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## Evaluation Impact Indicators: EPO

General Factors for evaluating impact  
 EPO Definition  
 EPO Indicators

- Enabling
- Process
- Outcome

EPO Examples



<http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/events/capacitybuilding/index.php>

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## General points about evaluating change and impact 1

Impact can involve:

- Enabling outcomes
  - new things in place
- Process outcomes
  - new ways of doing things
- Changes in student achievements
  - improvements

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## General points about evaluating change and impact 2

Impact

- Desirable / undesirable: differentiated by stakeholders
- Intended / unintended effects
- Has underestimated timescales
- Has difficulties with attribution/lines of determination
- Tie to theory of change in the intervention

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## EPO Performance Indicators

The EPO approach (Saunders, 2001) distributes weight between outcomes, processes and enabling factors and sees them all as valid, separate indicators of impact. For example, EPO accepts changes in the strategies, systems and practices in and around teaching as evidence of educational impact; assuming that these ultimately will lead to impact on the student experience and approaches to learning and student achievement. This is useful as it is widely accepted that impact on student learning is particularly difficult to evidence.

(Paragraph from: Self-Evaluation – Reading CE-AURS – 2007)

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## Enabling Indicators

- **Enabling** indicators are concerned with the structures and support which need to be set up or provided to produce the desired outcomes, it might include some capital expenditure or resource implications.

Helsby, G. Saunders, M Taylorism, Tylerism and Performance Indicators: *Defending the Indefensible. Educational Studies, Vol19, No.1 pp55-77, 1993*

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## Process Indicators

- **Process** indicators are concerned with what needs to happen in order to achieve the desired outcomes.

Helsby, G. Saunders, M Taylorism, Tylerism and Performance Indicators: *Defending the Indefensible. Educational Studies, Vol19, No.1 pp55-77, 1993*

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## Outcome Indicators

➤ **Outcome** indicators are concerned with the intermediate or longer-term outcomes of a programme and are tied to impact goals.

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Helsby, G. Saunders, M Taylorism, Tylerism and Performance Indicators: Defending the Indefensible. Educational Studies, Vol19, No.1 pp55-77, 1993

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## EPO Indicators: Focusing Evaluations

| Enabling                                                                                                                                                               | Process                                                                                                                                                 | Outcome                                                                                                                                                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Refers to dimensions which need:                                                                                                                                       | Refers to aspects of:                                                                                                                                   | Refers to:                                                                                                                                                    |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ frameworks for action</li> <li>➤ protocols</li> <li>➤ space</li> <li>➤ time</li> <li>➤ people</li> <li>➤ resources</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Action</li> <li>➤ ways of doing things</li> <li>➤ styles</li> <li>➤ behaviours</li> <li>➤ practices</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ goals</li> <li>➤ product</li> <li>➤ numbers</li> <li>➤ impact</li> <li>➤ changes</li> <li>➤ new practices</li> </ul> |

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## EPO Indicators: Focusing Evaluations

Record your indicators below

| Enabling                         | Process               | Outcome    |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| Refers to dimensions which need: | Refers to aspects of: | Refers to: |
|                                  |                       |            |

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## What are EPO Indicators?

➤ **Enabling** indicators are concerned with the structures and support which need to be set up or provided to produce the desired outcomes. It might include some capital expenditure or resource implications.

➤ **Process** indicators are concerned with what needs to happen in order to achieve the desired outcomes.

➤ **Outcome** indicators are concerned with the intermediate or longer-term outcomes of a programme and are tied to impact goals.

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## Evaluation Capacity Building in Widening Participation Practice



**ECB Toolkit Website:**  
[www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/events/capacitybuilding/index.php](http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/events/capacitybuilding/index.php)

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