

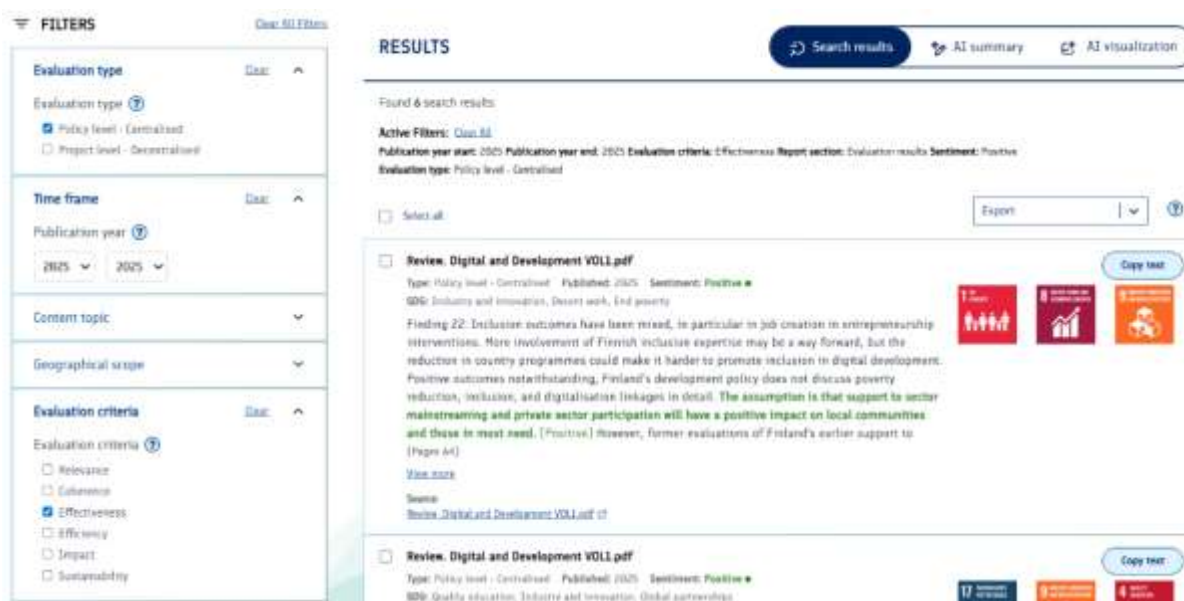


2025 Annual Report on Development Evaluation Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

Highlights: Data science and AI techniques in 2025

Use of OpenEval for Searching Results

The evaluation unit used [OpenEval](#) to search for development results for the 2025 annual report. This AI-assisted tool helps screen the results information from evaluation reports. Filtering by year, topics and target groups, the tool supported the compilation of results examples. The tool uses both traditional data science and AI-enhanced techniques. It makes the search for evaluative evidence more efficient and facilitates further analyses and results communication.



Source: OpenEval, Development Evaluation Unit of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.

Use of Geospatial Analysis for Impact Assessment

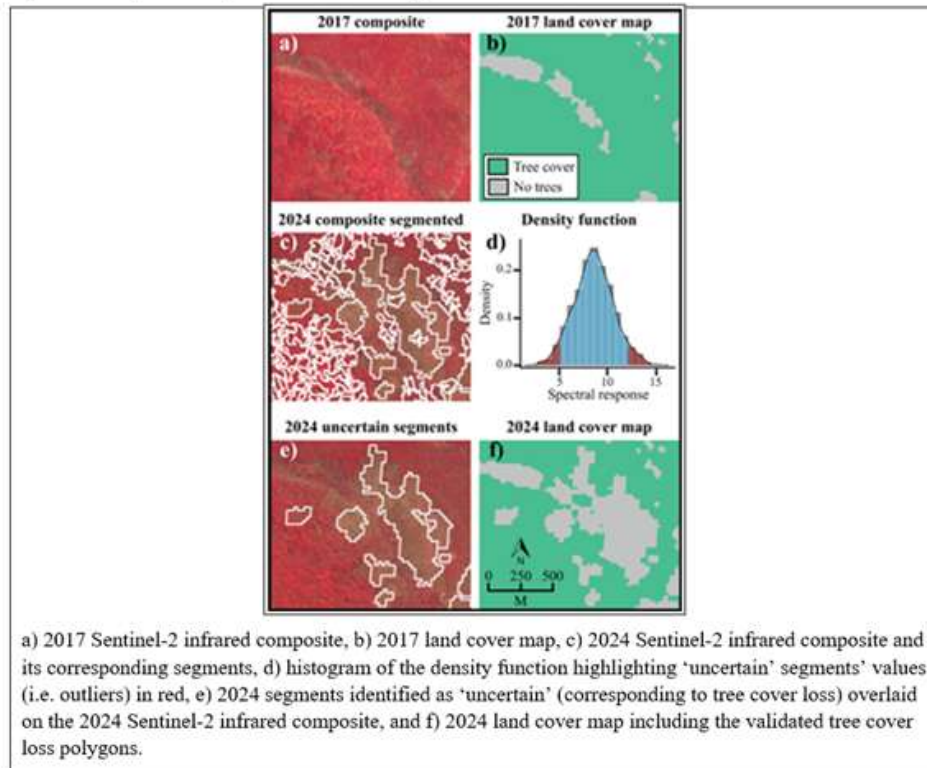
AI-assisted tools were utilised in the evaluation on Finland's development cooperation in environment and sustainable use of natural resources, and private sector opportunities ([link to the report](#)). To assess the impact of a project in Tanzania, the tree cover changes within and around each village's forest reserve were analysed using geospatial techniques ([link to the sub-report: Volume 2a Forests, Ecosystems and Biodiversity](#)).

[An interactive map](#) was created as a user-friendly interface and a knowledge-sharing tool that allowed the evaluation team to zoom in and out and explore the tree cover dynamics map generated for each village land forest reserve. This tool enabled the team to assimilate the insights from the analysis in a spatially explicit manner, easing the interpretation of the geospatial results.



Figure: Geospatial techniques were used to assess tree cover changes in the evaluation on Finland's development cooperation in environment and sustainable use of natural resources, and private sector opportunities.

Figure 15 Steps of the hybrid land cover change detection method



Source: Team of the evaluation on Finland's development cooperation in environment and sustainable use of natural resources, and private sector opportunities, and Particip GmbH.

Use of Natural Language Processing for Informing Evaluation Scope

Using the search outputs from OpenEval, Natural Language Processing (NLP) techniques were used for informing the scope of the forthcoming evaluation. The existing evaluative evidence base was assessed to validate the thematic focus for the Terms of Reference. First, the analysis of results excepts for topics distribution combined with tailored stop-word removal produced a word cloud of the most typical topics in the textual data.

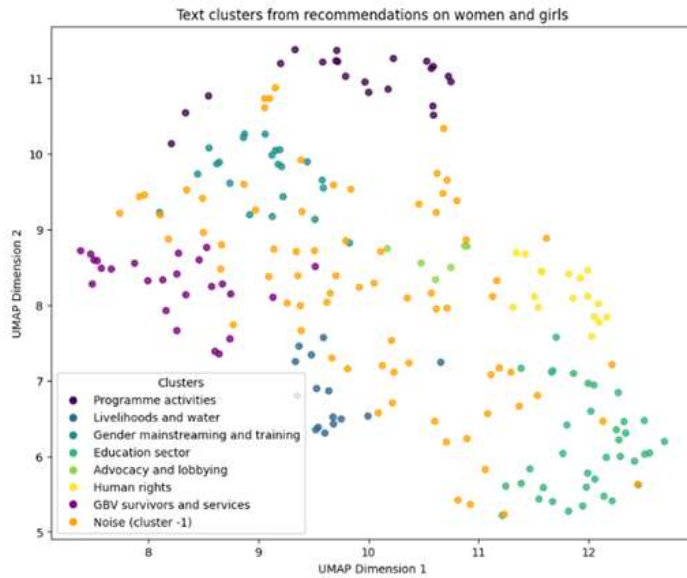


Secondly, the recommendations from past evaluations were analysed for semantic content using sentence transformers (all-MiniLM-L6-v2), Uniform Manifold Approximation and Projection (UMAP) for dimensionality reduction (15 neighbours, 5 components,



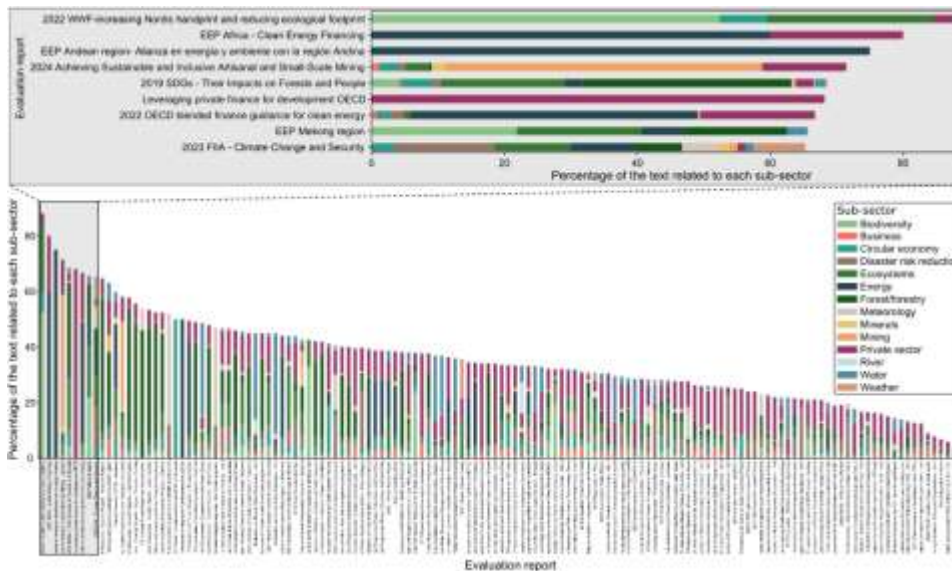
metric=cosine, fixed random state), and then HDBSCAN clustering. The topic clusters pointed to common recommendation clusters of the evaluation topic.

Figure: Recommendations from past evaluations analysed for semantic content.



Source: Development Evaluation Unit

Use of NLP for Topic Identification in Reports



During the inception phase of the evaluation, the team applied NLP techniques to identify thematic topics in reports. The analysis helped the evaluation team to identify relevant documentary material. The step served the desk review phase and made document analysis more efficient.

Source: Evaluation team and Particip GmbH