

Evaluation foundations (2nd cohort)

Certified training

24 April – 7 June 2024





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Overview

Within the Foundations Evaluation Training Programme, participants will be acquainted with the legal requirements for evaluation. They will also get an overview of the complete evaluation life cycle. This goes deeply into fundamental evaluation concepts, including intervention logic, theory of change and evaluation criteria. It covers a spectrum of topics, ranging from the appreciation of the role of evaluation to the effective use of lessons learned, the development of well-structured evaluation plans, the establishment of robust evaluation criteria, and navigation of Monitoring - Evaluation - Reporting (MER) procedures. This certified training requires your proactive engagement.

Who is it for?

This course is designed for all Interreg programme officers who are actively involved in the field of evaluation, or are interested in the field of evaluation.

What will I learn?

At the end of the training, participants will have become familiar with the fundamental evaluation concepts and should be able to complete evaluation tasks within the context of the 2021 -2027 programming period.

How long does it take?

It typically takes 18 hours (within 1,5 months) to complete all components of the Evaluation foundation training.

How do I get my certificate?

The certificate is issued when all mandatory components are completed and upon successful completion of a final assignment.



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Training content

Component Online event (mandatory)	Training introduction meeting When: 24 April 2024, 09.30 – 12.30 CET Where: Zoom, link in Interact Academy
Bi-weekly tutorials (optional)	Bi-weekly tutorials When: 10 May at 10:00 – 11:30 CET, 23 May at 10:00 – 11:30 CET, 29 May at 10:00 – 11:30 CET Where: Zoom, links in Interact Academy
Component Self-paced learning 1 (mandatory)	1. Why evaluation should matter (subcourse) When: available from 24 April, to be completed before 5 June 2024 Where: In Interact Academy – see your dashboard
Component Self-paced learning 2 (mandatory)	2.1. All about the intervention logic and the methodology paper (subcourse) When: available from 24 April, to be completed before 5 June 2024 Where: In Interact Academy – see your dashboard 2.2. Intervention Logic & link to Theory of Change (Factsheet)
Component Self-paced learning 3 (Mandatory)	3. Lessons learned for evaluations (subcourse) When: available from 24 April, to be completed before 5 June 2024 Where: In Interact Academy – see your dashboard
Component Self-paced learning 4 (mandatory)	4. Evaluation plan in a nutshell (subcourse) When: available from 24 April, to be completed before 5 June 2024 Where: In Interact Academy – see your dashboard
Component Self-paced learning 5 (mandatory)	5.1. Evaluation criteria (subcourse) When: available from 24 April, to be completed before 5 June 2024 Where: In Interact Academy – see your dashboard



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5.2. Monitoring - Evaluation - Reporting (MER)
(Factsheet)

Component

Assignment: group work

(mandatory)

Final assignment

When: available from 24 April, to be completed before 3 June 2024

Where: In Interact Academy – more information during the training introduction meeting

Component

Online event

(mandatory)

Final online event

When: 7 June 2024 at 9:30 – 12:30 CET

Where: Zoom, link in Interact Academy



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Practicalities

Here's a quick outline of the training:

- **Kick-off meeting** (24 April 2024, 09.30 – 12.30 CET): Mark your calendar for our online kick-off event!
- **Self-paced learning**: Explore seven core topics at your own pace:
 - Start with "Why evaluation should matter" to uncover key reasons for evaluation importance.
 - Learn "All about the Intervention Logic and the Methodology Paper" to build a robust intervention logic.
 - Explore the Factsheet "Intervention Logic & Link to Theory of Change" to understand the connection between a well-structured intervention logic and the theory of change and impact evaluation.
 - Examine the challenges faced and lessons learned from previous evaluations from the perspectives of Interreg programme representatives, evaluators, and colleagues from the Evaluation and European Semester Unit in DG REGIO.
 - Dive into "Evaluation Plan in a nutshell" for theoretical and practical approaches to the evaluation plan.
 - Find out about the 5+1 evaluation criteria for EU-funded programmes by examining the concepts of effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence, and EU (Union) added value as well as sustainability.
 - Conclude with "Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting" to grasp their interlinkages and gain a comprehensive understanding of these three essential elements.
- **Bi-weekly tutorials** (optional): Join our lively online meetings to discuss self-paced learning topics, ask questions, and connect with peers. Each session will last 1.5 to 2 hours, depending on discussions.
- **Assignment**: You will collaborate with peers on a special topic revealed during the kick-off meeting (proactive engagement)
- **Final online meeting** (7 June 2024): In this concluding online session we will collaboratively discuss the assignments and key takeaways derived from this certified training.

Self-paced learning overview:

1. **Begin with 'Why Evaluation Should Matter'**: Delve into five key reasons emphasizing the importance of conducting evaluations. Explore aspects such as legal requirements, enhancing the visibility, accountability, and management of Interreg programmes, among others.
2. **Proceed to the intricacies of Intervention Logic**: 'All About the Intervention Logic and the Methodology Paper,' will provide you insights into constructing a sound intervention logic. You will learn how to link the programme and project intervention logic, consolidating all methodological aspects into a single document. This methodology document serves as an institutional record of initial assumptions, aiding in understanding the intervention logic, revising milestones and targets, and motivating programme changes during the mid-term review.
3. **Explore the Factsheet 'Intervention Logic & Link to Theory of Change'**: Understand the connection between a well-structured intervention logic and the theory of change and impact evaluation.
4. **Leverage the Experience of Interreg Programmes**: Drawing on the valuable experience gained from evaluations in 2014-2020, embark on planning evaluations for 2021-2027. You will examine the challenges faced and lessons learned from the perspectives of Interreg programme representatives, evaluators, and colleagues from the Evaluation and European Semester Unit in DG REGIO.
5. **Dive into the Evaluation Plan in a Nutshell**: Gain a theoretical understanding of the evaluation plan and how it is formulated, implemented, and followed up in practical terms.



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6. **Explore Evaluation Criteria in the 5+1:** Examine details related to the five compulsory criteria for EU-funded programmes: effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence, and EU (Union) added value. Additionally, consider sustainability as an added criterion, focusing on the enduring benefits of the evaluated programmes.
7. **Conclude with the Factsheet 'Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting':** Explore the interlinkages between monitoring, evaluation, and reporting, gaining a comprehensive understanding of these three essential elements.