

Maria Bak & Emery Brusset



Bio

Mr Emery Brusset is a French consultant specialising in performance evaluations for conflict related interventions in fragile environments. A graduate from Yale University and the London School of Economics, Mr Brusset has 25 years of experience in international aid programmes, including 15 working full time on evaluations. His first experience of multi-donor evaluations took place in Rwanda in 1995. He frequently facilitates training on evaluation methodologies, including at the University of Ulster and for donor agencies.



Miss Maria Bak is a Danish consultant specialising in the management and delivery of evaluation in unstable contexts. She holds a Master's Degree in Political Science from the Copenhagen Business School, and is an employee of Channel Research. Miss Bak is a trainer and experienced in project management and deployment of teams in unstable contexts to carry out evaluations for various clients. She has participated in 3 evaluations, including the ongoing Evaluation of Conflict Prevention and Peace-Building in Congo, which is a Joint Donor evaluation involving a Steering Committee of 11 members.

Workshop title

Optimal Multi-Donor Evaluation Management

Target audience

Participants should ideally have participated in evaluations as either commissioners, evaluation consultants, academics or users of evaluations (operational units).

Level

Intermediate to advanced level.

Workshop content

The workshop will be designed to pool existing knowledge, and we expect it to run from 09h30 until 17h00 (unless otherwise specified).

The participants will be given a concrete case study and encouraged to divide into three groups: the host Government of the country in which the evaluation takes place, the steering committee of donors commissioning the evaluation, and the evaluation team (ideally this should be made up of people who do not play these roles normally). The course will follow the sequence of a normal evaluation process.

The expected learning outcome is enhanced awareness of the main opportunities and risks of joint multi-donor evaluations. These evaluations provide a unique chance to cover all interventions in a sector or an area, but have proven to be very fraught and resource intensive. Is there any way in which the process could be made more efficient? The training will also seek to explore possible avenues to maximise local participation and subsequent utilisation. Examples such as stakeholder consultative groups in the field (for example in the areas affected by programmes) will be examined.

The content of the workshop will be the following:

09h30 – 11h00

- Defining the key terms: evaluation, conflict environment, joint or multi-donor evaluation
- Setting the context: why are joint evaluations increasingly favoured?
- Description of the case study and distribution of roles

11h15 – 12h00

- Preparation of ToR, and of a team (the evaluation consultants will have been given advanced notice in this scenario) and negotiation prior to the contract being signed.

12h00 – 12h30

- Inception: Discussion of the process with the host government, with the steering donors and with the evaluation team. The focus will be on logistics, consultation and communication, and the degree of independence of the team.

14h00 – 15h00

- Preparation of a report, done by reviewing a paper prepared for this purpose by the facilitators (very loosely based on a tsunami reconstruction evaluation)

15h00 – 16h00

- Presentation and discussion of the draft report (an oral presentation will build on the past evaluation that will be circulated, making it interesting and non-controversial)
- Response to the evaluation conclusions, and decisions on subsequent utilisation of the findings.

16h00 – 17h00

- Reflections on participants' experience (in workshop OR in real life professional experience)
- Lessons learnt, and formulation of a few key points for good practice.