

The use of Social Impact Assessments in social development: application to integration of migrants in the Netherlands

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Impact assessment of social policies: issues

- Many 'soft' effects on wellbeing: hard to quantify and often long term
- Limited ex-post evaluations of social policies
- Redistributive effects are crucial
- Beliefs or well intentions of policy makers and institutions hard to counter with effectiveness studies
- Limited political will or evaluations and lack of evaluation culture in social policy domain

Can we measure effects on well being?

The capability approach of Sen and Nussbaum

9 Capabilities for well being

- 1) Health
- 2) Safety
- 3) Education
- 4) Standard of living
- 5) Productive and valued activities
- 6) Social cohesion and quality of participation
- 7) Environmental quality
- 8) Culture and entertainment
- 9) Basic rights

The Dutch integration scheme

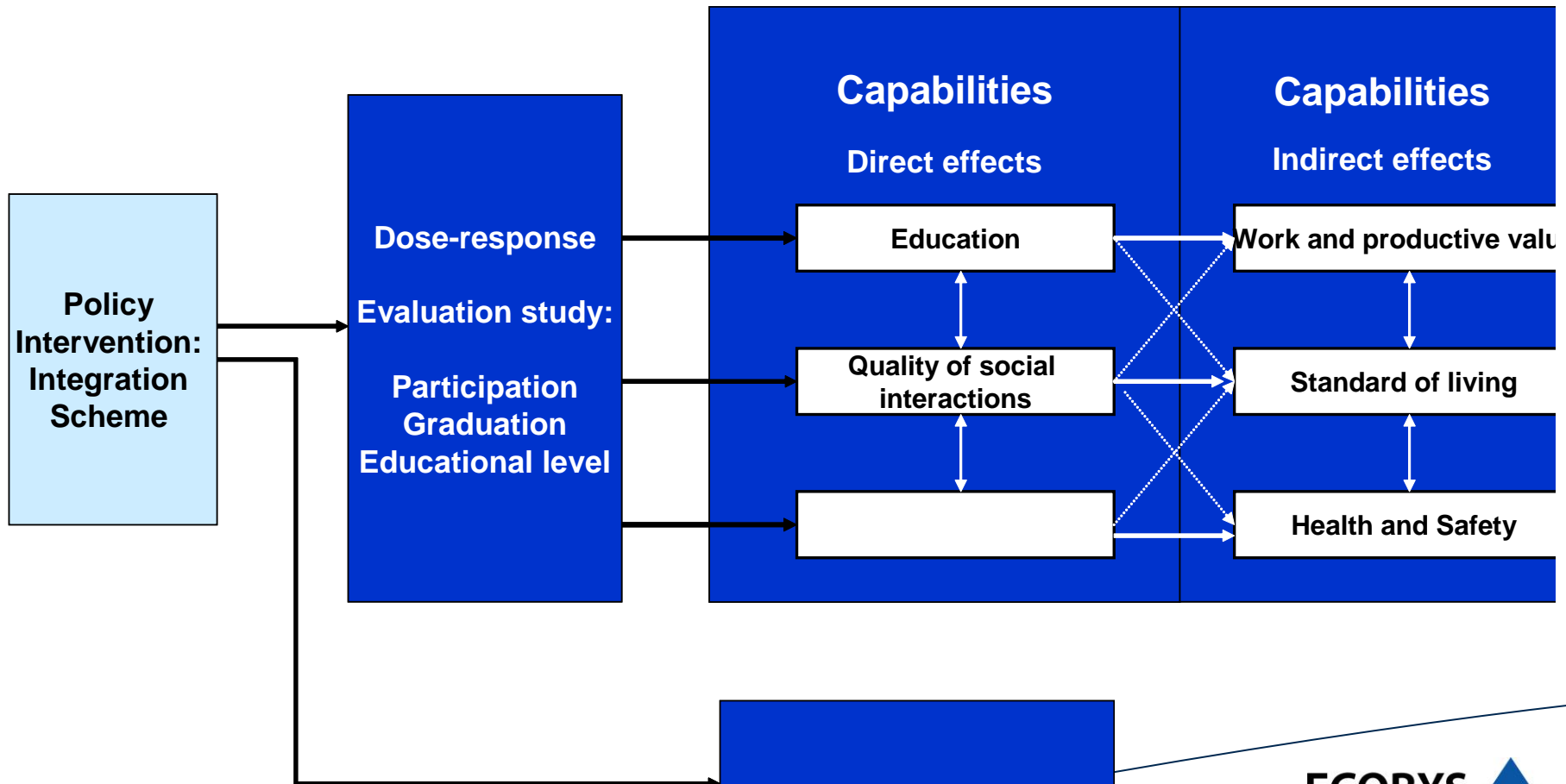
1) Integration abroad law:

- integration exam abroad in language and knowledge of Dutch society before visa

2) Integration law:

- every non Dutch in NL is called for integration course by municipality: language and knowledge of Dutch society ending with exam and award ceremony.

Applying the capability approach on Dutch integration scheme



Effects: first ex-post evaluation and literature

- Language education level of courses poor
- 30% no show
- Only 9% graduate
- Limited effects on job finding chances

General literature:

- Improved education: 8-15% higher earnings
- Labour market reintegration effectiveness limited esp. for men

Recommendations to improve effectiveness of integration schemes

- Approach, intake en selection of participants crucial: **focus** on groups
- Quality of courses has to be high
- Adjust levels to level of participants
- Add labour market reintegration
- Monitor and evaluate performance of municipalities, private providers and participants
- Incentives and penalties?