



# Impact Evaluation of Public Policies, Programmes and Projects

## Rationale

A large share of official development aid is being channelled through Development Cooperation projects and programmes or to support a policy change. Such interventions are often targeting vulnerable groups and they have important social as well as economic objectives. How much reliance shall countries and development agencies place on such programmes remain however a critical question. As policy makers and development practitioners consider measures to help vulnerable groups, they are often challenged by the lack of information on what their options are, what has worked well in the past and in which context it has succeeded or on what has been already experienced as ineffective options in achieving the desirable outcomes. Information is also needed on how the impact came about, what factors can help reach similar outcomes, and how cost-effective are such programmes in the long-run.

In this context, conducting rigorous impact evaluations with additional information on their cost-benefits appears essential. It can help us to understand whether or not these interventions have had an impact, how large the impact was, who has benefited, in which circumstances it worked, how cost-effective they were, and ultimately provides the basis for sound policy making and effective development assistance. Evaluating impact is also particularly important in the current financial context in which public sector resources are scarce; impact assessments generate new knowledge that then provides a critical input to the appropriate design of future projects, programmes and policies.

Recognising the need to support the capacity to conduct and interpret impact evaluations, the ILO International Training Centre (ITC-ILO) is organising a course on impact evaluation and cost-benefit analysis of public policies, programmes and projects.

## Objectives

The direct objective of the course is to provide a thorough introduction to the concepts and methods used for conducting impact evaluation and cost-benefit analysis.

The goal of an impact evaluation is to attribute impacts to a certain policy, programme, or project as well as to assess the relevance and effectiveness of an intervention. To this end a comparison group has to be constructed to measure what would have happened to the policy or programme beneficiaries had the intervention not taken place. The process of identifying this group, collecting the needed data, and conducting the relevant cost-benefits analysis requires a lot of careful, thorough thought and planning.

Specifically, the training will serve the three following objectives:

- Improve understanding of concepts and methods for appropriate counter-factual impact evaluation and cost-effectiveness of Development projects and programmes;
- Help identify impact evaluation options that recognise budget, time and data constraints, and that best suit the needs of specific programmes, countries and institutional context;
- Strengthen the technical capability to understand, interpret and identify the pros and cons of quantitative impact evaluations (experimental and quasi-experimental design), qualitative impact evaluations and costs-benefits analysis.

## Participants

This training technical specialists in charge of monitoring and evaluation of projects and programmes as well as officials from Line Ministries, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Finance, the UN and NGOs. The course is also intended to fit the needs of social partners engaged in the design and implementation of development projects and programmes. Members of the research community contributing to the design, implementation and evaluation of public policies are also invited to join.

# Programmes and Projects

## Course Methodology

The course duration is one week and will be held in Turin, Italy, at the ILO International Training Center, which offers unique residential facilities in a site shared with other UN agencies. The course will be prepared and delivered by ITCILO's experienced experts.

The training will rely on the development of a range of advanced training materials bringing together theoretical concepts and practical case studies. The training methodology will balance classroom lecturing with clinics. The clinics will focus on the preparation of a monitoring and impact evaluation plan for selected programmes, which will serve as live case studies during the course. These programmes will be at the beginning of the course on the basis of their implementation plans.

The course will be conducted in English therefore a good command of English is required.

## Workshop Content

- M&E system in Development Cooperation projects and programmes
- Concept and methods for impact evaluations
- Cost-benefit and costs-effectiveness analyses
- Conducting an impact evaluation under budget, time and data constraints
- Workshop "Clinic". As a practical complement to the theoretical lectures, the participants will commit a substantial part of their study time to group work. Moving from concepts to real-world situation, a series of sessions will allow participants to work on the development of sound plans for monitoring and evaluating the impact of existing or forthcoming Development Cooperation projects and programmes. With the steady assistance of the course facilitators, participants will elaborate strategies defining the most appropriate impact evaluation method that can be used given the specific nature of their intervention, data and budget constraints, and policy and country context.

## Cost of participation

The cost of participation in this one-week programme is **Euro 2,250** payable in advance by the participant's sponsoring organisation.

This covers:

- **tuition fee**, which includes the use of the Centre's training facilities and associated support services, books and training materials, routine medical care and insurance;
- **participant fee**, which covers:
  - full-board accommodation at the Centre.

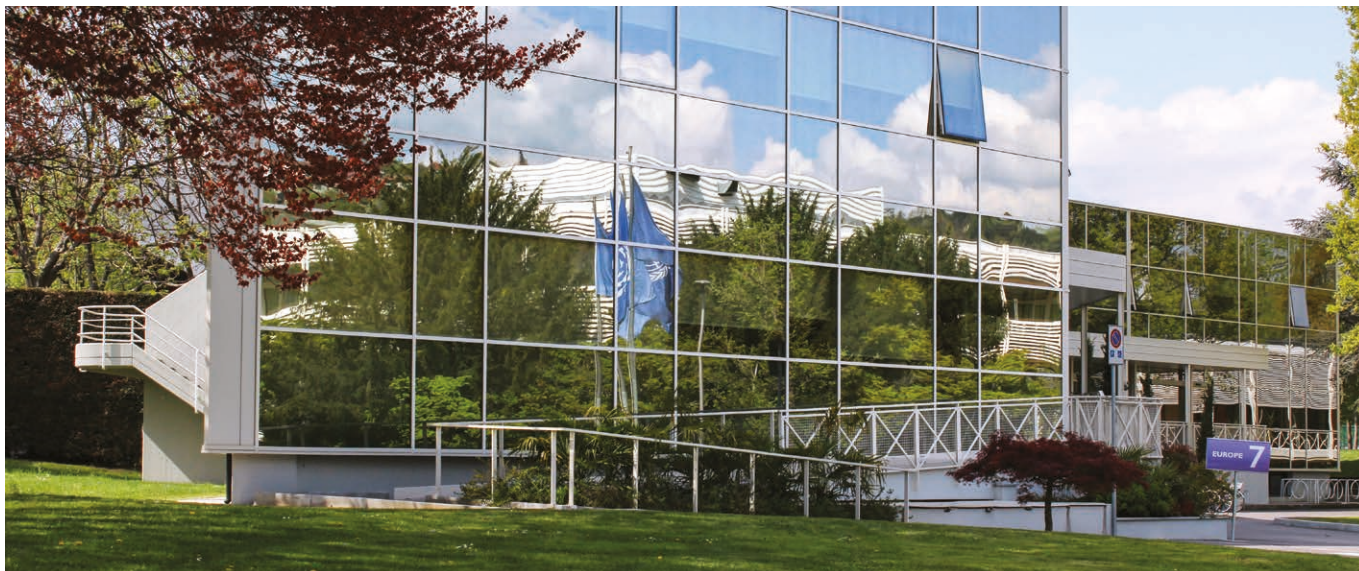
Main travel between the participant's home country and Turin **is not included**.

For information regarding payment, cancellation and refunds, please consult:

<http://www.itcilo.org/en/training-offer/how-to-apply>.

Fellowships for training programmes conducted by ITCILO generally become available through the training allocations of development projects financed by International Financial Institutions or by United Nations' agencies, bilateral technical co-operation agencies, governments and/or private enterprises. Candidates are encouraged to contact these organisations and agencies in their countries to enquire about the availability of funds for fellowship training programmes.





## The ILO Turin Centre's facilities

Located in an attractive park on the banks of the River Po, the Centre's campus provides a congenial environment in which to live and study.

- It contains 21 pavilions with fully equipped modern classrooms, conference halls and meeting rooms fitted out for multilingual simultaneous interpretation, a computer laboratory, and a computerized documentation centre linked to various data banks.

The campus has 287 study/bedrooms, all with private bathrooms, telephones and cable television. It also has:

- a reception desk open 24 hours a day;
- a restaurant, a self-service canteen and a coffee lounge, all catering for international dietary needs;
- a bank;
- a travel agency;
- a laundry service;
- a post office;
- an internet point;
- a recreation room;
- facilities for outdoor and indoor sports;
- an infirmary.

Social events are regularly held both on and off campus, so that participants from different cultural backgrounds can make the most of the stimulating international climate.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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