



Exploring contemporary evaluation methods

Evaluation approaches and methods in practice



TRAINING SCHOOL

Budapest, Hungary

16-20th June 2025



1. ABOUT THE COST ACTION

The PROFEEDBACK Cost Action aims to foster the networking of the policy evaluation community at EU-level, raise awareness on the importance of evaluation policy research and improve its impact on policy-making. Policy evaluation is a key tool in understanding, developing and modernizing EU policies, thus there is growing demand for EU-wide and high-quality evaluation services.

2. THE TRAINING SCHOOL "EXPLORING CONTEMPORARY EVALUATION METHODS"

The training school is the fourth such initiative in the framework of the PROFEEDBACK Action, and it is prepared by the Working Group 1 "Theoretical concepts of evaluation", Working Group 2: Quantitative methods and data collection, Working Group 3: Qualitative and participatory methods.

The subject of the 4th Training School of COST action is **Evaluation approaches and methods in practice.**

The 3-days Training School and 2 days of Conference will take place in Budapest during the week of June 16, 2025. This period will coincide with the [9th PROFEEDBACK Conference](#), which will be held on June 18-19, 2025. Both instructors and students will have the opportunity to participate. For students, the conference will offer a valuable case study opportunity, and they will also have the chance to present posters prepared during the Training School.

1. For more information please visit [Action CA20112 - COST](#)

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3. The connection between the two events lies in their complementary nature, both in content and opportunities for participants. The 4th Training School focuses on exploring contemporary evaluation methods and their practical applications, while the 9th PROFEEDBACK Conference addresses the evaluation of education and youth policies. The conference provides a valuable case study opportunity for Training School participants to study the methods they have learned. This synergy allows participants to deepen their understanding of evaluation methods through real-world examples and enhances their practical experience. Both events offer an integrated learning experience, combining theoretical knowledge with hands-on application and peer learning opportunities.

CONFERENCE DETAILS:

- Date: June 18-19, 2025
- Location: Budapest, Hungary
- Host: HÉTFA Research Institute
- Event Type: Hybrid conference on the theme "Shaping the Future: Evaluating Programs and Policies in Public Education and Youth Development.

The conference will provide a platform for evaluators, policymakers, and researchers to exchange insights and present innovative approaches to evaluating youth and education policies. Key topics include:

- Youth inclusion, NEET programs, and school-to-work transition
- Social innovation and the role of community spaces in supporting youth and mental health
- Evaluation of educational policies, including strategies to prevent early school leaving and promote informal education

The Training School comprises two pillars: the first introducing several overarching approaches in evaluation, such as: realist evaluation and contribution analysis, while the second delves into more technical aspects through practical sessions focused on advanced evaluation method. The goal of the Training School is to provide participants with hands-on experience and the opportunity to apply a variety of evaluation methods that are highly regarded within the evaluation community.

The sessions may address the following aspects (non-exhaustive list):

1. Review key approaches and methods used in evaluation (objectives, key steps, types of required data and analyses, in what types of evaluation do they fit best and what are their main limitations or challenges, by method),
2. Present examples and case-studies where these approaches and methods have been applied,
3. Develop and put at disposal of participants a library with evaluations using the addressed methods,
4. Conduct practical exercises for applying each method.

As horizontal objectives of the training school, the sessions will aim to facilitate discussions and dialogue among trainees, to provide participants with the necessary circumstances in order to apply the acquired knowledge, by using the workshop method and further to encourage peer learning by given the opportunity the chance to present and propose debate subjects based on their own experience related to the topic of the training.

At the end of the training school, it is expected that all participants should have acquired a common understanding, in line with the most recent development in the field (both from an academic perspective and practical one).

Training School dates: 16-20th June 2025

Host Institution: HÉTFA Research Institution, Budapest, Hungary

Trainers:

- Marijana Sumpor
- Sari Rannanpää
- Kalterina Shulla

3. TARGET GROUP

The training school is being prepared for young researchers from the academic as well as, civil servants and people working in private organizations. Applicants should be comparatively new to the field of evaluation. Nonetheless, they should have a certain experience in public policy.

4. APPLICATION

Deadline for applications is 10th March 2025. To apply, please submit:

- Your CV (e.g. in the Europass-format, <https://europa.eu/europass/de/create-europass-cv>); **maximum** 3 pages. A list of relevant publications as part of the CV and/or projects/reports from the field of public policy research or practice (with the 5 most relevant publications);
- A motivation letter (1 pages), showing a) how the training school relates to your previous work, b) how you can contribute to the training school (experience to be shared and learned from), c) how you characterize the virtues and challenges of evaluation and d) how you expect the training school to contribute to your future work and what would be the added value of the topics.

The documents submitted should contain the information needed in order for the Selection Committee to assess the application based on criteria below.

5. ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

To be eligible, your application must show:

- to be under 40 years old;
- that you hold a university degree, at least MA level;
- that you have not participated in previous training schools organized by PROFEEDBACK
- experience of working in the field of public policy (e.g., you have been working in public policy projects – as a researcher, practitioner, expert, or you're a PhD student);

The following selection criteria will be applied to the eligible applicants

- Level of experience related to public policy area: This specific experience should be highlighted in the applicant's CV.

4. with the exception of those who have already turned 41 years old in the current year (2025)

- **Motivation:** The motivation of the applicant as shown in a short motivation letter (1 pages). The motivation should show a personal and specific interest of the applicant to participate in the training school. It should link the training school to previous experience and expertise and sketch how the applicant can contribute to the training school.
- **Potential use:** The potential use as shown in the motivation letter. The expected use of the training school should be linked to future professional activities. These might be academic (e.g. a PhD-thesis) or applied (e.g. coming evaluation projects).

If more than 12 applicants fulfill the selection criteria, the following additional criteria will be applied:

- Previous experience related to evaluation of public programmes and policies, such as: evaluation projects or academic research / papers or other courses, trainings in the area of related to evaluation of public interventions;
- Being a member of Working Groups in the PROFEEDBACK COST Action;
- Being a member of PROFEEDBACK COST Action;
- Being a COST member, but in another action;
- Gender balance: Gender should be evenly represented, to the possible extent;
- Regional balance: different countries should be represented.

6. THE SELECTION PROCESS

The selection will be carried out by a Selection Committee in two steps:

- **Eligibility assessment** – check if applicants fulfil the eligibility criteria. Clarifications will be required if information provided is not clear and does not allow the eligibility assessment to be carried out.

Eligibility Report – a report containing the results of the eligibility assessment will be published on PROFEEDBACK webpage and sent to all applicants.

- Selection assessment – check and score the extent to which the eligible applicants fulfil the selection criteria.

Selection Report – a report containing the results of the selection assessment will be published on PROFEEDBACK webpage and sent to all eligible applicants.

7. DATES AND OTHER INFORMATION

- Deadline for applications: 10 March 2025.
- Please send your application containing all documents mentioned above to Mrs. Mihaela Aioanei (mihaela.aioanei@qures.ro)
- Deadline for eligibility assessment: 23 March 2025
- Deadline for selection assessment: 23 March 2025

IMPORTANT!

If accepted, you will be expected to attend all 3 days of the training school and 2 days of the conference. After receiving the acceptance notification, each trainee must register for an e-COST profile at <https://e-services.cost.eu> in order to receive an official invitation letter from the COST Association (if they are not already COST members).

The COST PROFEEDBACK Action will support **travel costs up to a limit of 300 EUR**, and a daily allowance for all 12 trainees. If you anticipate needing more than this amount for your travel, please inform us in advance by emailing reimbursementprofeedback@hetfa.hu for approval.

The daily allowance will be provided for the entire duration of the event (5 days) as well as for travel days (which can include one day before or after the event), but it is capped at 1200 EUR per person.

Participants are responsible for booking their own accommodation and travel modes according to their needs. The COST will reimburse the expenses upon submission of a claim. Reimbursement will be processed within 30 days from the submission of the claim.

Each participant that will complete the training school will receive a certificate of participation. For additional information, please contact Mrs. Mihaela Aioanei (mihaela.aioanei@qures.ro).

CONTACT

For further information, please contact profeedback@hetfa.hu

Visit website: <https://profeedback.eu>

USEFUL DOCUMENTS

COST Annotated Rules - access [here](#)

PROFEEDBACK Memorandum of Understanding - access [here](#)

Reimbursement rules for the Budapest Training School- access [here](#)

Reimbursement Guide - access [here](#)

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