

## Training Workshop

22nd October 2015

Velkopřevorský palác - Velkopřevorské náměstí 4, Prague 1

### Schedule:

8:30 -9:00 a.m. registration and welcome coffee  
9:00 a.m.– start of the lecture  
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.- lecture  
10:30-10:50 a.m.– coffee break  
10:50-12:30 a.m.- lecture  
12:30-1:15 p.m.– lunch  
1:15 -2:45 p.m.- lecture  
2:45-3:00 p.m. – coffee break  
3:00-4:00 p.m.- lecture  
around 4:00 p.m. end of the lecture

### Seminar 1

#### How to get at the impact of ESIF interventions? Going beyond counterfactuals.

Lecturer: Benedict Wauters

The seminar is aimed at persons interested in knowing what “impact” actually means and which research methods are available and suitable to assess this impact of ESIF interventions. The seminar will use several examples to show that different approaches can answer different kinds of questions but that none of them can answer all questions. While the seminar does not aim to provide in depth methodological guidelines, it will, via examples, provide a good understanding of key differences between methods.

#### Block 1

- Shift in requirements from the EC concerning programme evaluation towards “impact”
- Impact: what is it really? Common examples of “impact” evaluation

#### Block 2

- The counterfactual perspective

#### Block 3

- Case study: Cognitive skills training programme in prisons for reduction of recidivism
- Case study: Community policing effect on crime
- Questions counterfactuals can and cannot answer
- Discussion

#### Block 4

- Theory based impact evaluation to the rescue
- What is “theory”?
  - Social science framework of theory
  - Some common “grand theories”
  - A case of a “middle of the road theory” in an ESF programme: “Personal Development Process” for employees
    - Formulated as a set of propositions
    - Visualized as a “theory of change”
    - Depicted as a “mechanism”

#### Block 5

- Using realistic evaluation / process tracing
- Using contribution / congruence analysis

#### Block 6

- Case: what would be the effect on timeliness of introducing a financial penalty for bringing kids in late in the kindergarten?
- Questions a TBIE can and cannot answer
- Discussion

#### More information about lecturer:



**Benedict Wauters**

Benedict Wauters 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, local government as well as NGOs and public corporations.

He has been active as a consultant for Deloitte Consulting, Policy Research Corporation and as an independent expert. In addition, he has been a core lecturer at the Rotterdam Business School, teaching strategy, risk management and research methodology in the Master and MBA programmes. Within the Hogeschool Rotterdam, he has also taught 'consulting skills' for professionals.

Currently, he is responsible for innovation, evaluation and methodology at the European Social Fund (ESF) Agency in Flanders. In addition, he has led for five years the EU-wide Community of Practice on results based management which looked at new and better ways to manage the public sector, including programmes such as the ESF.

At the Haagse Hogeschool in The Hague he lectures in 'external risk management' in the Master in 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 and the European Academy for Taxes, Economics and Law in Berlin concerning public sector management, evaluation and the European Structural and Investment Funds.

## Seminar 2 Evidence-based policy, big data and evaluation Lecturer: Marek Havrda

The policymakers continuously strive to show that (a) the policy they propose will help address a given societal problem and (b) the policy they have launched delivers the promised results. Due to the complex world we live in, this task is not an easy one - the new social reality is being influenced by number of factors, and the policy in question is merely one of them.

Luckily, there are new developments which could help us address the puzzle. The first group of new developments is related to methodology. In particular, more and more the governments in developed

countries as well as donors of development-cooperation utilize Randomised Controlled Trials (RCTs) to evaluate their policies. In addition, the insights of Behavioural Economics are more frequently used to design new policies. The second group of new developments has been enabled by new technologies. In particular, our day-to-day activities produce more and more data (or digital trace) which is being stored and (could be) analysed. According to Global Pulse, a UN initiative, the Big Data hold the potential—as yet largely untapped— to allow decision makers to track the impact of policies and programmes and understand where existing policies and programmes require adjustment.

During the workshop we will look into these notions in relation to their practical potential for current evaluation practice of the ESIF. We will review examples of the use of RCTs (and also some cases where the RCTs were not used to the detriment of the target group and society at large). We will also examine selected systematic behaviour biases, which often influence the impact of policy interventions. Finally, we will look into the potential use of Big Data, again based on concrete examples.

The most effective way of learning is experience. Therefore, the afternoon sessions will be devoted to hands-on workshop where the participants will try to apply the new knowledge to the programmes and projects they deal with in their professional environment. We will try to address the data needs, design of calls, and last but not least to square the ideal academic requirements for rigorous evaluation and practical limitations (resources, time, institutional settings, etc.).

#### More information about lecturer:



**Marek Havrda**

Marek Havrda is an economist and sociologist. He worked in the European Commission, where he contributed to the Impact Assessment of new legislation and to the use of behavioural economics for policy formulation. Previously, he worked in think-tanks and the private sector. He studied at Charles University, Warwick Business School, Johns Hopkins University and Georgetown University. After returning to the Czech Republic he works on a start-up connecting social sciences and information technology. He also serves as an Advisor at the Ministry of Finance and is a member of the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) Board of the Legislative Council of the Czech Government.