

INTOSAI WGEPPP



# Conclusion

## Mixing Methods, Lessons Learnt from the Forum and the SFAO Practice

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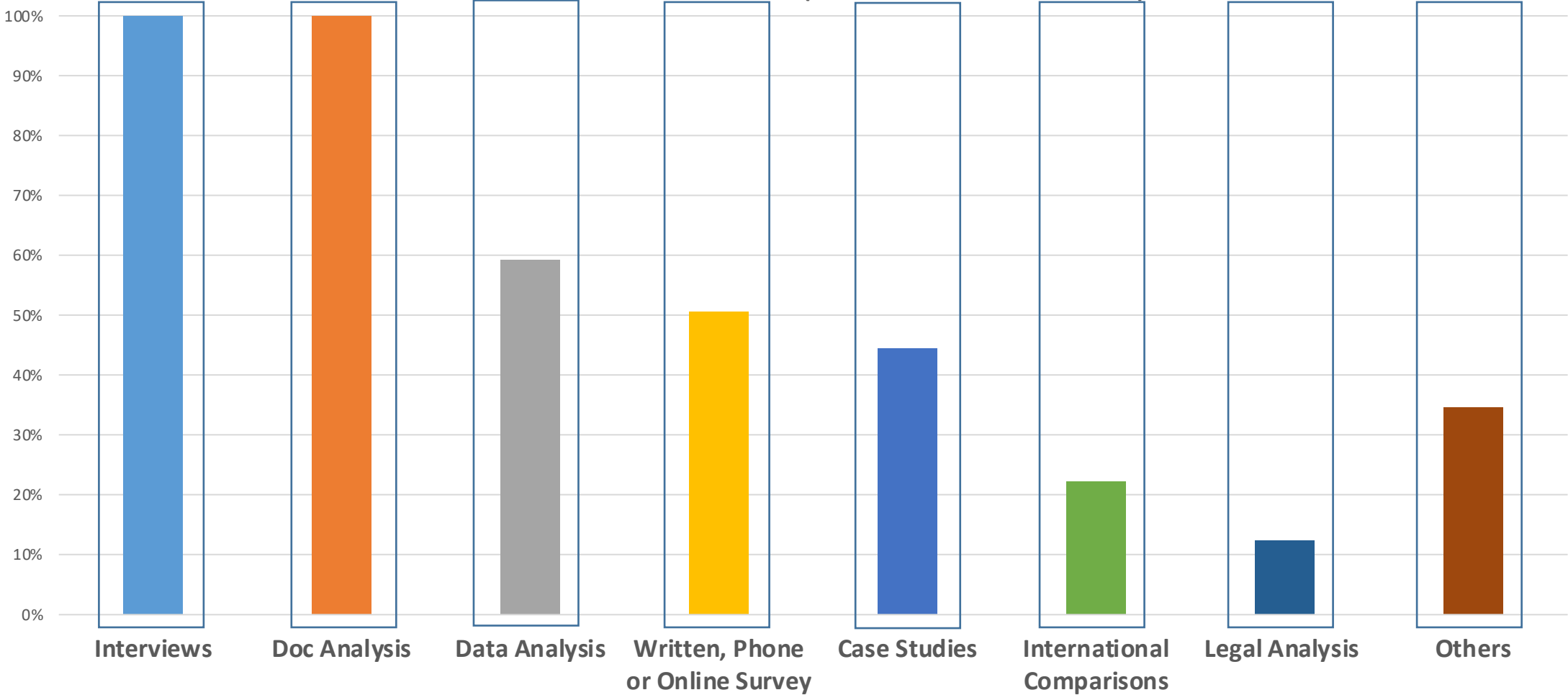


Mixing methods  
at the SFAO

# Used Methods per Evaluation at the SFAO

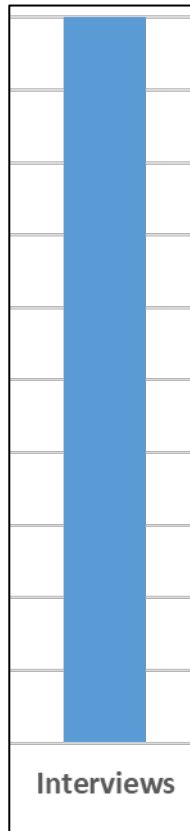
Between 2 and 6 methodological modules per evaluation. Average: 4.1

(n=81 Evaluations - 2003-2021)



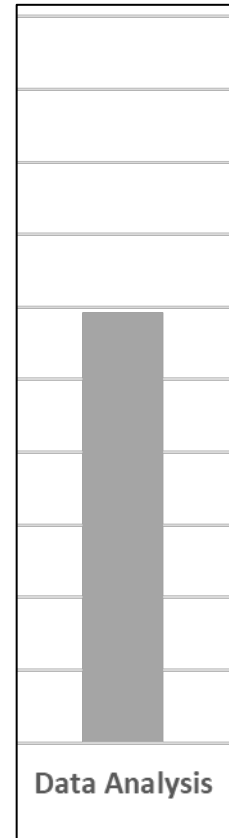
## Interviews

All evaluations (81)  
~ 30 per Evaluation  
(10 to 81 interviews...)



## Data Analysis

48 evaluations



Very different types of data...

- Billing data
- Statistical data on income
- Employment measures
- Covid aids for the self-employed
- Etc.

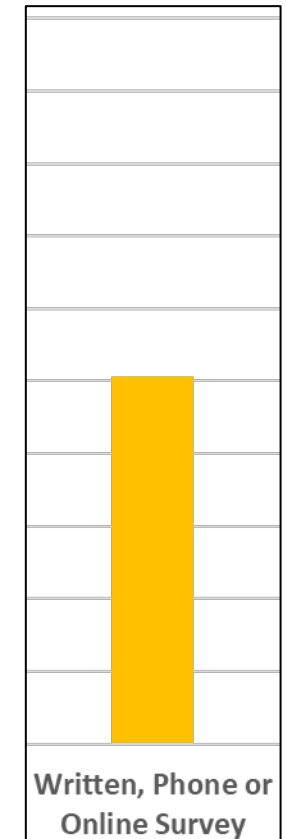
## Surveys

(41 Evaluations)

Increase in the use of surveys in recent years at the SFAO

Example: contributions for more sustainable agriculture (630 farmers who participated in programs strengthening the sustainability)

- Provides both information on the situation and on the opinions of beneficiaries or non-beneficiaries.
- Very useful if there is little quantitative data at the policy level.
- Special interest by the audited agencies and by the media
- Using the credibility of the SAI to improve return rates...



## Case studies

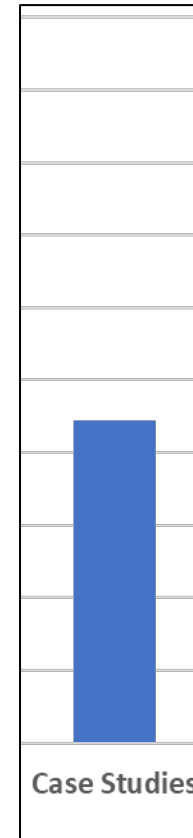
(36 evaluations)

Increase in the use of case studies at the SFAO  
2 to 15 cases studies per evaluation

For example:

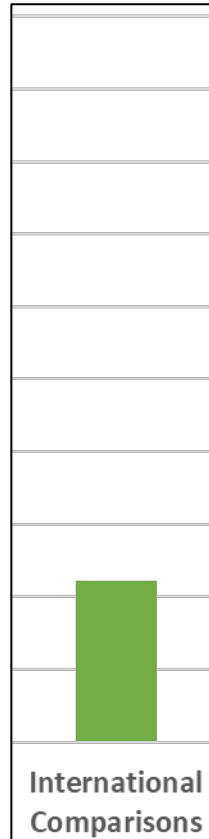
- 7 agricultural biogas plants
- 3 surgical operations
- 6 small diplomatic representations
- etc.

Cases selected on the basis of specific criteria  
Representativeness is not always the main criterion!



## International comparisons

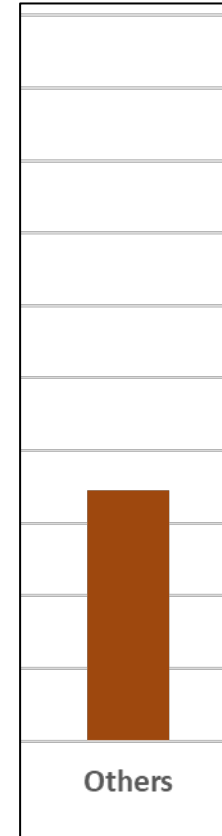
(18 evaluations)



- 2-8 countries
- Cooperation with other SAI, OECD, etc.
- Interviews
- Website

## Others methods

(28 evaluations)



For example:

- Experimentations (testing the administration, mystery client, etc.)
- Focus groups, pannels
- Walk through
- Etc.

Ressources of the SFAO per evaluation

- Evaluation team : 2-4 colleagues
- Average number of working days per evaluation included preparation (team members): 280 days but large variations (140-480 days)
- Average number of preparation days: 65 days
- External mandate : for ~50% of the evaluations (median: 50 000 €)

## Triangulation: Value added

- Using different methods and mixing them (triangulation) helps to bring more evidence if the results provided by the different methods are consistent.
- Quantitative reinforces qualitative data and facilitates generalizations. Qualitative allows to better understand quantitative data.
- Triangulation shows the different facets of a public policy and it is often the only way to answer to the questions.
- Triangulation is helpful in dealing with and convincing challenging stakeholders and auditees.



## Triangulation: Challenges

- Importance of a good preparation. Using adequate methods to attest the causality between the action of the State and the outcomes.
- To answer the questions what is the value of the policy. Not walking in the forest like a dog harvesting plenty of unnecessary data.
- Importance to focus the topic and to integrate the stakeholders to define what are the important outcomes to measure.
- Than designing carefully what are the inputs, the processes, the outputs and the outcome of the policy.

# Triangulation: Challenges

- Stay up to date on new methods to harvest data and facts and also to communicate the results persuasively.
- Using different methods requires expertise inside the SAI
- It is necessary for a SAI to hire staff from different disciplines and to compose mixed audit or evaluation teams
- Teams should have access to internal or external support and to continuous training. NAO - Analysis Hub.

## Triangulation: Challenges

- Performance audit manual of the IDI (ISSAI 300), but also WGEPPP guidelines on the evaluation of public policies (INTOSAI GOV 9400)
- **First asking the right questions and only than deciding the adequate method.**

A lot of challenges... Difficult but exciting adventure to measure the value for money of a policy...

WGEPPP has an important task in facilitating the transfer of knowledge : giving desire and showing the pleasure of working with different methods!

# End of the Official WGEPPP Forum...

## **Tomorrow :**

Training in evaluation methods financially supported by the INTOSAI Knowledge Sharing Comity (KSC) – **Warm Thanks!**

- 38 participants - fully booked! **Attention location: Hotel Ador**

**2023 :** Usual WGEPPP Meeting with the official actual members and new members (one year observer and then member...)

**2024 :** probably a new Forum – depends on your satisfaction !

End of the Official  
WGEPPP Forum...

Slides soon in our website! <https://www.intosaicommunity.net/wgeppp/>  
Thank you for filling out the satisfaction questionnaire that you will soon receive and thank you for your suggestions for improvement!  
In the next weeks, you will receive the minutes of the Forum

**Now a closing and networking coffee ist waiting for you...**

Thank you!



**Thank you for your multiple contributions and intensive collaboration!**

**Special thanks to all the speakers and the organizational team: Stéphanie, Mario, Giolitta, Robin, Michel, and, and, and...**

