Global Impact Analytics Framework (GIAF)

Glossary of Terms for Impact Analysis

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Acceptability The level to which the policy/program/service/initiative/product is agreed or approved by the target audience.

Access The level of availability and understandability of information, methods and tools to, and from the target audience. Adapted from (S. Dodds et al., 2022)

Action plan A checklist for the steps, tasks, time and resources needed in order to achieve the set goals. (Athuraliya, 2022)

Adaptation The process of thoughtful and deliberate modification of the design or delivery of the policy/program/service/initiative/product, with the aim to improve its fitness or effectiveness in a given context. (Goodrich et al., 2020)

Ad Hoc Describes something that has been formed or used for a special and immediate purpose, without previous planning. An ad hoc activity is done only because a situation has made it necessary and is not planned. Adapted from (Collins Dictionary, 2022; Macmillan Dictionary, 2022)

Adoption The level to which a target user or organisation takes the policy/program/service/initiative/product as its own.

Advocacy In implementation research, the action by a third party to lobby, mediate and facilitate the use or the policy/program/service/initiative/product, to organisations/society on behalf of consumers.

Allocation The action taken by the target user/organisation to grant resources for the implementation of the policy/program/service/initiative/product.

Ambiguity Ambiguity exists when a term can reasonably be interpreted in more than one way. It applies when a definition is imprecise. It can be translated into more than one code in a reference classification system. Adapted from (Castelpietra et al., 2021)

Applicability The implementation requirements of the policy/program/service/initiative/product in *specific* conditions to allow the use of the application for a defined purpose, for a distinct target and in a specific real-world environment.

Application Any output of the emerging scientific knowledge that can be implemented in the real world (e.g., policy, program, service, initiative, product or technology). Adapted from (Goodrich et al., 2020).

Appraisal Evaluation of the maturity of the policy/program/service/initiative/product at the end of the early implementation phase.

Appropriateness The extent to which the emerging scientific knowledge or its application (e.g., policy, program, service, initiative, product or technology) is suitable, acceptable, and relevant to the target audience.

Attribution The action of ascribing, assigning, or crediting an emerging scientific knowledge or its application (e.g., policy, program, service, initiative, product or technology) to a particular author, or research group. Attribution is different from receiving (taking or accepting possession) and recognition (acknowledging the existence).

Audience The individuals and/or organisations or populations identified as potential users of the policy/program/service/initiative/product. The number and representativeness of the potential users are important attributes of the audience. Three types of audience are identified: targeted, non-targeted (*refer to target audience*) and general audience (the society perspective).

Awareness The actions that indicate that defined individuals representing the target audience are cognizant of the implemented policy/program/service/initiative/product. Evidence should demonstrate that audience representatives have taken action to improve the audience's knowledge of the topic and received their feedback.

Basic principles Foundational understandings derived from prior scientific research and the associations or effects that have been reported (e.g., literature or scoping review) and the potential outcomes and implications that have been identified.

Benefactor Is a person who gives some form of help to benefit a person, group or organisation. (Oxford English Dictionary, 2022)

Calibration The process of comparing and documenting the measurement of an application to a traceable reference gold-standard. *Relative calibration* is the process of comparing and documenting the measurement of an application across a series of entities without a traceable reference gold-standard. (Salvador-Carulla & González-Caballero, 2010)

Capability The theoretical or ideal availability of knowledge, resources and means of the recipients, to implement the policy/program/service/initiative/product.

Capacity The actual availability of resources (e.g., workforce, finances) and means (e.g., ability) of the recipients, to implement the policy/program/service/initiative/product in the real world.

Checklist A collection of nominal items that do not aggregate in a consecutive ordinal scale (quantitative) or ladder (which assigns a qualitative gradient/meaning).

Co-creation An overarching guiding principle encompassing co-design and co-production. It is the enactment of meaningful and relational interactions with the key stakeholders (including end-users) to solve problems at all stages of an initiative. Adapted from (Ramaswamy & Ozcan, 2018)

Co-design Active collaboration with key stakeholders including end-users to create a plan, initiative or service, and solutions to a pre-specified problem. Adapted from (Vargas et al., 2022)

Cognitive Participation The relational work that people do to build and sustain a community of practice around a new policy/program/service/initiative/product. It has four components: initiation, enrolment, legitimation and activation. (Rapley et al., 2018)

Coherence The sense-making work that people do individually and collectively when they are faced with the problem of operationalizing some set of practices. It has 4 components: differentiation, communal specification, individual specification and internalization. (Rapley et al., 2018)

Collective action The operational work that people do to enact a set of practices, when these represent a new policy/program/service/initiative/product. It has four components:

interactional workability, relational integration, skill set workability, and contextual integration. (Rapley et al., 2018)

Commercialisation The process of introducing a new product or production method and making it available on the market.

Communication channels The means (pathways or mediums) through which people, groups or organisations communicate and interact with others, to spread the information and news about the policy/program/service/initiative/product. They can be face-to-face; written form (e.g. letters/flyers/posters) or digital (e.g. instant messaging/texting, video conferencing); formal, informal or unofficial; text-based, graphic or both; one-way or two-way. Adapted from (Kaminski, 2011)

Communication tools Comprise the technologies used to support communication. These include digital (websites, social media, television, radio); print mediums (newspaper articles, newsletters, flyers, posters, journals, books); and in-person activities including promotional activities (workshops, conferences, roadshows, markets, concerts, sports), as well as hotlines, information centres and word-of-mouth.

Complexity (of initiative) The multiplicity of initiative components and the interaction of the components, different organisations and contexts, the non-linear design and evaluation of implementation research, and the recognition that it can be messy and complicated with frequent uncertainty. Adapted from (Rycroft-Malone & Burton, 2010; Schneider et al., 2016)

Comprehensive (Dissemination) The utilization of all or nearly all dissemination elements or activities relevant to the target audience.

Concept (formulated) General idea of what something is or how it works. A way to order thinking, a type of cognitive grouping. Typically, a concept can be abstract or theoretical. (Spitzer, 1975)

Consequence Result of the use of a policy/program/service/initiative/product. There can be intended and unintended consequences. Unintended consequences are defined as outcomes that are not anticipated and intended at the time of initiative implementation; they can be both positive (unexpected benefit) and negative (unexpected drawback or perverse result). (Hull et al., 2019)

Consult To engage stakeholders in a two-way dialogue to share information, understand their views and perceptions and gain feedback to inform decisions.

Context The totality of circumstances that comprise the milieu of a given phenomenon. In health care it includes all sources of evidence of the local system geography, social and demographic factors, other environmental factors, service availability, capacity, use and costs. It also includes legislation and expertise on the milieu (e.g., the historical account of the current state of the art). Adapted from (Salvador-Carulla et al., 2021; Salvador-Carulla et al., 2017)

Conversion The process by which the emerging scientific knowledge and its application (e.g., policy, program, service, initiative, product or technology) is translated by the individuals who have adopted it for application in the target organisation. Conversion actions may include legislation, plans, policy programs, regulatory norms, rules, and official or corporate indicators).

Co-produce To engage the key stakeholders (including end-users) in the implementation of a previously agreed solution or strategy, to a previously agreed problem with a focus on how to allocate resources and assets within these constraints, to achieve better outcomes. Adapted from (Vargas 2022)

Corroboration The confirmation of the emerging scientific knowledge by independent research groups, as part of the consensus formation on this knowledge. From a philosophy of science perspective, it has been defined as the justification of the new scientific evidence by determining the degree of confirmation given the acceptability of observational data using logical induction. It requires transparency of prior information and uses quantitative techniques for ordering available evidence (e.g., meta-analysis), and qualitative techniques for reaching expert consensus (intersubjectivity). Adapted from (Salvador-Carulla et al., 2017).

Cost-Effectiveness A type of economic analysis that compares relevant costs and outcomes of an initiative and its comparators in real-world conditions to select the best. Cost effectiveness is different from a) cost efficacy which shows the efficacy of the initiative in an experimental environment (e.g., Randomised Control Trial); b) cost benefit analysis which provides monetary value to measure the effect c) cost utility, which uses utilities and preferences to measure the effects.

De-Implementation Refers to reducing or stopping the use or delivery of the (e.g., policy, program, service, initiative, product or technology) that are ineffective, unproven, harmful, overused, or inappropriate (Norton et al., 2017)

Demonstration (study) A larger and more rigorous investigation following a pilot study, conducted to evaluate the outcomes and impact of an application, initiative, or treatment. It aims to provide evidence regarding the application's effectiveness in achieving the desired outcomes or improving health outcomes in a specific population. This broader perspective enhances the generalisability of the findings. Its focus is on external validity, and its findings have practical implications.

Development plan A document which provides guidelines to follow during the implementation process. It is the collection of milestones and goals with quantifiable objectives that a person or organization plans to meet within a certain period, which helps measure progress.

Dialogue Active communication and integration of different knowledge bases with the target audience. (Albinsson et al., 2016; R. L. Dodds et al., 2022).

Diffusion The dissemination of the policy/program/service/initiative/product that progresses beyond the scope of an early implementation study and into the evolution phase (later implementation). Diffusion targets general audiences which are out of the scope of the early implementation research.

Disclosure The act of informing the target audience about the risks and consequences of contributing to the co-creation of the policy/program/service/initiative/product in their specific context in the initiation phase (pre-implementation).

Discovery The generation of emerging scientific knowledge, mainly using experimental approaches and deductive inference. Discovery can also be generated by consilience using inductive inference. Adapted from (Salvador-Carulla et al., 2017)

Dissemination The act of making the policy, program, service, initiative, product or technology 'known and making it used' to the target audience so that it reaches, is made known to or available to facilitate the audience's uptake and use.

Diversification Application of the policy/program/service/initiative/product to additional aims, and new purposes.

Ecosystem The totality of the circumstances that relate to a given health phenomenon in a defined environment. In health ecosystems, it includes elements which, combined, provide capital to sustain and enhance wellbeing e.g., green spaces and the built environment; social capital both built (infrastructure) and human (institutions and human governance); places and communities; determinants of health; health behaviours and lifestyles; integrated healthcare at the different levels of the ecosystem (nano, micro, meso and macro levels). (Furst et al., 2021)

Educate To provide training or information and to support and increase understanding on a particular subject. (Oxford English Dictionary, 2022)

Effectiveness The extent to which the application achieved, or is expected to achieve, its objectives and results in real-world conditions.

Efficiency The measure of the relationship between the effort, time and cost required to use the application and its results.

Effort The work needed to implement the policy/program/service/initiative/product by the recipient or target organisation. This includes change in routines, actual use of resources, means and time.

Emerging scientific knowledge Knowledge that has successfully passed the phases of discovery and corroboration and has an application ready for implementation in the real-world setting.

Engaged (dissemination action) An interaction which has been adapted to the context of a specific target organisation, and which allows discussion about their use of policy, program, service, initiative, product or technology. The sender may have prior knowledge of the organisation's context and so prescribe which communication should be adapted.

Engagement A two directional interaction and relationship between the sender and recipient of the policy/program/service/product. It should increase the understanding of the new knowledge by the recipient and advance its implementation in the real world. Adapted from (Brodie et al., 2013; Hollebeek et al., 2019)

Environment A setting, context, or specific geographic area. Adapted from (Oxford English Dictionary, 2022)

Evaluation stage (of impact analysis) The critical examination of the impact of implementation of the policy/program/service/initiative/product during the maturity (early implementation) or the evolution phases (later implementation). It involves collecting and analysing information about the resources (inputs), process (throughputs), and results (includes outcomes) once the implementation study is completed. Its purpose is to make judgments and/or to support decision making. Adapted from (Parry & Stevens, 2001)

Evidence (scientific) The part of scientific knowledge based on contextualized information from facts and data, and which is analysed using quantitative approaches alone or

combined with qualitative methods to generate inferences using mainly deductive reasoning, but also non-deductive logical reasoning (induction and abduction). It includes:

a. *Observational evidence* information acquired by the standard recording of phenomena under natural conditions and analysed mainly using inductive reasoning (e.g., cohort studies, surveys).
b. *Ecological evidence* observations of the phenomenon gathered in a clearly defined area and environment. (Salvador-Carulla et al., 2014)

Evolution (of implementation) The phase beyond early implementation when the policy, program, service, initiative, product or technology is fully operational in the real world, and includes the study of its sustainability, diffusion, spread or de-implementation.

Expansion The spread of the adoption and uptake of a policy/program/service/initiative/product beyond the defined target organisation and target audience into the general audience during the evolution phase (later implementation), for example, a vaccine developed for adults in United Kingdom is implemented with adults in China.

Experiential knowledge The knowledge and understanding of the policy, program, service, initiative, product or technology, the health condition and context derived from exposure as a patient, consumer or carer. (Salvador-Carulla et al., 2017)

Experimental evidence Information acquired by conducting an experiment to test a formal hypothesis using deductive reasoning (e.g., Randomised Control Trials). (Salvador-Carulla et al., 2017)

Expert knowledge A set of formalised know-how, understanding, experience and insight in a defined area of knowledge which is informed, contextualised, stable, consistent and connected. It is elicited using qualitative approaches alone or combined with quantitative methods to generate means-end inferences and non-inferential knowledge to complement evidence. *Prior Expert Knowledge* refers to the set of evidence and formal expert knowledge that supports the policy, program, service, initiative, product or technology in the real world.(Salvador-Carulla et al., 2017)

Exporting Spreading the policy/program/service/initiative/product into other economic sectors, apart from the one tested in the early implementation phase (e.g., applying a tool developed in the health sector to the education sector).

Feasibility The usefulness of the prototype of an application in terms of how usable, applicable, and sustainable it is to be used in the real world. Feasibility is assessed as part of the experimental validation of the application in the initiation phase.

Fidelity The degree to which the core elements of the policy/program/service/initiative/product are implemented as intended and as prescribed in the original project. Adapted from (Goodrich et al., 2020)

Financing The process of providing funds for the activities, purchases, or investing required to develop, market and sustain the application.

Focus group A research technique that collects data through group interaction on a topic determined by the researcher. (Morgan, 1996)

Framework (conceptual) An overview of a defined system or topic that describe components believed to influence an outcome, that may show relationships of the components without providing causality. (Lukersmith et al., 2025)

Genealogy The origin, background or line of descent of the research and the policy, program, service, initiative, product or technology.

Generic (dissemination activities) Characteristic of a group of dissemination activities that are not specific to the target audience e.g., information on a website which is not specific to the target audience.

Impact (analysis) The evaluation of the effects of a policy/program/service/initiative/product on a targeted audience in a specific real-world context. This includes the direct and indirect, intended, and unintended, and positive or negative results.

Implementation The planning, process, and actioning of the policy/program/service/initiative/product in the real world.

Implementation research The study of the policy/program/service/initiative/product in the real world. The application includes planning, process and actioning.

Implementation science The study of the methods and strategies used to promote, integrate and apply research findings in the real world including in the public health, health and social care settings.

Incorporation (intake, assimilation) The actions that indicate the nominated representative(s) of a target organisation accept and can use the policy/program/service/initiative/product as part of their own knowledge base. It can include mentions initiated by the target organisation in the media.

Indicator A measure or feature designed to summarise information about a given priority topic in population and/or system performance evaluation and research. Indicators provide comparable and actionable information across different geographic, organisational or administrative boundaries and/or can track progress over time.

Inform The process of giving the target audience information about ideas, data, or other facts. Adapted from (Government of Western Australia, 2018)

Information (data, scientific data) Facts and figures collected using standard assessment methods of research which relate to something specific, but which are not organised. Scientific information is categorised, calculated and condensed data using scientific analysis and visualisation techniques. (Salvador-Carulla et al., 2014)

Initiation The phase of starting an implementation project (pre-implementation) that includes the study of its planning, engagement and the pre-readiness of the prototype.

Innovation (health) New or improved applications (e.g., health policies, systems, products and technologies, and services and delivery methods) that are intended to improve people's health and wellbeing. Health innovation can target preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative and/or assistive care. (World Health Organization, 2017)

Inputs (input) The resources selected, measured and incorporated into the analysis of the process of care as formal indicators e.g., staff time and skills, materials and equipment, assets and finance.

Inquiry (knowledge inquiry) The systematic seeking or request for truth, information, or knowledge. Inquiry is broader than research.

Integrity A synonym of fidelity. The degree to which an initiative is implemented as planned.

Intensity The frequency, extent and complexity of the actions performed. Intensive engagement Is a process to effectively interact with and relate to an audience; to better understand the challenges they have faced, recruit capable stakeholders, design and implement the initiative to tackle the problem and finally to create a framework to judge the success of the process.

Internalisation The work that a target user or target organisation does to attribute worth to the policy, program, service, initiative, product or technology. A sense making process for understanding the value, benefits and importance of the application. Adapted from (Rapley et al., 2018)

Initiative An act performed for, with or on behalf of a person or population whose purpose is to assess, improve, maintain, promote or modify health, functioning or health conditions. (World Health Organization, 2019)

Interview A meeting to question or seek information from an individual.

Involve Active interaction between researchers and stakeholders who, for example, deliver services (e.g., frontline clinicians), rather than the use of stakeholders as participants in research. (Hull et al., 2019)

Knowledge base The formal underlying collection of facts, assumptions, and rules about a particular subject. Prior knowledge base is a systematic arrangement of the *former* knowledge base related to the policy/program/service/initiative/product. (Salvador-Carulla et al., 2014)

Knowledge to Action The processes necessary to move from discovery into action by using translation of the emerging scientific knowledge into an application or use of this application in the real world (e.g., policy, program, service, initiative, product or technology).

Knowledge translation (transfer) The synthesis, exchange, and application of knowledge by relevant stakeholders to accelerate the benefits of global and local innovation in strengthening health systems and improving people's health. (Pablos-Mendez & Shademani, 2006)

Ladder A method of measuring the progress of the processes in implementation and complexity research. A ladder provides sequential levels which assign a qualitative gradient/meaning to complex entities which are not fully scalable and do not imply a gradual progression across levels. In a ladder an item can be skipped or merged with a consecutive one, whereas in a rating scale this is not possible. (Salvador-Carulla et al., 2025)

Legitimacy (organisational) In impact analysis, legitimacy is the social acceptability of the healthcare institution regarding the regulative, governance, understandability and culturally supported manner, in which the policy/program/service/initiative/product is delivered. Adapted from (Bond et al., 2018)

Logic for change A schematic representation which explains how the policy/program/service/initiative/product is intended to work, where the process includes the relationship between actions/activities and outputs (includes outcomes for individuals). A Logic for Change is descriptive of the intended outcomes, while a Theory of Change or Program Logic is explanatory and shows the intended causal links (why and how) and mechanisms. Adapted from the (Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence, 2023).

Maintenance The processes in maturity and evolution phases that incorporate routinisation and sustainability.

Maturity The phase in which the policy/program/service/initiative/product is tested in the real world for the first time or in a new context (early implementation). It includes the study of its readiness, usability, dissemination, adoption, and uptake.

Meaningfulness The degree to which the policy/program/service/initiative/product and its outcomes have a likelihood of being significant for end-users and relevant to their decision making.

Mechanism An explanatory account of how and why policy/program/service/initiative/product are intended to give rise to outcomes. The mechanism may be hidden but still shaped by and interconnected with context. (The Rameses Projects, 2013)

Mentions Are instances / occasions when the implementation research is referred in any digital forum. It is the measure of how many times people are engaging with the research. Examples include news articles, social media (blogs, posts, tweets or linked to) and any online publication.

Model A visual or graphic representation of a theory (explanatory) or a framework (descriptive), which describes its applicability and relationship across domain, actions and program. (Lukersmith et al., 2025)

Modification Any change to the policy/program/service/initiative/product in specific settings and contexts. In relation to adaptation/fidelity, modifications can be planned/proactive (adaptations); unplanned/reactive; fidelity-consistent, and fidelity inconsistent. In relation to the outcomes, modifications can increase the fit between effective application and end-users, improve outcomes, or remove core elements and not be aligned with context. (Goodrich et al., 2020)

Monitoring Routinised assessment over a defined time period. (Gage & Dunn, 2009; PATH, n.d.)

Novelty The degree to which the application is different and relevant for the intended purpose, target audience and context.

Ontology (formal) A taxonomy defined by axioms that clearly define relationships and decision rules that enable consistent application, comparison across settings, and potential use in digital tools or automated evaluation systems. Adapted from (Brownson et al., 2018; Ceusters & Smith, 2010).

Onto-terminology A classification of an entity or a domain, which provides a hierarchical taxonomy and a glossary of terms. Formal onto-terminologies are typically used in the information technology sector. Adapted from (Castelpietra et al., 2021)

Operational environment A realistic-simplified environment where the application is assessed under controlled conditions that simulate or replicate key aspects of real-world situations to provide accurate insights into the performance, functionality, capabilities, and limitations of the application being evaluated.

Optimality The state of balancing the costs and benefits of the policy/program/service/initiative/product.

Organisational learning A process in which an organisation's members actively use data to guide behaviour in such a way as to promote the ongoing adaptation and improvement of the organisation and/or the policy/program/service/initiative/product. It is a process that can be initiated, developed and practised. Adapted from (Edmondson & Moingeon, 1998; Nuño-Solinís, 2017)

Outcome The end-point effects that are selected and measured in an evaluation project or as a part of a system performance measurement (e.g., resolved depression, reduction in injuries at the workplace). The outcome is caused or produced by the policy, program, service, initiative, product or technology.

Outputs (Output) The results selected, measured and incorporated into the analysis of the process of care (e.g., clinical change, organisational change) as formal indicators. Outputs can also include proxies of results (e.g., resource utilisation - length of hospital stay as an indicator of quality in healthcare), and quality indicators related to organisational objectives.

Ownership The sense of control and the attitude of accepting responsibility for policy, program, service, initiative, product or technology. It is the final stage of incorporation of the application.

Uptake The level of adoption of the policy/program/service/initiative/product in a target audience at the end of the maturity phase.

Pilot (study) A small scale preliminary investigation conducted before the main study to assess the feasibility, methodology, and potential challenges and test the performance characteristics of the policy/program/service/initiative/product. These studies are typically carried out in an operational environment and likened to a rehearsal for full scale implementation. A pilot study bridges the gap between controlled laboratory testing and real-world deployment, allowing for risk Identification and mitigation. Its' focus is on internal validity, and the findings are used to inform and improve the design and implementation of the main study. Adapted from (Woods et al., 2024)

Planning The process of thinking and formalising in a written document, the steps and activities required to achieve an explicit goal. It includes deciding on the tasks in advance to achieve the implementation of a project; the 'what, when, where, why, how and who' will do the activities.

Potentiality The degree to which the policy/program/service/initiative/product motivates its use for further developments.

Practicality Describes the implementation requirements of the application in *general* including training, complexity of the evaluation process, analysis, interpretation and reporting of the data. This should be differentiated from the use of the policy/program/service/initiative/product in specific settings or contexts which is called applicability

Preparation Activities or procedures for making the policy/program/service/initiative/product ready for implementation.

Pre-release Actions or activities to make the policy/program/service/initiative/product available to the market (e.g., gaining a license, registration, steps for commercialisation) in preparation for implementation in the maturity phase.

Proactive (dissemination activities) Actions completed in anticipation of future problems, needs or changes rather than responding after these have happened.

Process The procedures, functions and activities used to transform the resources into results. It is a domain in the Logic for Change.

Process of care Encompasses the inputs, throughputs and outputs in the model of the production of care. (Boyd & Krupnick, 2013)

Product An object, a formal action, or a standard procedure derived from the emerging scientific knowledge (e.g., physical objects, service/s, initiatives, places, organisations, technology).

Profile A visual representation that synthesises the information related to relevant domains of a construct, entity or the results from the implementation of a policy/program/service/initiative/product. Typically, a profile displays a series of domains of a main entity that cannot be arranged in an ordinal scale or aggregated.

Prolongation To extend the time frame of the implementation beyond the planned duration of the early implementation (maturity) phase into the later implementation (evolution) phase. This is distinct from a delay to the implementation of the policy/program/service/initiative/product.

Proof of concept (study) An investigation to determine the workability of a policy/program/service/initiative/product. It forms part of the early development of the policy/program/service/initiative/product, to be used as the basis for subsequent activities (e.g., prototyping, piloting, demonstration). It involves the design of a conceptual model that confirms the principles and its workability, whether the policy/program/service/initiative/product could work as intended, solve the specific problem or meet a particular need. This early stage of development includes methods to validate the potential use of the policy/program/service/initiative/product such as the prior knowledge base, experts' feedback, exploratory surveys, previous laboratory/experimental studies, secondary analysis of relevant databases, modelling, simulation. (Woods et al., 2024)

Prototype A working model or preliminary version/s of a policy/program/service/initiative/product (concept, process or product) that has been developed and tested in an experimental or simulated environment. Prototyping is part of the readiness in the initiation phase of the implementation project. (Salvador-Carulla et al 2024)

Provision All elements of the supply system available for producing results of using policy, program, service, initiative, product or technology e.g., staff, services, initiatives and technologies.

Rating scale A type of scale that has an ordinal sequential value which demands gradual progression without missing any level (e.g., 0 <1 <2<3).

Reach The uptake and sustainability of the policy/program/service/initiative/product at a specific point in time. Beyond the GIAF framework and glossary, reach has been used as an umbrella term referring to both the audience and the spread of the policy, program, service, initiative, product or technology.

Reactive (dissemination activities) Actions completed over the course of dissemination in a responsive manner and use a range of communication channels and tools.

Reactive (modifications) Changes that are made deliberately over the course of implementing the policy/program/service/initiative/product, either in an impromptu manner or in response to constraints or challenges and may or may not need to be aligned with core elements to be effective. These are not adaptations (i.e., planned modifications). Adapted from (Goodrich et al., 2020)

Readiness The level of preparedness of an application of the emerging scientific knowledge (e.g., policy, program, service, initiative, product or technology) to be used in the real world and for its' release, marketing, commercialisation or open access. **Pre-readiness** refers to the level of preparedness of an application of the emerging scientific knowledge, where the knowledge base is established, a scientific concept is formulated, there is proof of the concept, a protype is developed, validated, and tested in a relevant environment.

Real world (environment) The surrounding circumstances or conditions that exist, as opposed to those that are theoretical or imaginary. It includes physical, digital, and blended ecosystems in everyday settings where individuals typically live and interact with each other, and with their natural and build in environment. This captures the complexity and diversity of the real-life context, including various social, environmental, and cultural factors that may influence the research outcomes.

Receptivity The willingness of the target user or target organisation to receive/consider the policy/program/service/initiative/product**.**

Recipient The individual or organisation that receives and potentially benefits from the policy/program/service/initiative/product.

Recognition The identification of the sender, by the recipient of the policy, program, service, initiative, product or technology.

Reflexive monitoring The appraisal work that people do to assess and understand the ways that a new application affects them and others around them. It has four components: systematisation, communal appraisal, individual appraisal and reconfiguration. (Rapley et al., 2018)

Release The point at which the policy/program/service/initiative/product is made available to end users in the maturity and evolution phase of implementation (e.g., license or patent is approved, or the product is marketed).

Relevance The meaningfulness, novelty, and potentiality of the policy/program/service/initiative/product to the target audience.

Relevant environment A simulated or somewhat realistic setting in which there are similar key aspects to the actual intended operational or implementation setting. Adapted from (Mankins, April 6, 1995)

Reliance Recipient's level of confidence in the usability of the policy, program, service, initiative, product or technology in relation to their context.

Replicability The repetition of testing in similar conditions (avoiding change) to obtain corroboration of the results to confirm emerging scientific knowledge. Adapted from (Drummond, 2009).

Reporting The process of communicating the results and recommendations of a project.

Reproducibility Independent confirmation of results of a project under real world conditions. In implementation, reproducibility requires modifications. Adapted from (Drummond, 2009)

Reputation The way the target audience views the developer (sender) of the policy, program, service, initiative, product or technology. Reputation can be positive or negative.

Research A systematic inquiry to create, corroborate and implement the policy, program, service, initiative, product or technology and/or the use of existing knowledge in a new and creative way, to generate new concepts, methodologies, inventions, and understandings. Adapted from (Salvador-Carulla et al., 2014)

Research Waste The effort wasted when the development of the emerging scientific knowledge and the policy, program, service, initiative, product or technology is not implemented.

Resources The services, placements, staff, goods, and other assets available as formal indicators, that are measured to obtain results from the implementation of the policy/program/service/initiative/product. The resources could be tangible or intangible (digital), formal and informal. It is a domain in the Logic for Change.

Results The consequences and effects of the use of a policy/program/service/initiative/product. This includes intended/unintended, planned/unplanned, positive/ negative, and direct/indirect effects. The results include formal indicators of outputs, outcomes, and impacts. It is a domain in the Logic for Change.

Routinisation The target individual or organisation has incorporated the policy/program/service/initiative/product into its regular procedures.

Sample In research terms, is a group of people, objects, or items that are taken from a larger population and typically are representative of this target. The study sample is a sub-set of the target audience using a pre-defined selection method within an implementation project.

Scalable The capacity or potential capacity for uptake and spread (scale up) of the policy/program/service/initiative/product.

Scalability The assessment of the extent to which an application is scalable.

Scale A set of ordinal sequential value which follows gradual progression without missing any level, e.g., 0<1<2<3.

Scaling up The planned process of intentional uptake and spread of the policy/program/service/initiative/product in the maturity and evolution phases. Beyond the GIAF, scaling up has been used as a synonym for uptake, penetration, diffusion and spread.

Scientific Knowledge A fluid mix of framed evidence and expertise acquired by means of standardised methods of research following the principles of commensurability (definitions of units of analysis that can be compared like-with-like), transparency for corroboration (including replicability and falsifiability) and transferability (including generalisability to broader contexts) (Salvador-Carulla et al., 2014).

a) *Emerging scientific knowledge* Scientific knowledge that has successfully passed the phases of discovery and corroboration and is ready to be implemented in a specific real-world context.
b) *Experiential knowledge* The knowledge and understanding of the health condition, initiative and context derived from exposure as a patient, consumer or carer. (Salvador-Carulla et al., 2014)
c) *Expert knowledge* Formalised know-how, understanding, experience and insight in a defined area of knowledge which is informed, contextualised, stable, consistent and connected. It is elicited using qualitative approaches alone or combined with quantitative methods to generate means-end inferences and non-inferential knowledge to complement evidence. *Prior Expert Knowledge* refers to the set of evidence and formal expert knowledge that supports the emerging scientific knowledge or its application in the real world. (Salvador-Carulla et al., 2014)

Scoping The process of mapping the extent, range, nature and key concepts in the relevant literature in the field of interest (Arksey & O'Malley, 2005; Parry & Stevens, 2001).

Screening (for impact analysis) The process of determining and assessing whether the policy/program/service/initiative/product is relevant and likely to have significant effects in a given environment, therefore requiring an impact analysis. In this process, it is necessary to revise the prior knowledge base, review the evidence and domain of expert knowledge (Parry & Stevens, 2001).

Selection (of the target audience) The action of carefully identifying the target audience for the policy/program/service/initiative/product.

Sender In the context of implementation research, is the researcher/developer and implementers of the policy/program/service/initiative/product.

Security Procedures followed to ensure that data protection, conditions of delivery and other characteristics of the policy/program/service/initiative/product are safe for the local context and comply with local norms and standards.

Spread The breadth of the policy/program/service/initiative/product in the evolution phase. It includes the prolongation, expansion, extension, diversification and exporting of the application beyond the maturity phase of implementation.

Stakeholder A person, company, community organisation or industry that may benefit from the policy/program/service/initiative/product.

Strategy A plan of action designed to achieve a long-term or overall aim. (Oxford English Dictionary, 2022)

Suitability A judgment made on whether the policy/program/service/initiative/product is appropriate for a particular person, purpose, or context.

Survey A general view, examination, or description of someone or something. (Oxford English Dictionary, 2022)

Sustainability The extent to which an application can continue to be delivered beyond the maturity phase and into the evolution phase. A policy/program/service/initiative/product that has established usefulness with the target audience/s is likely to be sustainable (contingent on resources).

Target audience The individuals and/or organisations or populations identified and selected as intended potential users of the policy/program/service/initiative/product. The number and representativeness of the potential users are important attributes. Typically, the target audience is defined within a specific context- geographical or other (e.g., a health district, a country or health system). Related terms include:

a. Target users are the individual/s members
b. Target population is the set of individuals
c. Target organisations are companies, institutions, or associations with a particular purpose. The organisation is typically represented by nominated individuals.
d. Non- targeted audience is a specific audience that may benefit from the policy, program, service, initiative, product or technology but is not identified as a target audience of the implementation project.

Taxonomy A scientific framework which shows the relationship between concepts, domains and components, and defines these. A *sequential taxonomy* shows the stepwise relationships between the phases, to show the preferred and typical pathway moving from one domain to the next, reflecting a chronological and developmental progression. A *hierarchical taxonomy* shows the relationships and rules between the groups of categories (adult and child categories).

Technical efficiency The effectiveness with which a given set of inputs is used to produce an output. The balance between inputs required and outputs obtained is better than those of comparable measures.

Testimonial A statement by a person on their knowledge or experience that supports a claim or position and which provides evidence based on that experience. It does not use a standardised structured qualitative method. Adapted from (Croce, 2022; Droit-Volet & Dambrun, 2019)

Theory A formalised explanation/causation of a defined system or specific topic that includes causality and which is based on evidence. (Lukersmith et al., 2025)

Throughputs (throughput) The procedures and processes selected, incorporated and measured into the analysis of the process of care. Throughputs include initiatives, activities and functions resulting from the interaction of the inputs to obtain outputs.

Transparency The openness, communication and accountability of the sender and the people involved in the implementation research, as perceived by the target audience. Adapted from (R. L. Dodds et al., 2022; Mazur & Zaborek, 2014; Ramaswamy, 2009)

Trust In the context of implementation research, trust relates to the recipient's level of confidence in the sender on the usability of the policy, program, service, initiative, product or technology in relation to their context. Trust is positive.

Typology A classification of concepts or components that includes different units of analysis. The units are not comparable e.g., "like with like".

Uptake The act of using, participating in, adopting, or taking advantage of an available product, service, opportunity by the defined target audience. Uptake is a synonym of penetration. (Adapted from Merriam Webster 2024)

Usability A measure of the usefulness of the policy/program/service/initiative/product during the maturity phase. The main domains of usability are relevance, acceptability, applicability, practicality, efficiency, value.

Usefulness The practical advantages of using the policy/program/service/initiative/product throughout any phase of implementation.

Utility The usefulness, value, benefits or worth of the policy/program/service/initiative/product.

Vagueness Vagueness exists when a word or phrase is underspecified and therefore admits borderline cases or relative interpretation. It applies when a definition is imprecise and cannot be translated into a code in the reference classification system. (Castelpietra et al., 2021)

Validation The study and verification of the standard metric properties of a policy/program/service/initiative/product. (e.g., metrics of an instrument, benchmarks for a policy, standards for an initiative)

Value The worth of something relative to other things and which depend on the individual's personal preferences, priorities, or circumstances. The outcomes which matter to the target individual, organisation or audience. For example, two individuals may assign the same value to different things or different value to the same thing.

Workability The theoretical potential usefulness of the policy/program/service/initiative/product before an actual prototype is produced.

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