

EES Workshop Proposal 2024

Course Title: Blooming Perspectives: Practical Insights from the Garden of Evaluation Approaches

Level: Basic

Prerequisites for participation: None

Target number: 3 – 30 participants

Technical support materials: projector & screen

Workshop description:

Purpose, Content, and Learning Outcomes

The purpose of this workshop is to improve participants' ability to use evaluation approaches in practice. Activities and materials are designed so that by the end of the workshop, participants will be able to:

- (1) Understand the unique dimensions of evaluation;
- (2) Evaluate the usefulness of different evaluation approaches in different contexts and
- (3) Apply different evaluation approaches in practice.

To accomplish these learning outcomes, several important content domains will be covered. One domain will describe the purpose of evaluation approaches, and challenges associated with using them in the real world. Another domain will summarize five evaluation approaches – (1) realist evaluation, (2) outcome harvesting, (3) adaptive evaluation, (4) inclusive systematic evaluation for gender equality, environments and marginalized voices, and (5) made in Africa – including important similarities and differences among them related to values, valuing, activism for social justice, context, promoting use, who is engaged in the evaluation process and at what depth, and power dynamics in making evaluation decisions. A third domain will cover the Garden of Evaluation Approaches, an innovative visual classification tool that allows evaluation practitioners and commissioners to think and dialogue collaboratively and make decisions about which approach(es) would best fit their needs, values, and context.

Delivery Methods/Activities

This workshop will employ small group activities, case studies, and open discussions allowing for critical reflection and active engagement with key content.

Handout Materials

Handout materials include: (1) detailed summaries of evaluation approaches, (2) key references for each evaluation approach, (3) a copy of the Garden of Evaluation Approaches tool, (4) a description of key dimensions that distinguish evaluation approaches, and (5) case studies.

History of Versions of the Proposed Workshop

Previous versions of this workshop have been presented 10 times at the following locations:

- United Nations Evaluation Group, Nairobi, Kenya (2019)
- American Evaluation Association Graduate Education Diversity Initiative kick-off meeting (2019, 2018)
- American Educational Research Association (2019, 2018)
- African Evaluation Association Conference, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire (2019)
- European Evaluation Society Conference, Thessaloniki, Greece (2018)
- American Evaluation Association Summer Institute (2018, 2016)
- Latin-American and Caribbean Monitoring, Evaluation, and Systematization Network, the Monitoring and Evaluation Network of Latin America and the Caribbean, and the International Development Evaluation Association, Guanajuato, Mexico (2017)