

Case study on policy evaluation - Sweden

Odyssee- MURE

Berlin, December 2019

Rurik Holmberg, PhD

Swedish Energy Agency

Swedish policy instruments for energy efficiency in general

- Swedish policy instruments for energy efficiency have basically been built on co-operation between several actors.
- Examples are abundant, but the technology procurement groups and municipal energy advisors date back to the 1980s. Networks for industries in certain sectors have been in place for many years.
- The co-operative character of these policy instruments make numerical evaluation difficult

Evaluation dilemmas

- All policy instruments have repeatedly been evaluated
- Attempts to establish quantitative effects have proven complicated because of their co-operative character. The results have broadly been "positive, but we cannot quantify".
- For example, municipal energy advisors report how many clients they have received, how much outreach they have done, but we don't know how many kWh this has resulted in.
- Technology procurement groups, initially for owners of commercial spaces and for landlords, have proliferated, now encompassing e.g. constructors of family houses and food processing.

Continued...

- The quantitative effect of technology procurement groups remains, however, unclear. It can only be concluded that the activities these groups offer directly reach approximately 75 % of their target groups.
- Industrial branch-specific networks are similarly difficult to assess in quantitative terms. However, their continued participation indicates satisfaction with the activity.

Taxes

- The backbone of Swedish energy efficiency policy are taxes on energy and emissions of CO₂. Nevertheless, the taxes are often perceived as providing momentum for energy efficiency measures.
- Sweden fulfills the requirement of article 7 in EED by calculating only the effect of taxes, but this has to be interpreted as "a package" of all policy instruments, the combined effect of which can be quantified by the calculations.