



How to improve Public Policies?

Marina Dimić Vugec, project manager, ODRAZ
Vrnjačka Banja, 29 August – 2 September 2016

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.



Margaret Mead, anthropologist

Introduction to Public Policy

What is Public Policy?



Public policy has many definitions and theories!!!

› the existence of an appropriate program, plan or set of measures for public authorities to achieve certain goals

› all what the government intends or does not intend to do (*Thomas Dye*)

- › In this process, the public authorities should:
- › consider options and make choices that bring the most benefit with the least cost
- › take account of what people need and want, that is the focus of attention should be placed on solving real problems that exist in a given society
- › *it is not solely legislation*
- › *it is a process*

How to distinguish dimensions of 'policy'?

POLICY

Planning development and ways of solving problems - social, educational, tax, cultural and other sectoral policies

POLITICS

Political power - political institutions (government, political parties, etc.) - Determines its priorities in certain areas / policies

Three levels of Policy

I. CHOICES

- › decisions or „policy statements”

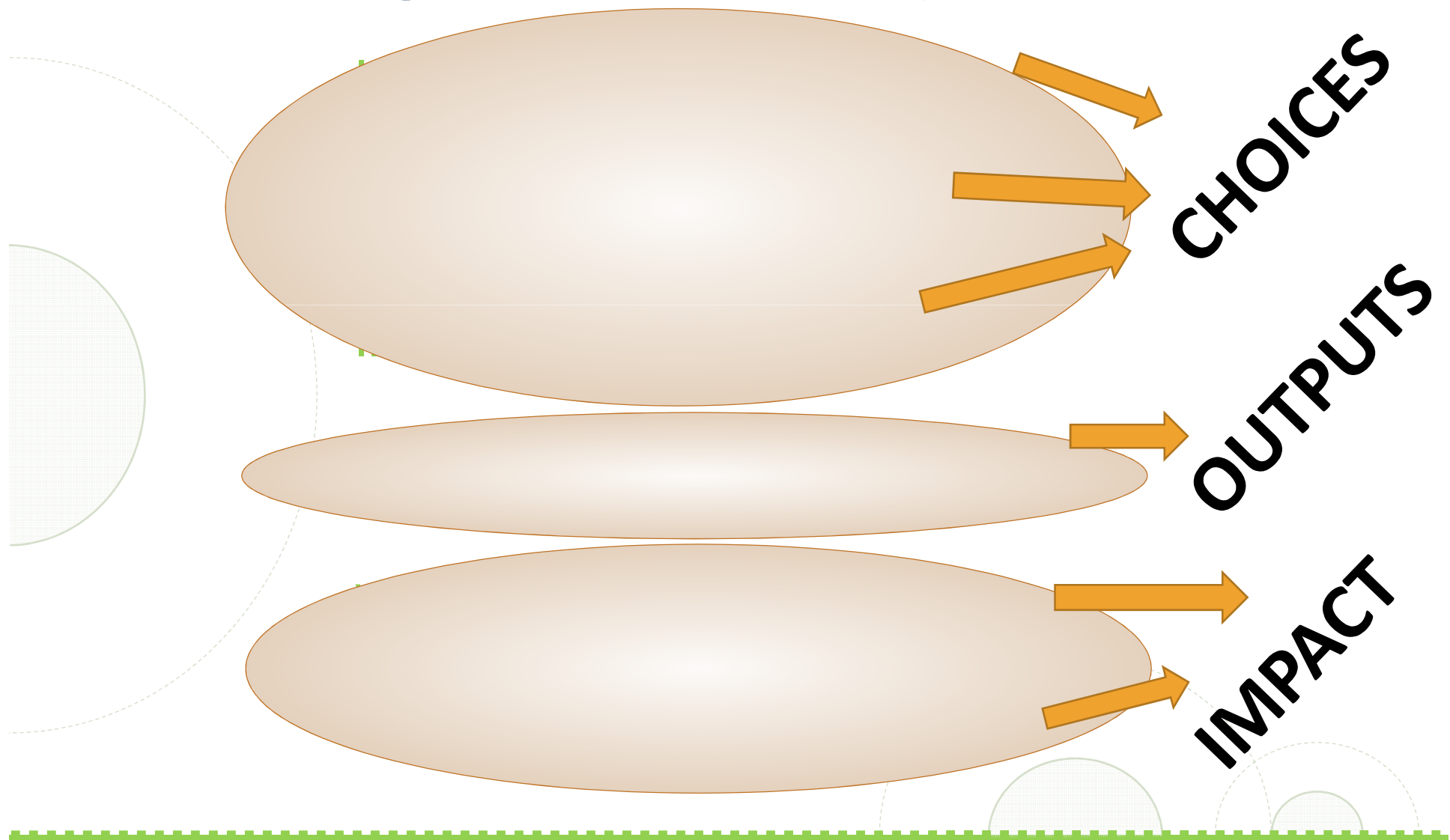
II. OUTPUTS

- › action or „policy activities”

III. IMPACTS

- › effects on our lives

Six Stages of the Policy Process



Cycle of public policy development

**1 SETTING POLITICAL AGENDA -
DECISION-MAKING**
Defining priority problems
Defining main objectives of the policy

2 LEGITIMATION
Identification of options
Impact assessment of options
Promotion and acceptance policies

5 EVALUATION OF CHANGE
Evaluation results
Proposals for the continuation /
modification / enhancement policy

3 FORMULATION / DEVELOPMENT
elaboration of policy
Creating rules

4 IMPLEMENTATION
The administration, coordination
Monitoring the quality of implementation

How to formulate and implement public policy?

"Collective action by achieving specific targets direction to solve the existing economic, social, demographic, environmental and other problems faced by some political community,,

Petak, 2009.



Example:

› <https://savjetovanja.gov.hr/>



The screenshot shows the homepage of the e-Savjetovanja portal. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the text 'Središnji državni portal', 'Prilagodba pristupačnosti', and 'e-Građani'. Below this is the main header with the 'e-Savjetovanja' logo and a search bar. A red navigation menu contains links for 'Vijesti', 'O savjetovanjima', 'Dokumenti', 'Istaknute teme', 'Kontakti', and 'Baza savjetodavnih tijela'. The main content area features a banner with the text 'POSTANI e-GRADANIN - nema više čekanja u redovima' and three article cards. The first card is titled 'Više od 5000 registriranih korisnika portala "e-Savjetovanja"' and mentions that 62 new consultations were opened in July 2016. The second card is titled 'Izvešće o provedbi savjetovanja sa zainteresiranom javnošću u postupcima donošenja zakona, drugih propisa i akata u 2015.' and refers to a government meeting in April 2016. The third card is titled 'Što su to e-Savjetovanja i kako se uključiti?' and explains that the application enables public consultations during the legislative process.

Exercise:

- › choose from each country (in pairs per country) two public policies that have significant impact on rural policy / very important for rural development
- › existing policy / existing public need or interest
- › not rural policy

What is Policy Analysis?

- › the use of reason and evidence to select the best policy among a number of alternatives to address a particular policy problem
- › testing and research a particular public issue or problem in a given area
- › evaluating a set of proposed government measures to resolve the issue

Policy Analysis

To improve future development, design and implementation

- › Planning phase – as part of policy planning
- › In implementation phase – as part of policy assessment
- › (M&E) or as part of future planning

Eight Steps in policy analysis

- 1 Defining the problem
- 2 Collecting data on policy
- 3 The design of other features / options
- 4 Selecting the criteria for assessing the possible outcomes of different options
- 5 Defining expected outcomes
- 6 Comparing and thinking about possible compromises and concessions
- 7 Decisions
- 8 Saying "their" stories

Bardach, 2000.

Policy Analysis

- Those responsible for developing, designing new policy (implementation)
- Experts, scientists (research)
- External evaluation committed by above
- NGOs and other stakeholders (shadow report)



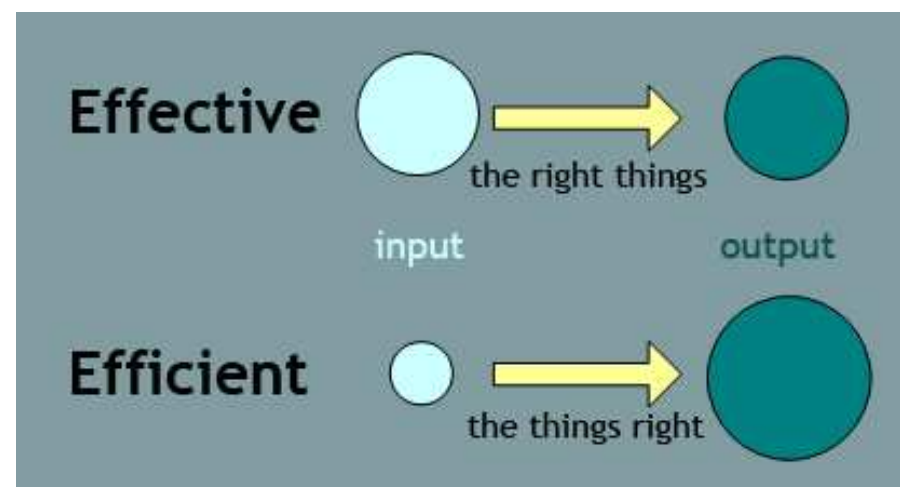
Questions in Policy Analysis

- › What is the issue?
- › Who are the stakeholders and their interests?
- › What is the policy and what is the underlying theory of change?
- › How is the policy implemented and what has been achieved to date?
- › What are the side effects?



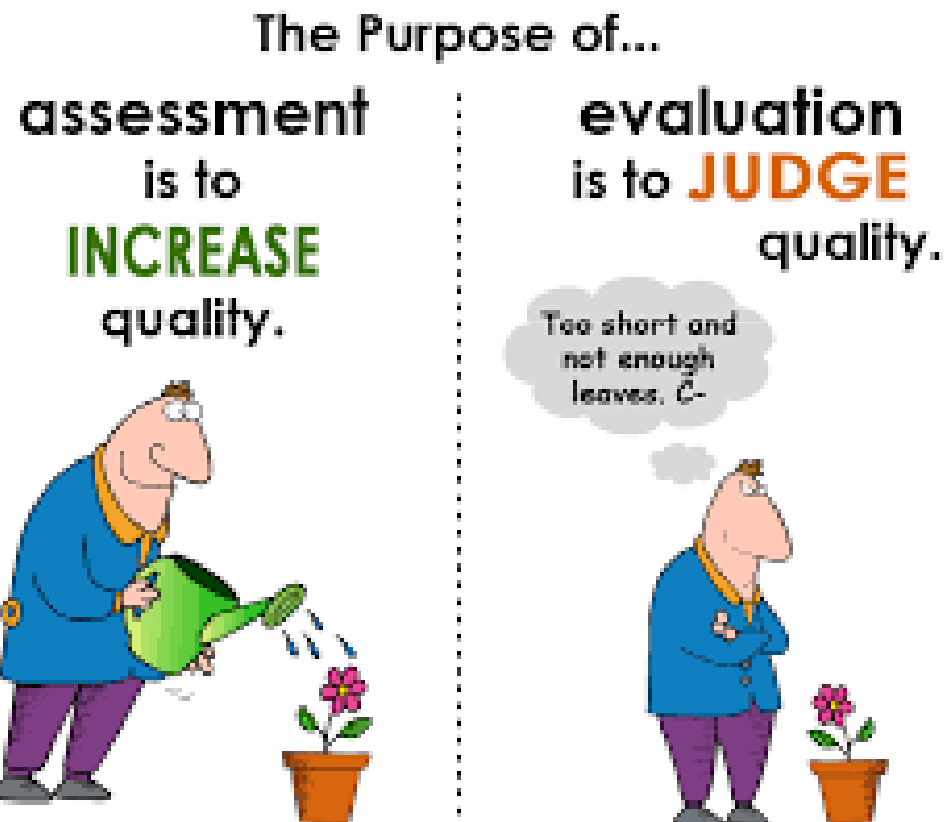
5 criteria in Policy Analysis Process

- › Effectiveness = Achieved / Desired
- › Efficiency
- › Justness
- › Consistency
- › Simplicity



Assessment

- › Keep, adjust, stop
- › Alternatives
- › Conclusions
- › Recommendations



Public Policy Analysis

Thinking Steps



Policy Analysis I

What is the issue?

- What is the problem?
 - What makes this a problem?
- Why should there be a policy?
 - What should be achieved?

Policy Analysis II

Who are the stakeholders and their interests?

- What needs will need to be considered?
 - Who can provide information about those?
- Where are possible conflicting interests?

Policy Analysis III

What is the policy?

- What are possible solutions?
 - How could these be achieved?
 - What measures are helpful in achieving these?

Policy Analysis IV

What is the underlying theory of change?

If this, then that How does the policy influence behaviour?

How is that proven?

Policy Analysis V

How is the policy implemented?

- What mechanisms, organisations, timeline, finances, incentives, ...

What has been achieved to date?

- What can we build on?
- What has been done? How?

Policy Analysis VI

What are the side effects?

- What has been achieved that has not been planned?
- Is it positive or negative? Was it expected?

Alternatives

What alternative options exist for the policy?

What alternative explanations exist for your theory of change?

What alternative options exist for the stakeholders?

Best practices

Examples to **visualize** in all steps of the process:

- visualize a stakeholder and imagine how this stakeholder will be affected, how you can influence them, etc.
- visualise success before and after

Storytelling helps