

Brochure



**What is (not) going well
in evaluations and why?**

12–13 November 2024



Co-funded by
the European Union



MINISTRY
OF REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT CZ



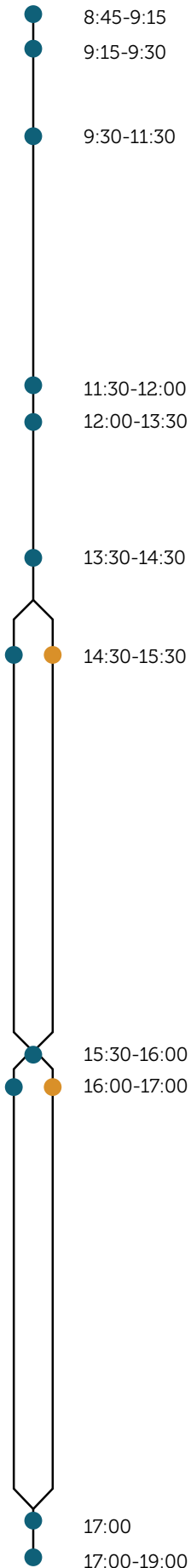
EVALUATION
UNIT NCA

The organizer of the conference is
Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic – National
Coordination Authority (MMR-NOK)

Conference day programme

12 November 2024

AVI – large hall, Pařížská 4, 110 00 Prague



8:45-9:15

Registration of participants

9:15-9:30

Someone has to start it! (interpretation)

- **Petr Kulhánek** – Minister of Regional Development
- **Radim Sršeň** – Deputy of the Cabinet Minister

9:30-11:30

How are evaluations going in Europe?

News Presentation followed by discussion (interpretation)

- **Evaluating the EU's first major performance-based funding programme – challenges and opportunities from the mid-term evaluation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)** – Marie-Gabrielle de Liedekerke, European Commission – DG ECFIN
- **What is (not) working well in European Social Fund (ESF) counterfactual impact evaluations and why?** – Tobias Haepf, Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission
- **Delivering Evaluations in Uncertain Times** – some personal reflections by Professor Elliot Stern drawing on experience with the Evaluation Helpdesk – Elliot Stern, Lancaster University, United Kingdom

Moderated by: **Rostislav Kolouch**

11:30-12:00

Coffee break

12:00-13:30

How are evaluations going in Czech Republic?

News Presentation followed by discussion (interpretation)

- **Clerical action of the year** – Jindřich Fryč, Ministry of the Interior CZ
- **It is not difficult, if...** – Daniel Svoboda, Czech Evaluation Society

Moderated by: **Jana Drlíková**

13:30-14:30

Lunch break

2 parallel afternoon blocks

14:30-15:30

AVI – large hall, interpreted

Sometimes it's good to look back - experience of managing authorities!

Inspiration

Presentation followed by discussion (interpretation)

- **Mapping the EU Fund evaluator community in the period 2014–2024** – Jana Drlíková, Ministry of Regional Development CZ
- **10 years of experience in evaluations at the Ministry of Education** – Michaela Mrózková, Jakub Prokeš, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports CZ
- **Evaluation at the MoLSA - reflections and new challenges** – Martin Dytrych, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs CZ

Moderated by: **Kateřina Gregorová**

AVI – large meeting room, only in Czech

Employment and education - do we have something to improve or not?

News

Presentation followed by discussion (only in Czech)

- **Evaluation of active labour market policy in OP Employment projects: data, opportunities and challenges** – Tamara Zykanová, Kateřina Vojtišková, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs CZ
- **Evaluation of the regional distribution of investments in educational infrastructure within Integrated Regional Operational Program (IROP) 2014-2020 from the perspective of the evaluation coordinator** – Kateřina Bohatcová, Ministry of Regional Development CZ

Moderated by: **Jana Bystřická**

15:30-16:00

Coffee break

16:00-17:00

Sometimes it's good to look elsewhere - experience from the world!

Inspiration

Presentation followed by discussion (interpretation)

- **Enhancing the quality and effectiveness of regulatory evaluations with behavioural insights** – James Drummond, OECD
- **The impact of Cohesion Policy in Poland on the economies of other EU Member States, particularly the EU-14 (the 'Old Union')** – Zbigniew Mogiła, Ernst & Young, Poland
- **The fairy tale of the unknown evaluator – an epic journey, a fiction based on true events** – Balázs Mezósi, DevEco Consulting, Hungary

Moderated by: **Rostislav Kolouch**

Information and security - that's what it's all about!

News

Presentation followed by discussion (only in Czech)

- **Strengthening informed governance: Key recommendations from the international TSI project** – Jonáš Kreisinger, Czech Priorities
- **Is the EU helping to improve our security? Evaluation of funds in the area of internal affairs** – Ondřej Pospíšil, Ministry of the Interior CZ

Moderated by: **Jana Bystřická**

17:00

Closure and invitation to the next day


17:00-19:00

Informal discussions and networking with refreshments

Workshop day programme

13 November 2024

AVI, Pařížská 4, 110 00 Prague



8:30-9:00	Registration of participants		
9:00-10:30	AVI – large hall – part without stage 1st educational WS The Art of Participatory Leadership in Evaluations Education – Mary Alice Arthur, Inka Bartošová Pibilová only in English (50 participants)	9:30-10:00 Registration of participants 10:00-11:00 AVI – large meeting room 3rd educational WS State Treasury - what's in it and presentation of data via IS MONITOR Education – Tomáš Červ, Tomáš Jindřich only in Czech (20 participants)	10:00-11:00 AVI – large hall – part with stage EvalCafé (Not) Usability of AI in evaluations – practical examples Discussion Moderated by: Daniel Jiráč-Ziótkowski, only in Czech (50 participants)
10:30-11:00	Coffee break	11:00-11:30	Coffee break
11:00-12:30	Part 2	11:30-12:30	Part 2
12:30-13:30	Lunch break		
13:30-15:00	2nd educational WS The Art of Powerful Questions in Evaluations Education – Mary Alice Arthur, Inka Bartošová Pibilová only in English (50 participants)	13:30-15:00 4th educational WS Why renew the Czech national regional policy? Discussion Moderated by: Alexandre Reznikow, Marie Feřtřová only in Czech (20 participants)	
15:00-15:30	Coffee break		
15:30-17:00	Part 2	15:30-17:00	Part 2
17:00	End		

Conference day programme

12 November 2024

AVI, Pařížská 4, 110 00 Prague

9:30-11:30

How are evaluations going in Europe? News

Presentation followed by discussion (interpretation)

Evaluating the EU's first major performance-based funding programme – challenges and opportunities from the mid-term evaluation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)

The Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) is the EU's first major performance-based funding instrument. It was established to help Member States recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, as well to bolster their resilience and to make European economies and societies greener, more digital and more competitive. It made available EUR 648 billion, disbursed to Member States against progress made towards an agenda of ambitious reforms and investments. Halfway through its implementation, the European Commission published a mid-term evaluation of how the RRF is delivering on its objectives. The evaluation followed the Commission's Better Regulation guidelines designed to effectively support the policy cycle. It covers the design of all Member State's recovery and resilience plans ('RRPs') and the ongoing implementation of the Facility in the EU. This presentation shows some of the key findings from the RRF mid-term evaluation and discusses the main analytical challenges experienced in evaluating this first major performance-based instrument.



Marie-Gabrielle de Liedekerke
European Commission – DG ECFIN

Marie-Gabrielle works as a policy analyst at the European Commission's DG for Economic and Financial Affairs, in the unit responsible for ensuring the methodological consistency in the application of the Regulation on the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). Previously, Marie-Gabrielle worked as an analyst at the OECD where she reviewed the application of efficient regulatory frameworks, including the use of impact assessments and evaluations, across OECD countries.

What is (not) working well in European Social Fund (ESF) counterfactual impact evaluations and why?

The European Social Fund (ESF) is the instrument among the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIFs) aiming to enhance employment and social cohesion in the European Union (EU). Its interventions cover various fields such as employment, youth unemployment, social inclusion, poverty reduction, and capacity building. Many of these interventions have been evaluated using counterfactual impact evaluation methods (CIEs) that employ microeconomic data and seek to compare the results achieved by programme participants to those of a control group. This presentation showcases positive elements of these CIEs that have fed into a meta-analysis of ESF interventions allowing for conclusions on the overall effectiveness of ESF interventions in the fields of labour and education. It also points out directions for future improvements regarding the preparation and implementation of ESF CIE policy analyses in terms of planning, data, methodologies, presentation of results, and legal foundations.



Tobias Haepf
Quantitative Policy Analyst on Impact Evaluation, Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission

Tobias works as a scientist providing advice on counterfactual impact evaluations in the fields of labour, education and development economics to improve evidence-based policymaking in the European Commission. Prior to joining the European Commission, he worked for the German Federal Employment Agency (BA), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Worldbank, and the School of National Development at Peking University (PKU).

Delivering Evaluations in Uncertain Times – some personal reflections by Professor Elliot Stern drawing on experience with the Evaluation Helpdesk

The 'Evaluation Helpdesk', contracted by DG REGIO and DG EMPL was set up in 2015 with the dual goals of improving the quality of the evaluations conducted by Managing Authorities across the EU; and advising the Commission on evaluation matters. It reviews all evaluations on cohesion policy undertaken by Member States, organises professional development and training events, including a Summer School; and provides support on request to Managing Authorities on evaluation issues. The Helpdesk is led by a consortium consisting of Applica (Belgium), ISMERI Europa (Italy) and Quadrant Conseil (France) together with a network of experts and advisors. Professor Elliot Stern was closely involved in setting up the Helpdesk and has been involved in the Helpdesk's advisory and Professional Development activities since it was first established. Elliot Stern will draw on this experience to highlight some of the strengths and weaknesses of MA evaluations and of MA's capacity to plan, commission, manage and use evaluations of Structural Funds. These strengths and weaknesses will be set against a background of the changing nature of ERDF/CF programmes; the challenges of contemporary policy scenarios and crises; uneven governance capacities; and how the expectations of policy makers sometimes collide with what evaluation methodologies can reasonably deliver.



Elliot Stern

Emeritus Professor of Evaluation Research, Lancaster University, United Kingdom
Editor of the journal *Evaluation: international journal of theory, research and practice*

Elliot is past-President of both the European and UK Evaluation Societies; and a founding Academician of the UK Academy of Social Sciences. Elliot has conducted evaluations and been an evaluation advisor in various international settings – including the European Union; United Nation; OECD; and CGIAR; as well as for the governments of UK, Sweden, Denmark and New Zealand. Elliot has worked with various parts of the European Commission since the early 2000s; was lead author of the initial versions of DG REGIO's Evalsed Guide; and currently works with the DG REGIO's Evaluation Helpdesk. He is presently interested in how far and in what ways evaluation can contribute to causal explanation and to learning; how institutions use and design evaluation systems; and how changing policy scenarios are reshaping evaluation practice.

How are evaluations going in Czech Republic?

News

Presentation followed by discussion (interpretation)

Clerical action of the year

The Ministry of the Interior, Civil Service Section, together with the Byro Platform, a non-governmental organisation that connects and supports creative people in public administration, is preparing the Clerical Action of the Year project. The aim of this project is to recognise the best achievements of people who work for the Czech state and local governments and to present the results of their work to the Czech public. To show the faces and stories of those who are usually not visible, although without their work we would not have good public services. To present successful examples of projects that have improved the work of the authorities or the quality of life in the Czech Republic and last but not least, to highlight innovation, good work with people and data and exceptional examples of cooperation. Nominations are open in a total of six categories: Innovation in Public Services; Digital Transformation; Great Collaboration; Team Support; Analytical Work and Public Administration Hope. Clerical Action of the Year is one of the next steps to strengthen the credibility and self-confidence of Czech civil servants. It is the civil servants who make sure that public services are of the right standard every day. With the first ever Clerical Action of the Year, we have shown examples of great work by individuals and teams. This can provide huge motivation and a sense of appreciation to those who strive for change and innovation in public administration providing an opportunity to share best practices and successes between different authorities and public sector workers.



Jindřich Fryč

Chief State Secretary, Civil Service Section, Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic

Jindřich graduated from the Faculty of Education at Charles University in Prague. After his university studies, he associated his professional career with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, where he successively served as Director of the Youth Department and Senior Director of the International Relations and European Affairs Section. From 2012 to 2014, he served as Deputy Minister of Education, and from 2015 to 2022 he was appointed Secretary General of the Ministry.

He currently holds the position of Chief State Secretary. He is now applying the experience and knowledge he has acquired throughout his career to the civil service as a whole, with the aim of improving its efficiency and the status and perception of civil servants in society. He advocates the application of modern trends in civil service HR and the simplification of HR processes in the Act on Civil Service itself. Jindřich Fryč has a major contribution to the openness of the Czech civil service management to partners from the non-profit sector or other stakeholders who come in good will to help the Czech civil service.

It is not difficult, if...

The contribution shares practical experience with evaluations, in six blocks: 1. Starting point (Evaluations must be seen from the perspectives of all actors.) 2. Do we know what we want? And why? (An obligation is not a good reason, there are better reasons for evaluations. These reasons determine the questions and possible answers. If we want concrete methods, we must be sure they can bring the answers. If we require several reports, we must know why.) 3. Price or quality? (We can expect the lowest quality for the lowest price. The quality can be assessed!) 4. A hundred times nothing killed the donkey. And what about hundreds of questions and answers? (Do we need all questions and all evaluation criteria? Why?) 5. False promises (Can we promise census, random sampling, questionnaires, case studies, representativeness? What will be the roles of senior experts and other team members?) 6. What is a solution? (Do not request useless tasks. Communicate. Focus on quality. Pre-test the questions and methods. Consult the recommendations. Do not be afraid of failures...)



Daniel Svoboda

President of the Czech Evaluation Society

Daniel is a President of the Czech Evaluation Society. Until 2023, he was a Coordinator of IDEAS – International Development Evaluation Association and Coordinator of the International Evaluation Academy. In 2009–2024, he was working for the European Commission as external monitor for the environmental program LIFE. He is a member of Reference Group on Evaluations of the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs and mentor on evaluations at the Ministry of Health. He is a lecturer of project management and evaluations at the Czech University of Life Sciences – Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences.

AVI – large hall, interpreted

Sometimes it's good to look back - experience of managing authorities!**Inspiration**

Presentation followed by discussion (interpretation)

AVI – large meeting room, only in Czech

Employment and education - do we have something to improve or not? News

Presentation followed by discussion (only in Czech)

Sometimes it's good to look back - experience of managing authorities!

Inspiration

Mapping the EU Fund evaluator community in the period 2014–2024

The contribution was specifically prepared for the 10th anniversary of the Evaluation Conference. The authors from MMR-EJ NOK will present their analysis of the professional development of the EU fund evaluator community in the Czech Republic from 2014 to 2024. Using a combination of questionnaires and other methods, they focused on identifying the obstacles, challenges, and changes that shape the practices of Czech evaluators. Their analysis addresses the role of ethics, the impact of evaluations on decision-making processes, cooperation between evaluators, contracting authorities, and other topics. The results might serve as strategic recommendations to strengthen the evaluation community and improve the quality of evaluations.

**Jana Drlíková**

Head of Evaluation Unit NCA, Ministry of Regional Development CZ

Jana leads the National Coordination Authority's Evaluation Unit. She focuses on qualitative methods, project management and public procurement issues. For three years, she had also been the president of the Czech Evaluation Society. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Charles University and in International Relations and European Studies from Masaryk University; she graduated from the Central European University in Budapest.

10 years of experience in evaluations at the Ministry of Education

Evaluations are based on thorough data collection and processing to obtain reliable input for decisions. In the field of EU funds, evaluations focus on assessing provided support, i.e. specific policies, programs and projects. The quality of the evaluations depends on the quality of the input data, as well as their professional processing and interpretation. Communication of evaluation findings and working with them is an important part. What has changed in these areas at the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports in 10 years? What are the trends, and in what way are the evaluations utilised? In this presentation, we will share with you what we are doing well in evaluations, where we have learned, where we see space for improvement and what opportunities we have.

**Michaela Mrózková**

Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports CZ

Michaela leads Evaluation unit at Ministry of Education Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic. Since 2002 she has professionally focused on system of cohesion policy. Currently she coordinates the evaluation of implementing the ESIF programmes to effective fulfill strategies for the educational and research policy of the Czech Republic. She participates to the development of evaluation and effective using of the evaluation results for policy management. Michaela graduated with a economy degree from the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague.

**Jakub Prokeš**

Evaluator, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports CZ

Jakub works as an evaluator, lecturer and change guide. For more than ten years, he has evaluated programs aimed at improving education and social inclusion at the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. At the same time, he works as an independent evaluator of projects focused on social innovation, education, key competences, community building and sustainable development. He helps non-profit organizations to transform into learning organizations and is an active member of the Community of Practice of Counterfactual Impact Evaluations at the European Social Fund.

Evaluation at the MoLSA - reflections and new challenges

The main objective of the presentation is to explain the shift in the approach to evaluations implemented within the framework of the Operational Programmes Employment and Employment +. How the quality of evaluation outputs can be improved, their usefulness for setting follow-up policies and what challenges the evaluation department faces. What has been improved in the long term, where there is still room for development and what are the main barriers to faster progress. What data do evaluations work with and what is the general availability of data not only in the MoLSA but across the whole state administration.



Mgr. et Mgr. Martin Dytrych

Evaluation Unit, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs CZ

Since 2017, Martin has been leading the Evaluation Unit of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, which is responsible for evaluating projects and calls from the Operational Programme Employment +. Within this department, a significant part of the evaluation outputs is implemented internally by its own capacities. Together with colleagues, it is working on the development of the ESF+ information system, which links data on people supported by the projects with data from the OK system and the ČSSZ database. In the long term, it also strives to facilitate the sharing of administrative data within the state administration and improve its availability for research purposes.

○ Employment and education - do we have something to improve or not?

News

Evaluation of active labour market policy in OP Employment projects: data, opportunities and challenges

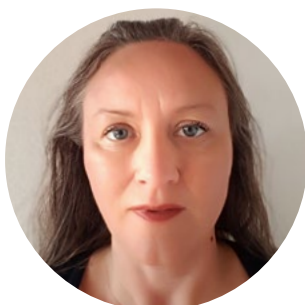
The Labour Office of the Czech Republic has implemented many projects in the field of active labour market policy. These projects were financed from the OP Employment. We will present the main instruments used for the implementation of ALMP and we will focus on their differences, especially in terms of their impact on different target groups. We will also present the data "IS ESF" which are unique as they consist of administrative data on project participants from two main databases: i) data on social insurance (Czech Social Security Administration), ii) data on labour market participation (Labour Office of the Czech Republic). These data are used to evaluate the impact of ALMP instruments on the labour market participation. In the final part we will focus on new approaches and perspectives planned for the data analysis and on the possibilities of conducting counterfactual impact evaluations.



Tamara Zykanová

OEvaluation Unit, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs CZ
ddělení evaluací, Ministerstvo práce a sociálních věcí ČR

Tamara is a part of evaluation unit at the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs which is responsible for evaluating of Operational Programme Employment (OPE). Her work focuses mainly on projects and processes in the field of early childcare facilities and employment. She is involved in setting up a system of administrative data collection for purpose of evaluating OPE projects. She studied demography and social geography at the Faculty of Science of Charles University in Prague.



Kateřina Vojtíšková

Evaluation Unit, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs CZ

Kateřina is a member of the evaluation unit of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, which is responsible for the evaluation of OPE and OPE plus. Her main activity is the evaluation of the programme in the field of employment and gender equality, and in OPZ plus also material assistance for the poorest persons. She graduated from the PhD programme in Sociology at the Faculty of Social Sciences of Charles University in Prague. For more than ten years she worked as a researcher at the Institute of Sociology of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, focusing on social stratification and educational inequality.

Evaluation of the regional distribution of investments in educational infrastructure within Integrated Regional Operational Program (IROP) 2014-2020 from the perspective of the evaluation coordinator

In the beginning, the vision was primarily to bring a more usable assessment. What was the greater usability of the assessment from the client's point of view? Were the visions fulfilled by the processing of the evaluation by the team of professor Luďek Sýkora from Charles University? What are the key results and main benefits of the evaluation? You will be able to learn all this and other details from the realisation of the evaluation including the time after its completion in the short post about the evaluation.



Kateřina Bohatcová

IROP Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, Ministry of Regional Development CZ

Kateřina is the evaluation coordinator of the Integrated Regional Operational Program. She has been working in the public administration for a long time, since 2014 she has been engaged in evaluation activities. In addition to the Ministry of Regional Development, she also worked at the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, where, among other things, she participated in the evaluation of the results and impacts of ESIF interventions. Kateřina Bohatcová studied regional development and administration at the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the University of Ostrava and a master's degree in demography at the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the Charles University in Prague.

AVI – large hall, interpreted

**Sometimes it's good to look elsewhere
- experience from the world!****Inspiration**Presentation followed by discussion
(interpretation)

AVI – large meeting room, only in Czech

**Information and security - that's what
it's all about!****News**

Presentation followed by discussion (only in Czech)

Sometimes it's good to look elsewhere - experience from the world!

Inspiration

Enhancing the quality and effectiveness of regulatory evaluations with behavioural insights

Evaluation tools like Regulatory Impact Assessments (RIAs) aim to bring evidence to bear on regulatory decisions, correcting errors in reasoning by promoting deliberative thinking over intuitive judgements. However, a growing body of work identifies a critical blind spot that reduces the effectiveness of these tools: the behavioural biases and barriers affecting those producing the analysis ('knowledge producers') and those using the results to make decisions ('knowledge utilisers'). This presentation, based on the presenter's recent journal article and international experience with behavioural insights, examines what is not going well in regulatory evaluations due to these behavioural factors and why. By understanding these issues, we can improve guidance, handbooks, and training for evaluation tools. This approach offers a path to enhance the effectiveness of RIAs and similar tools in driving evidence-informed policies, addressing a key challenge in current evaluation practices.



James Drummond

Project manager, OECD – Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

James Drummond is a project manager in the OECD's Regulatory Policy Division, where he has worked since 2016 on regulatory reform in OECD member and partner countries worldwide. His focus includes innovative approaches to regulatory policymaking, especially using behavioural insights (BI). James has co-authored several high-profile publications on BI and regulatory policy, recently focused on BI applied to public organisations and regulatory governance. He also works with countries to implement these findings in real-world policy reforms. James holds Master's degrees in Public Policy (University of Toronto) and Political Science (Carleton University).

The impact of Cohesion Policy in Poland on the economies of other EU Member States, particularly the EU-14 (the 'Old Union')

The Cohesion Policy is designed to yield socio-economic benefits across the European Union. The economic growth stimulated by structural funds in beneficiary Member States, including Poland as one of the largest recipients, is expected to have positive socio-economic effects on other EU countries. Our study presents findings on the benefits reaped by EU states as a result of the Cohesion Policy implementation in Poland. We focus not only on the direct beneficiaries of aid but also on the broader effects generated by the deployment of EU funds in Poland, which impact other EU countries, including those known as net payers. This research addresses whether the implementation of EU funds leads to an increase in trade exchange and whether the structure of additional exports stimulated by the Cohesion Policy contributes to the development and modernization of the economies of Member States. Does the Cohesion Policy in Poland have a transnational and pan-European character, thereby fulfilling its role as an instrument of internal EU integration? With this presentation we try to answer these questions.



Zbigniew Mogiła

Ernst & Young, Poland

Zbigniew is a manager at EY (Ernst & Young) and an assistant professor at the University of Wrocław, Poland. He has over 15 years of experience in examining the impact of investment programs using macroeconomic models. He is a co-author of the HERMIN system of macroeconomic models - one of the main analytical tools used in assessing the economic impact of EU investment programs. Zbigniew also has extensive experience in consulting activities. He participated in both the creation and review of many strategic documents for various levels of government administration (national, regional and local).

The fairy tale of the unknown evaluator - an epic journey, a fiction based on true events

The fairy tale about the unknown evaluator depicts an epic journey. A fictional story of devotion and worry, fierce battles with foes and within. Often, evaluators are expected (or think) to be super-heroes. With might, resilience, courage, awesome skills, and even magic. They forge their own weapons, read minds, defeat dragons, rescue princesses and retrieve the treasure. Or not precisely? Evaluators tend to have an adventurous life, sometimes too adventurous, full of intellectual, physical and emotional challenges. Let's see, how they fare. Once upon a time...



Balázs Mezósi

CEO of DevEco Consulting, Hungary

Balázs holds a PhD in EU programme evaluation, MSc in Management and Consulting and has a post-graduate law degree. He also holds a Certified Management Consultant (CMC) title. Balázs spent 10 years with KPMG, 5 years at other consulting companies, and 6 years at his own company, DevEco Consulting. Balázs has 20+ years of evaluation experience across 10+ countries in Europe - ex ante, mid-term, ex post, NSRFs, OPs, RDPs, CAP, thematic, horizontal and institutional evaluations.

Information and security - that's what it's all about! News

Strengthening informed governance: Key recommendations from the international TSI project

The project, whose goal was to propose key reforms of the system of transfer of scientific knowledge to the creation of public policies, is nearing its conclusion. The result of the project is 6 interventions that propose changes in public administration and in research organizations in order to create an institutionalized system of using scientific knowledge. In this contribution, with the participation of our partners from the public administration, we will present the results of the project with an emphasis on two selected interventions: Definition of research needs and Chief Science Officer (CSO). The definition of research needs represents a relatively simple intervention with low costs and potentially significant benefits in the form of clear communication of needs to research organizations. The CSO, on the other hand, represents the creation of a new position in the ministries for the effective coordination of all research-related activities and communication with external research organizations. For both interventions, we will discuss in detail how to implement the interventions successfully and what to watch out for.



Jonáš Kreisinger

Czech Priorities

Jonáš is a researcher at Czech Priorities, where he deals with the topic of informed governance. As part of this, he coordinates and processes the TSI project "Building capacity in evidence-informed policymaking in public administration and governance in a post-pandemic Europe", which focuses on improving the use of scientific knowledge in public administration. In addition, he works as an analyst at the Ministry of the Interior, where he mainly focuses on social services and the precariousness of work.

Is the EU helping to improve our security? Evaluation of funds in the area of internal affairs

The area of justice and home affairs belongs to the youngest but also the most dynamic EU policies. Its primary goal is to strengthen the security of the state and its citizens. Home affairs policies mainly include migration, asylum, internal security, border protection and the common visa policy. The financial allocation of the Home Affairs EU funds is considerably lower compared to other programmes and other funding sources. However, Home Affairs EU funds offer multiannual support to projects that would otherwise find it difficult to obtain funding. Thanks to their specialised focus and specific target groups, programmes of the Home Affairs EU funds bear the potential to provide a longstanding effect.



Ondřej Pospíšil

Department for Home Affairs EU Funds, Ministry of the Interior CZ

Ondřej works at the Department for Home Affairs EU Funds, which organisationally falls under the Ministry of the Interior. He participates in the activities of the Managing Authority as well as in the administration of the ongoing evaluation of the funds in the previous and current programming periods. In the past, he also worked at the Department for Asylum and Migration Policy and as a liaison officer during the last Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU. Ondřej Pospíšil graduated in International Relations and European Studies from the Masaryk University in Brno.

Workshop day programme

13 November 2024

AVI, Pařížská 4, 110 00 Praha

9:00-12:30

1st educational WS, (only in English)

The Art of Participatory Leadership in Evaluations

The Art of Participatory Leadership, often called “The Art of Hosting,” is a worldwide practice field that focuses on supporting people everywhere to host and harvest conversation and work that matters. It has a suite of methods and tools, and a solid practice foundation that can support evaluators to not only collect data, but also to connect different actors, ask the right questions, tap into the collective wisdom for answers and co-create the next steps.

No matter if you are an evaluator, programme manager or if you have another role, join us to discover some of the simple secrets that can turn your experience from “extraction” to hosting a willing field ready to advance a joint purpose. We will be exploring and working with two key patterns from the Art of Hosting practice, the FourFold Practice – a solid roadmap of how to balance the various aspects of your inner and outer practice – and the Breath Pattern – which explains how people participate in groups. You will have the opportunity to also practice several methods which can profoundly support your work. This is a very practical and hands-on session.



Mary Alice Arthur

Story Activist and the Art of Hosting steward

Mary Alice is a Story Activist, an internationally recognised thought leader in the art and practice of working with stories for transformational change. As a process host, she has been facilitating groups for almost 30 years and is an internationally respected consultant and trainer of participatory practice supporting practitioners around the world as a steward of the Art of Hosting network. She is the author of a book on storytelling called 365 ALIVE! Find your voice. Claim your story. Live your brilliant life. And the host of an online community called THE STORY DOJO.



Inka Bartošová Píbilová

Participatory Evaluator and the Art of Hosting practitioner

Inka Bartošová Píbilová is an evaluator passionate for participatory, emancipatory and transformative approaches. Further, she designs and hosts strategic processes in the fields of education, awareness raising, civic engagement, social, international development and Agenda 2030. She applies the Art of Hosting philosophy to enable groups of diverse actors and sizes to self-organize, reflect, learn, imagine, innovate solutions to complex questions and take actions. Her experiences and different methodologies are available at www.evaluce.com.

13:30-17:00

2st educational WS, (only in English)

The Art of Powerful Questions in Evaluations

A good question is a doorway to transformation. Good evaluation questions influence what data to collect, how to analyze it, report and ultimately how the evaluation outputs will be used. A powerful question asked to "informants" can bridge the gap between people or shift their perspective. Questioning the methodology, types of stakeholders involved or ethical questions further help improve the quality, rigour, feasibility and other aspects of evaluations.

No matter who you are or where you are in your journey, this workshop can polish your skill you can use at work and beyond. We will take a closer look at the fundamental building blocks of how to find, craft and sharpen a good question and we will explore the questions we've developed in small groups to maximise the learning.

"Simply offering a question already sets something in motion – it is the simplest intervention you can make into any system." Mary Alice Arthur



Mary Alice Arthur

Story Activist and the Art of Hosting steward

Mary Alice is a Story Activist, an internationally recognised thought leader in the art and practice of working with stories for transformational change. As a process host, she has been facilitating groups for almost 30 years and is an internationally respected consultant and trainer of participatory practice supporting practitioners around the world as a steward of the Art of Hosting network. She is the author of a book on storytelling called 365 ALIVE! Find your voice. Claim your story. Live your brilliant life. And the host of an online community called THE STORY DOJO.



Inka Bartošová Píbilová

Participatory Evaluator and the Art of Hosting practitioner

Inka Bartošová Píbilová is an evaluator passionate for participatory, emancipatory and transformative approaches. Further, she designs and hosts strategic processes in the fields of education, awareness raising, civic engagement, social, international development and Agenda 2030. She applies the Art of Hosting philosophy to enable groups of diverse actors and sizes to self-organize, reflect, learn, imagine, innovate solutions to complex questions and take actions. Her experiences and different methodologies are available at www.evaluce.com.

10:30-12:30

3rd educational WS (only in Czech)

State Treasury - what's in it and presentation of data via IS MONITOR

The Integrated Information System of the State Treasury (IISSP) – an effective tool for management, decision-making and control processes for public finance management

IISSP is a central platform for the support and control of public finance management processes. It ensures management of state budget, including the processes of budget preparation, budget approval and support of the legislative process. It supports the processes of implementing the budget in the current year, the payment support for centrally managed organizations and closing operations. System ensures the collection of budget and accounting statements as well as their presentation for the public in the Monitor information system. System performs the consolidation of financial statements for the consolidation unit „Czech Republic“ as well. Workshop is focused on the main processes provided within the IISSP, fulfillment of requirements and goals of the Ministry of Finance and relevant outputs available to the state administration organizations and to the public. It will introduce you to the main aspects of the IISSP architecture, the basic modules and their interrelationships.



Tomáš Červ

Enterprise architect, Ministry of Finance CZ

Tomáš has long been an architect of information systems, especially in the field of state administration and energy. He participated in the project of preparation and implementation of the Integrated Information System of the State Treasury from the initial stages of the solution design in 2009. During the operation support, he participated in all major changes and expansion of IISSP functionalities. In addition to the IISSP project, he participated in the design of a number of other information systems in the Ministry of Finance. He currently works as an Enterprise architect of the Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic..

State Treasury MONITOR

The MONITOR information system is a specialised information portal of the Czech Ministry of Finance, which allows the general and professional public free access to budget and accounting information from all levels of state and local government. The information presented comes from the Integrated State Treasury Information System (IISSP) and the Central System of Accounting Information (CSUIS) from more than 19,000 accounting units. The workshop will focus on presenting the different data areas and the possibilities of their static and dynamic analysis.



Tomáš Jindřich

Enterprise architect, C42

Tomáš Jindřich specializes in the architecture of information systems, specifically in the areas of government and state administration and also specialized enterprise applications in the field of reporting and management.

13:30-17:00

4th discussion WS (only in Czech)

Why renew the Czech national regional policy?

The regional policy of the Czech Republic has been closely tied to the objectives and instruments of the EU's cohesion policy over the past 15 years. It is already clear that in the next programming period, 2028+, the Czech Republic will draw far fewer financial resources from this European policy, and moreover, many of the supported topics will be dictated by EU-wide rules in an effort to achieve the EU's goals. Therefore, it will be essential for the Czech Republic to establish its own framework for how it will assist its weakest regions to ensure its internal social and territorial cohesion. This opens up the space for redefining the concept of national regional policy. How should the parameters of this "rehabilitated" national regional policy be set? How can the principles of territorial dimension be reflected in sectoral policies to align with the goals of regional policy? In which topics should these principles be applied?

We will seek answers to these questions during an interactive workshop, where you will also learn about the differences between explicit and implicit, insurance-based and strategic regional policies.



Alexandre Reznikow

Analyst, Ministry of Regional Development CZ

Alexandre Reznikow is a policy analyst working in the Department of Analysis and Regulation Impact Assessment at the Ministry of Regional Development. Alexandre is a graduate of Sciences Po in Paris. In previous years, he worked at the think tank "Czech Priorities" where he conducted socio-economic analyses in the field of housing, participated in projects aimed at building and supporting the state's analytical capacities, and contributed to several foresight projects for the Office of the Government, the Ministry of the Environment, and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.



Marie Feřtrová

Expert on territorial impacts of public policies, Ministry of Regional Development CZ

Marie is a social geographer who has been working professionally in regional development, policy analysis and evaluation public policies and programmes for almost 20 years. She is experienced in working for academic, private, public and non-profit sectors, in Czech and international teams for the European Commission, foreign research institutes and Czech ministries, regional councils and other entities. Thus, she enjoys knowledge brokering of these different worlds. She has led or collaborated on dozens of projects. In addition to the Ministry of Regional Development, she works as independent expert, coach and methodologist (www.linkedin.com/in/mariefertrova/).



10:00-12:30

EvalCafé (only in Czech) **(Un)Usability of AI in evaluations – practical examples** **Discussion**

We are stepping into uncharted territory – the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in evaluations. What are the real benefits, and where does AI still fall short? This discussion will delve into the current possibilities AI offers in evaluations, such as transcribing interviews, generating managerial summaries, and automating analysis. Yet, it also brings attention to the hurdles that need to be overcome for AI to be effectively deployed. Which technology should be chosen to meet the requirements of data protection while still delivering the necessary functionality? How can sensitive data be anonymized to comply with both legal and ethical standards? Beyond the technical aspects, we will explore the legal and ethical considerations – to what extent can AI be freely used, and where do we encounter citation obligations? This field is still in its infancy, filled with uncertainty and questions that remain unanswered. A panel composed of representatives from leading companies like KPMG, E&Y and STEM/MARK will share their practical insights into what works, where the challenges lie, and what mutual expectations exist. The goal of this open discussion is not only to share experiences but also to better understand the rapidly evolving possibilities of using AI.



(this annotation was created using AI)



EVALUATION
UNIT NCA

To find out more about evaluations of EU funds, see:

www.DotaceEU.cz/evaluace



Co-funded by
the European Union



MINISTRY
OF REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT CZ