

EDITORIAL

Regulation, much like public policy, is not free. This raises the question of who, therefore, will pay the costs and we know that society will bear them. The inevitable conclusion is that we should not extend policies that do not pass the test of cost-benefit analysis. That is the most important insight guiding the actions of policymakers in charge of public policies.

This editorial has two sections. In the first one, I would like to give to the readers a panoramic view of the role of Escola Nacional de Administração Pública (Enap)¹ on public policy evaluation and regulatory impact analysis. In the second section, I will introduce the articles of this issue.

SECTION I – THE ROLE OF THE ESCOLA NACIONAL DE ADMINISTRAÇÃO PÚBLICA ON PUBLIC POLICY EVALUATION AND REGULATORY IMPACT ANALYSIS

Some considerable effort to institutionalize public policy evaluation can be observed in the Brazilian Federal Government over the past years. In 2017, the Presidential Decree nº 9.203 established policy evaluation as an important guideline for public governance. The Public Policy Monitoring and Evaluation Council (Conselho de Monitoramento e Avaliação de Políticas Públicas - CMAP) was created in 2019 by the Decree nº 9.834, with the intention to evaluate relevant policies stated at the budget and planning instruments.

In addition, the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) was made mandatory for the federal government by the Economic Freedom Act (Law nº 13.874) and became regulated in 2020 by the Decree nº 10.411. In March 2021, the need to perform program evaluations was included in Brazil's Federal Constitutional Law.

¹ National School of Public Administration.

Enap² has been making valuable contributions to the institutionalization of evaluation mechanisms in Federal Government public policies through the capacity building of civil servants. The School is a member and technical supporter of CMAP, alongside the other Center of Government bodies. In addition to open access courses on the virtual school of government (EV.G) and short courses of Enap's Executive Education program, in 2020 the School launched a Master's program/degree in Monitoring and Evaluation.

Considering this intention to make evaluation and RIA mandatory, Enap has also created an on-demand service called the Assessoria para Avaliação (Evaluation Advisory Service or Enap-EAS). This is a learning by doing training and mentorship project for civil service teams that need to undertake policy evaluation or RIA, although they require technical support to do so.

Using an original methodology developed by the enthusiastic Enap-EAS team, this service consists of workshops and virtual meetings conducted by experts in RIA or public policy evaluation whose role is to offer technical guidance for the staff teams to analyze a policy problem or to evaluate a chosen program. The goal of this project is both to assess public policies and train civil service to be independent to undertake evaluation and RIA.

Most of the developed work is theoretically-based on the Federal Government Practical Guides for Ex Ante and Ex Post Evaluation and Regulatory Impact Assessment. The remaining work is based on practical and academic literature on Logical Model, Theory of Change, Evidence-Based/Informed Policy, Problem Solving, and good international practices in public policy evaluation³.

Another front in which Enap has been contributing to Regulatory Impact Analysis and Public Policy Evaluation is the sponsorship of high-quality research. In 2020, we funded ten research projects on RIA and public policy evaluation that will soon result in open-source reports at Enap's public repository under the series of 'Cadernos Enap'.

Finally, Enap also produced a useful public good called the RegBR. It is an open-source database that measures the flow of Brazilian regulatory flow (from

² I would like to thank Diana Coutinho (the mind behind the creation of Enap-EAS) for her help on this section.

³ I would like to thank the team of Enap-EAS, Guilherme Mansur, Larissa N. Fonseca, and Tamille S. Dias for their help with the description of the details of the service.

both regulatory agencies and federal normatives) with some original quantitative analysis. It is also an invaluable source of information for researchers⁴.

That said, let me talk about the articles in this special issue.

SECTION II – THE ARTICLES OF THIS SPECIAL ISSUE

This special issue of *Revista do Serviço Público* is dedicated to Public Policy Evaluation and Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA). We have four interesting articles on RIA and public policy evaluation authored by Brazilian researchers.

In the first article, Natasha Schmitt Caccia Salinas and Lucas Thevenard Gomes analyze normative acts regarding RIA at ANVISA (Agência Nacional de Vigilância Sanitária)⁵ from 2011-2020. One of their findings is that ‘urgency’ and ‘severity’ were used as justification in approximately 86.2% of their sample. Additionally, the RIA was dismissed in 56.7% of Anvisa’s general normative acts with external effects.

The improvement of the Brazilian RIA cannot be achieved without a solid understanding of what happens in the world regarding the subject. This is the contribution of the second article, written by Flavio Saab and Suylan de Almeida Midlej e Silva. The authors compiled a sample of 26 articles indexed in two databases: Web of Science and Scopus. They focused on three categories: contextual characteristics, RIA quality evaluation, and main findings about the quality of RIA. Through this research they found evidence of inconsistencies in several aspects of the RIA (e.g. in social participation and in the use of evidence).

The analysis of the Brazilian microcredit program is the subject of the third article by Dayane Rocha de Pauli. She used dose-response models in a database that included formal companies with more than nine employees per year for the period 2010 to 2015. The role of female entrepreneurs is one of the main results of the paper. The author found that companies led by women displayed better responses on female employment, as well as employment in general.

⁴ The tool can be found here: <https://infogov.enap.gov.br/regbr/fluxo-regulatorio>.

⁵ National Health Surveillance Agency.

Policymakers are responsible for public policy evaluation and RIA. It is, then, natural to ask about their performance. In the last article, Enrique J. Sánchez Elvira and Maria de Fátima Bruno-Faria used qualitative research with case studies to address this question. Twenty-two interviews were conducted, where the authors identified five factors as structural barriers and five factors as obstacles derived from organizational culture. They concluded that a better performance analysis could be achieved if we act on them.

We hope these four articles inspire our readers and show them new possibilities in regulatory impact analysis and public policy evaluation for the future.

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