

Konferencë Kombëtare



**Arritja e Synimeve të Zhvillimit të Qëndrueshëm në Shqipëri:
Kontributi i Treguesve të Zhvillimit të Qëndrueshëm (SDG) në Hartimin
e Politikave të Bazuara në Evidenca në Nivel Kombëtar dhe Lokal**

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**THE IMPACT OF POLICY DEVELOPMENTS ON EVIDENCE-
BASED POLICY-MAKING IN REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA**

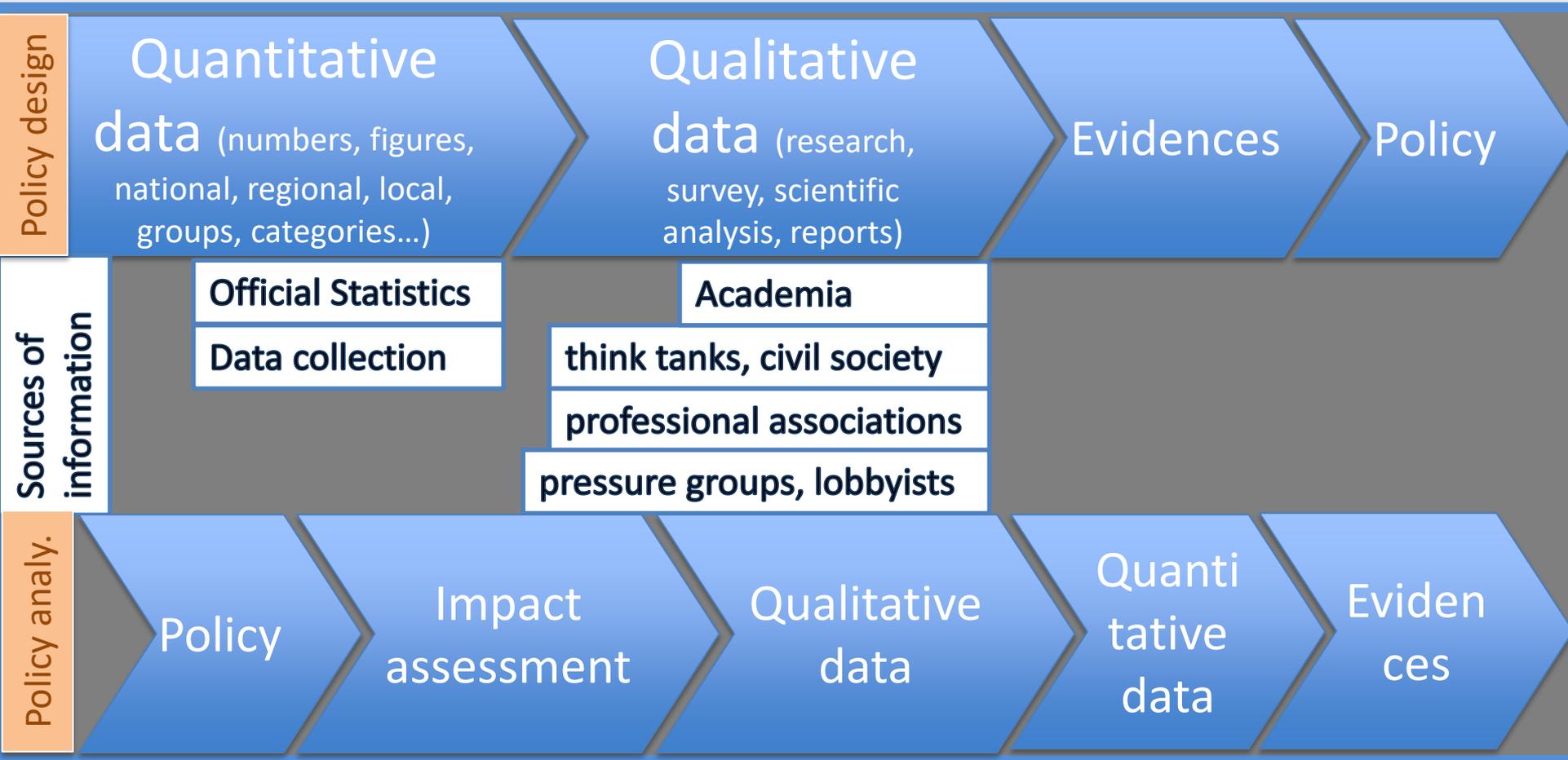
The Impact of Policy Developments on Evidence-based Policy-making

- Content:
 - First part:
 - Establishing a common understanding on the evidences
 - Why evidence-based policies
 - Second part:
 - Major national documents that require evidences for their implementation and monitoring
 - Data collection at national level
 - Local housing plans
 - The use of evidences for policy making – the case of Roma
 - What next?

Do we have the same understanding on 'evidences' for policy making?

- **Knowledge about the evidence varies:**
 - Common understanding is that the evidence is closely related to the data;
- **Perspectives on how the evidence is produced differ:**
 - The information that is collected on the blog is evidence;
 - Evidence consists of data based on studies;
 - Evidence implies that the basis of evidence is scientific

Do we have the same understanding on 'evidences' for policy making?



How and to what extent the scientific research is used by policymakers?

- In less developed countries, research evidence is a relatively minor factor in policy makers' decision making
- Often, political manipulation and interests are among the determinant factors influencing policy development processes
- In some cases, research is used to back up pre-determined policy positions
- Other researchers show the important role of public participation on science and technology issues in expressing their opinions on expert assessments (i.e.: public concern on GMO in India brought into a moratorium)

How and to what extent the research evidence is used by policymakers - examples

1. An independent study conducted in 2000 on the “Impact of housing policy on the Poor in Albania”, initialized a thorough review of the legal framework, which was finalized with a reform in the housing policy in 2004;
2. Analyses of the housing projects implemented after 2004, conducted by the housing department during 2008 and 2011 proposed amendments to the existing law on social housing programs
3. Under the request of the Ministry responsible for housing, a study was commissioned in 2014 by UNDP, on housing needs assessment and social housing situation, which lead to the development of the ‘Social Housing Strategy 2016-2025 (NSHS);
4. NSHS, Social Housing Law, AP for Roma integration and pressure groups/lobbyists resulted with 30% increase of the state budget for housing

War is ninety percent information.
(Napoleon Bonaparte)

Some of key national documents that require identification of indicators for monitoring

- **National Strategy for development and Integration 2015-2020 with strategic objectives:**
 - 2.1 Improving housing conditions and reducing housing needs;
 - 2.2 Retrofitting privatised houses for improving energy efficiency; and
 - 2.3 measurable improvement of housing conditions for roma and egyptians

Some of key national documents that require identification of indicators for monitoring

- **National Strategy for Social Housing 2016-2020**
 - Improve periodically knowledge of 61 municipalities on supply and demand for social housing;
 - Improve legal and institutional framework to increase access to housing for 50% of poor and vulnerable families
 - Coordinating the efforts between national and local levels for improving the process of housing allocation in 61 municipalities;
 - Ensuring PPP agreements for improving alternatives for social housing and increasing the number of beneficiaries by 20%;
 - Enhancing housing solutions through programs targeted to families with low and medium income with 30%;

The cases of the Housing Code and the Local Housing Plan

- **The law requires that the responsible ministry:**
 - to up date the action plan of the national strategy periodically, based on the 5-years local plans
 - to plan the budget in support of the implementation of yearly plans, based also on the requests from local governments;
 - to establish the database at national level on:
 - housing needs
 - public housing stock
 - physical and technical conditions of the public housing stock
 - number of families that are housed through central/local governments programs
 - land areas needed to be developed and equipped with infrastructure for housing purposes

Evidences to analyze the situation and identify problems

- **Data that can be generated at local levels, through applications**
 - **Social Categories:**
 - Disabled, orphans, divorced persons with children, violated woman, Roma, etc.;
 - **Housing conditions:**
 - uninhabited premises, unhealthy houses, overcrowding, etc.;
 - **Income** – medium, low, very low, with social assistance;
 - **Family conditions:**
 - big family, family with many children, elderly, new couple, etc.;
 - **Type of program applied:**
 - Social Housing;
 - Low-cost housing;
 - land for housing;
 - Specialized housing

What we do with the information?

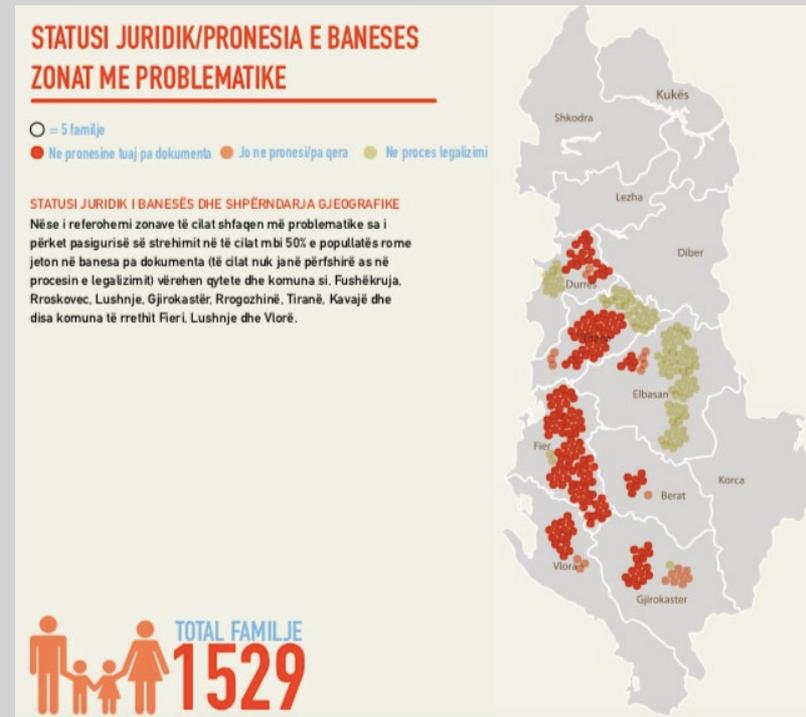
- Mostly used for budget planning;
- Analyzing the costs and benefits;
- Reporting on specific target groups (Roma, victims of family violence, families with children, elderly, young couples, etc..) to different national and international org.;
- Revising specific features of implemented projects (i.e.: improving existing houses for Roma and vulnerable groups for increasing the impact on a wider range of the neighborhood)
- Developing new proposals (i.e.: programs for youngsters and young couples)

Challenges with data collection and use

- **Manually kept** – information accuracy is weak
- **Lack of continuity of staff** – missing information, cumulative data is not possible
- **Changing the format of information** – not comparable data
- **Lack of information on other fields** – missing data on market housing, rental, housing affordability, overcrowding, housing exclusion, homelessness, etc..

The case of Roma minority

- **2012 - UNDP:**
 - A Needs Assessment Study on Roma and Egyptian Communities in Albania
 - Housing Policies and Practice for Roma in Albania
- **2014 SOROS Foundation:** Census on Roma population and housing
- **2016 UNDP:**
 - Investments needs assessment for Roma and Egyptian settlements' improvements
 - Policy document for Social Inclusion, including indicators
- **2016 GoA:**
 - National Action Plan for Roma and Egyptian integration;
 - National Strategy for Social Housing 2016-2025
- **UNDP: ROMALB** – on-line system to collect data to monitor in real time
- **CoE: ROMACTED** - empowering and capacity building



Evidence generated

- Concentration of Roma population;
- Housing conditions and need for improvements;
- Access to infrastructure and services;
- Level of education;
- Employment/unemployment;
- Income and income generation
- Family composition, number of children, elderly, health problems

Results

- Extended projects
“Improving the living conditions of poor and marginalized groups”



- Housing and employment of residents in construction works



Conclusions

- There should be a purpose for data collection, related to achieving the objectives of the policy
- Policies should be revised based on independent analysis, research and impact assessment
- Establishing a number of indicators that should be provided and defining a simple and cost-efficient way for producing them

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