

# Managing the Politics of Evaluation

## Online Course

This course considers some of the challenges that evaluators and evaluation managers face when striving to have an impartial evaluation of a programme. Although there are certainly political factors stemming from ideological and policy debates that can affect the success of an intervention, this course will particularly focus on how the political interests of the various partners involved can influence the evaluation process. It will then go on to look at what measures can be taken to address these potential threats and protect the professional integrity of the evaluator and the contract manager.

### Aim:

Upon completion of the course the students will:

- Understand why evaluation is essentially a “political” activity;
- Understand how different combinations of the “tricky triangle” (of evaluator, commissioner and the evaluand) can affect evaluator’s independence (and dependence);
- Develop the skills needed to recognise the different types of “political” pressure that can come to the fore before, during and at the end of the evaluation study;
- Understand the benefits and limits of some of the key strategies that have been used to deal with such challenges;
- Be able to apply practical strategies to safeguard themselves from the political pressures and to ensure that professional integrity and independence remains intact.

### Target audience:

Anyone who commissions, manages or carries out project or programme M&E: evaluation advisors and consultants, internal and external evaluators, evaluation units of NGOs and UN agencies, project managers, policy makers and programme implementers.

### Trainer:

Dr. Marlène Laubli Loud, an Evaluation Expert with more than 30-year experience in governmental, international organisations and UN bodies.

Her clients include Swiss Federal and Cantonal health authorities, the European Commission, the UN Joint Inspection Unit, the WHO, the UK Department of Employment and the UK Health Promotion Agency.

Marlène has been in both camps during her career - working as an evaluation consultant and as a commissioner, and experienced at first-hand how evaluation can be political.

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## Course Features:



Interactivity



Experts



Assessment



Videos



Case Studies



Resources



Certificate

### Module 1: Evaluation: a political or a technical activity?

- Factors that link evaluation and politics together;
- Context, stakeholders and expectations analysis;
- The tricky triangle: evaluator, evaluand and commissioner;
- Evaluation expectations and possible impact;
- Putting things into practice: Do's and Don'ts.

### Module 4: Reviewing some of the pressures that Evaluation Units/ Evaluation Managers have to manage

- Examples of political instrumentalisation during evaluation design and contract, during field work and data collection, and during reporting and communicating results;
- Putting things into practice: Do's and Don'ts.

### Module 2: The notion of independence and impartiality in evaluation

- The notion of independence in evaluation;
- External and Internal Evaluators and their independence;
- The role of an Internal Evaluation Unit;
- The limits of independence;
- Putting things into practice: Do's and Don'ts.

### Module 5: Coping strategies to managing the politics of evaluation

- Coping strategies in practice;
- Practical examples on how to safeguard the professional integrity and ensure independence.

### Module 3: Reviewing some of the pressures that evaluators have to manage

- Examples of political instrumentalisation during study design, field work and data collection, and during reporting and communicating results;
- Putting things into practice: Do's and Don'ts.

**Course price: US\$575.-**

To know more and to enroll in the course, please visit:  
**[www.traass.org](http://www.traass.org)** or contact us: **[contact@traass.org](mailto:contact@traass.org)**

