

## **THEORY-BASED EVALUATION**

### *Training course outline*

Date: **2-4 March 2016**

Place: **Tallinn, Estonia**

Venue: **Tornimäe 5, III floor, Praxis Centre for Policy Studies**

Over the last 20 years, theory-based evaluation approaches have increasingly been used in evidence-based policy making in all over the world. Theory-based evaluations are now widely used for assessing interventions' impact on policy making and helping evaluators to address a variety of social challenges.

**Estonian Evaluation Society ESTES** would like to invite you to participate in a three-day training course about theory-based evaluation methods in order to explore practical application of this methodology in Estonian context and help you to conduct more thorough evaluations. During the course we will look into four main theory-based evaluation methods: Contribution Analysis, Process Tracing, Realist Evaluation and Qualitative Comparative Analysis. We'll learn basic features of these methods, when and how they can be used, what the differences between different methods are, how they can be combined and how to ensure validity and quality of these methods. You'll be able to use the basic features of these methods from day one after the course, and will have a good basis to build on to master the more advanced features. All concepts presented during the training will be applied to real life evaluations and explored interactively by working groups. The lectures will be "interrupted" frequently by group works, so as to ensure that concepts are assimilated and ready to be applied in everyday work.

### *Preliminary programme:*

#### **Day 1: 2 March 2016 at 9.30 - 17.00**

1. Contribution Analysis and Process Tracing: a combined approach

Morning: 1.1 Introduction to Contribution Analysis

Afternoon: 1.2 Introduction to Process Tracing and combination with Contribution Analysis

#### **Day 2: 3 March 2016 at 9.30 – 17.00**

Morning: 1.3 Bayesian updating in Process Tracing and Contribution Analysis

2. Realist Evaluation and Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA): a combined approach

Afternoon: 2.1 Introduction to Realist Evaluation

#### **Day 3: 4 March 2016 9.30 – 15.00**

Morning: 2.2 Introduction to QCA

Afternoon: 2.3 Application of QCA procedures and interpretation with Realist Evaluation

**The trainer** is Barbara Befani, an experienced evaluator and trainer on evaluation methods. She is an independent Evaluation Researcher / Consultant with (European) PhD in Socio-Economic and Statistical Studies (thesis in Evaluation Methodology) and MSc in Social Statistics. Research Associate at the University of East Anglia, former Research Fellow at the Institute of Development Studies. Nine years of experience in evaluation research, training and consultancy. Her fields of expertise are: set-theoretic and probabilistic approaches to impact evaluation (QCA and Process Tracing);

methodological appropriateness, or criteria to combine / mix methods and approaches in IE designs; models for causal analysis in IE. Recently developed interest: the contribution of complexity science and systems thinking to IEs. Elected Board Member of the European Evaluation Society (2012-2015) and current EES Secretary General, Programme Coordinator of the next 12<sup>th</sup> EES biennial conference in Maastricht (2016). Past or current member of the American Evaluation Association, the UK Evaluation Society and the Swedish Evaluation Society. Fluent in English, French and Italian; intermediate knowledge of Spanish and Swedish.

**Registration** to the training course is open until 20 February 2016 at [katre.eljas-taal@technopolis-group.com](mailto:katre.eljas-taal@technopolis-group.com). More information is available on the same contact.

**The participation fee** for ESTES members is €350 and for non-ESTES participants €500<sup>1</sup>. The participation fee should be paid before the training course to ESTES account. An invoice will be issued within two working days after your registration. The payment guarantees your participation at the training course. Please be aware that we can accept only the first 25 participants (payments) due to the limited availability of places at the venue.

Waiting for your active participation,

Your ESTES  
Katre Eljas-Taal  
Katrín Pihor  
Kerli Müürisepp  
Liina Kirsipuu

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<sup>1</sup> Estonian Evaluation Society ESTES is a non-VAT payer