

EASY-ECO Training on Evaluation of Sustainability of Development Assistance Projects and Programs

27 September - 1 October 2010

Czech Republic Country Office of the Regional Environmental Center (REC), Prague

This EASY-ECO Series Event is sponsored by



MARIE CURIE ACTIONS



REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
Czech Republic

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

Status: June 2010

The sixth and the last training in the EASY-ECO 2008-2010 series of trainings and conferences will provide young researchers and interested practitioners with the final opportunity to participate at an EASY-ECO 3-month e-learning course and a one-week on-site training on evaluation of sustainability. The training aims to enhance participants' knowledge on and competences in evaluation of sustainability of development assistance projects and programs. The training is hosted by the Czech Republic Country Office of the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC). The training venue is located in a restored historical building of an old school in the town of Slavonice in the southern part of Czech Republic. The training is sponsored by the EU Marie Curie Action, offering a grant covering all costs of participation to most of the participants.

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 evaluation as one of the key tools for transition to sustainability.

Each EASY-ECO training provides 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 an e-learning course on evaluation of sustainable development lasting 3 months and a one-week on-site training devoted to specific themes.

This last training in the series focuses on evaluation of development assistance in the context of sustainable development. Over the last years, numerous donors such as OECD or the UN agencies started to evaluate development assistance projects and programmes on social and environmental grounds, also experimenting with various forms of partnership with recipient governments and other stakeholders. The Millennium Development Goals' framework has also lent development assistance a distinctly SD-related character. In addition, the issue of financial and institutional sustainability (i.e. the ability of development assistance projects to continue functioning and providing benefits even after the termination of financial support) is of key interest to donors. All three cases in this training are foreseen to be actual evaluations of development assistance projects and programmes.

Participants

The main target group of the training are young researchers (less than ten years of experience) with a strong interest in the areas of evaluation, sustainable development (SD) and development assistance. Participants 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 also visit an EASY-ECO conference (EU grants are also available) before or after attending one of the EASY-ECO trainings. 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 can be found on the EASY-ECO website www.easy-eco.eu.

Deadline for application is ~~30 June~~ 12 July 2010!



Themes of the training will also include:

- 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 and collecting, analyzing and aggregating data to communicating findings)
- methods and techniques to conduct evaluation (quantitative and qualitative data collection methods, participatory techniques, valuation and integration methods, indicators etc.)

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 such as Frans Leeuw, Peter Hardi or Wolfgang Meyer. 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 27 September – 1 October 2010 in Slavonice, Czech Republic, and is organized by Czech Republic Country Office of REC. Before the training, each participant will choose one of three offered sustainability evaluations as a case study (more information will be posted on our website). The resulting three groups of about 10-15 persons each will have the opportunity to work for one week hands-on on all stages of the actual evaluation case study under the guidance of experienced trainers.

Structure of the training

The **e-learning phase** will start in July 2010 and end in early October 2010. E-learning is designed to be flexible (mostly

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
9:00 – 10:30	Arrival from Prague with a coach	Developing quality checklists	Developing an evaluation design, choosing methods	Performing data collection	Formulating and delivering evaluation findings and recommendations
10:30 – 11:00	Check-in	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break
11:00 – 12:30	Introducing the background of the case studies, analysing a call for an evaluation	Stakeholder analysis and involvement strategy	Developing an evaluation design, choosing methods	Performing data collection	Official conclusion of the training, reflection
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	Departure to Prague with a coach
15:30 – 16:00	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	

The Host of the Training

The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) is an international organisation aiming to develop capacity to deal with environmental problems at all political-administrative levels, to promote cooperation between various environmental stakeholders and to promote public participation in environmental decision-making. The REC was established in 1990 by the United States, the European Commission and Hungary. Today, the REC is legally based on a charter signed by the governments of 29 countries and the European Commission. Among its donors are the European Commission and the governments of numerous EU, EEA, OECD and South-East European countries, as well

as other intergovernmental and private institutions. The Czech Republic Country Office has been established in Prague in 1996.

For further information and questions on the EASY-ECO training in Czech Republic, please visit the website www.easy-eco.eu or contact:

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