



CRIE

*news
letter*



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Director for Audit and Evaluation in the Directorate General of Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

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News

A conversation with Francisco Merchan Cantos

For this issue of the newsletter, CRIE got in touch with Francisco Merchan Cantos, the director for Audit and Evaluation in the Directorate General of Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL) of the European Commission.



Figure 1: Francisco Merchan Cantos, the director for Audit and Evaluation in the Directorate General of Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL) of the European Commission.

We see a growing focus on getting results from the EU budget, how do you see the contribution of Counterfactual Impact Evaluation (CIE) to this new approach?

The current Multiannual Financial Framework for 2014-2020 has proposed a stronger results orientation of the EU budget to enhance the contribution of the funding instruments to the implementation of the EU policies and make visible their achievements. This is of application to the European Social Fund (ESF). Even if we think that the ESF helps to improve the lives of millions of people in Europe each year by investing in their training and skills to help them find better jobs, we need to show with concrete figures what has been

achieved and whether we were able to make the difference thanks to the ESF.

The requirement by the ESF regulation of reporting a set of common output and result indicators collected on each individual participant benefitting from an ESF intervention (what we call micro-data) is definitely a step forward. It will allow to better present what the ESF is achieving. It will also allow a more robust monitoring of the ESF, as well as a more robust platform to evaluate the impacts of the ESF investments at all levels: EU, national, programme, thematic and investment priorities.

There is an increased political interest in demonstrating the impacts of the European programmes. The question is not just what has been achieved with the funds, but also whether they have made the difference, namely, what would have been the results in the absence of the intervention. One approach to capture such net impacts is through CIE. In order to identify the net effects, it compares the group of programme participants (the treatment group) with a group of people who might have been targeted but were not subject to the programme (the control group). But we are not just interested into knowing if it worked or not and by how much. We also want to know the reasons for such success or failure. It is important that CIE help improve the design of the operations and programmes.

Recently, the Commission organised a conference to take stock and disseminate the results of the pilot projects on CIE funded by the Commission. What lessons do you draw from this experience with the pilot projects?

It has been a very enriching experience that will help the Member States to better plan future evaluations. The aim was to encourage the practical implementation of the CIE through *learning by doing* process. In 2013 DG EMPL launched two calls for proposals, addressed to ESF managing authorities, to co-fund '*Pilot projects to carry out ESF related counterfactual impact evaluations*'.

Eight pilot projects were funded in: Spain, Italy (two projects), Estonia, Portugal (two projects), Lithuania and Slovakia. They covered a wide range of interventions in the areas of active labour market policies and vocational training. Throughout their implementation, the DG EMPL-funded Centre for Research on Impact Evaluation (CRIE) assisted these projects in analysing and addressing specific data problems and advising on appropriate methodologies.

These pilot projects have proven that CIE is feasible and can be done within the ESF. Of course, in some cases, implementation faced many challenges, for example in terms of data access and data merging. However, the pilots have overall produced useful results and the lessons have been valuable for the preparation of 2014-2020 programmes.

The results of the pilot CIEs have already enriched the knowledge base on the effectiveness of some ESF interventions.

The dissemination event held in Brussels on 12 November 2015 showed the relevance of the lessons learned from the pilots by other Member States and stakeholders.

A number of aspects emerged to be important for the successful implementation of future CIE.

- **Planning:** the evaluation should be planned early and integrated in the design of the initiative,
- **Data:** Quality data on treatment and control groups should be available,
- **Time:** Take account of the time needed to merging different administrative data sets stored by different authorities and to comply with data protection rules,
- **Partnership:** Close cooperation and capacity building among all stakeholders involved in the planning and conduct of the CIE (policy makers, delivery services, data holders, evaluators).

These lessons learnt are particularly relevant in view of the design and implementation of the Evaluation Plans for the 2014-2020 operational programs and especially the Youth Employment Initiative evaluation required for 2018.

What will be the main future initiatives on which DG EMPL and CRIE will work together to promote the use of counterfactual impact evaluations?

DG EMPL and CRIE will continue their cooperation in the future. This year we have been working on launching two very important initiatives: the *Community of Practice on CIE (CoP-CIE)* and the *Data Fitness Initiative for CIE*.

The Community of Practice will build on previous activities and go beyond them by establishing officially a well-functioning network of collaboration between DG EMPL, CRIE and the ESF Managing Authorities (MAs) to support and facilitate CIE of ESF funded interventions. Within the CoP-CIE participants will share experiences, knowledge and expertise and will engage in joint activities with the aim of facilitating ESF evaluation.

The launch and first meeting of the CoP-CIE will take place at the European Commission - Joint Research Centre (JRC), Ispra (Italy) from 9 to 10 June. The meeting will bring together civil servants working in ESF MAs, DG EMPL and CRIE, as well as external evaluators currently working with the ESF MAs on CIEs. Main topics to be discussed will be the access to administrative data for CIE and data linkage problems, preparation of the Youth Employment Initiative evaluations and results of CIE studies conducted by ESF Managing Authorities. In addition, further hands-on support will be provided by the possibility to meet CIE experts (CRIE members, academics, consultants) to discuss your planned or ongoing CIEs.

An important component of CoP-CIE is the 'Counterfactual Impact Evaluation Network (CIE-NET)', which is a professional social network. This network uses the domain of the European Commission on Yammer (<https://www.yammer.com>). Yammer makes it possible to post questions, participate in open discussions and have access to different groups on CIE. As such, it builds a bridge between representatives of the European Commission, ESF MAs and researchers interested in CIE between face-to-face meetings of the CoP-CIE.

The aim of the *Data Fitness Initiative* is to select suitable ESF interventions for which CRIE will conduct a CIE. This will allow MAs in charge of the evaluation of ESF interventions the opportunity to conduct, together with CRIE, at least one of the evaluations foreseen in their Evaluation Plan.

CRIE will offer the selected participants of this initiative a CIE study of the ESF intervention based on the data that they will have provided. ESF MAs have been invited to provide CRIE with information regarding micro data (administrative or survey data) at their disposal, that could be used to carry out a CIE study of a specific ESF funded intervention.

Another important initiative this year is the organisation, in collaboration with the "S. Cuore" Catholic University in Milan, of the second conference on CIE methods and applications, named *Counterfactual Methods for Policy Impact Evaluation 2016 (COMPIE 2016)*. The conference will take place on October 20 and 21 in Milan. The aim of COMPIE is to bring together practitioners and academics to discuss developments in the theory and the applications of counterfactual methods for policy impact evaluation, with a focus on EU employment and social policies.

DG EMPL is planning to continue the cooperation with CRIE in the next years and to further develop these initiatives.

You come from an audit background. Now you are Director of Audit and Evaluation. What is your experience and how do you see the complementarity between audit and evaluation?

The focus on performance achieving the expected results is our common ground, and performance is the key word for the programming period 2014-2020. Both audit and evaluation converge towards this overarching goal.

The focus of the 2014-2020 programming period is on results rather than on spending. The programmes are geared to support Member States in addressing the country specific recommendations to allow them meet the Europe 2020 objectives and targets. Compulsory reporting on outputs and results will give the Commission better information in this respect. However, these indicators will only prove useful if the quality of the data reported is high. The work of the auditors will help verify that the data collection, verification and aggregation procedures are in place to ensure such quality of data. If performance data are not complete, or they use non comparable definitions, or errors are not identified, then we may produce figures but they will be not reliable and of little use.

Impact evaluations will provide us with useful insights on how ESF has helped achieve sustainable changes in the lives of European citizens. Typically the error rates from audits get higher visibility in the media, but my views are that evaluation helps also to the sound financial management for expenditure in the domain of Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion and to a fair assessment thereof by the European Court of Auditors.

With a view to the post 2020 programming period already, I can only encourage the ESF MAs to produce good quality data sets for CIE and to further develop their capacity to carry out this type of evaluations.

Data Fitness Initiative for CIE

The aim of the Data Fitness Initiative for CIE is to promote the use of CIE methods for the assessment of ESF-funded interventions. The first phase of this initiative was launched in March 2016 by CRIE and DG EMPL with the aim to select a suitable ESF intervention for which CRIE will conduct a CIE study. National and regional MAs in charge of ESF management were encouraged to fill in an online questionnaire so as to provide information about an ESF-intervention that the applicant was interested to evaluate, as well as information on available microdata that could be used for the evaluation. Four MAs filled in the questionnaire successfully with very interesting proposals:

- The Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Latvia proposed the evaluation of a vocational education programme targeted to registered unemployed aged 15-29 years in the context of the Youth Guarantee (part of the national Operational Programme 2014-2020). Administrative data are available for the evaluation.
- The Managing Authority of the ESF regional Operational Programme of Sardegna region (Italy) suggested to carry out an evaluation of a training programme of the Youth Guarantee targeted to students. This is also part of the 2014-2020 regional Operational Programme.
- The Ministry of Labour of Slovenia proposed to evaluate an intervention aimed at promoting the employment of long term unemployed individuals aged at least 50 or less than 25. This intervention belongs to the 2007-2013 national Operational Programme and administrative data are available for the evaluation.
- The Managing Authority of the ESF regional Operational Programme of Umbria region (Italy) suggested the evaluation of an intervention that fosters the working experience of unemployed graduates in the

private sector through incentives for internships and subsequent hiring. This intervention belongs to the regional Operational Programme 2007-2013. Administrative data are available for the evaluation.

At the time of writing, CRIE is proceeding with the selection of participants. Priority will be given to ESF intervention of past Operational Programmes since the outcomes of interest can be already observed, as opposed to the ongoing programmes. The selected applicant will be invited at the DG JRC in Ispra (Italy) to agree upon terms and modalities of the collaboration with CRIE to carry out a CIE on the proposed ESF intervention. Preliminary results will be presented at the COMPIE 2016 conference.



Figure 2: Data Fitness Initiative logo.

For more information:

<https://crie.jrc.ec.europa.eu/?q=content/data-fitness-CIE>

Facilitating and running a Community of Practice on CIE: the CIE-NET experience

As a follow-up to the training seminars and Regional Workshops, DG EMPL and CRIE have launched in 2016 the Community of Practice on counterfactual impact evaluation (CoP-CIE). The community hosts civil servants working in ESF MAs, DG EMPL and CRIE, as well as external evaluators currently working with the ESF MAs on CIEs. The aim of this initiative is to foster the collaboration between all above mentioned stakeholders to carry out counterfactual impact evaluations of ESF funded interventions.

The community goes beyond previous activities by establishing officially a well-functioning network where the members of the community can share experiences, knowledge and promote joint activities facilitating ESF evaluations.

The first meeting of the CoP will take place on 9-10 June at the European Commission - Joint Research Centre (JRC), Ispra (Italy). This event will consist in a very interactive workshop where ESF MAs will have the possibility to directly meet CIE experts (CRIE members, academics, consultants) and discuss planned or ongoing CIEs. The main topics of exchange will be the access to administrative data for CIE and related data linkage problems, the preparation of the Youth Employment Initiative evaluations, and discussions around results of CIE studies conducted by ESF

MAs. This will also be the occasion to discuss with CRIE about the setting up and carrying out of the evaluations of the current Operational Programme.

One of the activities foreseen in 2016 in the context of the CoP-CIE is also the 'Counterfactual Impact Evaluation Network' (CIE-NET). It is a professional social network where the members of the community can interact on topics related to impact evaluation. It has been launched at the beginning of February and is run by the CRIE team. As such, it represents an integral part of the CoP-CIE, by building a bridge between representatives of the European Commission, ESF MAs and researchers interested in CIE between face-to-face meetings of the CoP-CIE.

This network uses the domain of the European Commission on Yammer (<https://www.yammer.com>). Yammer makes it possible to post questions, participate in open discussions, chat, or share information and documents. Being a member of CIE-NET on Yammer gives access to different groups on CIE, with certain content being restricted to ESF MAs only, while general forum open to external CIE experts (consultants and academics) with interest in causal impact evaluation of ESF funded policies. Registration and participation in the CIE-NET allows virtual networking and exchange on day-to-day challenges linked to CIE evaluations with peers sharing similar experiences and with experts in the domain.

Join the CIE-NET at:

<https://www.yammer.com/counterfactualimpactevaluationnetworkcie-net/#/home>

Activities in brief

Social Innovation

In 2016 CRIE staff was appointed as a member of the evaluation committee to participate in the selection of the projects that applied to the 2015 call for proposals on social innovation launched by DG EMPL. Social innovation supports policy innovations implemented on a small scale and in conditions that enable their impact to be measured, prior to being repeated on a larger scale if the results prove convincing. This call focuses on the integrated delivery of social services for labour market inclusion, with special focus on proposals related to the support of female participation in the labour market. At the time of writing, the evaluation process is ongoing. CRIE is providing technical and methodological guidance to all evaluators and will participate in the decision on the final list to be proposed for award, which is expected to be delivered in May/June.

Microfinance

Microcredit aims at providing access to finance and support to micro-entrepreneurs who are otherwise excluded from the conventional credit market. Confronting the expected and actual impacts is critical to understand if microcredit is meeting its objectives. CRIE aims to carry out a CIE to assess the impact of microcredit on its final beneficiaries. This requires access to microdata collected by the microfinance providers (MFPs) as well as the possibility to re-contact a sample of microcredit applicants – some who received the microcredit and some who did not receive the microcredit - through a follow-up survey to enquire about their situation sometime after applying for the microcredit. To move ahead with the evaluation of the impact of microfinance in Europe, CRIE has been in contact with the two major networks gathering European MFPs: the European Microfinance Network (EMN) and the Microfinance Centre (MFC) network. Both networks showed a

strong interest in learning how CIE methods could be used in the framework of microfinance. CRIE will participate in the main event of both networks - i.e. the annual conference of the EMN that will be held in Warsaw on 16-17 June, and the MFC annual conference that will take place in Tirana on 23-24 June - so as to promote the use of CIE methods and start bilateral discussions with MFPs interested in carrying out a CIE.

Fostering the use of administrative microdata

The main challenge for impact evaluation methods is to find a proper comparison group (the so called counterfactual) that allows to quantify the impact of a policy intervention on a group of beneficiaries of the policy. This requires the availability of rich microdata. First, one should observe outcome variables and characteristics of units subject to a policy intervention (the treated group) and of units that serve as a comparison group. Second, ideally these data should be measured over time (before and after the policy intervention) for both groups. Finally, the larger the set of characteristics available, the easier is to convince that the comparison group used in the analysis is a good counterfactual.

In this context administrative microdata have advantages over survey data: e.g. they provide larger samples (higher representativeness), they have a longitudinal structure that allows to observe units over time, and they are less affected by statistical problems such as attrition and non-responses. In addition, different administrative data sources can be merged provided that unique identifiers exist. Therefore, administrative data represents an extremely rich source of information for impact evaluations that should be made accessible to researchers and evaluators. Nevertheless, the access and usage of such data is highly heterogeneous across Member States.

Access the CEA:

https://crie.jrc.ec.europa.eu/CIE_database/cieDatabase.php

CRIE and DG EMPL promote the usage of administrative microdata for impact evaluation across MAs. This issue will be further addressed in the community of practice on CIE (CoP-CIE) at least in two occasions. First, at the first meeting of the CoP-CIE, a specific session will be dedicated to administrative data access and data linkage problems. Participating MAs will be encouraged to share their experiences and their current practices in accessing administrative data. In addition, this issue will be the topic of discussion in a round table between CIE experts, organised at the COMPIE 2016 conference.

Updating the Counterfactual Evaluation Archive

The Counterfactual Evaluation Archive (CEA) is a catalogue of academic articles (published and working papers) using counterfactual methods to evaluate the impact of active labour market policies in Europe. This archive takes the

form of a web-search facility that allows searching the list of papers by country, target population, intervention type and year of intervention. Since October 2015 it is accessible on CRIE's website, and currently contains 96 papers.

To feed the CEA, CRIE is regularly screening relevant papers that are made available online in four online databases: SCOPUS, REPEC IDEAS, SSRN, and IZA Discussion Papers Database. At the time of writing, the online search has provided a raw list of 2,597 relevant papers made available between May 2015 and April 2016. A preliminary screening allowed to restrict the selection to 55 papers who satisfied the following requirements to be contained in the CEA: (i) the country belongs to the EU; (ii) the adopted method is counterfactual; (iii) the unit of analysis is the individual; (iv) the policy of interest is an active labour market policy. After a careful reading, only 14 out of these 55 papers have been considered relevant and of adequate quality to be included in the CEA. The update of the CEA will soon be performed.

Participation in events

ESF Partnership Meeting -11 May, Brussels (Belgium)

CRIE participated in the ESF Partnership Meeting that took place on 11 May 2016 in Brussels. CRIE and DG EMPL presented the Community of Practice and its key activities to the MAs participating in the event. In addition, the MAs were updated on other activities organised by CRIE and DG EMPL such as the Data Fitness Initiative and COMPIE 2016 conference.



Figure 3: ESF Partnership Meeting, Brussels.

Seminars at CRIE

Guido Pellegrini, La Sapienza University (Italy)

2 February 2016

Prof. Guido Pellegrini presented a research paper on "Measuring the impact of intensity of treatment using RDD and covariates: the case of Structural Funds". The aim of this paper is to evaluate the impact of Structural and Cohesion Funds, whose aim is to narrow the gap between rich and poor regions of Europe, on regional economic growth in the EU.

Timothee Demont, Aix-Marseille University (France)

23 February 2016

Dr. Timothee Demont gave a presentation entitled "Promoting financial inclusion and savings in developed countries: A randomized field experiment in Italy." The presenter showed the first results of an ongoing research project that aims at understanding how to design targeted interventions to bring to the formal banking sector the share of the population that remains excluded in rich countries, and how to encourage people who do have a bank account to use it actively for savings purposes.

Ágota Scharle, Budapest Institute for Policy Analysis, and János Köllő, Institute of Economics, Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Hungary)

8 March 8 2016

Dr. Ágota Scharle, co-director of the Budapest Institute for Policy Analysis, and Dr. János Köllő, director of the Databank of the Institute of Economics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, gave a joint presentation on "Data revolution in Hungary - Clerks, cronies and the chosen few". The talk outlined the process of achieving the existing legal framework and practice of accessing administrative data for research purposes in Hungary, highlighting not only the legal and technical barriers but also the political economy of generating support for such an initiative, as well as practical aspects of its implementation - such as

the use of identifiers, the system of data sharing and merging, remote data access and availability for researchers outside Hungary. The last part of the talk drew lessons on data sharing and linkage that could be relevant for other Member States.

Lorenzo Cappellari, Cattolica University (Italy)

15 March 2016

Prof. Lorenzo Cappellari presented the research paper entitled "Family, Community and Long-Term Earnings Inequality". The aim of the paper is to disentangle the relative importance of family, neighborhoods and schools for long-term earnings, using administrative data on the Danish population and linking brothers, schoolmates and teenage neighbors to individuals.

Paolo Casini, EC-DG GROW

22 March 2016

Dr. Paolo Casini gave a presentation on "Labor market effects of improved access to credit among the poor: evidence from Cape Verde". This paper investigates the impact of microfinance loans on the labor market behavior of recipient households and, in particular, their unemployed members. Dr. Paolo Casini is a researcher at KU Leuven and policy officer at the European Commission (DG GROW).

Mario Padula, Università della Svizzera Italiana (Switzerland)

12 April 2016

Prof. Mario Padula presented his research paper entitled "Roadblocks on the Road to Grandma's House: Fertility Consequences of Delayed Retirement". This research aims to investigate the role of grandparental childcare for fertility decisions of their off-spring. This is carried out exploiting pension reforms in Italy, arguing that delayed retirement represents a negative shock to the supply of informal childcare for the next generation.

Ciaran Judge, Department of Social Protection (Ireland)

19 April 2016

Mr. Ciaran Judge, Chief Statistician at the Department of Social protection of Ireland, gave a presentation entitled "Are Irish eyes really smiling? Data and evaluations in the Department of Social Protection, Ireland". In the context of the seminar series on administrative data, the speaker provided a very instructive overview of the administrative data available at the Department of Social Protection in Ireland. In particular, he described the type of administrative as well as survey data collected in the department, how the data are currently used for evaluation of social policies and their level of accessibility.

Benedikt Vogt, Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis (The Netherlands)

3 May 2016

Dr. Benedict Vogt presented his research paper entitled

"Negative Home Equity and Household Mobility: Evidence from Administrative Data". This research investigates the impact of negative home equity on household mobility based on a unique administrative data set which contains annual mobility and a large set of homeowner characteristics of more than two million Dutch households.

Chiara Pronzato, University of Turin (Italy)

24 May 2016

Dr. Chiara Pronzato presented a work in progress entitled "Gender Quotas: Challenging the Boards, Performance and the Stock Market". By exploiting a reform that introduced board gender quotas in listed companies in Italy as from 2011, this research suggests that gender quotas induce a beneficial renovation of the board, which is positively received by the market.

News

Conference on counterfactual methods for policy impact evaluation — COMPIE 2016

CRIE and DG EMPL, in collaboration with the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, are organising the second conference on counterfactual methods for policy impact evaluation (COMPIE 2016). The conference will take place on 20-21 October at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan (Italy). This event will offer an opportunity for a dialogue between academics and policymakers on the use of CIEs to improve the effectiveness of policy formulation for current social challenges. Particular attention will be given to developments in employment, social and education policies in EU. The conference will host as keynote speakers two internationally well-known experts in policy evaluation, Prof. Michael Lechner from University of St. Gallen and Prof. Jeffrey Andrew Smith from University of Michigan. At the time of writing, the call for papers is open. Researchers are strongly encouraged to submit until 30 May CIE studies on EU employment and social

policies. Submitted papers will be reviewed by the conference selection committee. Only the selected papers will be accepted at the conference. The acceptance decision will be notified by 31 July. Authors may be asked to present their paper in the poster sessions. Participation in the conference is open and free of charge and the registration will be open until 10 September.



Figure 4: Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan.

Facilitating a European Market for CIE

Jointly with DG EMPL, CRIE is engaged in setting up a European Market for CIE. To this aim CRIE will propose to ESF MAs to write Terms of References (ToRs) in English and to accept CIE reports to be fully written in English. In addition, CRIE will create on the CRIE website a “single access point” dedicated to collect future calls for proposals of ESF MAs about CIE studies on ESF interventions in the EU. This will foster the harmonization of the ToRs across MAs, thereby increasing the quality of admissible applications. Contractors will still have to apply for the calls though the corresponding MA’s websites.

First meeting of the Community of practice on CIEs (CoP-CIE)

Jointly with DG EMPL, CRIE is organising the launch event and first meeting of the Community of Practice on CIE (CoP-CIE). This event will take place on 9-10 June at the European Commission - Joint Research Centre (JRC), Is-

pra, Italy. CRIE hopes that all the members of the Community of Practice will participate in this event. For more information, see the Cover Story “Facilitating and running a Community of Practice on CIE: the CIE-NET experience” at page 6 of this Newsletter.



Figure 5: The first meeting of the CoP-CIE will take place at DG JRC, Ispra, close to the Maggiore lake. This is a view of the Isola Madre of the Maggiore lake.

Acknowledgements

Given the end of her appointment at DG EMPL Evaluation and Impact Assessment unit, CRIE would like to thank



Figure 6: Group picture of DG EMPL and CRIE at DG JRC, Ispra, 24 June 2014. Fifth from right is Alina Ungureanu.

Georgeta Alina Ungureanu for her excellent and patient assistance to the CRIE team. In addition, CRIE would like to warmly welcome on board Agnieszka Bielska Decugniere and Amparo Roca Zamora, economists and senior officials in the unit, and wish them a profitable collaboration with the CRIE team.



Figure 7: From right to left, Agnieszka Bielska Decugniere and Amparo Roca Zamora.

CRIE

The Centre for Research on Impact Evaluation (CRIE) provides scientific expertise and methodological support for Counterfactual Impact Evaluation (CIE) to the Directorate General Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL) and Member States for the impact evaluations of interventions funded by instruments managed by DG EMPL, namely the European Social Fund.

CRIE supports Member States to set up the necessary arrangements for carrying out CIE of DG EMPL funded interventions by

- Organizing training sessions on impact evaluation methods
- Providing tailor-made advice on methodological and data issues that arise when designing, implementing and evaluating an initiative
- Carrying out the quantitative analysis for a CIE.

The CRIE Newsletter is a biannual publication intended to provide DG EMPL, managing authorities as well as academics in the field of Counterfactual Impact Evaluation with recent highlights about CRIE's achievements, policy support activities and other news.

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JRC Mission

As the Commission's in-house science service, the Joint Research Centre's mission is to provide EU policies with independent, evidence-based scientific and technical support throughout the whole policy cycle.

Working in close cooperation with policy Directorates-General, the JRC addresses key societal challenges while stimulating innovation through developing new methods, tools and standards, and sharing its know-how with the Member States, the scientific community and international partners.

Serving society
Stimulating innovation
Supporting legislation