

Glossary

<i>Terms</i>	<i>Definitions</i>	<i>Sources*</i>
Accountability	To show that money and other resources have been used efficiently and effectively, and to hold researchers to account.	RAND Europe
Advocacy	To demonstrate the benefits of supporting research, enhance understanding of research and its processes among policymakers and the public, and make the case for policy and practice change.	RAND Europe
Allocation	To determine where best to allocate funds in the future, making the best use possible of a limited funding pot.	RAND Europe
Analysis	To understand how and why research is effective and how it can be better supported (or allocated), feeding into research strategy and decision making by providing a stronger evidence base.	RAND Europe
Assessment	A synthesis of facts, which arise from the evaluation process, and judgments.	ETAN Expert Working Group
Cost-effectiveness	Determining cost-effectiveness entails comparing similar interventions based on cost and effectiveness. For example, impact evaluations of various education programmes allow policy makers to make more informed decisions about which intervention may achieve the desired objectives, given their particular context and constraints.	World Bank
Evaluation	The process by which the quality, implementation, target relevance and impacts (outcomes) of programmes are investigated, interpreted and examined.	ETAN Expert Working Group
Formative Evaluation	Evaluation intended to improve performance, most often conducted during the implementation phase of projects or programmes. Formative evaluations may also be conducted for other reasons such as compliance, legal requirements or as part of a larger evaluation initiative.	OECD 2004
Impact	See Outcome	
Impact Evaluation	Impact evaluation is a form of outcome evaluation that assesses the net effect of a programme by comparing programme outcomes with an estimate of what would have happened in the absence of the programme. This form of evaluation is employed when external factors are known to influence the programme's outcomes, in order to isolate the programme's contribution to achievement of its objectives.	GAO



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Indicator	A variable that measures a phenomenon of interest to the evaluator. The phenomenon can be an input, an output, an outcome, a characteristic, or an attribute.	World Bank
Monitoring	A systematic process of collecting and recording information on the progress and direction of ongoing actions, generated mainly for management purposes.	ETAN Expert Working Group
Outcome	The effect the process has had on the people targeted by it. These might include, for example, changes in their self-perceived health status or changes in the distribution of health determinants, or factors which are known to affect their health, well-being and quality of life.	WHO
Outcome Evaluation	This form of evaluation assesses the extent to which a programme achieves its outcome-oriented objectives. It focuses on outputs and outcomes (including unintended effects) to judge programme effectiveness but may also assess programme process to understand how outcomes are produced.	GAO
Output	The products or results of the process. These might include, for example, how many people a project has affected, their ages and ethnic groups or the number of meetings held and the ways in which the findings of the project are disseminated.	WHO
Performance Management	The systematic process of monitoring the achievements of programme activities; collecting and analyzing performance information to track progress toward planned results; using performance information and evaluations to influence decision-making and resource allocation; and communicating results to advance organizational learning and communicate results to stakeholders.	USAID
Process Evaluation	This form of evaluation assesses the extent to which a programme is operating as it was intended. It typically assesses programme activities' conformance to statutory and regulatory requirements, programme design, and professional standards or customer expectations.	GAO
Research	Research and experimental development (R&D) comprise creative work undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge, including knowledge of man, culture and society, and the use of this stock of knowledge to devise new applications.	OECD 2002
Summative Evaluation	A study conducted at the end of an intervention (or a phase of that intervention) to determine the extent to which anticipated outcomes were produced. Summative evaluation is intended to provide information about the worth of the programme.	OECD 2004



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