Policy Evaluation (F000822)

Due to Covid 19, the education and assessment methods may vary from the information displayed in the schedules and course details. Any changes will be communicated on Ufora.

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0	Study time 150 h	Contact hrs	45.0h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2021-2022

A (semester 1)	Dutch	Gent	lecture	15.0h
			group work	18.75h
			guided self-study	7.5h
			online lecture	0.0h
			microteaching	3.75h

Lecturers in academic year 2021-2022

Wayenberg, Ellen	EB25	lecturer-in-charge
Smolders, Carine	EB25	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2021-2022	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Public Administration and Management	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Public policy evaluation, evaluation methods, policy learning

Position of the course

The course offers students insight, knowledge and skills with regard to evaluation of public policy. Students are familiarized with different methods and techniques of policy evaluation ex ante, mid-term and ex post and their respective use to assess and improve public policy. They also gain experience with the different steps of an evaluation process by drafting and executing an evaluation research of a governmental intervention.

Contents

The course consists out of three parts. The first part introduces the concept of policy evaluation and its motives, functions and typical features in the public sector. The second part zooms in upon various types/approaches of policy evaluation (e.g. "formative", "process", "summative evaluation"), the development of a suitable research design (e.g. "experimental, "quasi-experimental", "reflexive" design) and related methods with their respective strengths and weaknesses for evaluating public policy. The third part elaborates upon the lessons learned out of policy evaluation by focusing upon the social/organizational preconditions for good evaluation results and their use towards more evidence-based policy.

Initial competences

Familiarity with policy practice is a must. Hence, it is recommended that students have been enrolled for the educational component 'Public Policy Analysis'.
Next to this, students are expected to follow up public policy evaluations on local, national as well as on international level.

Final competences

1 Understand the role of policy evaluation in the contemporary public sector.
2 Design and execute an evaluation research.
3 Use evaluation results to inform policy practice.
4 Gather policy-relevant information in order to assess public policy and to gain insight into policy evaluation.
5 Having an attitude of life-long learning vis-a-vis public policy and its evaluation.

(Approved)

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Online lecture, Group work, Microteaching, Guided self-study, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

The first and second part of the course are ex cathedra with the possibility for interaction. Both parts require students to evaluate a governmental intervention in group.
During the third part, students present their group work as policy lessons learned vis-a-vis other students.

Learning materials and price

Handouts and reader
This material will be available via UFORA.

References

Bamberger, M. & Mabry, L. (2020). *Realworld evaluation. Working under budget, time, data and political constraints. Third edition.* United States: Sage Publications.
Kuhlmann, S. & Wayenberg, E. (2016). Assessing impacts of decentralization from a comparative perspective: Conceptualizing institutional evaluations in multi-level systems. *International Review of Administrative Sciences*, 82(2), pp. 233-253.
Mertens, D. & Wilson, A. T. (2012). *Program Evaluation Theory and Practice: A Comprehensive Guide.* The Guilford Press, New York.
Rossi, P.H., Lipsey, M.W. & Freeman, H.E. (2004). *Evaluation: A Systematic Approach. 7th edition.* Sage Publications, Thousand Oaks.
Swanborn, P.G. (2007). *Evalueren. Het ontwerpen, begeleiden en evalueren van interventies: een methodische basis voor evaluatieonderzoek.* BOOM Onderwijs, Amsterdam.
Van der Knaap, P., Pattyn, V. & Hanemaayer, D. (2020). *Beleidsevaluatie in theorie en praktijk.* Boom Bestuurskunde, Den Haag.

Course content-related study coaching

Questioning is possible with regard to the sessions as well as on an individual basis after having made an appointment with one of the lecturers

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Oral examination, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Paper (teamwork) to evaluatie a governmental intervention according to course guidelines = 70% of the end score Oral exam (presentation) of evaluation research and policy lessons to be learned according to course guidelines = 30% of the end score

Calculation of the examination mark

Teamwork: 70% of the end score
Presentation: 30% of the end score

Facilities for Working Students

Individual performance of the group work is allowed but without changing the assignment