Evaluation of public policy and public programs

Academic Year: (2021 / 2022) **Review date: 19-01-2022**

Department assigned to the subject: Social Sciences Department

Coordinating teacher: CRUZ RUBIO, CESAR NICANDRO

Type: Compulsory ECTS Credits : 6.0

Year : 3 Semester : 2

OBJECTIVES

On having finished the course, the student will have acquired:

- Intermediate level knowlege on public policy evaluation
- Competences and skills to apply theoretical knowledge in conducting public programs/projects evaluations

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: PROGRAMME

TOPIC 1: Public policy analysis and program evaluation
- Policy Analysis as an academic discipline and as a professional practice
- Evaluation as analytical procedure.
- Evaluation¿s values and criteria
- Policy analysis and evaluation history. institutionalization of evaluation in Spain
- Problem structuring, monitoring, forecasting, recommendation

TOPIC 2: Evaluation: Types and theoretical perspectives
- Types of evaluations (design, implementation, results/impacts)
- Theoretical perspectives in evaluation (positivist paradigm and pluralistic perspectives)
- The politics of program evaluation.

TOPIC 3: Managing evaluations
- The evaluations manager. The terms of reference (ToR).

TOPIC 4: Designing and planning an evaluation
- Evaluability of the interventions
- Context and motivation to evaluate.
- Evaluation objectives and scope.
- Mapping key stakeholders and targets (beneficiaries)
- The theory of the program (theory of change)
- KEQ key evaluation questions

TOPIC 5. Methodological approaches for evaluations
- Causal attribution and impact evaluations (theory-based or counterfactual-based approaches)
- Sampling techniques and experimental approaches for (impact) evaluation
- Other methodological approaches for evaluation

TOPIC 6: Indicators and value criteria
- Indicators: elements and types
- Construction of indicators and value criteria operationalization
- Quality assessment of indicators (SMART, evaluation matrix).

TOPIC 7 The fieldwork and data gathering techniques
- The agenda or work plan (office work, field work and schedule).
- Quantitative, qualitative and mixed approaches.
- Techniques: observation, questionnaires and surveys, interviews, focus groups, tracking (online, social media, etc)
- Other tools (participatory tool, transects, SWOT, Delphi, impact-cost relationship matrix;, scorecard, design thinking tools, etc.)

TOPIC 8: Data analysis, judgments and recommendations

- E. Bardach¿s Eightfold path for policy analysis (practical advice about fieldwork, data analysis, judgment and recommendations)

TOPIC 9: Credibility, standards, and ethical criteria
- The independence and credibility of evaluations.
- Standards and ethical criteria for program evaluation practice.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY

Learning activities:

- Practical exercises (tests, test analysis and practical case studies about the main topics of the subject). Some of them will be assessed.

- Design and planning of a program / project evaluation

Tutorship:

Individual, on the established schedule.

ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

1. Assessment of student's knowledge level through a final compulsory exam in which a minimum of 50% must be obtained to pass the subject.

2. Assessment of student's skills to apply theoretical knowledge to design a program evaluation.

3. Assesment of student's interest, participation and dedication.

Final exam: 40%
Learning activities: 60% of the grade (practical exercises; design and planning of a program / project evaluation)

% end-of-term-examination:	40
% of continuous assessment (assigments, laboratory, practicals…):	60

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Dunn, William N. Public Policy Analysis: An Introduction, Pearson College Division, 2009
- European Commission EVALSED Sourcebook: Method and Technique, EC, 2013
- European Commission EVALSED Sourcebook: Method and Technique, EC, 2013
- European Commission EVALSED: The resource for the evaluation of Socio-Economic Development, EC, 2013
- WEISS, C.H. Evaluation : methods for studying programs and policies, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1998

ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

- DONALDSON, S.I.; CHRISTIE, C.A.; MARK, M.M. (eds.) Credible and actionable evidence. The Foundations for Rigorous and Influential Evaluations (2ª edition), Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage , 2015
- IEPP Guidelines for the Evaluability Assessment of Public Policies, Instituto de Evaluación de Políticas Públicas. Gobierno de España, 2020
- IEPP Guidelines for Public Policies design evaluation, Instituto de Evaluación de Políticas Públicas Gobierno de España, 2020
- IEPP Guidelines for Public Policies implementation evaluation , Instituto de Evaluación de Políticas Públicas. Gobierno de España, 2020
- IEPP Guidelines for Public Policies outcomes and impact evaluation, Instituto de Evaluación de Políticas Públicas. Gobierno de España, 2020
- STUFFLEBEAM, D.L. y SHINKFIELD, A.J. Evaluation Theory, Models & Applications, Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2007

BASIC ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

- BetterEvaluation . A global community to create, share and support use of knowledge about how to better plan, manage, conduct and use evaluation: https://www.betterevaluation.org/
- European Evaluation Society . European Evaluation Society resources (books and handbooks): https://europeanevaluation.org/resources/online-books-and-handbooks/
- EvalPartners toolkit . International Networks for promoting evaluation: https://www.evalpartners.org/toolkit