# Guide to workbook 7

## The aim

Workbook 7 introduces you to the generation of impact chains. You will learn how impact chains are developed and how they support the evaluation of policy programs.

## Competencies

- You will understand the use of impact chains in the context of policy evaluation.
- You will understand the usefulness, as well as the limitations of impact chains.
- You will be able to design 'logic models' and 'theories of change' systematically in order to illustrate impact chains in policy programs.
- You will understand different strategies for developing impact chains (forward and backward mapping).
- You will be able to develop indicators to assess the effectiveness of programs (based on impact chains).

## How to read this workbook

**THEORY**
We will introduce you to the idea of impact chains and their use in the policy cycle, their strengths and limitations. We will also discuss how and to what extent the context of a policy, as well as power asymmetries and unintended effects, can be considered when generating impact chains. Furthermore, we will show how impact chains support the generation of indicators for policy evaluation.
Throughout the workbook, we will present examples from different areas of expertise concerned with societal change: the need for healthy dietary choices, energy-saving through energy-efficient light bulbs, awareness of climate risks and enhancing wood-based bioenergy.

## TOOLS

**Logic models** can be used to design and evaluate policy programs and interventions in a simple linear model. The focus of policy evaluation can be defined and indicators developed based on logic models. In the exercise, we will practice building a logic model.

**Theory of change (TOC)** allows you to build and evaluate programs, policies and interventions for complex problems. TOC aims at illustrating how meaningful societal change can happen. TOCs are often developed in a participatory process involving stakeholders.

TOC starts with a vision of intended societal changes and applies backward mapping to define the necessary strategy. It systematically plans the intermediate steps necessary in order to reach the ultimate goals.

## EXAMPLES

We will present you with a logic model for research on powdery mildew effectors as analyzed by a participant in the *PSC Science & Policy training program* for graduate students.