Preventing and re-integrating early school leavers
- a meta evaluation of policies implemented in 7 European Member States

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Early School Leaving in Europe

- **5.6 Million** young people in Europe are early school leavers
- These are **13.5 % of all 18-24 year olds in Europe** at heighted risk of poor labour market participation, poverty and social exclusion.

- **EU 2020 target:** reduce ESL rate to 10% on average

Implementation on Member State level

But how effective are those policies and what can be learnt from each others experiences?

Goal and Method

Goal:

- Provide opportunities for mutual learning
- Support the efforts of policy makers, practitioners, social partners and researchers across Europe in the design and implementation of policies designed to improve the labour market situation of youth

Method?

Meta evaluation

• Learning about the effectiveness of specified policies, here ESL	• Learning about evaluation practice and standards in different member states

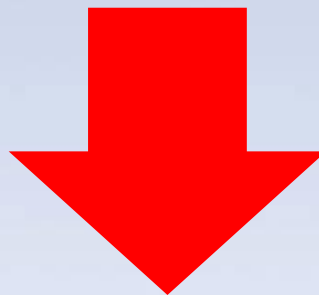**But what do we know about the specific challenges of conducting Meta Evaluation in IOs?**

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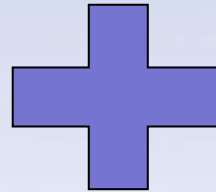## Country and Case selection

Balanced

Problem focused

Preventing Early School Leaving	Reintegrating Early school leavers
Priority Education, France	Production Schools, Austria
Learning Communities, Spain	Springboard, Hungary
Career Start, Finland	Youthreach, Ireland
School Work Alternation, Italy	PCPI, Spain

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Data collection

Existing evidence:

- National level evaluations

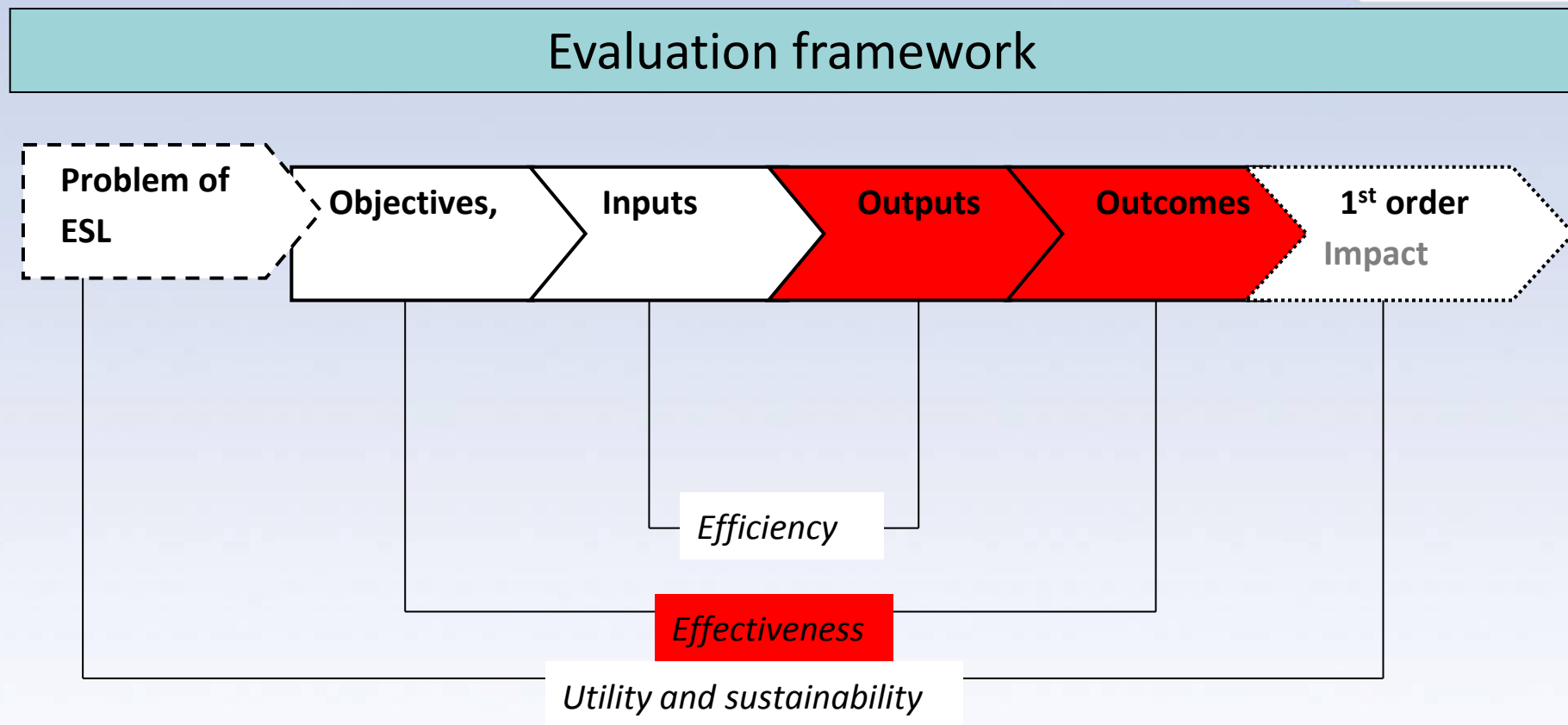- Policy documents

- Programme documentation

- Administrative data

Triangulation:

- Stakeholder interviews

- Programme managers and 'critical friends'

Network of Country Experts

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Evaluation framework

Problem of ESL

Objectives,

Inputs

Outputs

Outcomes

1st order Impact

Efficiency

Effectiveness

Utility and sustainability

Output targets

- 5 policies with national level target, 2 local level, 1 without target
- In general, targets were reached and met the right target group
- Difference between preventative and reintegrative measures

Outcome targets

- Only 1 policy set quantitative targets
- Mixed evidence, lack of data

Findings II

Policy pointers

- Target those most in need

- Foster self-responsibility

- Tackle cultural change

Lessons learnt

Positives - learning insights

- Network of country analysts
- Triangulation / Complementing primary evaluations
- Identify policy pointers / common issues

Challenges - learning insights

- Focus on tackling policy issues
- Case and country selection?
- Quality of primary evaluations?
- Development of common framework?

Thank you!

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