
We analysed how evidence-informed German development cooperation is.

And that's what we found...



Who is responsible for today's presentation?



Dr Marion Krämer
Team leader



Timo Kretschmer
Evaluator



Lea Jechel
Evaluator



Constantin Grywatz
Project administrator



Elisabeth Schneider
Former Evaluator

How this seminar is structured

Part I: Our research results

Short break



Part II: Website launch & top 5 evidence tips

Part III: Time for questions

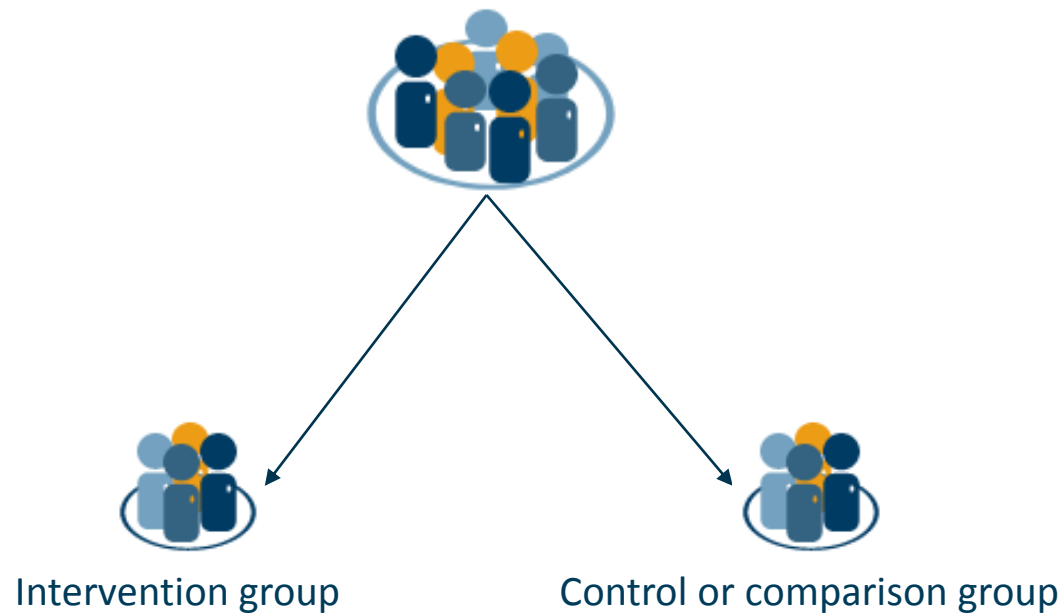
Why does rigorous evidence matter so much?

„It appears that there is in general an 80% rule. That is 80% of things don't work. [...] So, as good Bayesians, in the absence of [rigorous] evidence [...], we should assume our programme doesn't work.“

White (2019)

What is rigorous impact evaluation (RIE)?

What is rigorous evidence?



Reflection time!

Go to www.menti.com and use the code 8648 2588

When was the last time you used a product that was based on rigorous evidence?

 Mentimeter

0	0	0	0	0	0
This week	Last week	Last month	Last year	Probably before Covid	Never ever

Results are hidden

What did we analyse and how?

What did we analyse?

- 1 What is the **status quo**?
- 2 What are **barriers**?
- 3 What are **potential solutions**?

How did we analyse it?



Surveys



Interviews



Document
analyses

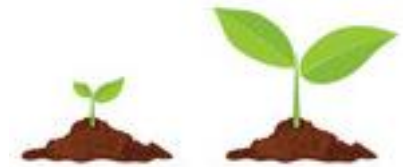


Secondary
literature

What's the situation in Germany for **conducting RIEs**?

1

First experiences with RIE & slightly increasing dynamics



2

Very few RIEs compared to German ODA volume



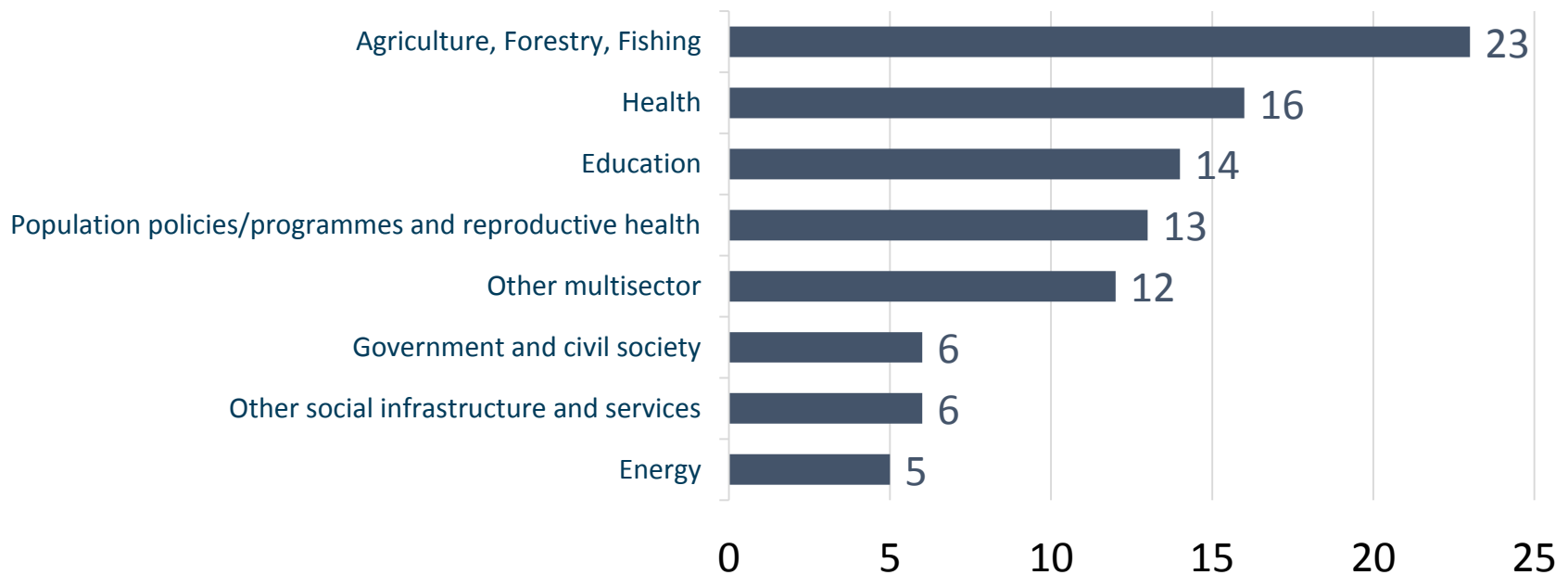
3

No systematic approach or strategy



What's the situation in Germany for conducting RIEs?

Number of RIEs by sector



n=97; absolute numbers; multiple answers possible

What's the situation in Germany for **use of evidence**?

What do we mean by evidence?

Studies, evidence syntheses and evaluation reports
that generate evidence using **scientific standards**
and methods.

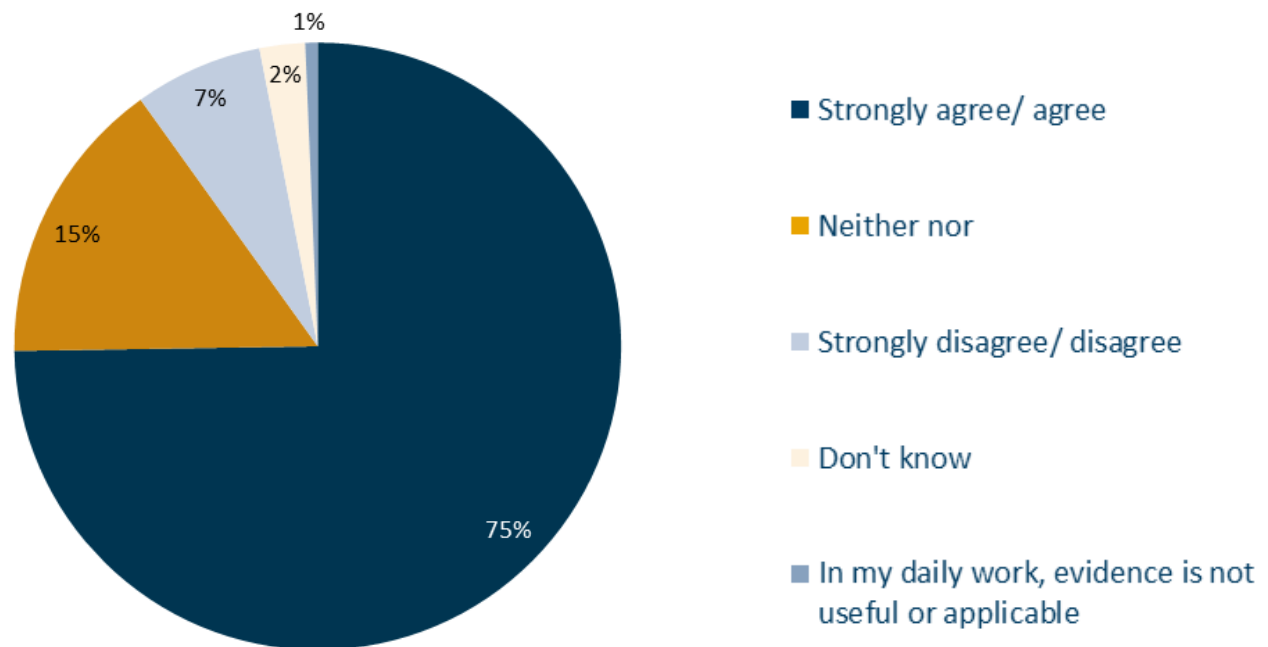
What's the situation in Germany for **use of evidence**?

- 1 Results from self-generated RIEs sometimes used at project level but not for strategic decision-making
- 2 Global RIE evidence base is largely underused.
- 3 Project documents often refer to "impact", but without providing any evidence for this claim.



...but GDC would like to use evidence more

"For the quality of my daily work it would be helpful if I could use substantially more evidence."



Source: own data collection (2021); n=907 development employees

What's puzzling...

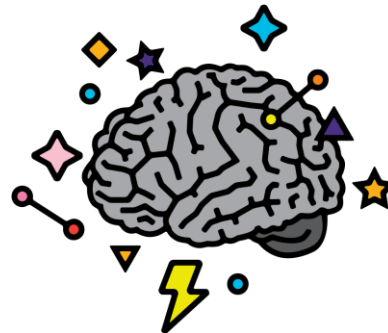


So, what's the problem?

Example 1: Limited RIE knowledge

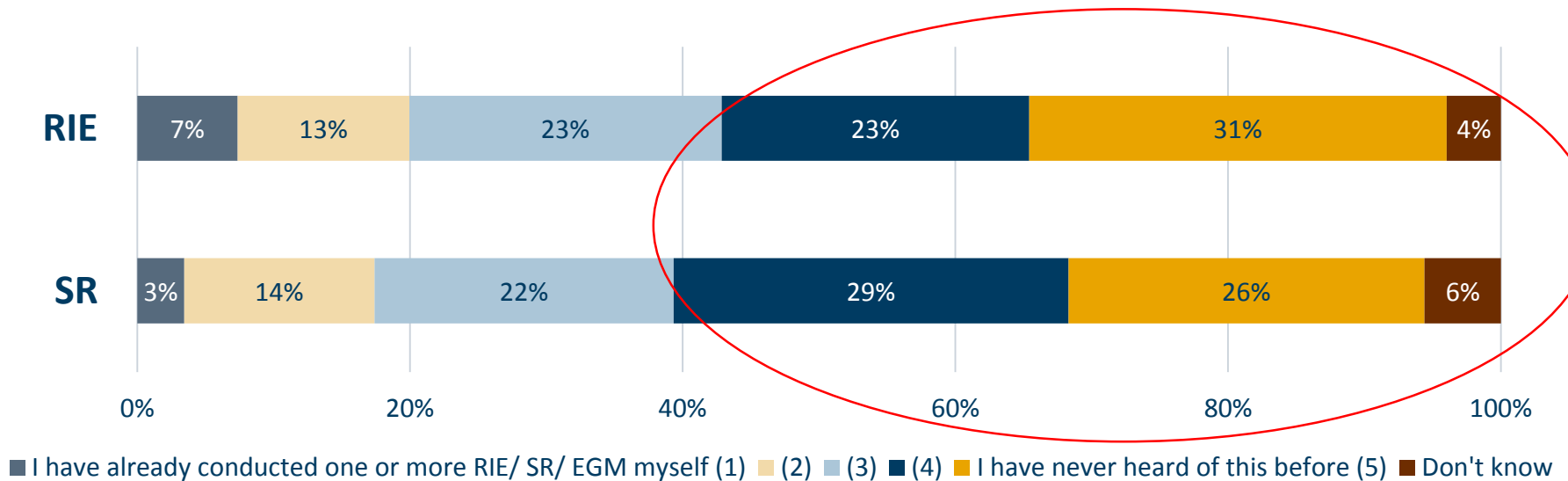
Interview quote:

„It's not like everyone would feel particularly well, when they are confronted with things like experiments or statistics. There is something like a barrier of know-how.“



So, what's the problem?

Familiarity with rigorous impact evaluation (RIE) and systematic reviews (SR)



Source: own data collection (2021); n=882 development employees

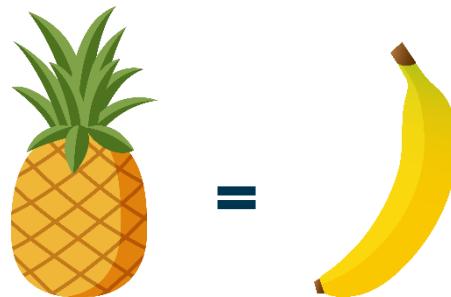


So, what's the problem?

Example 2: No differentiation between sources of information

Interview quote:

„For the project manager, evidence is evidence. [...] How you get to the result is not something that the project manager cares about. Whether I can say `with 96.6 percent certainty it is like that'. Or I can only say, `in my opinion it is like that'. The project manager will treat both insights in the same way, not any differently just because one was generated with an RCT.“



...they all look the same

So, what's the problem?

Example 3: No requirement

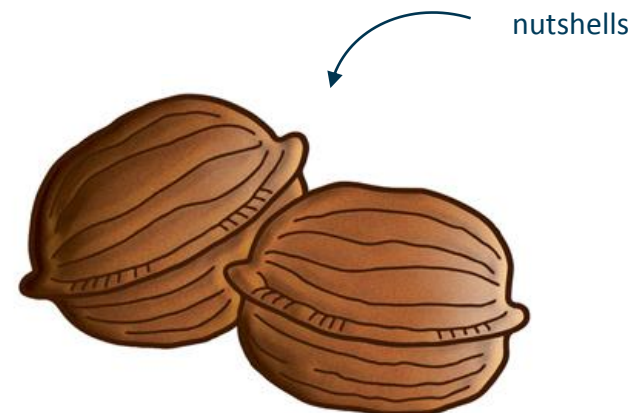
Interview quote

„The BMZ does not require it. So we don't do it.“



Our findings in a nutshell

- 1 Potential of evidence largely underused. No systematic approach.
- 2 The reasons are numerous and interrelated.



What's puzzling...



What should we do now?



**1. Identify relevant topics and evidence demands
to guide RIE implementation**

What should we do now?



2. Raise awareness and develop capacity on RIE
evidence generation and evidence use

What should we do now?



3. Establish a public RIE database to strengthen RIE knowledge management



Launch today!

What should we do now?



4. Install a support structure for knowledge brokering and to support RIE implementation



*Synthesise
existing evidence*



*User-friendly
formats*



*Practical support
for implementation*

What should we do now?



5. Require or incentivise a systematic check of whether projects are suitable for RIE

What should we do now?



6. Require or incentivise using the best available (rigorous) evidence

What should we do now?



7. Provide additional resources dedicated to RIE and to using (rigorous) evidence



RIE funding program

GDC becomes more evidence-informed

Evidence
is
important

Evidence
is
desired

7
actions

Evidence
is
used

Time for a coffee...

5 minutes break



Recap: Our findings in a nutshell

1 Potential of evidence largely **underused**. No systematic approach.

2 The reasons are **numerous** and **interrelated**.

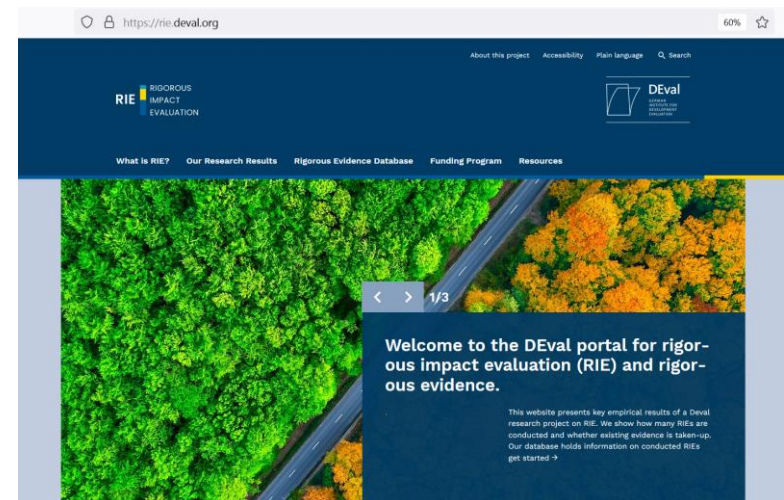
3 **7 actions ahead** how to become more evidence-informed



www.rie.deval.org

Rigorous evidence database (RED)

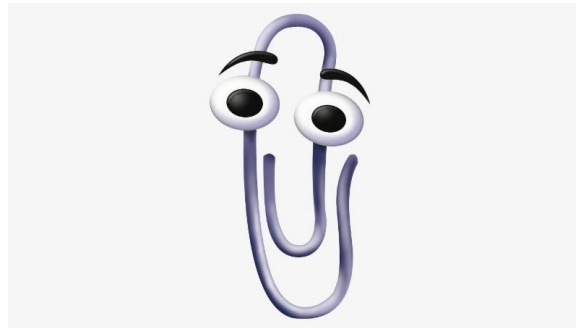
- Now: Research findings
- Soon: more useful material



Information about our funding program



Let's guide you through this



Top 5 evidence tips on how to make your own work more evidence-informed

1. Start asking questions

2. Differentiate between different sources of information

5. Generate new RIE evidence

4. Mind your wording

3. Use all 3 evidence products: EGM, SR & RIE

Reflection time pt. 2

How can you use today's knowledge to make your own work more evidence-informed?

How to reach us



rie@deval.org



@DEval_RIE

Time for questions



With funding from the



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

Links to our RIE products

RIE website: <https://rie.deval.org/>

Rigorous evidence database: <https://rie.deval.org/rigorous-evidence-database>

RIE report documents: <https://www.deval.org/de/publikationen/rigorous-impact-evaluation-evidence-generation-and-take-up-in-german-development-cooperation>