

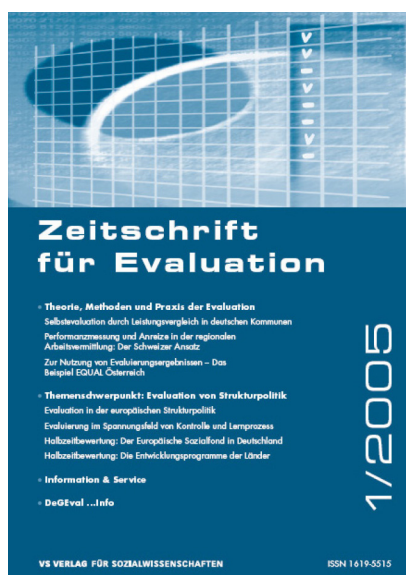
The Usage of Evaluation Results for Programme Optimization – On the Basis of the Monitoring Evaluation of EQUAL Austria

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Abstract

The process of the programme evaluation of EQUAL Austria 2000-2006, a Common Initiative of the European Social Fund (ESF) with the aim of combating discrimination on the labour market, is characterized by a high usage of evaluation results. This could be achieved by applying a scientifically sound methodological approach, the (implicit) compliance with the utility standards, and the set-up of a committee for evaluation monitoring and by far-ranging discussion of recommendations. Furthermore, the guidelines of the European Commission created a monitoring structure promoting optimal use of evaluation results. The evaluation of EQUAL, however, also shows the difficult position of evaluators between external, independent expert and involved players, becoming obvious in case of too strong operationalization of recommendations by the evaluators.



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