

# Pilot studies

## Public Spending Code Guidance

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# What is a pilot study?

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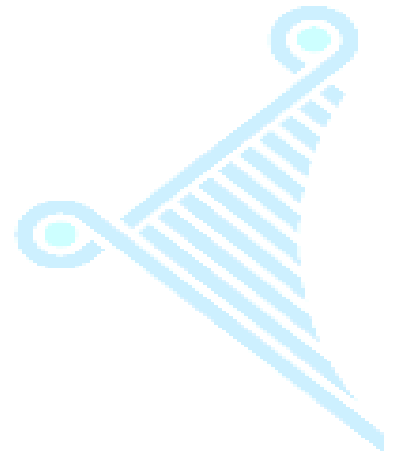
- Trialling and testing of new programmes
- Focus here on new SPENDING
- Three main types:
  - Impact pilots – how does the new scheme affect outcomes?
  - Process pilots – is the process efficient?
  - Hybrid – a combination of impact and process



# Why conduct pilots?

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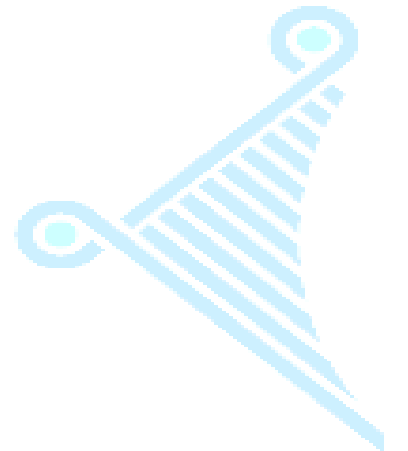
- Test before full-scale implementation
  - Back to design stage if pilot not “successful”
  - Identify teething issues
  - Note: should not be case-making
- Informing decisions, reducing risk
- Culture of innovation
- Helps to evaluation-proof scheme
- ....



# Why conduct pilots?

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- **Required** under the Public Spending Code
  - All new current spending proposals require a pilot before implementation
  - Current expenditure greater than €20 million over 5 years require a full appraisal
  - Recommended that spending below this threshold has some form of pilot conducted



# How to conduct a pilot?

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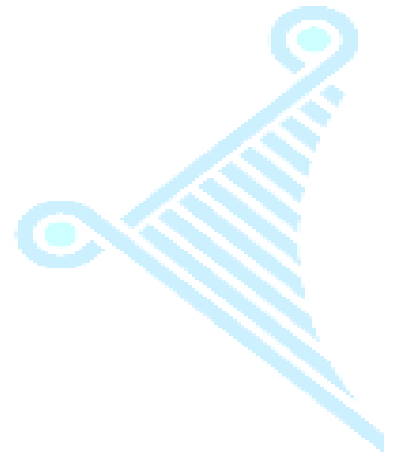
- Depends on the nature of the scheme and the level of spending
- Proportionality
- Analytically robust
  - some pilots will require randomised control trials or some other form of counterfactual impact evaluation – will depend on nature of the proposal



# Included in Guidance

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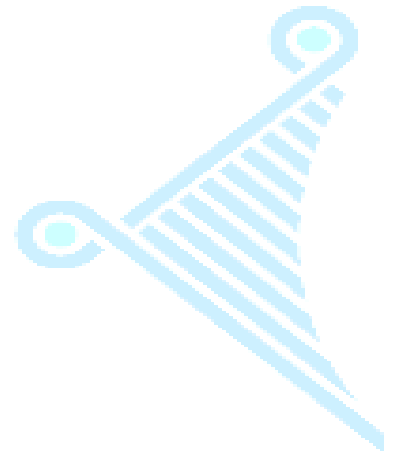
- Principles of good practice
- Approvals and sequencing
- Issues to consider when designing a pilot
  - Suggested methods to evaluate
  - Stakeholders
  - Ethical considerations
- Review of findings



# Next steps

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- Draft guidance will be issued for consultation in the coming months
- Let us know if you have run pilots in your areas
  - this will help inform the guidance if there were lesson learnt in the operation of the pilots



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