

Abstract:

The thesis focuses on examining the practice of project and program evaluations within Czech development cooperation through the analysis of fifteen evaluation reports from 2018–2022. The primary goal was to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the evaluations and to propose recommendations for improving evaluation practices. Specifically, the analysis examined how evaluators worked with sources and data and whether the formulated conclusions and recommendations aligned with the findings of the evaluation research. The quality of the evaluation reports was assessed using an assessment tool supplemented by content analysis. Recommendations were developed based on the analysis of examples of good and poor practices. The overall assessment of the evaluation reports using the evaluation framework is relatively positive. However, the research revealed several weaknesses in evaluation practices, such as insufficient use of theory of change, partial deficiencies in the description of methodology (e.g., inadequate description of the sample, data analysis procedures, or data quality and validation), weak connections between some findings and recommendations, and variable quality in the formulation of recommendations. In terms of research methods, qualitative data from interviews and document analysis predominate, although surveys are also employed (often limited in sample size). These approaches provide deeper insights into the context of interventions but often fail to address the causal aspects of their effects.

Keywords: Evaluation, evaluation reports, foreign development cooperation, evaluation methodology, research quality assessment, quality of evaluation practices, examples of good practices