

PROGRAM OF VISUAL PUBLIC POLICY (VPP)



Motivation. A municipality, a University, a ministry, a parliament, any public organization conceives policies. This conception is done by stakeholders that most of the time present and justify their policy proposals verbally. Hence, the policy proposal logic of one stakeholder is not well understood by the other stakeholders. In addition, the multiple effects of the suggested policy are not visualised. Hence, the stakeholders have hard time to reach a consensus on what policy to choose. As a consequence, the best policy is not always chosen and its implementation fails because its logic is not well understood by all the stakeholders.

Goals. The visual public policy program (VPP) is a set of continuous activities directed to conceive a public policy.

Program overview. The VPP includes the activities in the shown flowchart. The stakeholders are coached by our experts and participate in these activities.

Weaknesses of current approaches to conceive public policies. On one hand, many approaches to conceive public policies do not include tools allowing the visualisation of the logics of the policies that are proposed. On the other hand, some approaches include models that allow this visualisation. However, these models are high mathematical so that their construction and modification require specialized model builders. Hence, these models are not built, nor used by the stakeholders to support their discussions during the policy conception meetings.

Advantages of our improvement program. Our approach uses qualitative simulation models that evaluate the multiple effects of any policy. These models are built in real time by the stakeholders and used to support their logic during the conception of a policy. These models have a cause-effect structure that allows the stakeholders to understand the proposed policies and reach a consensus on the best policy to implement. In addition, they point out the performance indices to control during the policy implementation.

