

PUBLIC POLICY EVALUATION AND GOVERNANCE



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TRAINING CENTER



Introduction

Public Policy Evaluation and Governance Training Course equips public sector professionals to judge whether policies actually work and to govern that judgement with rigour. Evaluation often becomes a formality, producing reports that no one uses. This programme treats evaluation as a governance function, tied to accountability, budget decisions, and learning. It follows the full evaluation cycle, from designing a theory of change to publishing findings and acting on them. Furthermore, it shows how oversight bodies, ministries, and delivery agencies share responsibility for evidence quality. In addition, participants examine standards such as OECD evaluation criteria and the UNEG norms. As a result, they can build evaluation systems that strengthen public decision-making rather than merely document it.

Public Policy Evaluation and Governance Course Objectives

- Apply the OECD DAC evaluation criteria: relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability.
- Build logic models and theories of change that guide evaluation design.
- Select appropriate evaluation designs, including experimental and quasi-experimental methods.
- Develop qualitative and quantitative data collection instruments.
- Set evaluation questions, indicators, and success criteria with stakeholders.
- Apply UNEG norms and standards for ethical, independent evaluation.
- Manage evaluation governance: commissioning, steering groups, and quality assurance.
- Use findings to inform budget allocation and policy revision.
- Communicate evaluation results clearly to oversight bodies and citizens.
- Embed institutional learning and evaluation culture across public entities.



Course Methodology

This course combines expert input, applied case work, and structured group exercises. Participants design an evaluation framework for a real policy intervention, drafting evaluation questions, indicators, and a data collection plan. In addition, they take part in a simulated evaluation steering group and review published evaluation reports for quality. Templates, rubrics, and peer review support immediate application in public institutions.

Who Should Take This Course

- Monitoring and evaluation specialists in government bodies.
- Policy analysts, advisors, and programme managers.
- Internal auditors and performance oversight officers.
- Development programme and donor-funded project staff.
- Senior administrators responsible for evidence and accountability.

Public Policy Evaluation and Governance Course Outlines

Day 1: Evaluation Foundations and Governance Context

- Defining evaluation, monitoring, and audit differences.
- The governance role of evaluation in public accountability.
- OECD DAC evaluation criteria and their application.
- UNEG norms and standards for ethical evaluation.
- Institutional evaluation policies and mandates.

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- Independence, impartiality, and conflict-of-interest safeguards.
- Case study: an evaluation that changed policy.

Day 2: Designing Evaluation with Theory of Change

- Problem definition and intervention logic.
- Logic models, results chains, and theories of change.
- Formulating evaluation questions and success criteria.
- Selecting indicators and measurement approaches.
- Baseline data, targets, and comparability.
- Evaluation matrix construction.
- Workshop: building an evaluation matrix.

Day 3: Methods and Data Collection

- Experimental and quasi-experimental designs.
- Contribution analysis and process tracing.
- Sampling strategies for policy evaluation.
- Surveys, interviews, focus groups, and observation.
- Administrative data and open data sources.
- Data quality, triangulation, and bias control.
- Exercise: designing a mixed-methods plan.

Day 4: Managing Evaluations and Quality Assurance

- Commissioning evaluations and writing terms of reference.
- Evaluation steering groups and governance arrangements.
- Budgeting, timelines, and contract management.





- Quality assurance rubrics and report appraisal.
- Managing evaluators and ethical approvals.
- Dealing with inconclusive or contested findings.
- Simulation: an evaluation steering group meeting.

Day 5: Using Findings, Reporting, and Learning

- Structuring evaluation reports for decision-makers.
- Presenting findings to oversight bodies and the public.
- Management response and action tracking.
- Linking findings to budgeting and policy revision.
- Building evaluation capacity and culture.
- Knowledge management and dissemination practices.
- Action planning for an evaluation system.

Conclusion

By successfully completing the Public Policy Evaluation and Governance Training Course, participants will have acquired the knowledge to design credible evaluations, manage them through sound governance arrangements, and turn findings into policy and budget decisions. They will understand how the OECD DAC criteria, UNEG standards, and theories of change support reliable judgement. As a result, they can strengthen evidence-based accountability in their institutions. Gentex Training Center delivers this programme with practical tools participants apply immediately in public sector work.



FAQs for the Public Policy Evaluation and Governance course

Q1 What is the "Public Policy Evaluation and Governance" course about?

It explains how to evaluate public policies and programmes with credible methods, and how to govern that process through independent oversight. The course covers evaluation criteria, theories of change, data collection, quality assurance, and the use of findings in policy and budget decisions.

Q2 What are the key benefits of the "Public Policy Evaluation and Governance" course?

Participants gain a rigorous method for judging whether policies deliver results, which improves budget decisions and policy revision. The course also strengthens evaluation independence and quality assurance, and builds reporting practices that oversight bodies and citizens can trust.

Q3 What skills will I gain from the "Public Policy Evaluation and Governance" course?

Participants develop evaluation design and theory of change development, evaluation method and data collection, evaluation governance and quality assurance, and evaluation reporting and learning. These four skills form the core capability set the course reinforces through its exercises.



Q4 What tools, methods, or standards are covered in the "Public Policy Evaluation and Governance" course?

The course covers the OECD DAC evaluation criteria, UNEG norms and standards, logic models and theories of change, results chains, evaluation matrices, experimental and quasi-experimental designs, contribution analysis, process tracing, sampling strategies, mixed-methods instruments, quality assurance rubrics, and management response tracking.

Q5 How is the "Public Policy Evaluation and Governance" course applied in real-world practice?

Professionals apply it by writing evaluation terms of reference, convening steering groups, and running mixed-methods studies on live policies. They also appraise evaluation reports for quality, prepare management responses, and present findings to oversight bodies to shape subsequent budgets and policy revisions.