



planning, monitoring
and evaluation

Department:
Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



PSPPD | PROGRAMME TO
SUPPORT PRO-POOR
POLICY DEVELOPMENT



UKaid
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SPME Project



Graduate School of
Development Policy
and Practice

Evidence-Based Policy-Making and Implementation

executive course

27-29 May 2015

Kloofzicht Lodge and Spa, Muldersdrift, Gauteng

Presented by UCT's Graduate School of Development Policy and Practice (GSDPP) in collaboration with the Department of Performance, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) and the Programme to Support Pro-Poor Policy Development (PSPPD) in the Presidency

This programme is an executive course for strategic leaders and top managers in the public service and is being offered for the third time, but this time in Gauteng. It is designed to assist participants to use evidence to make well informed decisions about policies, programmes, projects and services and to improve government's impact on society.

There is increasing pressure on policy makers to develop more effective policies and to direct and manage resources in more focused and efficient ways that result in improved implementation and outcomes. Evidence-based policy-making is an approach that has become increasingly prevalent in recent years. It is based on the premise that better policies and better decision-making result when these are based on sound empirical evidence and solid rational analysis. It is also critical to use evidence to improve implementation. Evidence-Based Policy-Making and Implementation (EBPM&I) therefore focuses on establishing rigorously objective evidence as a key informant of policy, but also for improving implementation of public services.

However, there are many areas of government which are not well served by quantitative research, leading to debate about the methods and instruments that are considered critical for the collection of relevant evidence. In addition to data, understanding institutional policy- and decision-making processes, analytical skills and political support are seen as important elements. This course aims to engage with this debate and help leaders understand how evidence can help them to make the best decisions about policies, programmes, services and budgets.

Graduate School of Development Policy and Practice

Strategic leadership for Africa's public sector

EBPM&I tools include qualitative research, empirical research, action research, pilot projects and reflections, clinical trials, stakeholder engagements, expert input, case studies/ diaries/ photographic stories/ autobiographies, evaluations, impact assessments and appraisals. Some of these will be discussed during the course.

The programme

The course will unpack the different influences on policy-making and implementation processes (facts, experiences, expertise, judgement, politics and institutional capacity) and the ways in which evidence can be incorporated into the management process. It will analyse the different types of evidence and their usefulness in different arenas. The course will be very practical, using case studies and drawing on participants' experiences, as well as global thinking and best practice.

The three day programme will cover:

- The uses of evidence in public policy and decision-making processes
- Examples of EBPM&I tools and the institutional culture and structures required to support more effective use of evidence in the policy process, programmes, project and service management for strategic decision-making and implementation
- Practical application of the lessons learnt to strengthen current policy and implementation processes.

What will participants gain from attending the course?

- An understanding of the factors that influence policy and implementation processes and the difference between evidence and opinion
- An understanding of the reason for, and the method of constructing, a theory of change
- An understanding of how the use of evidence can improve the performance of leaders and departments as well as the implementation and impact of policies
- An opportunity to reflect on existing policy-making and management processes, their strengths and limitations
- An understanding of tools for evidence-based policy-making and implementation
- An understanding of the role of evidence in managing political and other influences on the policy and implementation process.

Resource people

Dr Sibongile Muthwa

BA (SW) (Fort Hare), BA (SW) Hons (Wits), MSc (SPPDC), PhD (London)

Sibongile has international work experience in non-government, development, and public sectors, as well as in academia. Currently she is the Deputy Vice Chancellor: Institutional Support at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. Dr Muthwa has in the past served in various structures, including, the Joint Universities Public Management Education Trust (Chairperson) and Applied Fiscal Review Centre (AfreC). She currently serves on the boards of Seriti Institute, Women in Dialogue Trust, University Sports Company and Curro Holdings. Between 2004 and 2010 Sibongile served as the Director General of the Eastern Cape Provincial Government. She is also a Commissioner for the Financial and Fiscal Commission.

Philip Davies heads 3ie's European office under which Africa falls. 3ie funds impact evaluations and systematic reviews that generate evidence on what works in development programmes and why. It focuses on generating high quality evidence that contributes to effective policy-making for the poor. He was previously the Executive Director of Oxford Evidentia, a research consultancy company specializing in public policy analysis, monitoring and evaluation, and knowledge transfer. From 2000-2007 he was a senior civil servant in the UK Cabinet Office and HM Treasury, responsible for policy evaluation and analysis.

About the Graduate School of Development Policy and Practice

The School provides professional and academic training for senior government officials, elected office bearers and those engaged in public policy in South Africa, other African countries and beyond. It also engages in research, consultancy and policy advice on issues related to development policy and practice in Africa. In doing so, it builds on the academic resources of the different faculties at the University of Cape Town, as well as those of local and international partners. It seeks to strengthen links between the research community and the policy community and promotes the development of strategic leadership in government, including a strong emphasis on accountability in government.

What other participants liked about the course

“It is important that work is informed by evidence. If you don't use evidence effectively you could be prescribing inappropriate medication.”

“It is good to see that there are different sources of evidence available and one does not need to recreate as there is a whole body of knowledge out there that we need to tap into doing our every day work.”

“The course enabled me to see the gaps in the work that I am currently doing and going back home I will be able to plug the gaps and even to strengthen the areas that are working every well.”

“Being able to take time out and just learn.”

How to apply?

Applications close on Thursday 30 April. Space is limited so we suggest you apply as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Participation will be confirmed by Monday 4 May at the latest. On confirmation you will receive payment details. Payment must be received by no later than the 15 May 2015.

To participate you need to be:

- A senior official, from Director General to Chief Director level, in a national or provincial government department in South Africa, tasked with managing policy processes. (It is preferable that a management team from a department attends, as they will get a lot more from the course and find it easier to implement in the department.)
- In a position to influence and/or apply new approaches to policy-making and implementation

To apply, please complete and submit the attached application form.

Costs

- Course fees R9,000 (nine thousand ZAR) per delegate payable in advance

Course fees include course attendance, course materials, meals and parking.

Please note that transport and accommodation need to be booked and paid for by your department.

The course itself will take place at Kloofzicht Hotel and Spa which is a 5 star establishment in Muldersdrift Gauteng. Directions will be provided.

For more information or to apply please contact

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University of Cape Town Graduate School of Development Policy and Practice