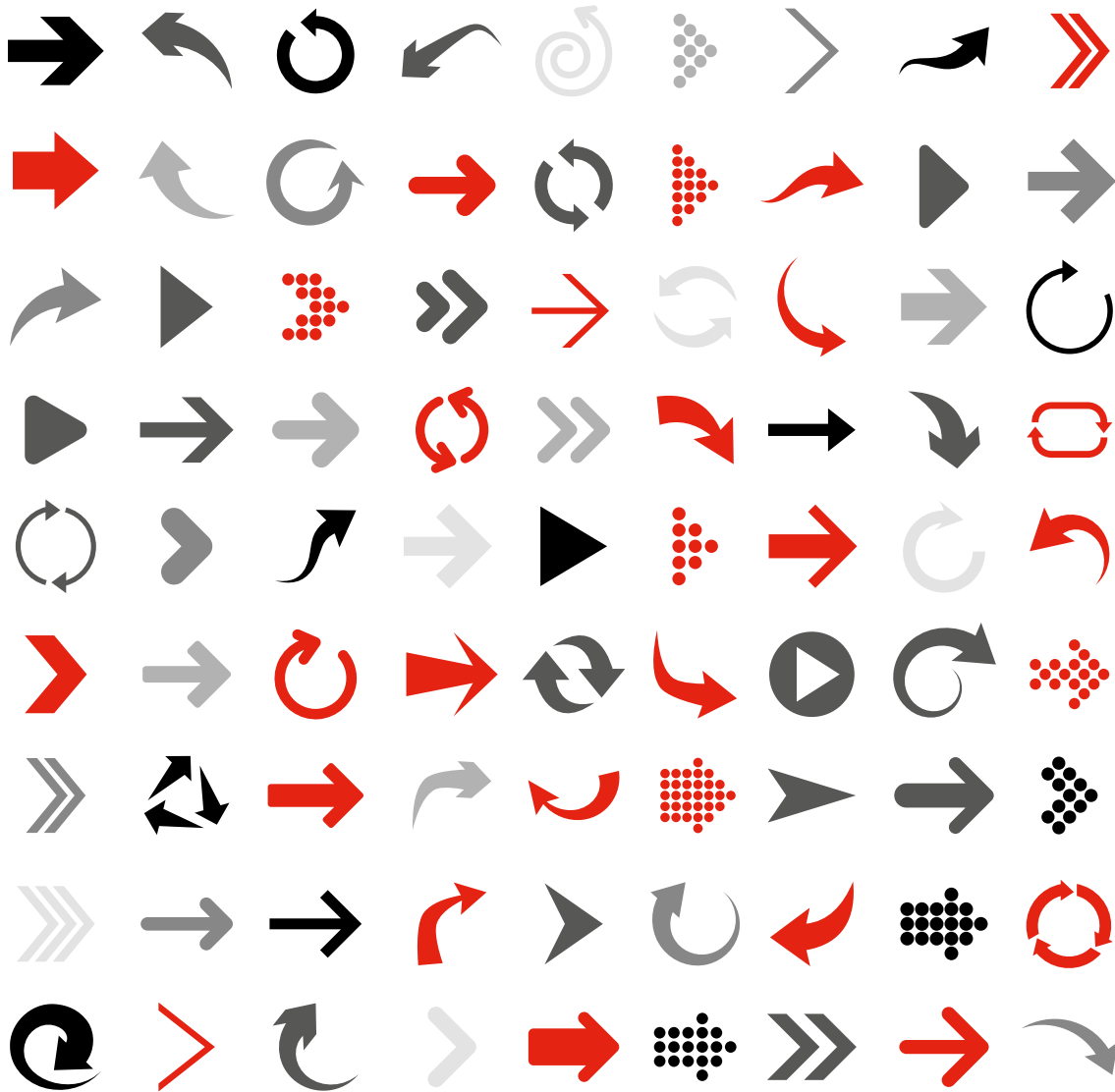


Activity report 2016



ivàlua  Institut Català d'Avaluació
de Polítiques Públiques

Ivàlua member institutions:



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PRESENTATION

The aim of this 2016 Activity Report from the Catalan Institute for the Evaluation of Public Policies (Ivàlua) is to give an account of the work accomplished by the institution over the past year. The report gathers together all those activities carried out by Ivàlua to promote the evaluation of public policies and to see it incorporated into the everyday actions of the administrations and entities from the third sector.

The institution was very active throughout 2016. It carried out 10 evaluations, 5 assessments and as many as 11 educational activities, all of which were in areas, sectors and policies that are of major importance today. All in all, there were signs of the growing interest that the public powers are showing in evaluation.

The evaluations and assessments carried out over the course of the year covered many thematic areas, although the major emphasis is still on the activities that Ivàlua has traditionally and naturally specialised in, such as social policies, employment policies and educational policies. Policies linked to the provision of services to people also had a considerable impact. These policies have a significant bearing on public budgets although they are not evaluated as often as they should be. Finally, the fact that the institution has collaborated with almost all levels of the administration (European, regional and local) is another aspect that is worthy of mention.

As far as the type of evaluations are concerned, there have been evaluations of needs, design, implementation and impact, and there were even some evaluations of an experimental nature. The most significant experimental evaluations include Barcelona Activa's *Mobilitza't Mobile* -a European programme to promote job opportunities through new technologies-, the *Èxit* programme of the Barcelona Consortium for Education aimed at preventing school failure among young people, and the digital training programme (e-training) for over-55s implemented by the Network of Municipal Libraries of Barcelona Provincial Council (Diputació).

Looking at a more long-term horizon, work is ongoing on the evaluation of the B-Mincome programme, which evaluates the effectiveness of various interventions linked to guaranteed income, and we are also continuing with our evaluation of the *Activa't* programme for mental health of the Catalan Mental Health Foundation, which will analyse a type of intervention that emphasises the role of informal carers who look after people with severe mental disorders.

It is also important to highlight 2016 as a year during which great efforts were made to create tools that will allow us to improve the evaluability of the actions of the public powers. In this regard, we would like to emphasise the preparation of a protocol for the evaluation of public policies. This will help those who are responsible for managing and deciding public policies to identify and anticipate all those aspects that they need to take into account before undertaking an evaluation. This will contribute to a better planning of the evaluation whilst making sure that the minimum elements required for any well-designed

public policy are present. Going beyond this tool, the institution also undertook actions to improve evaluability among third-sector institutions, as well as projects within framework of Barcelona City Council's neighbourhood programme (the *Pla de Barris* initiative).

Finally, in the advice field, we would like to underline the fact that Ivàlua was entrusted with the task of estimating the number of energy-poor persons in Catalonia and identifying the territories where this problem is concentrated.

As far as training is concerned, the intensification of training actions deserves special mention, especially those actions that ventured beyond the usual range of courses offered by Ivàlua. Accordingly, in 2016 Ivàlua starting to teach the evaluation module of the Interuniversity Master in Public Management (UAB-UB-UPF), a benchmark for managers and public decision-makers in this country, and we will soon be teaching the evaluation module for the new Master in Public Management at the Catalan School of Public Administration. The growing interest that the various public administrations have shown in training in specific forms of evaluation has led us to re-think the type of training that we have been offering. Until now, we have essentially centred our efforts on generic methods of evaluation, and we now feel that we should complement this with other methods that are more directly focussed on the applicability of evaluation to public decision making.

Looking ahead to 2017, the new scenario generated by the framework of the new statistics law is one that we need to pay special attention to, especially with regard to the use of statistical information for the evaluation of public policies and research within this area. We now need to implement the mechanisms for collaboration between the various bodies and administrations in order to make this use effective.

Faced with this new scenario, and staying within the framework of the growing demand for evaluation from administrations and citizens alike, it is the duty of Ivàlua, and the public powers in particular, to look for ways to provide an effective response to this demand. This is a necessary requirement if we are to increase the culture of evaluation as an element that can guarantee effectiveness in the use of public resources, and also as an element of accountability, transparency and, ultimately, democratic maturity.

Finally, in these times of uncertainty, our institution is making a great effort to adapt itself to an environment that is changing and somewhat unclear. These changes are affecting people who for years have contributed through their efforts to defining a high level of quality and performance, but who have now chosen to pursue their professional careers elsewhere, as well as persons who have joined us and who have provided us with new and renewed energy. We would like to express our appreciation to all these people, and we also want extend this appreciation to all those people and institutions with whom Ivàlua has collaborated and with whom it wishes to continue collaborating.

Frederic Udina
President

1. MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

1.1. THE MISSION OF IVÀLUA

Article 4 of the [bylaws of Ivàlua](#) states that the mission of Ivàlua is:

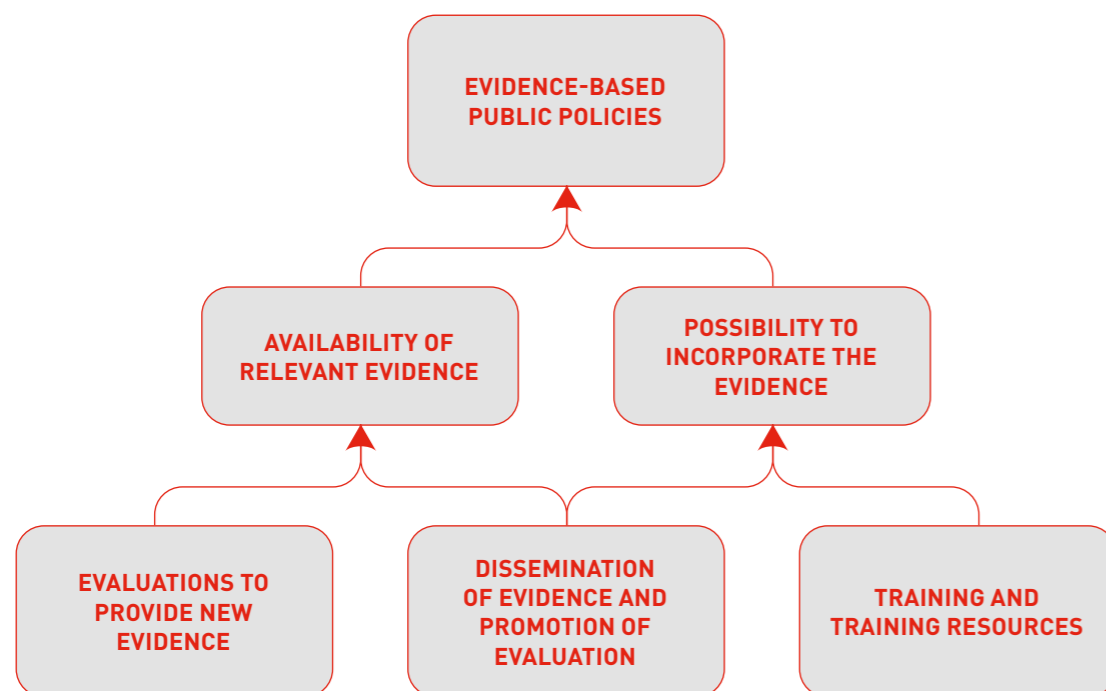
- ✓ To promote the evaluation of public policies among the Catalan public administrations, non-profit entities that pursue objectives that are of public interest and among citizens in general.

1.2. IVÀLUA'S THEORY OF CHANGE

Each year, the public administrations spend thousands of millions of euros implementing public policies. However, little effort has been made to find out what actually works and how it works. In Catalonia, just as in other neighbouring countries, public-policy decisions rarely consider evidence that responds to

these matters. This may be due to the fact they do not exist because of a lack of knowledge about them, a difficulty in communicating this type of information or, simply, because other criteria prevail.

In response to this problem, Ivàlua targets public administrations and the third social sector to help them include evidence as a relevant element in their decision-making. With this purpose in mind, Ivàlua undertakes evaluations to provide new evidence, disseminate already-existing knowledge and teach organisations how to incorporate the culture of evaluation into their operations. Accordingly, evaluation is seen as a means of generating knowledge for better informed decision-making. Because more evidence means better public policies.



1.3. IVÀLUA'S STRATEGIC LINES

To accomplish its mission, Ivàlua is guided by the following strategic lines:

- ✓ Evaluation of public policies and advisory activities
- ✓ Training and generation of training resources
- ✓ Promotion and dissemination of evaluation

For each of its strategic lines, Ivàlua carries out the following specific functions:

- **Evaluation of public policies and advisory activities**
 - ✓ Evaluating public policies at the request of public administrations and non-profit entities.
 - ✓ Providing advice to public administrations and non-profit entities that are interested in evaluating or improving the evaluability of their programmes and policies.
 - ✓ Developing research projects on the evaluation of public policies.
 - ✓ Participating in the research programmes of other bodies related to the evaluation of public policies.
- **Training and generation of training resources**
 - ✓ Carrying out its own training activities related to evaluation and the evaluability of public policies.
 - ✓ Participating in the training programmes of other bodies related to the evaluation of public policies.

- ✓ Generating knowledge, information and training materials that allow the public administrations, non-profit entities and society in general to become familiar with the analysis and evaluation of public policies.

- **Promotion and dissemination of evaluation**

- ✓ Disseminating the results of public policy evaluations that have been completed.
- ✓ Generating materials to disseminate the culture of evidence.
- ✓ Organising workshops and events focussed on promoting the culture of evaluation.
- ✓ Participating in national and international events related to the evaluation of public policies, presenting results and broadening the network of institutions with which it collaborates.

1.4. THE VALUES OF IVÀLUA

Through **Active Collaboration** with the public administrations and the third social sector, Ivàlua uses **Independence** and **Technical Rigor** to generate evidence and provide objective knowledge that can be of **Relevance** in terms of providing information on public-policy decisions taken within our context, acting with maximum **Transparency** at all times.

2. ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN 2016

2.1. EVALUATION OF PUBLIC POLICIES AND ADVICE

2.1.1. Evaluations of public policies

Ivàlua collaborates with public administrations and the third social sector in the evaluation of policies and programmes that are aimed at generating useful knowledge or evidence that can be used in decision-making and to improve public policies. In this regard, Ivàlua carries out different types of evaluations according to the information needs that have to be covered.

- ✓ **Needs evaluations** try to understand and quantify a specific problem and also to estimate the type and volume of services that are necessary to offer a response.
- ✓ **Design evaluations** focus on the proposed solution by assessing the coherence and fundamental aspects of the theoretical design of a specific policy.
- ✓ **Implementation evaluations** compare the theoretical design of a policy or programme with how it actually operates in practice.
- ✓ **Impact evaluations** look at whether the intervention has triggered the desired changes to the problem that were initially formulated.
- ✓ **Economic evaluations** compare the results that are achieved (impacts) with what it takes to achieve them (resources), and they also assess the effectiveness of the policy.

10 evaluations of public policies and programmes were completed during 2016 and work was ongoing on a further 3 evaluations, which will continue until 2018. These evaluations were very diverse, especially in terms of the type of evaluation, with needs, design, implementation and impact evaluations all being carried out. Furthermore, we have started to include evaluability diagnostics in those programmes that are not yet ready for evaluation.

EVALUATIONS COMPLETED IN 2016

We will now list all the evaluations completed during 2016.

ENERGY POVERTY IN CATALONIA

Area: Energy

Type of evaluation: Needs

In recent years, the phenomenon of energy poverty has become more visible in the media as a consequence of the economic downturn as well as an increase in the volatility of energy prices. However, there is an ongoing debate about whether energy poverty should be seen as a problem that needs to be differentiated from poverty, or whether it represents a subset of poverty. There is also a debate about how this phenomenon should be defined and measured.

The objectives of a needs evaluation of energy poverty are very diverse. To start, we define the concept of energy poverty and identify the various metrics used to measure it. We then offer a description of the different interventions that have been implemented in other

countries in the EU and throughout the world to mitigate this problem. Thirdly, we contextualise and define the scope of the problem at the level of Catalonia and its territories. We conclude with a series of recommendations related to the information that is required in order to improve the way of measuring energy poverty on the one hand, and public policies that can mitigate it on the other.

The main lessons learned from the evaluation were:

- Energy poverty is a multidimensional problem and this makes it very difficult for a single parameter to capture all the complexity that it implies.
- Depending on the chosen indicator, the total number of families in a situation of energy poverty in Catalonia varies between 225,000 families and 579,000 families.
- Going beyond the specific indicator that is chosen, at least 7.5% of all families in Catalonia suffer energy poverty.
- In order to quantify and tackle the problem of energy poverty, it is necessary to have a Catalan definition that identifies the population that is considered to be energetically poor in our own context.

Period

2016

Requesting institution

Ministry of the Vice-Presidency, Economy and Finance of the Government of Catalonia (Generalitat)

Evaluation team

Federico Todeschini, Anna Segura and Ramon Sabes-Figuera

EXIT PROGRAMME OF THE BARCELONA CONSORTIUM FOR EDUCATION

Area: Education

Evaluation team: Impact

The Èxit programme of the Barcelona Consortium for Education was conceived as a preventive-type school reinforcement programme implemented throughout the school year with the aim of offering accompaniment in the transition from primary to secondary education, and improving the academic performance of students during their final years of primary school and during their compulsory secondary education (ESO). The programme was implemented in 39 secondary schools (instituts) and 93 public schools during the 2015-2016 school year and a total 2,600 students participated in the initiative.

In order to have an idea as to whether the Èxit programme actually helps participating students improve their academic performance and pass their end-of-year exams or obtain their certificates in secondary education, Ivàlua measured the impact that the programme had on 4th-year (final) students of compulsory education at the participating secondary schools. To do this, a triple-differences methodology was used and this compared students who are able to access the programme for the first time with two comparison groups: those that have always had it available to them and those that have never been able to access it. The main impacts of the Èxit programme resulting from the evaluation are:

- 4th-year students of compulsory education at the secondary schools where the programme is offered see the total number of subjects that they fail in June reduced by 0.8 percentage points and they also experience a drop of 0.4 percentage points in the number of core subjects failed.
- There is a reduction in the probability of failing core subjects such as mathematics (-11 pp.), Catalan (-7.5 pp.), Spanish (-8 pp.) or English (-6.4 pp.).
- The likelihood of not failing any subject in June is increased by 15 percentage points.
- The extension of the Èxit programme to 3rd and 4th year students of compulsory education (3rd and 4th ESO) led to a 20% increase in the probability of fourth (final) year students of Compulsory education (4th ESO) obtaining their secondary school certificate.

Period

2015-2016

Requesting institution

Barcelona Consortium for Education

Evaluation team

Miquel Àngel Alegre, Federico Todeschini and Anna Segura

THE ÈXIT ESTIU (SUMMER SUCCESS) PROGRAMME OF THE BARCELONA CONSORTIUM FOR EDUCATION

Area: Education**Type of evaluation:** Impact

The Consortium for Education's Èxit Estiu programme provides school support and reinforcement activities during the summer holidays for ESO

(Compulsory School Education) students who have to repeat subjects in the September exams. The aim of the programme is to reduce the number of students having to repeat a grade.

The evaluation of Èxit Estiu has incorporated the experimental evaluation of an intervention based on sending SMS messages to the families of the participating students. The purpose of this is to get them involved in the education of their children and thus improve the grades they obtain.

The main results of the evaluation show that the protocol of sending messages to the families has the following effects:

- It does not produce any impacts in overall terms on the number of subjects that students resit in September, or on the probability of moving on to the next grade or obtaining a high school certificate.
- There were improvements in the results for the daughters and the children of families where at least one member of the household is employed.

Period

2016

Requesting institution

Barcelona Consortium for Education

Evaluation team

Miquel Àngel Alegre, Federico Todeschini and Anna Segura

THE MALETA DE LES FAMILIES (FAMILY SUITCASE) PROGRAMME OF THE EDUCATION SERVICES MANAGEMENT OF THE BARCELONA PROVINCIAL COUNCIL (DIPUTACIÓ)

Area: Education**Type of evaluation:**

Implementation and Impact

This programme operates as a Randomised Controlled Trial designed to test the impact of two orientation activities aimed at the parents of students in the fourth (and final) year of Compulsory education (4th ESO). The programme has two parts. The first consists of two orientation group workshops, while in the second, each of the assigned families participates in personalised tutoring. The objectives of these interventions are to improve the accompaniment that the families offer their children during their transitions after completing their compulsory studies, increase the rates of obtaining a certificate in secondary education and continuous learning, improve the choice of post-compulsory training options, increase the numbers completing post-compulsory studies, and in overall terms, prevent students from dropping out of school early.

The aim of the impact evaluation is to find out what effect the programme activities have on the educational results of the children of the families involved, as well as to discover what their transitions are beyond ESO. On the other hand, the reason for evaluating the implementation of the programme is to expose the characteristics of the families involved and also to see how the various actors

involved (families, school managers, Provincial Council and supplying company) assess the various activities.

The main results deriving from the impact evaluation are:

- The families' participation in the programme has a positive and statistically significant impact on reducing the number of subjects that the children fail in the final ordinary assessment (2014-2015 course).
- Participation in the programme seems to encourage students to move towards professional training options. In particular, these effects can be attributed to the guidance-workshop component.
- The programme had no impact either on the likelihood of obtaining a certificate in secondary education (ESO) at the end of the 2014-2015 school year, or on the likelihood of remaining in post-compulsory schooling after the end of the 2015-2016 school year.

As far as the implementation evaluation is concerned, we can state the following:

- There is generalised agreement regarding the raison d'être of the programme and its sense of timing.
- Some critical points were observed in the process for accessing the programme and planning of the activities, and there were also some shortcomings related to participation in the personalised tutorials.

Period

2014-2016

¹ The abbreviation pp refers to percentage points

Requesting institution

Barcelona Provincial Council (Diputació),
Education Services Management

Other collaborating institutions

Institut DEP – Educaweb, Sòcol
Tecnologia Social SL.

Evaluation team

Miquel Àngel Alegre, Federico Todeschini
and Eduard Moreno (external).

WORK IN THE 7 COUNTIES OF THE CATALAN EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Area: Employment

Type of evaluation: Design
and Implementation

The 7 counties' (comarques) programme was introduced in 2008 with the aim of favouring a structuring of the territory, compensating for inequalities and strengthening the development of less economically-dynamic or severely depopulated areas within Catalonia. In order to achieve these objectives, it was decided to strengthen the role of the local governments so that they could act as promoters, managers, coordinators and providers of employment and local development policies, thereby making it possible to take advantage of the resources of the territory through public-private collaborations and coordination among the territories.

The evaluation seeks to provide evidence on those aspects of the programme that have worked best as well as those dimensions in which it is still possible to improve. The purpose of this is to have more elements available to investigate whether the coordination among the territories

can result in better management of employment policies and/or promote the economy of the territories.

The evaluation shows that:

- To varying degrees, the programme has managed to have a certain influence at a territorial level, and this has resulted in new work dynamics within the local public sector, which in turn has created new relationships with the private sector.
- Similarly, in general terms, the coordination processes have not attained a sufficient level of maturity with regard to the institutional level or in terms of local second-level economic and social actors.

Period

2016

Requesting institution

Catalan Employment Service

Evaluation team

Jordi Sanz and David Vilchez (external).

THE EXPERIENCE OF THE CONSORTIUM FOR EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT IN THE VALLÈS OCCIDENTAL REGION

Area: Employment

Type of evaluation: Implementation

The Consortium for Economic Advancement and Employment in the Vallès Occidental (COPEVO) was established in 2006 as an initiative of the Catalan Employment Service (SOC). Its aim was to improve the employability of people and promote economic and territorial development through decentralised public policies with the participation of local business and trade-union agents as well as

local administrations. In 2014, after an internal debate, it was decided to dissolve the COPEVO, and this dissolution became effective in April 2015.

The purpose of the evaluation is to find out more about the implementation experience of the institution during its nine years of existence, taking into account the criteria of decentralisation, territorial cooperation and strategic development.

The evaluation of this experience allowed us to extract a series of learnings from the perspective of territorial coordination:

- Coordinating similar agreement models for different territorial areas is a complicated process.
- Dialogue with the higher administration is a critical aspect of all multi-level cooperation processes.
- It results in two possible models of cooperation: socio-economic development and business projects versus employment services. Transversal concept versus activities with different forms of cooperation and different cooperation objectives.

Period

2015-2016

Requesting institution

Catalan Employment Service.

Evaluation team

Jordi Sanz and David Vilchez (external).

MOBILITZA'T MOBILE OF BARCELONA ACTIVA

Area: Employment

Type of evaluation: Impact
and Implementation

The Mobilitza't Mobile programme of Barcelona Activa offers vocational training within the field of mobile technology to young people between the ages of 16 and 24 who have completed their compulsory secondary education (ESO) but who have left school early and are neither working nor studying. The aim of the programme is to get these students back into the educational system and to increase their employability and job placement opportunities.

Ivàlua carried out an impact evaluation accompanied by an evaluation of the implementation of the Mobilitza't Mobile programme to find out whether the programme has had the expected effects in terms of getting participants to return to education or placing them in jobs, and to elicit some leads about what mechanisms can explain these effects.

The main results of the evaluation are:

- Mobilitza't Mobile improves the quality of the contracts obtained by the group of young people who participate in the programme.
- No impacts were evidenced concerning the probability of entering the job market although the observed trend indicates that the programme becomes more effective over time.
- No impacts were found with regard to a return to the formal educational system.
- More than half of the participants abandon the programme before they have completed it.

Period

2014-2016

Requesting institution

Barcelona Activa

Other collaborating institutions

European Union and Mobile World Capital

Evaluation team

Jordi Sanz, Federico Todeschini, Miquel

Àngel Alegre and David Casado

THE NETWORK OF MUNICIPAL LIBRARIES' DIGITAL TRAINING WORKSHOPS FOR OVER 55S**Area:** Culture**Type of evaluation:** Impact

In order to provide a response to the problem of the digital gap, the Network of Municipal Libraries (XBM) of the province of Barcelona, in collaboration with the Pere Tarrés Foundation and the Vodafone Foundation, has introduced digital literacy workshops for persons over the age of 55 with the idea of increasing their digital skills and thereby contributing to a narrowing of the digital gap.

In order to see how this programme contributes to its objectives, Ivàlua carried out an impact evaluation using a Randomised Controlled Trial with 18 libraries and more than 500 people participating in the evaluation. The purpose of the evaluation was to measure the effects of the digital skills workshops on internet use, the use of library services and the social networks of the participants.

The main results of the evaluation show that:

- The workshops have a significant impact on the frequency of using the digital applications that are specifically used during the digital skills sessions.
- Despite the increase in the use of social and leisure applications, the social networks of the participants did not grow any more than that of non-participants.

Period

2015-2016

Requesting institution

Barcelona Provincial Council (Diputació)

Other collaborating institutions

Pere Tarrés Foundation and the Vodafone Foundation

Evaluation team

Ramon Sabes-Figuera, Oscar

Ferré and David Casado

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (PLA DE BARRIS) OF BARCELONA CITY COUNCIL**Area:** Social policies**Type of evaluation:** Implementation and Evaluability

The aim of the Pla de Barris programme is to reduce inequalities between the neighbourhoods of Barcelona by making it easier for all citizens to have access to income, services, urban quality and welfare. To achieve these objectives, the programme acts in those neighbourhoods where there is a greater concentration of social vulnerability and it aims to generate transversal interventions that include the participation and involvement of residents, the associative network and municipal agents and services.

On the one hand, the objectives of the evaluation are to understand the design

process of the Pla de Barris from the point of view of its governance and the type of actions that it ends up producing by establishing the bases for monitoring its subsequent execution, and finally, planning the specific evaluation of especially relevant actions through an analysis of their evaluability.

The following lessons have been learnt from this evaluation:

- There is a shared conception between the different agents involved as to how the design and execution of the Pla de Barris works, what its content should be and what impacts are being pursued.
- Even though potentially evaluable actions are identified, it is recommended that the evaluability perspective be incorporated during the design of the interventions if the intention is to subsequently evaluate them.
- The system of indicators developed after a pilot and adjustment phase should make it possible to monitor the Pla de Barris scheme at the level of strategic and operational objectives.

Period

2016

Requesting institution

Foment de Ciutat, SA.

Other collaborating institutions

Barcelona City Council, Department of Studies and Programming, Technical Office for Programming.

Evaluation team

Miquel Àngel Alegre, Marçal Farré and Federico Todeschini.

BARCELONA CITY COUNCIL – FUND FOR SOCIAL EMERGENCY AID FOR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 16**Area:** Social policies**Type of evaluation:**

Implementation and Needs

In December 2014, Barcelona City Council approved a “social rescue plan” with an allocation of 20 million euros of the 2015 budget, 9.2 million of which was directed at an aid programme for children in a situation of poverty. This plan was initially intended to cover 7,500 children and young people between the ages of 0 and 16 who are at risk of social exclusion. Barcelona City Council’s Fund for Emergency Social Aid for Children under the Age of 16 is a monetary-transfer programme consisting of a subsidy of 100 euros per month for a period of one year given to families with children and implemented in the form of a non-nominative cash card that can be used to purchase food, school materials, hygiene items and clothing.

The social rescue plan will monitor the situation of vulnerability in the city and evaluate the aid scheme for children in a situation of poverty in order to see if it is necessary to adapt the design of the programme. For this reason, Barcelona City Council commissioned Ivàlua to conduct an evaluation of the implementation of the programme by analysing the cover and territorial distribution of the aid in order to generate a profile of the social and economic characteristics of the families receiving the aid in 2015 and to estimate the impact that the aid has in terms of reducing child poverty.

This evaluation produced the following results:

- Among the group of people receiving support from lunch-aid programmes (who represent a subgroup of children from low income families compared to children in the city as a whole), lower-income families and those experiencing serious social needs are the ones most likely to receive the aid.
- A relatively low horizontal efficiency (degree of coverage in terms of the target population) was detected given the fact that the aid excludes a very significant percentage of families in a situation of economic vulnerability.
- The aid has had a high level of vertical efficiency (the capacity to give coverage to only the target population), due essentially to the fact that the requirements to be a considered a beneficiary are particularly focussed on the most vulnerable.
- If the amount of all the emergency aid is €1,200 per annum for all beneficiaries, the percentage of households at risk of general poverty is reduced by 1.8 percentage points; if the rate of a risk of serious poverty is applied, the fall is 7.4 points, and applying the rate of a risk of severe poverty sees a drop of 11.6 points. However, the real impact has been slightly less than this as the average level of aid in 2015 was €995.60 per annum.
- If we attempt to reduce the shortcomings in terms of coverage by extending the sum of the aid at its current level (€1,200/year) to all children living in households below the poverty threshold

(detected through applications to receive lunch-aid support) who are not currently covered (18,597 children), the additional cost would be €22,316,400 if we only cover those who apply for lunch-aid support. The figure would be €30,338,400 if these applicants included the extra 35.9% of children corresponding the siblings of the applicants who do not claim lunch aid themselves.

Period

2015-2016

Requesting institution

Area of Social Rights of Barcelona City Council

Evaluation team

Federico Todeschini, Jaume Blasco (external) and Albert Julià (external)

EVALUATIONS IN PROGRESS DURING 2016

In addition to the evaluations that concluded during 2016, this year Ivàlua has also been working on three experimental evaluations that will be completed over the next few years. We will now list the evaluations in progress that were ongoing during 2016.

THE CATALAN MENTAL HEALTH FEDERATION'S ACTIVA'T PER LA SALUT MENTAL (GET ACTIVE FOR MENTAL HEALTH) PROJECT

Area: Health

Type of evaluation:

Implementation and Impact

The 'Activa't per la Salut Mental' project tackles the problem of mental illness by acting with the families of people with

mental disorders. It is aimed at converting these family members into health agents in their own recovery processes. The intervention methodology provides participants with an integrated circuit that includes guidance services and initial information, training activities as well as backing in mutual help groups.

In order to know whether the programme has had the desired effects on the recovery of the families and the responsibility of looking after them, and after obtaining some clues about the mechanisms that can explain these effects, Ivàlua is carrying out an impact evaluation accompanied by an evaluation of the implementation of the Activa't per la Salut Mental programme.

Even though the evaluation of the impact has not been completed, we already have the results of the implementation evaluation:

- It is desirable to avoid discontinuities between the different phases of the circuit offered by the programme so as not to generate expectations and then provoke frustration.
- The Activa't programme should not be merely a complement, but rather it should also act as a catalyst for change within the entire mental healthcare system, moving its function more in the direction of accompaniment, and having an impact on the opening up of possibilities in everyday life.
- The work and the techniques of the Espai Situa't programme are highly regarded and their role is partly used to explain why the coordination has not resulted in any

major problems, notwithstanding the great complexity of the programme in organisational terms.

- Both psychoeducational factors are seen in positive light, especially when they have become more practical, more applied and more useful in terms of the participants sharing strategies, experiences and feelings.

Period

2016-2018

Requesting institution

Mental Health Federation Catalonia

Other collaborating institutions

Government of Catalonia (Generalitat)

Evaluation team

Jordi Sanz and Eduard Moreno (external)

THE PRIMER LA LLAR PROGRAMME FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE IN THE CITY OF BARCELONA

Area: Housing

Type of evaluation:

Implementation and Impact

Primer la Llar is a programme that offers immediate access to housing to homeless people who are also suffering from problems related to addiction or mental illness. This project was approved by the Governing Committee of the City Council and managed by Sant Joan de Déu and a group of third-sector entities: Suara, Garbet and the Sant Pere Claver Foundation. This is a new care model for homeless people inspired by international experiences, and in addition to providing housing, it also offers socio-educational support. A multidisciplinary team works to assist in the recovery process and helps those using the service to have more

autonomy and social integration options. In order to know whether the programme has had the desired effects on the quality of life and personal autonomy of the participating homeless persons, and to obtain some clues as to what mechanisms can explain these effects, Ivàlua is carrying out an impact evaluation accompanied by an evaluation of the implementation of the Primer la Llar programme.

The main results from the implementation evaluation are:

- The duration of the pilot programme is too short to allow its full potential to be completely developed or to allow all its effects to be evaluated.
- A dedicated team is required for everything related to searching for, preparing and managing the homes. As this does not exist yet, it could require a social intervention team to carry out tasks that do not correspond to it, and there would be the additional cost for them of having to offer expertise on the private real estate market in Barcelona.
- It would be desirable to back up the programme with other housing policies and housing-benefit policies in particular that would allow people who have attained a sufficient degree of autonomous development - but who are on low incomes or who find it very difficult to enter the jobs market because of mental disability and/or old age - to have the possibility of staying on in the apartments.

Period
2016-2018

Requesting institution

Barcelona City Council

Evaluation team

Jordi Sanz and David Vílchez (external)

B-MINCOME PROGRAMME OF THE CITY OF BARCELONA

Area: Social policies

Type of evaluation: Impact and Economic

The city of Barcelona's B-Mincome programme is a pilot scheme that offers 1,000 families in a situation of vulnerability an emergency income supplemented by other active policies aimed at mitigating social exclusion and helping them to integrate into society and the jobs market.

To know whether the programme will have the desired effects, Ivàlua has designed an impact evaluation with a Randomised Controlled Trial.

This evaluation is currently in progress. However, there are a number of lessons that can be extracted from the design phase of the evaluation:

- The impact evaluation can help to improve decision-making when the programme is designed in an incremental manner. With a single pilot test, it is impossible to provide a response to everything that we do not know about the functioning of a programme. Those responsible for the programme will try to answer the greatest number of possible questions beyond the technical conditioning factors. Therefore, it is key for the evaluation to be incorporated almost at the same

time as the design of the policy.

- In an environment where we find a great variety of research teams, clear leadership is very important in terms of making sure that conflicts of interest do not end up prejudicing the programme and the evaluation.

Period

2016-2019

Requesting institution

Social Rights Area of
Barcelona City Council

Other collaborating institutions

Urban Innovative Actions

Evaluation team

Federico Todeschini and Ramon Sabés

2.1.2. Advice given to public entities and entities of the third social sector

In addition to making evaluations, Ivàlua also provides advisory services. Public organisations and entities from the third social sector often show a willingness to evaluate and make use of available evidence although they do not always have sufficient technical resources and know-how to do so. In these cases, Ivàlua provides them with advice and assists them in this process, either by offering technical support in the design and planning of an evaluation, thereby contributing to improvements in the evaluability during the design of a policy or programme, or else by developing tools and support materials that facilitate the incorporation of the evaluation into the heart of the organisation. The 6 advice-based projects carried out during 2016 are described below.

EVALUABILITY PROTOCOL

Type of Advice: Evaluability

The area for the economic evaluation of public policies of the Ministry of the Vice-Presidency, Economy and Finance share the notion with Ivàlua of the need to have a shared methodology to objectively assess the evaluability of public policies.

With this purpose in mind, Ivàlua has developed a protocol outlining the steps to be followed to ensure that a policy is evaluable, whilst also helping to assess its degree of evaluability through a series of questionnaires. This tool is intended to help those in charge of public policies and those who decide on public policies establish all the aspects that they need to take into consideration before tackling an evaluation, by contributing to a better planning of the evaluation while offering standards on the minimum elements that a well-designed public policy should have.

Period

2016-2017

Requesting institution

Ministry of the Vice-Presidency,
Economy and Finance of the
Government of Catalonia (Generalitat)

Work team

Marçal Farré

EVALUATION GUIDE FOR THIRD SECTOR PROGRAMMES

Type of Advice: Evaluability

With a view to promoting evaluation, the Table Third Sector commissioned Ivàlua to develop a practical guide for the evaluation of the programmes that the

sector provides using a methodology of reference that is shared and accessible to all. On this basis, from 2017 the Table Third Sector and Ivàlua will jointly undertake the evaluation of programmes.

In response to the proposed assignment, Ivàlua has developed a guide that addresses the main concepts of the various types of evaluation (needs, design, implementation, impact and economic), while also including reflections and applications related to the third sector. In this way, it provides an introduction to the various types of evaluation, combining rigor and depth with a desire to inform.

Period

2016

Requesting institution

Table Third Sector

Work team

Miquel Àngel Alegre, Marçal Farré, Federico Todeschini and Ramon Sabés

IDENTIFYING FAMILIES AT RISK OF POVERTY

Type of Advice: Evaluation

The Ministry of the Vice-Presidency, Economy and Finance wants to find out the characteristics of families at risk of poverty from the perspective of the design of public policies that adapt to their social, labour and demographic profile.

With this purpose in mind, Ivàlua has analysed the Quality of Life Survey of the National Statistics Institute in order to identify those families that are at risk of poverty and those at

risk of severe poverty, and to see how they compare to other families in Catalonia. The purpose of this advice is to contribute to a better design of public policies aimed at mitigating poverty.

Period:

2016

Requesting institution

Ministry of the Vice-Presidency, Economy and Finance of the Government of Catalonia (Generalitat)

Work team

Federico Todeschini and Ramon Sabés

SUPERVISION OF THE EVALUATION OF THE OBERTAMENT FOUNDATION'S "COMBAT STIGMA" PROJECT

Type of Advice: Evaluation

The Obertament Foundation was created in 2010 with the mission of fighting against the stigma and discrimination that some people suffer as a result of some mental health problem. In 2013, the foundation entrusted the evaluation of its "Combat Stigma" project to the Research Group on Healthcare technologies and results in primary care and mental health (PRISMA) of the Sant Joan de Déu Foundation, and Ivàlua was given the task of supervising this evaluation.

During 2016 Ivàlua reviewed and validated the following evaluation reports prepared by the PRISMA group within this framework:

- The level of stigma and discrimination related to mental health in Catalonia, and the impact of the campaign to combat stigma and discrimination of the third OBERTAMENT campaign

- Impact evaluation of the 2015 social contact projects (Obertament) on intended behaviour and attitudes towards mental health
- Street campaign "How are you getting on?"
- The impact on attitudes and behaviour related to mental health of the project to increase the awareness of young people "What's up! How is your mental health? Results of a non-randomised controlled study: Curriculum Proposal"

Period

2013-2017

Requesting institution

Obertament Foundation

Other collaborating institutions

Research Group on Healthcare technologies and results in primary care and mental health (PRISMA) of the Sant Joan de Déu Foundation

Work team

Ramon Sabes-Figuera and Jordi Sanz

LIBRARY OF SOCIAL COSTS AND BENEFITS

Type of Advice: Evaluation

In 2011, within the framework of the Governmental Agreement of 20/12/2011, it was decided that any proposal with a budgetary impact of more than 10 million euros would have to be accompanied by an Economic and Social Impact Report (IIES). The Area for the Evaluation of Public Policies of the Ministry of the Vice-Presidency, Economy and Finance is promoting the creation of a library of costs and social benefits to help the entities responsible for drafting the IIES Report identify and quantify of the costs and benefits linked to its proposal.

Ivàlua has advised the Area for the Evaluation of Public Policies in the preparation of this library, making recommendations about both the content and the methodology to be used to convert monetary valuations of the costs and benefits between countries and over time. On the other hand, Ivàlua has also contributed to the creation of the library by identifying the information sources from which the valuations of social costs and benefits can be extracted.

Period

2016

Requesting institution

Ministry of the Vice-Presidency, Economy and Finance of the Government of Catalonia (Generalitat)

Work team

Anna Segura

JOB PLACEMENT OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROGRAMMES AND SERVICES OF BARCELONA ACTIVA

Type of Advice: Indicators systems

With a view to monitoring those programmes that are susceptible to being evaluated, in 2014 Barcelona Activa entrusted Ivàlua with the development of an application to calculate the employability of the various profiles of participants on its programmes. In response to the request received, Ivàlua calculated the percentage of persons who use the services of Barcelona Activa in order to allow decisions related to the different services to be taken. The 2015 programmes were monitored during 2016.

Period

2014-2016

Requesting institution

Barcelona Activa

Work team

Federico Todeschini i Anna Staugdl

2.2. TRAINING AND TRAINING RESOURCES

Training and the generation of resources is an important component of Ivàlua's strategy because if we really want the culture of evaluation and evidence to continue growing in our country, we will need to ensure that more and more people are aware of it and trained in these areas. For this reason, Ivàlua has introduced several initiatives aimed at reinforcing the evaluation and evaluability knowledge of both evaluators and decision-makers in our environment. Specifically, Ivàlua has four lines of activity related to training and the generation of training resources:

- Ivàlua training courses
- Customised training courses
- Collaboration in the training programmes of other entities
- Practical guides on evaluation and evaluability

2.2.1. Ivàlua training courses

Each year, Ivàlua openly offers a series of training courses in which research instruments and techniques applied to evaluation are presented. The aim of these courses is to promote the systematic practice of the evaluation of public policies and social programmes in Catalonia. These courses are

intended for persons with management responsibilities and the technical staff of the public administrations and the third sector who are interested in learning about, and promoting the practice of evaluation in their organisations, as well as research staff at universities and private consulting professionals who want to broaden their knowledge of the subject.

In 2016, Ivàlua offered 3 courses of its own, thanks to which 39 persons received training in the public policy evaluation. The majority of the participants came from the public administrations at an autonomous-community, regional, local and supra-municipal level. However, the participants also included people linked to the academic world and non-profit organisations. The characteristics of the three courses offered during 2016 are as follows:

- ✓ Introduction to economic evaluation
- ✓ Training in quantitative methods for the evaluation of public policies
- ✓ Training in qualitative methods applied to the evaluation of public policies

INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMIC EVALUATION**Type of training:** Introductory

The purpose of this course was to present the basic concepts and the main methodologies of economic evaluation, placing special emphasis on the cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit analyses. Additionally, the course also introduced the Budgetary, Economic and Social Impact Report, which since 2011 must accompany any programme

² The average valuation is out of 5 unless otherwise indicated.

proposal of the Government of Catalonia (Generalitat) that has a budget impact of more than 10 million euros.

Teaching team: Josep Maria Raya (Pompeu Fabra University)**Class hours:** 30**Professionals trained:** 8**Average rating²:** 4,3**Intention to apply the knowledge:** 100%**TRAINING IN QUANTITATIVE METHODS FOR THE EVALUATION OF PUBLIC POLICIES****Type:** Introductory

This is an introductory course on the main methods and quantitative analysis techniques are applied to the evaluation of public policies. In particular, it uses practical examples of how statistical techniques are applied to the evaluation of specific public policies in order to present the mainstays and basic concepts of descriptive statistics and inferential statistics.

Teaching team: Jordi Muñoz and Guillem Rico (Autonomous University of Barcelona)**Class hours:** 24**Professionals trained:** 16**Average rating:** 4,6**Intention to apply the knowledge:** 67%**TRAINING IN QUALITATIVE METHODS APPLIED TO THE EVALUATION OF PUBLIC POLICIES****Type:** Introductory

The aim of this course is to familiarise students with the main methods and techniques of qualitative analysis

that are applied to the evaluation of public policies, so that they can learn about the potentialities and limits of each method and discover how to assess the quality of the qualitative evaluations that are presented to them.

Teaching team: Eduard Moreno (University of Barcelona)**Class hours:** 20**Professionals trained:** 15**Average rating:** 3,9**Intention of applying knowledge:** 85%**2.2.2. Customised training courses**

In addition to the training actions open to everybody, Ivàlua also provides training activities that respond to the specific demands of the various public administrations that want to broaden the knowledge that their technical and management staff have of evaluation of public policies. In this case, the course content is adapted to the needs and preferences of the requesting institution, and the courses can be at either introductory or advanced level, and it can focus on a specific field or area, such as for example education or health, or it may be of a broader or more general nature. As far as the profile of selected attendees is concerned, the organisation itself defines participants by taking its own needs to account.

Most requests for this type of training in 2016 came from the autonomous administration, followed by the local and regional administrations, academic institutions and supra-municipal entities. A total of five customised training

programmes were organised during 2016, and 134 persons received training at these. The characteristics of the five customised training programmes carried out during 2016 were as follows:

- ✓ Introduction to the evaluation of public policies in education
- ✓ Introduction to economic evaluation in the area of health
- ✓ Planning and evaluation of local policies
- ✓ Introduction to economic evaluation
- ✓ Introduction to the evaluation of public policies: definition, typology and methods

INTRODUCTION TO THE EVALUATION OF PUBLIC POLICIES IN EDUCATION

Requesting institution: Department of Education - Government of Catalonia (Generalitat)

Type: Introductory

The aim of the course is to provide basic training on the evaluation and evaluability of educational policies to the management and technical staff of the Department of Education and to staff who occupy functions related to the design and management of educational policies within the Department. On the one hand, the course has a bearing on the importance and usefulness of evaluation as a planning tool and as a tool that offers an overall assessment of processes and results, while at the same time it seeks to develop and improve the skills of the participants in the design of innovative programmes that can be easily evaluated.

Teaching team: Miquel Àngel Alegre, Federico Todeschini, Jordi Sanz and Ramon Sabes-Figuera (Ivàlua) with

Jordi Baños (Ministry of the Vice-Presidency, Economy and Finance)

Class hours: 25

Professionals trained: 16

Average rating: 4,2

Intention to apply the knowledge: 73%

INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMIC EVALUATION WITHIN THE HEALTH FIELD

Requesting institution: Department of Health of the Government of Catalonia (Generalitat)

Type: Introductory

The aim of the course is to provide selected personnel from the Department of Health and CatSalut with the knowledge that they require to carry out economic evaluations of programmes or projects by studying their own practical cases in the area of health. Once the concepts and methods available have been presented, the participants work in groups to plan the evaluation of a health policy or programme that they have chosen themselves.

Teaching team: Ramón Sabés (Ivàlua)

Class hours: 25

Professionals trained: 29

Average rating: 4,7

Intention to apply the knowledge: 85%

PLANNING AND EVALUATION OF LOCAL POLICIES

Requesting institution: Barcelona Provincial Council (Diputació)

Type: Introductory

This course is intended mainly for technicians from the Local Economic Development Area of the Barcelona Provincial Council (Diputació) who want

to extend the culture of evaluation to local policies. The aim of the course is to offer a conceptual and practical framework on the evaluation of public policies in local development, their importance and their usefulness, and also to develop and improve the evaluative skills of the participants.

Teaching team: Miquel Àngel Alegre, Federico Todeschini, Jordi Sanz and Ramon Sabés (Ivàlua), Jordi Baños and Carlos Salanova (Barcelona City Council) and Josep Maria Raya (Pompeu Fabra University).

Class hours: 33

Professionals trained: 19

Average rating: 7,15 (sobre 10)

Intention to apply the knowledge: N/A

INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMIC EVALUATION

Requesting institution: Ministry of the Vice-Presidency, Economy and Finance of the Government of Catalonia (Generalitat)

Type: Introductory

The Ministry of the Vice-Presidency, Economy and Finance promoted the fourth edition of the "Introduction to Economic Evaluation" course with the aim of helping Government of Catalonia (Generalitat) staff prepare the Economic and Social Impact Reports (IIES). These are the documents that are required for all projects whose economic impact is greater than 10 million euros. This course is co-organised by Ivàlua and the Catalan School of Public Administration.

Teaching team: Josep Maria Raya (Pompeu Fabra University), Anna Tarrach and Angeles Blanco (Ministry of the Vice-Presidency, Economy and Finance)

Class hours: 33

Professionals trained: 27

Average rating: 4,1

Intention to apply the knowledge: 77%

INTRODUCTION TO THE EVALUATION OF PUBLIC POLICIES: DEFINITION, CLASSIFICATION AND METHODS

Requesting institution:

Terrassa City Council

Type: Introductory

This course consists of an introductory seminar that describes what evaluating a public policy means as well as the different types of existing evaluations and main advantages of evaluating the policies that are designed and implemented. It is a basic introductory course that was conceived for the management and technical staff of Terrassa City Council who are involved in the direct management of the possible programmes or policies to be evaluated.

Teaching team: Jordi Sanz (Ivàlua)

Class hours: 4

Professionals trained: 40

Average rating: N/A

Intention to apply the knowledge: N/A

2.2.3. Collaboration in external training programmes

Finally, Ivàlua also collaborates in training activities organised by other institutions, offering sessions on the evaluation or evaluability of public policies. This type of collaboration is designed to present both the organisation itself and the activities and the evaluations that it offers to whoever may be interested in this

area. Such collaborations could have a potentially relevant role for the Catalan public administrations in the future.

Ivàlua trained 74 people during 2016 using this training method, with sessions on Masters programmes, postgraduate courses and specific evaluation courses. More specifically, there were collaborations with the following 3 training programmes during 2016:

- ✓ Inter-university Master in Public Management
- ✓ Postgraduate Diploma in Public Management of the Local Social Services
- ✓ Course in Economic Evaluation and Health Policy

INTERUNIVERSITY MASTER IN PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

Framework training course: Management and Analysis of Public Policies

Sessions: 4 sessions of 5 hours

- Session 1: The institutionalisation of evaluation: reflections from the experience of Ivàlua
- Session 2: Needs evaluation
- Session 3: Impact evaluation: basic concepts and applications
- Session 4: Key concepts in the economic evaluation of public policies

Teaching team: Marc Balaguer, Federico Todeschini, Miquel Àngel Alegre and Ramon Sabes-Figuera (Ivàlua)

Number of students: 26

Organising institutions: Autonomous University of Barcelona, University of Barcelona and the Pompeu Fabra University

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN THE PUBLIC MANAGEMENT OF LOCAL SOCIAL SERVICES

Framework training course:

Leadership and Local Governance

Sessions: 1 session

- Session: The evaluation of public policies: An introduction

Teaching team: David Casado (Ivàlua)

Number of students: 23

Organising institutions: Catalan Association of Municipalities and the Autonomous University of Barcelona

ECONOMIC AND HEALTH POLICY EVALUATION

Framework training course: 10th Course on Economic and Health Policy Evaluation

Sessions: 1 session of 2.5 hours

- Session: The Cost and Burden of illness

Teaching team: Ramón Sabés (Ivàlua)

Number of students: 25

Organising institutions: Sant Joan de Déu Health Complex with the collaboration of PSICOST, the London School of Economics and Political Science and Loyola Andalucía University

2.2.4. Training resources

To complement its training activities, Ivàlua has created a collection of practical guides that present the key concepts needed to evaluate public policies and social programmes in a simple and easy manner. The purpose of these guides is to provide introductory resources on evaluation and evaluability

that are available to all, so that anybody who is interested in this subject can independently familiarise themselves with the main concepts and practical applications of each evaluation type. The aim is to contribute to the creation of a mass of persons who are aware of evaluation, and who in addition to being more informed and critical consumers of the evidence available within their areas of action, are able to assess the quality of this evidence, understand its limitations and use it in a way that helps to improve public policies.

During 2016 Ivàlua broadened its collection of practical guides with the following publications:

- ✓ **Practical guide 13** - Applying economic evaluation to the area of social services. An introductory guide.

Using simple but precise language, the purpose of this guide is to explain the main aspects of economic evaluation to a non-specialist audience, placing special emphasis on its application within the area of social services. This is an introductory manual that does not seek to train specialists in these techniques but rather it simply looks for a way to increase the reader's knowledge of the subject and to eventually convert him or her into an "informed consumer" of economic evaluations.

Authors: Ramon Sabés-Figuera and David Casado

- ✓ **Practical guide 14** - Economic evaluation in the area of justice policies. An introductory guide.

The purpose of the guide is to offer a practical introduction to the technique of economic evaluation, focussing on its use within the area of justice policies, in other words, all those policies related to the administration of justice, the support and management of this administration and the criminal procedure followed by the different levels of the public administration. This is an introductory manual and its main aim is to offer a series of concepts, resources and repositories of evidence that can allow readers to become familiar with economic evaluation through examples from the area of justice.

Author: Ramon Sabes-Figuera

The collection is made up of practical guides and it is available in electronic format and the electronic versions can be downloaded free of charge from the [Evaluation resources portal](#).

Additionally, work has continued on two further guides that will be published during 2017:

- ✓ **Practical guide 15** - Practical guide to the evaluation of programmes of the third social sector.

There is no denying the fact that entities from the third sector have been incorporating various evaluation actions into their operational routines. Nevertheless, it is also evident that this incorporation has been quite uneven up to now, both in terms of intensity and in terms of the methodologies chosen and the evaluation interests concerned. In this regard, this guide attempts to

provide a common and basic conceptual and methodological framework that can contribute to motivating and guiding the evaluative practice of the entities, starting with a clarification of the key questions that the various types of evaluations can help to answer, and then providing guidance and methodological tools to offer a response to them.

Authors: Miquel Àngel Alegre, Marçal Farré, Ramon Sabes-Figuera and Federico Todeschini.

✓ **Practical guide 16** – The role of systematic reviews in the design and preparation of public policies.

In recent years, there has been very rapid growth in applied research within the field of public policies. This process has resulted in a significant body of scientific knowledge that can help us to provide better answers to key questions when it comes to solving a problem, such as what are the roots, which interventions have worked in terms of solving the problem and what are the mechanisms that have been employed. The guide operates along these lines to present systematic reviews of evidence as a useful instrument for managing and ordering all the knowledge available and using it to design better evidence-based policies and programmes.

Author: Jordi Sanz

2.3. DISSEMINATING EVIDENCE AND PROMOTING EVALUATION

2.3.1. Initiatives for the dissemination of evidence

WHAT WORKS IN EDUCATION?

The educational field is an area where it is only relatively recently that people have started to realise the need to carry out evaluations of the policies and the programmes that are being implemented. This means not just evaluating their implementation but also their effectiveness, their “impact” and the long-term effects that these results have on individuals, the economy and society. In other words, producing evaluations that contribute to improving knowledge and taking better decisions on educational policies within our context.

Consequently, Ivàlua and the Jaume Bofill Foundation have come up with the “**What works in education?**”, initiative aimed at contributing to the promotion and use of evidence in the implementation of innovative policies, programmes and projects within the field of education.

The initiative has several components. To start with, there is the “**What works in education: Evidence to improve education**”, and systematic reviews of evidence on educational programmes and policies are published each year within the framework of this programme. The following publications were added during 2016:

✓ **Issue Number 3** - Are summer programmes useful with regard to improving the learnings and educational results of students?

The summer holidays slow down children’s and adolescents’ rhythm of learning, and in many cases they can even hold it back. In a context such as ours, where long summer holidays coincide with general indicators on education that are far from ideal, summer learning programmes seem destined to playing a central role in improving educational opportunities. This evidence review examines the extent to which these programmes can accomplish this function.

Author: Miquel Àngel Alegre

✓ **Issue Number 4** - What impact do extracurricular activities have on the learnings of the children and young people?

Educational leisure (edutainment) has been identified as an element that can have an impact on the cognitive and social development of children and adolescents, especially in more deprived environments. However, the heterogeneity of the extracurricular activities and the diversity of providers of these services are high, and this results in a significant variability in the quality of the extracurricular activities and, therefore, their impacts. This evidence review looks at the extent to which extracurricular activities become instruments that increase academic performance and psychosocial skills, and tries to find out which activities are more effective.

Author: Sheila González Motos

✓ **Issue Number 5** - Programmes on socioemotional education, and self-regulated and metacognitive skills in the classroom

Within the world of education, there is currently a belief that alongside “classical” cognitive skills related to curricular areas such as mathematics or language, there is another skill type that is of major transcendence for the personal development and social opportunities of children and young people in the 21st century: these are the so-called social and emotional skills on the one hand and metacognitive and regulative skills on the other.

Authors: Queralt Capsada and Gerard Ferrer-Esteban

An annual international workshop is organised on one of the themes explored in the evidence reviews within the cycle “**Workshops: What works in education?**”.

The workshop organised in 2016 was:

✓ **What works in education? Social skills, emotions and learning attitudes: how to work on them and how to evaluate them**

This workshop, organised by Ivàlua and the Jaume Bofill Foundation with the support of “la Caixa” Foundation was held at the Palau Macaya in Barcelona on 17 November. The workshop discussed skills related to learning to learn, motivation, autonomy, self-regulation and critical thinking. However, it also looked at skills from the socio-emotional

domain: personal awareness, self-esteem, self-efficacy and resilience, empathy, interpersonal skills, etc.

Ivàlua and the Jaume Bofill Foundation also organised other seminars as part of the **“What works in education?”** cycle, and these looked at the issues that had been dealt with in the various editions of the evidence review collection. The following dissemination and media events were organised during 2016:

- ✓ **Extracurricular activities under discussion: what educational opportunities should be devised and how can they be generated?** Organised by the Jaume Bofill Foundation and with the participation of Ivàlua.
- ✓ **How to take advantage of the summer to reduce educational inequalities?** Organised by the Jaume Bofill Foundation with the participation of Ivàlua.

WHAT WORKS IN FAMILY POLICIES?

As the initiative “What works in Education?” was so well received, Ivàlua decided to extend its systematic evidence reviews to other areas, and in 2016 it published a guide with evidence on family policies. This initiated the **“What works in family policies?”** programme.

- ✓ **Family policies: methods, impact and challenges for Catalonia**

The aim of this publication is to contribute to the discussion on family policies and the content, design and mechanisms of such policies in order

to move towards more effective and more efficient interventions. With this goal in mind, this document reviews accumulated international evidence on the effectiveness of different instruments of family policy.

2.3.2. Acts to present the results of the evaluations

MOBILITZA'T MOBILE AT COMPIE 2016

On 20-21 October, the Ivàlua analysts Federico Todeschini, Jordi Sanz and Miquel Àngel Alegre, attended the “Counterfactual Methods for Policy Impact Evaluation 2016” congress in Milan, where they presented the results of the impact evaluation of the Barcelona Activa programme *Mobilitza't Mobile* in their talk entitled **“The impact of labour-market training in mobile technology on vulnerable young NEETS”**.

MOBILITZA'T MOBILE AT THE JOURNÉE PROFESSIONNELLE DE CITÉ DES METIERS

On 18 November 2016, Ivàlua analyst Jordi Sanz presented the final results of the evaluation of the Barcelona Activa programme *Mobilitza't Mobile* to the **“Journée professionnelle Mobilitza't Mobile”** in Genoa.

ÈXIT ESTIU AT THE ABJOVES INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

On 12 and 13 May 2016, Ivàlua analyst Miquel Àngel Alegre participated in the conference **“School success, school failure and early school leaving: political, institutional and subjective**

factors”, organised by the faculty of Political Sciences and Sociology of the Autonomous University of Barcelona. This was the closing act of the project of the ABJOVES research group on Early School Leaving (AEP) in Spain. Miquel Àngel Alegre gave a talk entitled **“Can communication with families improve the educational results of students? Experimentation of an SMS protocol within the framework of the Èxit Estiu programme”**, which presented the evaluation of the sending of text messages to the parents of those students with low school performance in an effort to help them improve their results.

2.3.3. Participation at acts and congresses

WORKSHOP: THE EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF QUALITY: WHAT CAN IT BE USED FOR?

On 23 September 2016, Ivàlua participated in the workshop on **“the external evaluation of quality: what can it be used for?”** that the Agency for the Quality of the University System in Catalonia (AQU - Agència per a la Qualitat del Sistema Universitari de Catalunya) organised to promote the Impala Project. This European project tries to assess whether quality external evaluations carried out by evaluation agencies have observable impacts, to see what type they are and what mechanisms explain them. Ivàlua analyst Miquel Àngel Alegre gave a talk on **“Evaluating the impact of educational policies: basic concepts and applications”** within the framework of this workshop.

PUBLICATION: NOTA D'ECONOMIA ISSUE NUMBER 103

Ivàlua participated in two articles for issue number 103 of the journal ‘Nota d'Economia’, which consisted of a case study on poverty and inequality presented in the month of November 2016. One of the articles, **“Active employment policies and young people at risk of exclusion”**, was written by Marc Balaguer and Òscar Ferré while the other, **“How to estimate the prevalence of energy poverty: an evaluation of the Water Solidarity Fund”** was written by Federico Todeschini, Ramon Sabes-Figuera and Jordi Sanz.

CONGRESS: INNOVATION GROWTH LAB GLOBAL CONFERENCE 2016

On 25 May 2016, Frederic Udina, the President of Ivàlua, and the analyst Federico Todeschini, attended the Innovation Growth Lab Global Conference, organised by Nesta in collaboration with the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation and the World Bank. Entitled **“Making Innovation and Growth Policy Work”**, this congress is attended by international political leaders, professionals and researchers.

2.3.4. Corporate Communication

In 2016, the Catalan Institute for the Evaluation of Public Policies introduced its Communication Plan. Ivàlua conducted a diagnosis of its communication strategy during 2016, and the strategy being followed in 2017 is already placing an emphasis on evaluations carried out by the Consortium. As part of

this new communication strategy, the communications material currently used by Ivàlua (web portal, newsletters, etc.) will be redefined to include new materials such policy briefs of evaluations.

2.3.5. Presence in social media

Twitter

Account: [@ivalua_cat](https://twitter.com/ivalua_cat)

Followers: 1427

Publications in 2016: 43 tweets

Flickr

Account: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/ivalua>

Publications in 2016: 30 photos

Vimeo

Account: <https://vimeo.com/ivalua>

Publications in 2016: 1 video

2.3.6. Presence in the media

Acció Política, 5 March 2016

(TV3 on-demand)

[Entrevista al president d'Ivàlua, Frederic Udina](#)

L'Econòmic, 10 April 2016

[L'avaluació pública no reïx](#)

Anna Pinter

Ara, 19 May 2016

[Frederic Udina: "Les empreses petrolieres van de baixa i les que exploten dades estan a dalt de tot"](#)

Auri Garcia Morera

Nació digital, 29 May 2016

[Un dèficit polític que ens hauria de preocupar](#)

Josep M. Vilalta

El Periódico, 11 June 2016

[La política també és avaluació](#)

Josep-Maria Ureta

Cinco Días, 4 August 2016

[Una agenda para la evaluación de políticas en España](#)

Marc Balaguer; Frederic Udina

Diari de l'Educació, 19 October 2016

[Miquel Àngel Alegre: "Cal mesurar el que fem per saber si genera canvis: educar va d'això"](#)

Pau Rodríguez

El Periódico de Catalunya,

19 October 2016

[L'alumne que practica esport extraescolar millora al col·legi](#)

María Jesús Ibáñez

El Mundo, 19 October 2016

[Los alumnos que hacen extraescolares ganan dos meses de progreso académico](#)

La Vanguardia, 19 October 2016

[El alumnado que hace actividades extraescolares gana dos meses de progreso académico](#)

EuropaPress, 19 October 2016

[El alumnado que hace actividades extraescolares gana dos meses de progreso académico](#)

TV3. Telenotícies vespre (evening news), 19 October 2016

[Els fills de famílies amb més recursos fa el doble d'extraescolars que els d'entorns més desfavorits](#)

La Razón, 1 November 2016

[Actividades extraescolares, ¿lujo o derecho?](#)

Ángela Lara

Vilaweb, 17 November 2016

[Treballar l'autonomia i la motivació a l'escola pot fer guanyar 8 mesos de progrés acadèmic cada curs](#)

ACN Barcelona

La Vanguardia, 17 November 2016

[Treballar l'autonomia i la motivació a l'escola pot fer guanyar 8 mesos de progrés acadèmic cada curs](#)

ACN Barcelona

El Punt Avui, 18 November 2016

[La competència socioemocional millora els rèdits acadèmics](#)

Raül Garcia i Aranzueque

El Periódico de Catalunya,

22 November 2016

[Milagro escolar en l'Hospitalet](#)

María Jesús Ibáñez

Magisterio, 22 November 2016

[La Educación socioemocional logra avances de ocho meses por curso](#)
Redacción

El Periódico de Catalunya, 20

December 2016

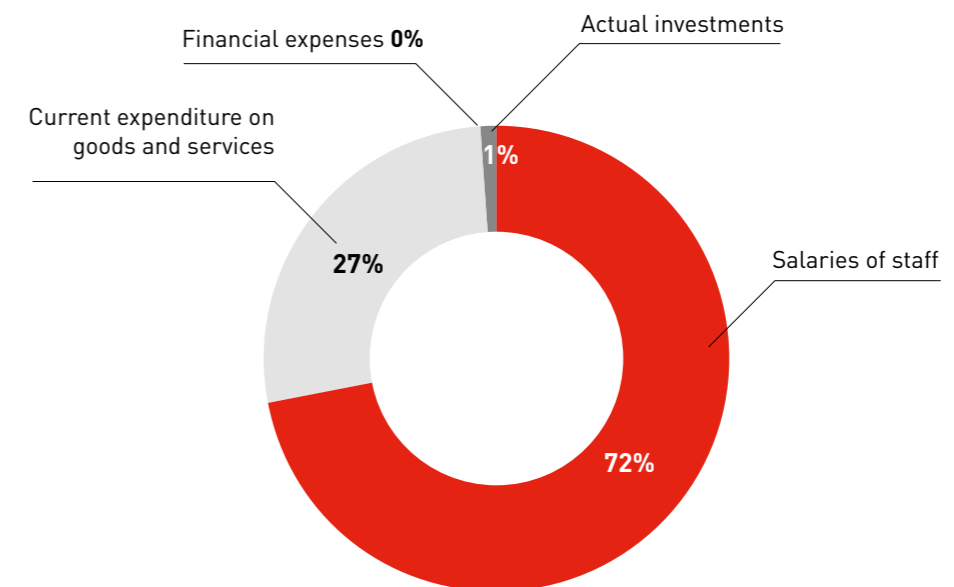
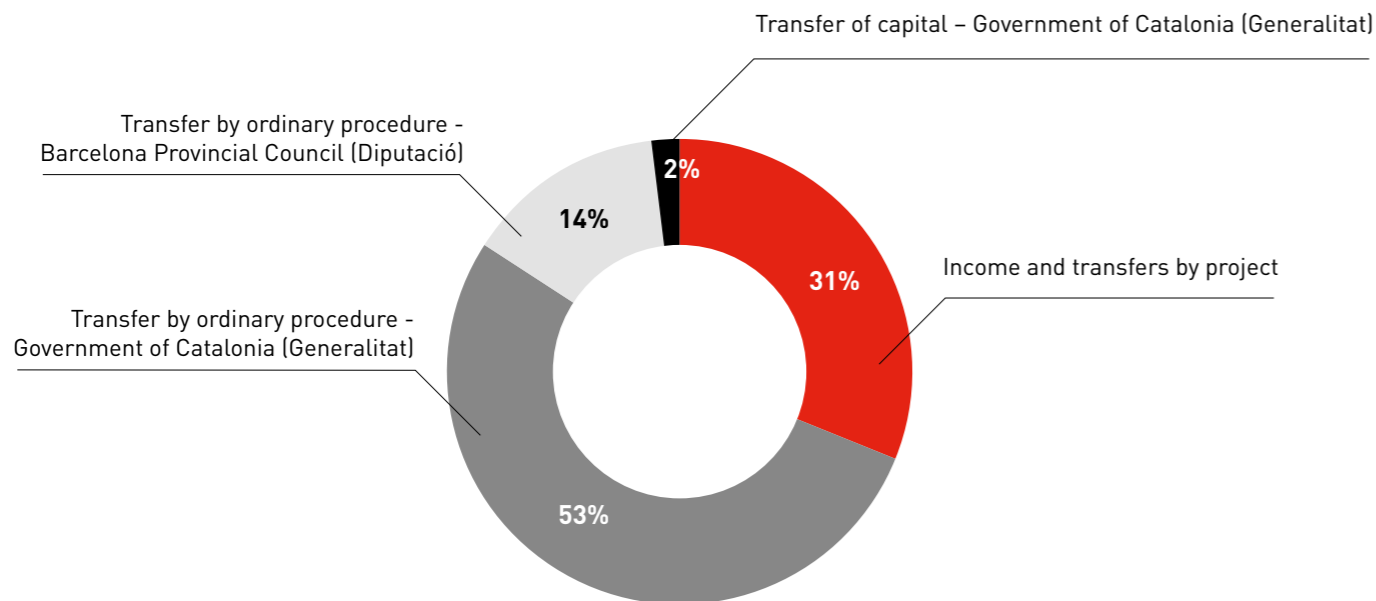
[Emociones en la escuela, sí pero...](#)
Miquel Àngel Alegre

3.3 ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT

3.3.1 BUDGET FOR THE 2016 FINANCIAL YEAR ³

CAPÍTOL	DRETS LIQUIDATS	PERCENTATGE/ TOTAL (%)
Chapter 3. Own income	64.507,00	9,42%
Chapter 3. Projects - Government of Catalonia (Generalitat)	48.605,00	7,10%
Chapter 3. Projects - other local entities	36.010,00	5,26%
Chapter 4. Projects - other non-profit entities	65.000,00	9,49%
Subtotal Own income and transfers for projects	214.122,00	31,26%
Chapter 4. Regular operations - Government of Catalonia (Generalitat)	364.314,07	53,19%
Chapter 4. Regular operations - Barcelona Provincial Council (Diputació)	96.500,00	14,09%
Chapter 7. Capital transfers	10.000,00	1,46%
Chapter 8. Incorporations of liquid assets left over	0,00	0,00%
TOTAL	684.936,07	100,00%

CHAPTER	RECOGNISED LIABILITIES	PERCENTAGE/ TOTAL (%)
Chapter 1. Staff salaries*	551.835,38	71,65%
Chapter 2. Current expenditure on goods and services	211.284,19	27,43%
Chapter 3. Financial expenses	839,38	0,11%
Chapter 6. Actual investments	6.200,52	0,81%
TOTAL	770.159,47	100,00%



³ According to the annual accounts approved by the Governing Council on 31 May 2017

3.2. COMPOSITION AND ACTIVITY OF THE GOVERNING BODIES

3.2.1. Composition of the governing bodies in 2016

President

Mr. **Frederic Udina**, lecturer in Statistics at the Pompeu Fabra University and current director of the Statistical Institute of Catalonia (Idescat).

Governing Council

Government of Catalonia (Generalitat). Ministry of the Vice-Presidency, Economy and Finance

Ms. **Anna Tarrach i Colls**,
Director General for Budgets.
[Start date: 4 April 2016]

Ms. **Natàlia Mas Guix**, Director
General for Economic Analysis.
[Start date: 4 April 2016]

Barcelona Provincial Council (Diputació)

Mr. **Jaume Ciurana i Llevadot**,
representative of Barcelona
Provincial Council (Diputació),
Mr Ciurana was appointed Vice-
President on 23 September 2015.
Mr. **Salvador Gausa**, Director of the
Office of the Chairman, expert in
the field of evaluation, member.
[Start date: 23 September 2015]

Pompeu Fabra University

Prof. **Jacint Jordana**, Professor
of Political Science at Pompeu
Fabra University, member.

Inter-university Council of Catalonia

Prof. **Francesc Xavier Ballart**,
Professor of Political Science and
Administration at the Autonomous

University of Barcelona, member

Economic and Social Labour Council of Catalonia

Mr. **Lluís Franco**, President
of the CTEESC, member.

3.2.2. Meetings held in 2016

Meeting of the Governing Body - 22 April
Meeting of the Governing Body
- 16 December

3.3 STAFF AND PERSONNEL

3.3.1 Own staff

The organisational structure of Ivàlua
is based around four main areas:

- Executive Management
- Operations Area
- Area of Resource Management
- Area of Communication and Knowledge Management

Executive Management

Marc Balaguer, Director

Operations Area

Miquel Àngel Alegre, Analyst

David Casado, Analyst

[Leaving date: 31 March 2016]

Marçal Farré, Analyst

[Entry date: 17 October 2016]

Ramon Sabes-Figuera, Analyst

Jordi Sanz, Analyst

Anna Segura, Analyst

[Entry date: 17 October 2016]

Federico Todeschini, Analyst

Oscar Ferré, Intern student

Anna Staudigl, Intern student

Area of Communication and Knowledge Management

Montse Clèries, Head of Knowledge Management

Area of Resource Management

Mercè Romera, Head of Administration and Management

Núria Ramon, Administrative coordinator

3.3.2. External collaborators

Evaluation activities

Jaume Blasco, holds a Master's degree in Public Administration from the Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service of the New York University and he also holds a degree in Environmental science from the Autonomous University of Barcelona.

Albert Julià, holds a doctorate in Sociology from the University of Barcelona, a Master's degree in Political and Social Sciences from the Pompeu Fabra University and a Sociology degree from the University of Barcelona.

Eduard Moreno, holds a doctorate in Social Psychology from the University of Brighton (United Kingdom) and he graduated in Psychology from the Autonomous University of Barcelona.

David Vilchez, holds a degree in Sociology from the University of Barcelona.

Training activities

Jordi Baños, Head of the Area of Economic Evaluation of Public Policies of the Ministry of the Vice-Presidency, Economy and Finance of the Government of Catalonia (Generalitat).

Angeles Blanco, Senior technician with the Department for the Economic Evaluation of Public Policies. Ministry of the Vice-Presidency, Economy and Finance of the Government of Catalonia (Generalitat).

Eduard Moreno, Associate lecturer. Faculty of Psychology, University of Barcelona.

Jordi Muñoz, Ramón y Cajal researcher. Faculty of Law, University of Barcelona.

Josep Maria Raya, Tenured lecturer. Maresme University School, Pompeu Fabra University.
Guillem Rico, Postdoctoral researcher. Faculty of Political Sciences and Sociology, Autonomous University of Barcelona.

Carlos Salanova, Department Head. Department of Research and Knowledge, Barcelona City Council.

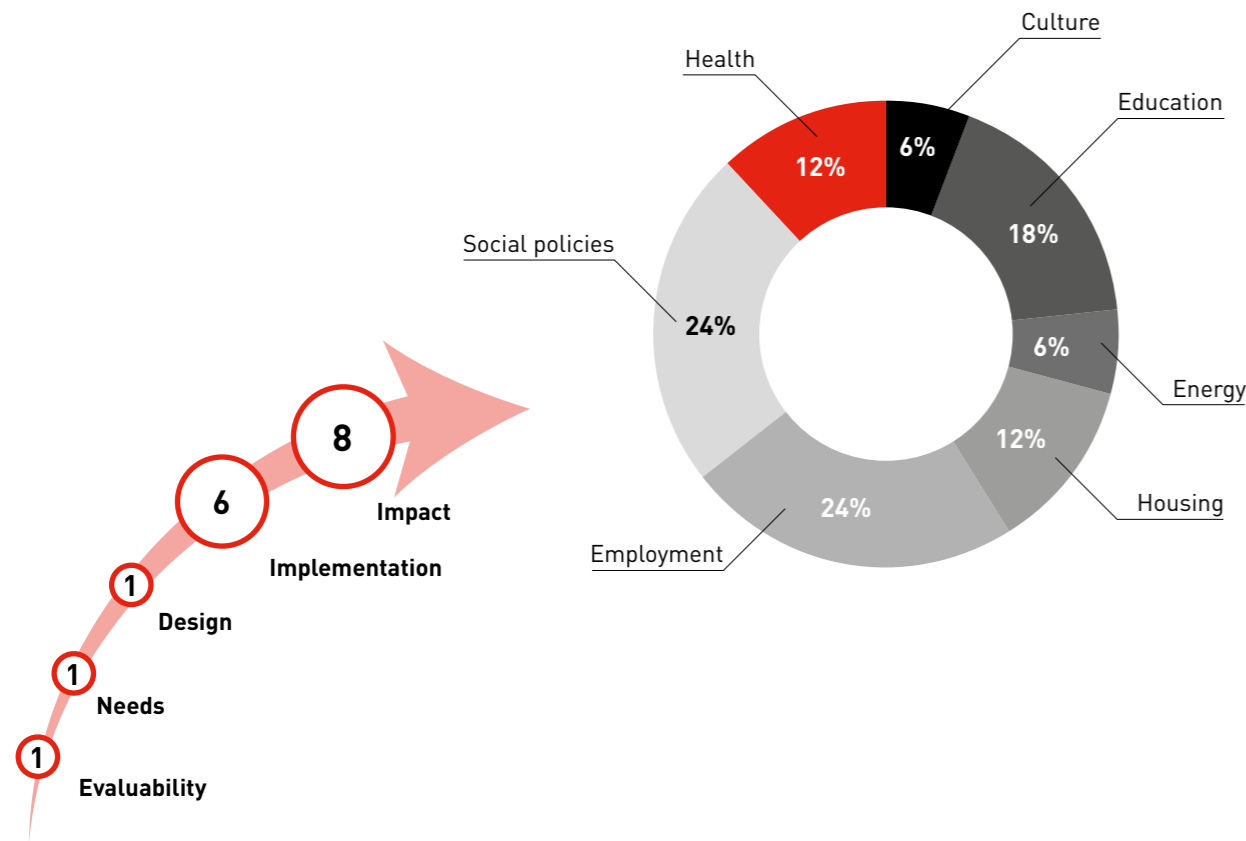
Anna Tarrach, General Director for Budgets. Ministry of the Vice-Presidency, Economy and Finance of the Government of Catalonia (Generalitat).

3.4. DATA AUDIT

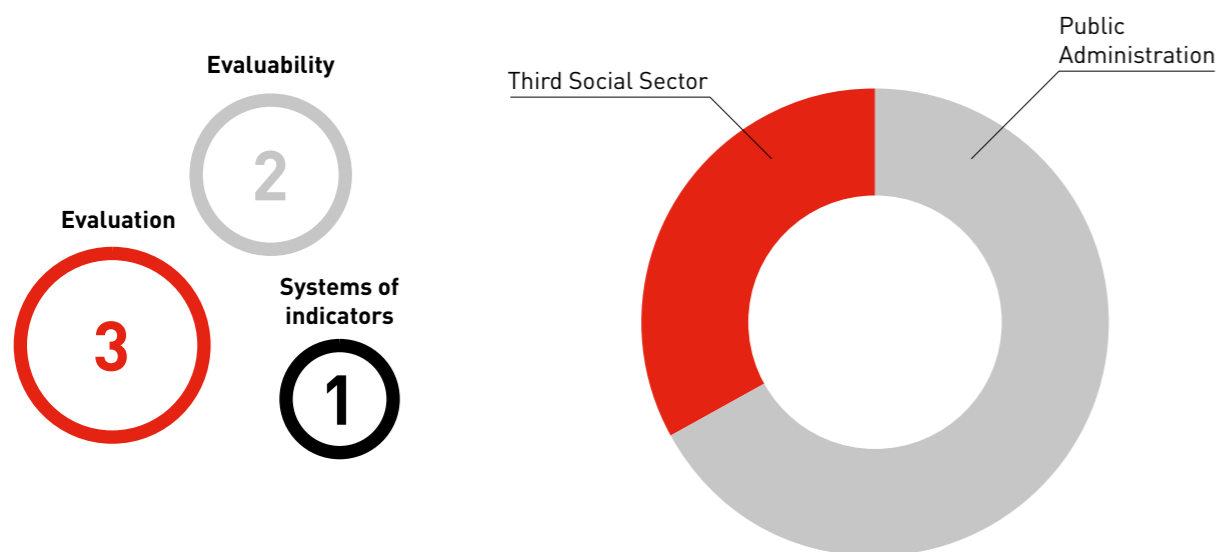
During the second quarter of 2016, Ivàlua underwent an audit process by the Catalan Data Protection Authority. The audit stated that the procedures for gathering and managing information, security and guaranteeing the rights of users used by Ivàlua are in accordance with current legislation on data protection. The final report issued to Ivàlua on 29 July 2016 does not mention any tasks that Ivàlua still needs to complete in this area.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES 2016

EVALUATIONS 2016



ADVICE ACTIVITIES 2016



TRAINING AND TRAINING RESOURCES 2016

CUSTOMISED TRAINING	IVÀLUA TRAINING	EXTERNAL TRAINING	PRACTICAL GUIDES
5	3	3	2
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Evaluation of public policies in education 2 Economic evaluation within the health field 3 Planning and evaluation of local policies 4 Economic evaluation 5 Evaluation of public policies: definition, classification and methods 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Economic evaluation 2 Quantitative methods for evaluation 3 Qualitative methods applied to evaluation 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Inter-university Master in Public Management 2 Postgraduate Diploma in Public Management of Local Social Services 3 Course in Economic Evaluation and Health Policy 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Practical guide 13 - The application of economic evaluation within the field of social services. An introductory guide 2 Practical guide 14 - Economic evaluation within the field of justice policies. An introductory guide

DISSEMINATION OF EVIDENCE AND PROMOTION OF EVALUATION 2016

INITIATIVES TO DISSEMINATE EVIDENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What works in education? • What works in family policies?
PRESENTATION OF EVALUATION RESULTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mobilitza't Mobile</i> • <i>Èxit Estiu</i>
PARTICIPATION AT ACTS, CONGRESSES AND PUBLICATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The external evaluation of quality: what is it used for? • Nota d'Economia Num. 103 • IGL Global Conference 2016

