Dynamix Webinar, 28/10/2015: Results from the resource efficiency policy mix assessment: grand challenges for implementation

The DYNAMIX approach of assessing the economic, environmental and social impact of proposed policy mixes – Martin Nesbit, IEEP
QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT OF POLICY MIXES

• Four aspects to our qualitative assessment:
  – Economic
  – Environmental
  – Social
  – Governance, encompassing:
    • Legal issues
    • Public acceptability
CURRENT STAGE OF OUR ANALYSIS

• Initial drafts of the four assessments are mostly complete;
• Now synthesising the lessons;
• Short opportunity for iteration with the policy mix author teams.
STRENGTHS OF THIS APPROACH:

• Brings a variety of academic disciplines to bear on the question of impact of the policy mixes;
• Some key questions emerge from a number of the analyses.

But there are also some weaknesses:
• Reveals differences in interpretation and understanding of starting point and design for each policy (or is this a strength?);
• It is technically difficult to look just at legal, or just at economic aspects – so all of the assessments cover the other areas of expertise to some extent, with risks of inconsistency (but how much does this matter?)
**SOME ISSUES FOR THE SUMMARY REPORT**

- The interplay between public attitudes, political acceptability, and the success of behavioural measures is vital.
- We need a clear policy framework and overall targets; but within that, adjustment is likely to be needed in response to the lessons from policy experimentation, and in response to future development of public attitudes.
- Internalising external costs, including through tax measures, is important, but is unlikely to be sufficient.
- Design of tax policies needs to be coherent, avoiding overlap between economic instruments.
- We need a consistent approach to imports and exports, and a good understanding of the risks of leakage, and how those risks may change.
- Important to ensure coherence of policies in policy mixes, and between them.
- Reliable data is needed.
- Social costs are potentially significant, and need to be managed.