Outcome Harvesting for Complex Development Programmes

Outcome Harvesting is a utilisation-focused, highly participatory evaluation tool that enables evaluators, grant makers, and managers to identify, formulate, verify, and make sense of outcomes they have influenced when at the time of planning the relationships of cause-effect were substantially unknown. Outcome Harvesting is “an evaluation approach that, unlike some other methods, does not measure progress towards predetermined outcomes, but rather collects evidence of what has been achieved, and works backward to determine whether and how the project or intervention contributed to the change” (see UNDP Discussion Paper, “Innovations in Monitoring & Evaluation”, August 2013). In response to Outcome Harvesting having become mainstream in recent years, Ricardo Wilson-Grau, who developed the approach, wrote with practitioners’ contributions the book Outcome Harvesting, Principles, Steps and Evaluation Applications that was published in November 2018. The website www.OutcomeHarvesting.Net and its discussion forum is devoted to supporting the growing number of Outcome Harvesting practitioners around the world. Ricardo was a trainer in our Summer School for years and we dedicate this course to him. Ricardo passed away in December 2018.

Expected Result > Participants will have sufficient knowledge and skill to be able to continue learning how to adapt the Outcome Harvesting approach to Monitoring and Evaluation to their specific needs following the workshop.

This course is for > Evaluators and commissioners of evaluations of development and social change with no previous experience with Outcome Harvesting. Participants should have knowledge and experience of evaluation.

Methodology > The workshop embodies the hands-on, participatory values that are at the core of this utilization-focused evaluation approach, combining theory and examples with group discussion, individual reflection and small group practical exercises all revolving around a case study especially written for this workshop. Special attention is given to dealing with the uncertainty about the causal relationships linking inputs, activities and outputs with the outcomes of development interventions. Participants will apply all concepts embodied in the six steps in working groups. The nine underlying principles will be explained throughout the workshop with examples from evaluative experience. Thus, participants will build their practical capacities and leave the course with skills in adapting this tool to evaluate interventions for the purposes of both accountability and improving performance.

More information on the content and the course daily program at this link

Dates and location> June 10 – June 12, 2019 (3 full days), Bologna, Italy
Staff> Letizia Parolini, Andrea Wolfe
Instructor> Conny Hoitink
Application Deadlines: Early Review Deadline: April 30, 2019
General Application Deadline: May 24, 2019
How to apply: Download the application form at this link and return by email to: summer-school@cid-bo.org
Enrolment Fees: 800 Euros (early review)
950 Euros (general application)