

► PROFEEDBACK ◀



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# Theory-based evaluation of Public Policies and Programmes



## TRAINING SCHOOL

## PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME



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## **THEORY-BASED EVALUATION OF PUBLIC POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES**

Theory-based approaches to evaluation provide the evaluator a toolkit to explore how policy interventions contribute to observed results.

The objective of the first PROFEEDBACK training school is to introduce the main concepts of theory-based policy evaluation. In this training, we would like to introduce the participants a framework for planning, execution and evaluation of projects and programs that connect to project goals and development objectives. Theory of Change in all issues is utilized to understand why and how change happens.

The overall aim of the course is to provide background knowledge to the participants to:

- Tackle basic notions related to programme theory
- Lay down basic requirements for tracing the intervention effects (outputs, outcomes and impact)
- Understand and putting a public intervention in the context
- Develop the capacity of designing the evaluation based on some specific criteria, review public interventions through a theory-based lens and take into account the relations between the criteria and the intervention theory
- Acknowledge and take into account evaluation limits

The duration of the training school will be 3 days which will cover 18 hours.

**Day 1  
Morning  
session**

(3 hours)

10.00 – 13.00

**10 – 11.30**

**Theory-based evaluation**

- Introduction to theory-based evaluation (what is theory-based evaluation, main characteristics/ principles, the importance of theory-based evaluation, when it should be used)
- Theory-based evaluation vs. other evaluation approaches (goal-free evaluation, developmental evaluation, utilization-focused evaluation etc.) (what distinguishes theory-based evaluation from other approaches, commonalities and differences between various evaluation approaches)
- Main objectives of evaluation (such as: improve a program; gain knowledge about the program's effects; provide input to decisions about the program's funding, structure, or administration)

**11.30 – 11.45**

Coffee break

**11.45 – 13.00**

**Theory-based evaluation**

- Types of theory-based evaluation (Realist / Realistic evaluation and Theory of Change approach)
- Steps for theory-based evaluation

Lunch break

**13.00 – 14.00**



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**Day 1**  
**Afternoon**  
**session**

(3 hours)  
14.00 – 17.00

**14.00 – 15.30**

Theory of change

- Principles for reconstructing a program theory
- Key TOC components such as
  - a. Long term outcome and assumptions
  - b. Challenges and intermediate outcome
  - c. Intervention pathways
  - d. Indicators

- Building blocks for theory of change

**15.30 – 15.45**

Coffee break

**15.45 – 16.30**

Case studies

- Presentation of an evaluation that used theory based approach
- Presentation of a theory of change for a programme

**16.30 – 17.00**

Q&A/ Debriefing



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**Day 2  
Morning  
session**

(3 hours)

10.00 – 13.00

**10.00 – 11.30**

From concept to practice

- Logic model and theory of change
- Developing a logic model
- From a logic model (results chain) to a theory of change

**11.30 – 11.45**

Coffee break

**11.45 – 13.00**

From concept to practice

- Using a theory of change in different types of interventions
  - Why might a government intervene?
- Other Government Interventions, Other Government Agencies*

Lunch break

**13.00 – 14.00**

**Day 2  
Afternoon  
session**

(3 hours)

14.00 – 17.00

**14.00 – 15.30**

Workshops to prepare a theory-based evaluation for a programme

Trainees will work in small groups to prepare a theory-based evaluation – a description of the programmes will be provided by trainers. Each trainer will work with a group. The trainees' groups will be formed by 5-6 members.

**15.30 – 15.45**

Coffee break

**15.45 – 17.00**

Workshops to prepare a theory-based evaluation for a programme.

Trainees will work in small groups to prepare a theory-based evaluation – a description of the programmes will be provided by trainers. Each trainer will work with a group. The trainees' groups will be formed by 5-6 members



<b>Day 3</b> Morning session (3 hours) 10.00 – 13.00	<b>10.00 – 11.30</b> Presentations of trainees' proposals for theory-based evaluation
	<b>11.30 – 11.45</b> Coffee break
	<b>11.45 – 13.00</b> Evaluation criteria: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability, coherence (OECD DAC Criteria) - Definitions of these criteria - Evaluation matrix
Lunch break	<b>13.00 – 14.00</b>
<b>Day 3</b> <b>Afternoon session</b> (3 hours) 14.00 – 17.00	<b>14.00 – 15.30</b> Evaluation matrix - Workshop with trainees on the development of an evaluation matrix
	<b>15.30 – 15.45</b> Coffee break
	<b>15.45 – 16.15</b> Q&A/ Debriefing
	<b>16.15 – 17.00</b> Closing session



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