

EASY-ECO Bilbao Training on EvAluation of Sustainability

6-10 July 2009

Department of Applied Economics,
University of Basque Country, Spain

This EASY-ECO Series Event is sponsored by



MARIE CURIE ACTIONS



EASY-ECO has been awarded an Official Decade Project by the German Commission for UNESCO.

Status December 2008

The third training in the EASY-ECO 2008-2010 series of trainings and conferences will take place in the historic city of Bilbao, the largest city in the Basque Country in northern Spain. The training provides a possibility for young researchers to enhance their knowledge and competences in evaluation and impact assessment of sustainability. The training is sponsored by the European Union's Marie Curie Actions, offering a grant covering all costs of participation to almost all participants.

Participants

The target group of the training are young researchers (less than ten years of experience) with a strong interest in the areas of evaluation and/or sustainable development. Participants from the sustainability/evaluation field may be studying for their doctorates, working in a government department, in public administration, in NGOs, or for international organisations.

Importantly, EU-Grants are available to cover all costs (travel expenses, participation fees, accommodation and living allowance) for participants of this target group. Young researchers are highly encouraged to visit a conference, and then attend one of the EASY-ECO trainings, all of which can be covered by an EU-Grant. Ideally, participants will submit a paper on an aspect of evaluation of sustainability to one of the conferences following their training. Full details on eligibility for grants is given on the EASY-ECO website www.easy-eco.eu.



Theme

Evaluation of sustainability of projects, programmes and policies is becoming increasingly important in all European member states. Most governments as well as the European Commission have introduced regulatory impact assessment procedures as part of their own policy-making. Environmental impact assessment (EIA), strategic environmental assessment (SEA), sustainability appraisal and other forms of evaluation are used to evaluate interventions in areas such as development assistance, infrastructural development, energy or EU's agricultural and structural funds. We consider evaluations as one of the key tools for transition to sustainability.

The six EASY-ECO trainings each provide an opportunity to enable 30-40 participants to develop practical competences to conduct actual sustainability evaluation projects and become members in a thematic network of leading scientists and practitioners. To this end, each training consists of a 3-4 month period of e-learning (with content identical for each training) and a one-week on-site training devoted to specific themes.

This training focuses on:

- the roles of evaluation in the policy cycle (such as learning, accountability, improvement, capacity building, policy integration, participation and institutional change);
- approaches to evaluation (such as utilization-focused evaluation, deliberative democratic evaluation or theory-driven evaluation);
- stages of evaluation (from analyzing the tender through evaluation design to collecting, analyzing and aggregating data to communicating findings);
- methods and techniques to conduct evaluation (including quantitative and qualitative data collection methods, participatory techniques, valuation and integration methods, indicators and indices);
- political context of evaluation and evaluation markets.

Deadline for application is 6 January 2009!



Structure of the training

The **e-learning phase** will start in the second half of February 2009 and end in May 2009. E-learning is designed to be flexible (mostly asynchronous and allowing a vacation or a work-related break) and interactive. The expected time investment is approximately 80 hours of course work, including reading prepared texts and selected articles, watching videos and participating in forum discussions with other participants and evaluation experts. E-learning will be supported by a moderator who will also monitor learning progress. Based on performance in the first half of the e-course **approximately 80 to 90**

per cent of trainees will be awarded with EU-grants to cover their participation in the on-site training.

The **on-site training** will take place 6-10 July 2009 in Bilbao, Spain, and is organized by the Department of Applied Economics of the University of Basque Country in Spain. Before the training, each participant chooses one of three offered evaluation projects from the focal themes of the training as a case study. The resulting three groups of about 10-15 persons each will have the opportunity to work for one week with the actual evaluation case study under the guidance of an experienced evaluator, dealing hands-on with the different steps of an evaluation according to the structure outlined below.

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
9:00 – 10:30	Introductions	Developing quality checklists	Developing an evaluation design, choosing methods	Performing data collection	Formulating and delivering evaluation findings and recommendations
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break
11:00 – 12:30	Introducing the background of the case study, analysing a call for an evaluation	Stakeholder analysis and involvement strategy	Developing an evaluation design, choosing methods	Performing data collection	Formulating and delivering evaluation findings and recommendations
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
14:00 – 15:30	Introducing the background of the case study, analysing a call for an evaluation	Stakeholder analysis and involvement strategy	Writing an offer, including a budget, analysis of the actual offer	Analysis of data, aggregation and weighting	Official conclusion of the training, reflection
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break
16:00 – 17:30	Choosing an evaluation approach	Designing a communication strategy	Writing an offer, including a budget, analysis of the actual offer	Analysis of data, aggregation and weighting	Departure

The Host of the Training

The **Department of Applied Economics at the University of the Basque Country** includes more than fifty professors specialised in diverse disciplines, whose teaching and research tasks are conducted in cooperation with a number of Faculties and Schools. The Department's academic activity has been gradually integrated into various national and international research networks, developing a variety of specialized thematic areas for economic analysis as well as to be examined by multidisciplinary research teams. Special attention is also given to research in gender areas.

Research of the Department has traditionally aimed to develop two main research areas: globalization and economic cooperation; and local and regional development. There is, however, an increasing interest within the Department in issues of sustainable development and evaluation, resulting in intensive participation in international programmes in Europe and South America and implementation of formative projects connected to Agenda 21.

Sustainable development and its evaluation has been confirmed as a strong area of both research and practice of the Department, seeking to integrate both a global/international perspective as well as local concerns, and closely involving stakeholders from various sectors of both local society and as well as various parts of the world.

For further information and questions on the EASY-ECO training in Bilbao, please contact:

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Further Information and Bookings: <http://www.easy-eco.eu>

