

# EASY-ECO Saarland Training on EvAluation of Sustainability

## 20-24 October 2008

CEval - Center for Evaluation, Germany

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 June 2008

The **EASY-ECO training in Saarland** provides a unique possibility for young researchers to enhance their knowledge and practical competences in evaluation of sustainability, especially in the areas of strategic environmental assessment (SEA) of regional development programmes and evaluation of climate protection initiatives, water management programmes and environmental education. The training is sponsored by the European Union's Marie Curie Actions, offering a grant covering all costs of participation to almost all 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 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 SEA of regional development programmes and evaluation of climate protection initiatives, water management programmes and environmental education. These themes will be linked with the following:

- 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

### Participants - apply in June 2008!

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](http://www.easy-eco.eu).

### Deadline for application is 23 June 2008!

In order to participate in the **e-course** and the **on-site training**, please follow the application guidelines on our website: <http://www.sustainability.eu/easy/?k=apply>



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.

hours of course work such as 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 20-24 October 2008 in Saarland, Germany, and is organized by the Center for Evaluation at the University of Saarland. 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 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.

## Structure of the training

The **e-learning phase** will start at the beginning of July and end in September 2008. E-learning is designed to be flexible (mostly asynchronous and allowing a summer vacation or a work-related break) and interactive. The expected time investment is approximately 60 to 80

	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 **Center for Evaluation** is an academic research institute affiliated to the University of the Saarland. It contributes to the further development of evaluation research and to the reinforced implementation and usage of evaluations by:

- formulating theoretical and methodological foundations and subject-related academic standards for the evaluation of programs and projects
- providing education and continuing education for target groups working on evaluations (researchers, consultants, users etc.)
- consulting public and private organizations on their evaluations

- implementing evaluations
- promoting professional information exchange
- arranging conventions, meetings and workshops

For further information please visit [www.ceval.de](http://www.ceval.de). For further questions on the EASY-ECO training in Saarland, please contact:

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

