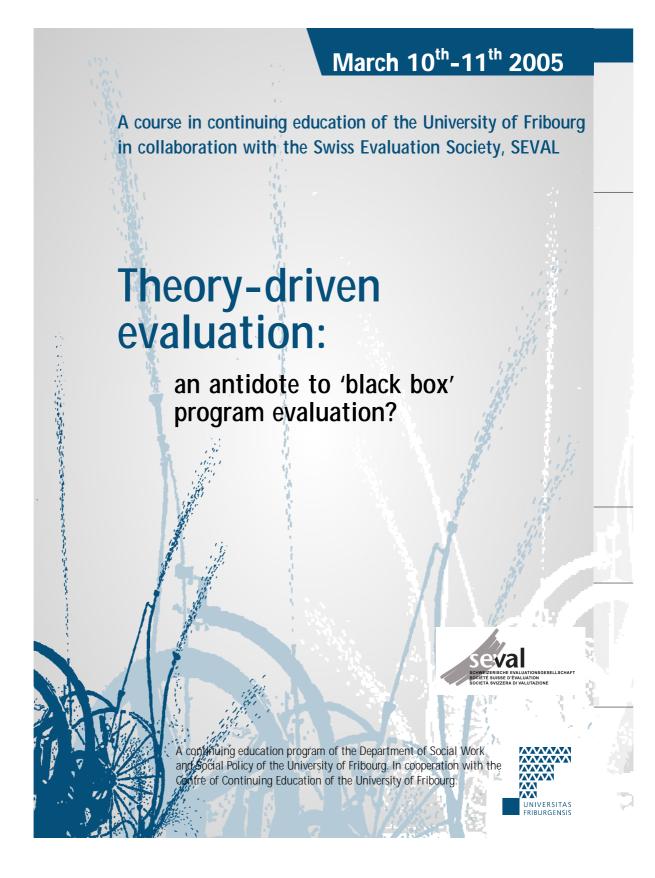


Weiterbildungsstelle Universität Freiburg

Chemin du Musée 8 1700 Freiburg

P. P.







# 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> 2005

Theory-driven evaluation: an antidote to 'black box' program evaluation?

# University of Fribourg tion Society, SEVAL

# Theory-driven evaluation : an antidote to 'black box' program evaluation?

#### Course Overview

The use of program theory for evaluating programs first surfaced as an idea in the 1970s by modelling the ways in which program processes were expected to bring about outcomes. Since then, especially in the 1990s, there has been increased attention paid to using program theory as a basis for "driving" evaluation. Theory-driven evaluation is in fact, a more complex version of analytic - rather than "black box" - evaluation. The approach evolved to overcome some of the shortcomings of other logic models as well as the causal attribution problems associated with 'black box models' and a tendency to focus on the easily measurable.

For "theory-driven" evaluations, the first essential task is making explicit why and how the program is supposed to achieve its outputs and outcomes. The focus then turns to analysing and investigating likely causal factors and/or alternative explanations for alleged program outcomes. 'Program logic' is one of the models commonly used today to analyse the program's theory and consequently "drive" its evaluation.

This course will explore the program logic model. The different approaches and applications will be reviewed, as well as the conditions under which its use is most and least appropriate.

#### Methods

Mixed methods, participative approach focused on participants' experiences and needs - presentation of specific themes together with practical exercises and discussion groups.

### **Course Directors**

Prof. Marc-Henry Soulet, Chair, Department of Social Work and Social Policy, University of Fribourg

Dr. Marlène Läubli Loud, Lecturer in Evaluation, Department of Social Work and Social Policy, University of Fribourg, Head of Research, Evaluation and Reporting Section, Federal Office of Public Health, Member of SEVAL Executive Committee

## **Target Group**

Evaluation practitioners, evaluation commissioners



box'



t of Social Work poperation with the f Fribourg.



te to 'black box' program evaluation?

# luation: an antidote gram evaluation?

ting programs first surfaced as an idea in the program processes were expected to bring about 1990s, there has been increased attention paid 'driving" evaluation. Theory-driven evaluation is lytic - rather than "black box" - evaluation. The the shortcomings of other logic models as well pointed with 'black box models' and a tendency

It essential task is making explicit why and how outputs and outcomes. The focus then turns to sal factors and/or alternative explanations for gic' is one of the models commonly used today nsequently "drive" its evaluation.

igic model. The different approaches and appliconditions under which its use is most and least

focused on participants' experiences and needs - r with practical exercises and discussion groups.

nent of Social Work and Social Policy, University

aluation, Department of Social Work and Social search, Evaluation and Reporting Section, Federal AL Executive Committee

missioners



# Theory-driven evaluation : an antidote to 'black box' program evaluation?

### **Program**

### Introduction to Theory-Driven evaluation

- From 'Black-box' program evaluation to Theory-Driven evaluation why the change?
- The roles of program theory in program design, planning, monitoring and evaluation
- Theory-driven evaluation an overview
- Participants' experiences with, and perspectives of theory driven approaches to evaluation

### The Program Logic Approach

- The 'basics' reviewed
- Program logic as a type of program theory different models
- Components of program logic with practical exercises
- The use of program logic as a tool for a variety of other purposes, e.g. negotiating program objectives and success criteria or developping shared pespectives about a program
- Applications to complex programs, "fuzzy" programs which are not clearly defined, and programs within a federalist system
- Strengths and weaknesses of various approaches to program theory and program logic
- Uses and abuses of program logic

### Developing the practical skills

- Application of program logic to participants' programs issues arising
- Using program logic to design an evaluation and/or bridging the gap between broad federal initiatives and highly specific projects at local level
- Comparing alternative logics of the same program

### **Objectives**

Participants will understand and appreciate

- Reasons for the shift from "Black-Box" to 'Theory-Driven' program evaluation
- The Theory-Driven evaluation approach its utility and limits
- Program Logic models and applications

Theory-driven evaluation: an antidote to 'black box' program evaluation?

ontidata	
antidote ion?	General information
1011?	General information
	─ Place and date
	University of Fribourg
why the change?	Thursday, March 10 <sup>th</sup> 2005, 10.00 – 18.00
– why the change?	Friday, March 11 <sup>th</sup> 2005, 9.00 – 17.00
dient	
	Fees
	Fr. 650 per SEVAL members; Fr. 700 per non-SEVAL Members (fees include all course material)
177	Enrolment deadline
	Incompanies — Enrolment deadline  January 17 <sup>th</sup> 2003 (Number of participants is limited)
All the second	January 17 ··· 2003 (Number of participants is infined)
/ <b>%</b>	Longuage
s, e.g.	—I Language
ng shared	Course language is English. However, of course, participants are encouraged to contribute in their native language (French/German)
1/2	continued in their native language (1000 m commany
(#)	Course facilitator
(8)	Sue Funnell, was President of the Australasian Evaluation Society from 1997-1999 and is
<i>4</i> 7	currently Director of "Performance" Improvement", a company that she established in
	1992 to assist organizations to improve performance. She has more than 25 years expe-
47	rience in conducting, managing, facilitating and reviewing a wide range of projects invol-
ricing	ving evaluation, performance measurement and reporting, and organizational learning
irising gap	and development.
local level	
· — —	─ Enrolment, organisation
	Weiterbildungsstelle / Service de la formation continue
11/11/11	Universität Freiburg - Université de Fribourg Chemin du Musée 8, 1700 Fribourg
100	Tel.: 026 300 73 47, Fax: 026 300 96 49
17 1997	E-mail: formcont@unifr.ch
3 135 1	
m evaluation	Online enrolment: www.unifr.ch/formcont/
and the	Offinite chilomorte. www.arint.on/formoonte
	For further information on CEVAL, unusus court sh
All Co	For further information on SEVAL: www.seval.ch

box' program evaluation?

**Enrolment** 

I enrol for the course

# Theory-driven evaluation: an antidote to 'black box' program evaluation?

March 10th-11th 2005 (course 2150)

Members (fees include all cour-

cipants are encouraged to

in Society from 1997-1999 and is company that she established in he has more than 25 years expeng a wide range of projects involting, and organizational learning

ncont/

ww.seval.ch

Name:

First name:

Address:

Postal code / place:

Tel. private:

Tel. office:

E-mail:

Native language:

Actual professional activity:

Place, date:

Signature:

Please send your enrolment by  ${\bf January}~{\bf 17}^{th}\,{\bf 2005}~{\bf to}:$ 

Weiterbildungsstelle / Service de la formation continue Universität Freiburg - Université de Fribourg Ch. du Musée 8, 1700 Fribourg

When you enrol for a course you enter into a binding contract. We will however reimburse participants (less Fr. 100.- for administrative costs in any case) who have to cancel provided that a letter of cancellation is received by us before the published closing date for applications. Those cancelling after this date will be liable for 50% of the course fee. For cancellations (in writing) received two weeks or less before the start of the course, there will be no refund, in part or in full, except in the case of illness or accident, and then only with a medical certificate.

# luation: an antidote gram evaluation?

ırse 2150)	
Tel. office:	

### 17th 2005 to:

nation continue oourg

nto a binding contract. We will however reimnistrative costs in any case) who have to canis received by us before the published closing ter this date will be liable for 50% of the courived two weeks or less before the start of the or in full, except in the case of illness or accificate.