

Developmental Evaluation: New Directions and Applications

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Level: Intermediate

Prerequisites: Knowledge that there are different evaluation approaches, why, and what some of them are. Experience designing and conducting an evaluation.

Target Number: Minimum 10; maximum: open

Technical Support Material: No requirements in addition to those normally supplied by the conference centres

Workshop Description

Developmental Evaluation (DE) is an evaluative process for informing, supporting, and facilitating adaptation and innovation of change initiatives, projects, and programs to changing conditions in complex dynamic environments. DE now has a 20-year history of development itself. The pandemic greatly increased applications of DE as both programs and evaluations had to pivot dramatically and urgently. A new edition of Patton's *Developmental Evaluation* book will be previewed during this session and will be the basis for new directions, methods, tools, frameworks, and applications presented in this workshop.

Workshop Purpose and Content

Present and engage participants with how DE has developed over the last decade with exemplars of actual applications and new methods being used.

Anticipated learning outcomes of the workshop

- Up-to-date knowledge of DE premises, principles, and practices
- Knowledge of emergent methods for conducting developmental evaluations (DE)

- Capacity to determine the niche of DE, when it is appropriate, and how to design a DE process.
- Knowledge of issues and challenges based on a decade of applications.

Delivery Methods/Activities Outline

Four modules, each 1 ½ hours following this sequence:

Framing the issue and its significance (issues listed below): 15 minutes.

Pairwise interaction/discussion of the personal relevance of the issue: 5 minutes

Small group application set-up: 5 minutes

Small group practice application: 20 minutes

Debrief small groups: 5 minutes.

Q&A: 10 minutes

Consultation with 3 participants on application to their practice: 30 minutes

(Fishbowl approach: consultation in front of the whole group)

The Four 1 ½ hour Modules

1. DE Basics: Premises, Principles, Practices
2. New DE methods
3. Examples of leading-edge DE applications
4. The Future of DE

HANDOUTS: Select chapters from the new 2nd edition of DE (made available to participants prior to publication).

History of versions of the proposed workshop

I have been doing basic DE workshops for more than a decade for The Evaluators' Institute and AEA, and custom workshops for organizations. This is a new and completely updated workshop based on the new book edition.
