WG6: Evidence-Based Public Policy Making

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Title  **Evidence-based Policy Analysis in the Digital Era: Cases of Developing Countries**

Abstract  Policy analysis by its nature, causes of origin and development in the OECD countries has shown the need for wide use of not only diverse data but, first and foremost, evidence in analysing problems, policy environment, stakeholders, policy options and policy impacts. Widespread digitalisation creates new possibilities for a radical improvement of the policy analysis performance and enhancement of its effectiveness. Developing countries have relatively modest achievements in implementing policy analysis to achieve inclusive growth and sustainable development goals. However, the rapid digital transformation in developed countries creates new opportunities and, at the same time, creates complex challenges in policy making processes for developing countries, especially considering the effects of globalization. We consider several cases in the field of evidence-based policy analysis in the context of digital transformation: 1) the case of Ukraine with the most experience and significant potential in the field of policy analysis among post-soviet countries, as well as in the field of digitization of the economy; the government considers European integration to be the highest priority of its activities, which is being targeted by a well-developed civil society; 2) The case of Kyrgyzstan, which initiates policy analysis in government, has the most influential civil society institutions in the Central Asian region; 3) The case of Tajikistan, implementation of policy analysis in the country is hampered by the authoritarian system of government. All three countries have serious problems in economic development, negative indicators of poverty and corruption. We consider the practice of introducing evidence-based policy methodology in these countries at different phases of the policy process, from the agenda setting to policy evaluation. It underlines the underestimation of the speed of the digital economy development and its growing influence on the policy environment, on the formation and
implementation of policies, especially in Central Asia. After all, the global digital economy and global digital transformations inevitably change the entire world landscape. It threatens to deepen the digital divide in countries whose governments ignore digital development, which can only aggravate existing social problems.