



REvaluation Conference 2027

"Scouting Paths on Shifting Maps"

February 25 - February 26, 2027, Vienna, Austria

Special Session:

Title: Joint DeGEval-fteval Special Session: Shifting Ground, Shifting Expectations

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Abstract/ Description:

The pressures currently reshaping evaluation goes beyond the well-known effects of crises and budget consolidation on programmes and investments. In several national systems, it is no longer only the evaluated field that is under strain. The evaluation function itself is being curtailed, restructured, or called into question, from shrinking commissioning budgets to the dissolution of dedicated evaluation units. Alongside this, the rise of artificial intelligence adds a further, more fundamental question: whether some evaluative tasks might be automated or replaced altogether.

This session explores how such pressures are reshaping the mutual expectations between commissioning bodies and evaluators. What each side needs from the other to keep evaluation credible, useful, and resourced. Evaluation associations, in turn, are asked to reconsider their own role: are they still primarily providers of methodological support, or increasingly expected to defend the legitimacy and continued existence of the field itself? While the session's starting point is research and innovation policy, similar dynamics are visible across other policy fields and contributions drawing on experience beyond R&I are explicitly welcome.

We invite **short, practice-based impulse contributions** (max. 10 minutes) addressing questions such as:

- How are expectations toward evaluation associations changing? Has a new kind of support become necessary, or have the terms of access to existing support shifted?
- What can research and innovation evaluation learn from how other policy fields are navigating comparable pressures?

Impulses will be followed by a **joint, facilitated discussion among all participants**.

Extended abstracts are welcomed, please see the submission guidelines: [Call for Contributions](#).

To directly submit your extended abstract, [click here](#).

Strand 8: Evaluators under pressure

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