

Mastering Theory-Based Impact Evaluation

Maastricht (NL), 7-8 March 2016



European Institute of Public Administration
Institut européen d'administration publique



Introduction

Target group

This two-day seminar is directed towards public officials from EU Member States, candidate countries, the EU institutions and other multilateral institutions, as well as auditors, consultants, staff of NGOs, and other stakeholders involved in the process of impact evaluation of policies, programmes and projects.

Description

In the past, evaluation focused to a large extent on the mechanisms of delivering programmes or projects. In other words, they focused on the implementation process. Relatively little attention was paid to evaluating the impact of interventions that were being financed.

While in recent years substantial efforts have been made to promote and disseminate (quantitative) counter-factual impact evaluation practice there is much less sharing of good practice concerning so-called theory-based impact evaluation. However, while counter-factual impact evaluation can tell us how much impact an intervention makes, theory-based impact evaluation is crucial to increasing our understanding of why certain interventions work or do not work. Without this understanding, it is impossible to improve interventions. In addition, in many cases counter-factual impact evaluation is not actually a viable method, and then theory-based evaluation can still inform how the intervention is contributing to change.

This seminar will therefore focus on this theory-based impact evaluation, drawing on the latest advances made in terms of methodology. The most cited methods – Process Tracing, Congruence Analysis, Qualitative Comparative Analysis, Pawson and Tilley's Realist Evaluation, Mayne's Contribution Analysis – will all be covered and put into perspective. Several cases will be used to exemplify these methods. The seminar participants will also undertake a number of exercises to better understand the methods. An important focus of the course will be to show how theory-based impact evaluation can match the rigour associated with counter-factual impact evaluation.

The seminar is aimed at those experienced in impact evaluation who wish to further advance their capability in this field.

Learning methodology

The seminar is based on a range of presentations and interactive group work to enable participants to put their knowledge into practice. The seminar integrates case studies to allow participants to assess the quality of actual evaluations, and how they could have been improved.

Objectives

By the end of the seminar participants will be able to design and commission theory-based impact evaluations.

Programme

MONDAY 7 MARCH 2016

"How does an intervention work?" Understanding theory, inferencing and causality in theory-based evaluation

- 09.00 **Welcome and introduction to the course**
Michael Burnett, Project Leader & Expert, European Public Management, EIPA, Maastricht (NL)
- 09.15 **Theory in theory-based impact evaluation**
* A brief history of theory-based evaluation
- Chen and Rossi
 - Carol Weiss
 - Pawson and Tilley
- 09.30 **Case study: Intervention theory for a policy to give every citizen a personal development process (PDP) – a first look at a Theory of Change and a Theory of Action**
- 10.00 **Common theories as used in the social sciences**
- 10.30 Coffee break
- 11.00 **Exercise: What social science theories are underpinning the PDP case study?**
- 11.30 **Quantitative, conceptual and mechanistic theories for use in evaluations**
- 12.45 Lunch
- 14.00 **Multilevel mechanistic theories: desires, beliefs, opportunities**
- 14.30 **Exercise: Discover the theory behind a behavioural change case study**
- 15.00 **Exercise: Construct a mechanism for the PDP case (or for your own case)**
- 15.45 Coffee break
- 16.15 **Causal inference**
* Deductive versus inductive inference
- 16.45 **Exercise: Devise various tests for a hypothesis**
- 17.15 **Causal inference (continued)**
- Probabilistic versus deterministic causality
 - Exercise: What causal conditions can we detect?
 - Regularity versus mechanistic versus counterfactual causality
- 18.00 **End of day one**
- 18.30 Reception at Hotel Derlon

TUESDAY 8 MARCH 2016

Alternative evaluation strategies in theory-based evaluation

- 09.00 **Within case study methods for asserting causality**
- Defining and selecting cases
- 09.30 **Within case study methods for asserting causality (continued)**
- Process tracing
- 11.00 Coffee break
- 11.30 **Within case study methods for asserting causality (continued)**
- Exercise: Creating mechanism-based observable implications for the PDP case (or your own case)
- 12.15 Lunch
- 13.30 **Within case study methods for asserting causality (continued)**
- Congruence analysis
- 14.30 **Within case study methods for asserting causality (continued)**
- Exercise: Creating congruence analysis-based observable implications for the PDP case (or your own case)
- 15.15 Coffee break
- 15.45 **Within case study methods for asserting causality (continued)**
- Reframing realistic evaluation (Pawson/Tilley) and contribution analysis (Mayne)
- 16.30 **Multiple case study methods**
- Purpose of using multiple cases
 - Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA)
- 17.45 **Evaluation and end of the seminar**

Seminar Team

Michael Burnett – Moderator and EIPA Project Leader

Michael Burnett BA FCA MCIPD MCIPS qualified as a Chartered Accountant with Deloitte and Touche in the UK. He has been leading EIPA's activities in public financial management for the past eight years, including audit training for the European Court of Auditors. His other experience includes conducting several performance management studies for the UK Audit Commission, acting as adviser on value for money and procurement issues to auditors of UK sub-national authorities and setting up and running for three years a national training agency in the UK. He has more than 20 years of experience in public financial management, public procurement and PPP.

Benedict Wauters - Course Presenter

The seminar will be presented by Benedict Wauters, Deputy Director, Strategy and Organisational Development, ESF Agency, Flanders

Benedict Wauters is an expert in strategy/policy/programme/project formulation, implementation and evaluation as well as organizational development. He has worked for more than twenty years in and for multilateral public institutions (e.g. United Nations, OECD, European Commission), regional and national government departments (e.g. Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dutch Ministry of Transport, and the Belgian Regional Governments of Flanders, Brussels and Wallonia), local government (e.g. City of Antwerp) as well as NGOs and public corporations (including Greenpeace, the Flemish port of Ghent, the Dutch National Railway Company etc.).

He has been active as a consultant for Deloitte Consulting in Belgium, Policy Research Corporation in the Netherlands and as an independent expert. In addition, he has been a lecturer at the Rotterdam Business School, teaching strategy, risk management and research methodology in the Master and MBA programmes, while also chairing the school's curriculum board. Currently, he is responsible for innovation, evaluation and methodology at the European Social Fund (ESF) Agency in Flanders (Belgium) where he has been involved in restructuring the Agency and formulating its strategy as well as redesigning the way social innovation is supported by the ESF. In addition, he has led for five years the EU-wide Community of Practice on results based management. In this capacity, he also contributed to the European Commission's new toolbox on quality of public administration. At the Haagse Hogeschool in The Hague he lectures on external risk management in the Master programme on risk management. He is also responsible for the skills lab in evaluation for the Master in public management at the Antwerp Management School. He is a frequent lecturer at the European Institute for Public Administration in Maastricht on public sector management, evaluation and European Structural and Investment Funds.



General Information

Programme

The programme will commence on Monday at 09.00 and will finish on Tuesday at 17.45.

Course venue

The course will take place at the European Institute of Public Administration, O.L. Vrouweplein 22, 6211 HE Maastricht, the Netherlands, tel.: +31 43 32 96 222, fax: +31 43 32 96 296.

Working language

The course will be conducted in English.

Fee

EIPA Members* fee: €900

Regular fee: €1000

The fee includes documentation, two lunches, one reception and refreshments. Accommodation and travel costs are at the expense of the participants or their administration. Please tick the relevant box in the registration form when registering for a seminar or training course. Note that reductions cannot be accumulated. For more information, please visit EIPA's website: <http://seminars.eipa.eu> (FAQ - special discounts).

* EIPA Members can take advantage of a reduced fee; this is available to all civil servants working for one of EIPA's member countries (i.e. AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DK, FI, FR, DE, GR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LU, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, ES, SE, UK), and civil servants working for an EU institution, body or agency.

Hotel reservations

The European Institute of Public Administration has special price arrangements with a number of hotels. All hotels are within 10 minutes walking distance from EIPA.

Should you wish to make use of this possibility, please book directly via the links below. Payment is to be made directly and personally to the hotel on checking out. At the time of booking, please mention in the requested field the EIPA project number **1623601**.

- **Bastion Hotel**
www.bastionhotels.nl/en/eipa.html
- **Townhouse Hotel**
www.townhousehotels.nl/eipa
- **Hotel Derlon**
www.derlon.com/eipa
- **Designhotel Maastricht – Hampshire Eden**
www.hampshire-hotels.com/eipa

Meals

Lunches and the reception will be served at a restaurant in town. Should you require a special menu (e.g. vegetarian, diabetic), please inform the Programme Organiser so that this can be arranged.

Registration

Kindly complete the online registration form which can be found on EIPA's website <http://seminars.eipa.eu> before 15 February 2016.

Your name and address will be part of EIPA's database for our mailing purpose only. If you do not want to be included in our mailing database, please tick the box on the registration form.

Confirmation

Confirmation of registration will be forwarded to participants on receipt of the completed registration form.

Payment

Prior payment is a condition for participation. Please indicate the method of payment on the registration form. For cancellations received within 15 days before the activity begins, we will have to charge an administration fee of €150 unless a replacement participant is found.

Cancellation policy

EIPA reserves the right to cancel the seminar up to two weeks before the starting date. EIPA accepts no responsibility for any costs incurred (travel, hotel, etc.). For EIPA's cancellation policy, please visit our website <http://seminars.eipa.eu> (FAQ - cancellation policy).

Registration Form

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Surname: Title: M/F
First name:
Organisation:
Department: Current position:
Work address:
Postal code & Town: Country:
Telephone number: Fax number:
E-mail address:

Invoice information

Organisation:
Department:
Address:
Postal code & Town: Country:
VAT number: Your reference number:
E-mail address:

Payment – 1623601

The fee includes participation in the seminar, documentation,
two lunches, one reception and beverages.

- €900** (EIPA Member fee)
 €1000 (Regular fee)

Method of payment

- Bank transfer**
 Credit card

American Express card Eurocard/Mastercard Visa card

Card number: Expiry date: /

Name card holder: (in case this differs from above)

Address card holder: (in case this differs from above)

Postal code: Country: (in case this differs from above)

Card Validation Code: (the last three digits on the back of your card)

Exempt from VAT by virtue of Article 11, Para. 1 (o), Sub-para. 2 of the Dutch Law on VAT of 1968

Meals

Vegetarian → Fish allowed → Other dietary requirement:

Kindly complete the online registration form at <http://seminars.eipa.eu> before 15 February 2016

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