

# Draft programme

## Training Workshops

3<sup>rd</sup> November 2016

Venue: Ministry of Regional Development, AVI conference venue,  
entrance from Pařížská Street 4, Prague

*organised by*

*Evaluation Unit of the National Coordination Authority,  
Ministry of Regional Development*



EUROPEAN UNION  
Cohesion Fund  
Operational Programme Technical Assistance



MINISTRY  
OF REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT CZ

## Programme

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	registration and welcome coffee
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.	workshop block 1
10:30 – 11:00 a.m.	<i>coffee break</i>
11:00 – 12:30 a.m.	workshop block 2
12:30 – 1:30 p.m.	<i>lunch</i>
1:30 – 3:00 p.m.	workshop block 3
3:00 – 3:30 p.m.	<i>coffee break</i>
3:30 – 5:00 p.m.	workshop block 4, approximate end time

## Practical information

Venue: Ministry of Regional Development, AVI conference room, enter from Pařížská st. 4.

Lunch and refreshments during coffee breaks will be provided.

Each workshop is designed as a full-day activity. Participants are expected to select one workshop and participate in all blocks of their selected workshop.

The workshops will be conducted in English. Interpretation will not be available.

## Workshop details

### **Workshop 1 – The foundation of focus group research: A systematic and scientific approach to support evaluation**

**Expert trainer:** Janet Mancini Billson, Director, Group Dimensions International (more information can be found [here](#))

This one-day workshop on focus group discussions (FGDs) is grounded in core group dynamics theory and principles of qualitative research methods. It is based on Dr. Billson's 30 years of conducting focus groups for governments, international development agencies, hospitals, and universities. The workshop addresses when and why to use FGDs in a Results Based Management context, how to manage the research process in conjunction with other methods, requirements for building an effective team in your organization (or what to look for in a contractor), and the training necessary to moderate skillfully and neutrally. Principles governing research design, question development, and data analysis will be reviewed. The workshop is grounded in Dr. Billson's training manuals, *The Power of Focus Groups for Academic, Social, and Policy Research* and *Conducting Professional Focus Groups in the Field: The GDI Mini-Manual*. Three demonstration FGDs will be moderated by volunteers.

#### **About Janet Mancini Billson**

Janet Mancini Billson is Director of Group Dimensions International, LLC, a research and consulting firm specializing in policy analysis, evaluation, and community development. She

served from 1973-1996 as Professor of Sociology and Women Studies at Rhode Island College and The George Washington University.

Billson has used focus groups, executive interviews, and surveys to explore organizational and community development issues in the US, Canada, and developing countries. She has conducted policy and evaluation research all over the world for government agencies, universities, colleges, and hospitals

Billson conducts training workshops on focus group research, group facilitation, and teamwork for various organizations, including the Bureau of the Census, the U.S. Department of Energy, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. She regularly conducts the annual focus group training workshop for the World Bank's International Program for Development Effectiveness Training in Ottawa.

## **Workshop 2 – THE KNOWLEDGE BROKERS GAME**

**Expert trainers: Karol Olejniczak, Igor Widawski**

### RATIONALE

There is a clear gap between producing research studies and using results of those studies for decision-making. This “know-do” gap is common to all policy areas and one of the most difficult gaps to bridge. Knowledge brokering is a promising practice for tackling the challenge of evidence use. For public professionals it means playing the role of intermediary who steers the flow of knowledge between its producers and users.

### WORKSHOP GOALS

The workshop teaches six key knowledge brokering skills:

1. Identifying knowledge needs of policy actors
2. Acquiring credible studies
3. Combining results into policy arguments
4. Reaching users with appropriate dissemination strategies
5. Delivering research results at the right moment of decision-making cycle
6. Managing a unit and its network with limited resources

### PARTICIPANTS

The Knowledge Brokers workshop has been designed to be experienced by public sector professionals in groups of 30 or less. The typical workshop participants include: policy decision-makers, staff of analytical and evaluation units, managers of public programs, researchers, public policy experts or students of advanced courses of public policy and management.

### CONTENT

The Knowledge Brokers workshop is based on a specially designed tabletop simulation game. Serious games are effective experienced-based learning tools for adult professionals. During the workshop participants play the role of managers within their

regional evaluation units. Their mission is to help different decision-makers in successfully implementing socio-economic projects. They do this by acquiring and then feeding evaluation results to potential knowledge users. The simulation game is run in turns which are followed by detailed feedback and debriefing sessions grounded in latest empirical research on evidence used in decision-making.

### **About the expert trainers**

*Karol Olejniczak* is an assistant professor at EUROREG - University of Warsaw, Poland and a visiting scholar at George Washington University, Washington DC. USA. His expertise focuses on evaluation of public interventions and organizational learning. Since 2000, Karol has been a practicing evaluator. He conducted studies for Polish government and European Commission. In 2014, for his extensive applied research he has received from Polish Government a title of the Evaluator of the Year. Karol has 15 years of experience in teaching evaluation and applied research. During workshop he guides debriefing sessions, providing practitioners with advice and examples from real-life evaluation contracts.

*Igor Widawski* is a head game designer at Pracownia Gier Szkoleniowych (PGS). Sociology graduate, he has studied at the University of Warsaw and School of Business & Economics in Maastricht. His games have been already played by thousands of players within corporations, NGOs, public administration and universities. He has designed simulations related to such subjects as project management, negotiations, brand building, public participation, sustainable energy, change management and knowledge brokering. Igor is the chief game designer at Competence Game: an innovative on a global scale competence diagnosis tool in the online environment. During game-based workshop he is game master coordinating game flow.