

The condition for an effectiveness evaluation generally incorporates all the necessary conditions for a process evaluation, and its design often includes some questions of efficiency. An effectiveness evaluation can be used to find improvements leading to greater future effectiveness or to reassessing the resources devoted to the program (i.e., changing its priority) in the light of its current effectiveness. This type of evaluation is founded on methodological rigour and large amounts of empirical data.

4.2 Scope

Initially, a conceptual evaluation would be carried out on the Consular Services program as a whole, including both the Bureau of Consular Services and at least a sample of consular posts. It would focus on the program mandate, the clarification of objectives, selected issues, the relationship between the outputs and the objectives, and implications for program design. Subsequently, it is proposed, process or effectiveness evaluations should be carried out on specific aspects of the program.

The evaluation will not question the propriety of subscribing to the Vienna Convention. The point of view adopted is that this is generally descriptive and not prescriptive of the functions carried out in the consular program. The consular functions (as listed in the Convention) that are not carried out within the Consular Services program itself, such as trade promotional activities, will not be evaluated for effectiveness.

Physically, the scope of the recommended evaluation includes the target populations to which certain activities carried out at the posts and the Bureau are directed. These activities are clearly directed to groups external to External Affairs and to the government itself, notably those Canadians who plan to live or travel abroad, their families who remain in Canada, and those Canadians who currently are living and travelling abroad. The scope of the conceptual evaluation will also include other External Affairs bureaux (e.g., the Passport Office) and other government departments (particularly CEIC) that are directly involved with certain groups of consular services.