



pep partnership for
economic
policy

Preliminary Course Plan Impact Evaluation

This four-day workshop is part of the “PEP support program”. It is addressed to a selection of research teams based in developing countries that could potentially benefit from PEP funding. The objective is to provide researchers with the knowledge, experience, and confidence necessary to conduct their own randomized evaluations of the impact of social policies or programs on targeted populations.

Description

This workshop will focus on the benefits and methods of randomization, how to choose an appropriate sample size, how to collect and compare data on both treatment and valid comparison groups, producing empirical evidence on the impact of specific program interventions and the overall implementation of an evaluation. The methodology includes classes, applied work and team presentations. Expert researchers will provide an overview of the theory. Participants will exercise the concepts on practical examples using Stata and Optimal Design. Each research team will present different aspects of their impact evaluation proposal.

During this workshop the participants will:

- Understand the key components of a good randomized evaluation design.
- Learn how do you determine the appropriate sample size.
- Learn methodological and practical aspects of policy impact evaluation research.
- Interpret and communicate evaluation results to both academic and non-academic audiences.

Agenda

Thursday May 2: INTRODUCTION

9:00-10:30 Theory:

- Why to evaluate?
- Theory of change.
- Determining evaluation questions.

10:30-11:00 Coffee break.

11:00-12:30 Introduction to Stata: Descriptive statistics, tables and labels.

12:30-2:00 Lunch.

2:00-3:30 Stata: Testing difference in means for two groups, sampling.

3:30-3:45 Coffee break.

3:45-4:30 Team presentations (10 minutes each):

- Motivation description of a problem.
- Introduction to the program or policy that will be evaluated.
- Interest of the evaluation.

Friday May 3: HOW TO EVALUATE 1

9:00-10:30 Theory:

- Causal Inference and counterfactuals.
- Randomized selection methods.

10:30-11:00 Coffee break

11:00-12:30 Theory:

- Randomization and stratification.
- Other randomization methods.

12:30-2:00 Lunch

2:00-3:30 Stata: Random assignment, stratification

3:30-3:45 Coffee break

3:45-4:30 Team presentations (10 minutes each):

- Detailed description of the program or policy.
- Theory of change.

Saturday May 4: HOW TO EVALUATE 2

9:00-10:30 Theory: Baseline and power calculations

10:30-11:00 Coffee break

11:00-12:30 Theory: Clustering

12:30-2:00 Lunch

2:00-3:30 Optimal Design: Power calculations

3:30-3:45 Coffee break

3:45-4:30 Team presentations (10 minutes each):

- Description of the randomization method and potential difficulties.
- Details about the logistics and other technicalities.

Saturday May 5: HOW TO EVALUATE 3

9:00-10:30 Theory: Imperfect compliance, spillover, contamination, externalities, attrition and ethics

10:30-11:00 Coffee break

11:00-12:30 Theory: Evaluation timeline and budget

12:30-2:00 Lunch

2:00-3:30 Stata: Estimating a program impact

3:30-3:45 Coffee break

3:45-4:30 Team presentations (10 minutes each):

- Description and justification of the evaluation time line.

Saturday May 6: DATA COLLECTION

9:00-10:30 Theory: Developing, testing and conducting a questionnaire

10:30-11:00 Coffee break

11:00-12:30 Activity: Design part of a questionnaire, collect data and do the data entry in Stata

12:30-2:00 Lunch

2:00-3:30 Team presentations of the data collection results

3:30-3:45 Coffee break

3:45-4:30 Team presentations (10 minutes each):

- Description of the outcome variables and how to measure them.
- Details about the data collection and data entry.

Instructors

Maria Laura Alzúa, José Galvo.

Teaching assistant: Maria Adelaida Lopera.

Requirements

Prior to the workshop, each team needs the equivalent of two days preparation and homework. Participants are responsible for a number of 10 minutes presentation previously prepared in collaboration with the rest of research team.

In order to perform computer based exercises each participant is required to have a laptop with the software [Stata](#) (release 10 or higher) and [Optimal Design](#) previously installed. Please contact the teaching assistant at maria.lopera.1@ulaval.ca if you need further information on this subject.

The workshop will be held in English; therefore, english language proficiency is required.

Last update: March 24, 2013, Tilburg