

MANAGING COMPLEXITY IN PUBLIC POLICY: TOOLS FOR ANALYSIS AND RESPONSE

15 May 2012

EVALUATION

Background

This report summarises the overall results for the full day course *Managing Complexity in Public Policy* held on the 15th May 2012.

There are two parts to the evaluation instrument. The first is the participants' ratings of both the course and presenter/facilitator which uses a scale of 5 where: 5 = Very good; 4 = Good; 3 = Adequate; 2 = Below Standard and 1 = Poor. The second part is a blank space where participants can freely write down anecdotal comments and suggestions.

Eight of the nine participants completed the evaluation process.

1. The overall ratings

How would you rate this course in terms of:	
1. Relevance to your work	4.3
2. Scope of material covered	4.1
3. Course content and organisation	4.4
4. Quality of group discussions	4.5
5. Quality of handouts	4.1
6. How well the course achieved its goals	3.9
7. How interesting the course was for you	4.1
8. How useful the course was for you	3.9
9. How well the course stimulated your thinking or knowledge	4.3
10. How you would describe this course to fellow participants	4.0
11. The overall quality of this course	4.1
Course Average	4.1

Please rate the facilitator on each of the following:	
1. Facilitator's ability to generate enthusiasm for the topic.	4.4
2. Facilitator's knowledge of government	4.4
3. Facilitator's presentation of the material	4.6
4. Facilitator's competence in managing discussions	4.9
5. Facilitator's ability to stimulate your intellectual curiosity	4.5
6. Facilitator's encouragement of inputs by participants	4.8
7. Facilitator's use of time	4.8
8. How would you rate the facilitator to colleagues?	4.6
Facilitators Average	4.6

2. Comments

Participant 1	Some slides / topics rushed and inadequate time to get head around concepts eg., Matrix of unknowns before trying to apply concepts to case study. Could do with an 'overarching' doc (or similar) which pulls slide content together as it was often hard to follow.
Participant 2	A lot of information to take in. Presenter was interested in each of us as people not just work ie., Bios.
Participant 3	Course needs a broader range of participants to avoid concentration (and) group think on particular areas or dominance of one particular policy focus.
Participant 4	A day well spent. Maybe some small group discussions instead of individual reflections. Maybe a few case studies from the presenter.
Participant 5	Very thought provoking enough to think about but quite advanced too.
Participant 6	Focus on uncovering complexity rather than managing it per se? More detail on tools for analysis -> this was a snapshot, broad brush without enough detail to make decisions.
Participant 7	A bit content heavy - too many tools and frameworks and I don't think I'll use them all. More discussion – these studies would have made it a bit more accessible. Also goals of course could have been made a bit clearer from outlet. Overall useful applied knowledge to have and good idea sharing between agency participants.
Participant 8	Excellent: has encouraged me to think more about the unknowns in my work, and increased my awareness of the advantages of working with people from other disciplines. Has also helped me think more clearly about ways of mapping my policy initiative and the system in which it sits.