

Data and Analysis

Securing the best possible insights from available data can mean the difference between successful policy implementation and policy failure. This is no mean feat though, considering quite how much data is currently available to us.

The data explosion of recent years has, to a large extent, been driven by the availability of open data – i.e. raw data, openly available from sources both inside and outside government. Knowing how to analyse and use such data, as well as data from more traditional sources, is an important skill for any policy professional, as well as being able to communicate what that data tells us.

Description

The ambition of this topic is not to turn policy professionals into data analysts. Instead, it is about giving them the confidence to effectively present the results of a piece of data analysis to decision makers. This will only come from understanding, and feeling comfortable with, the process for data collection and analysis.

It should allow middle and senior managers within the policy profession to act as an 'intelligent' customer; the intermediary who can both articulate data requirements to an analyst and communicate the results. Although primarily aimed at policy professionals, the topic content should be equally useful for other professional groups..

What does it involve?

This topic features a 6 hour 45 minute workshop in which you'll explore why data, particularly open data, is used within policy development. You'll explore the impact of data-driven policy making, find out how to plan a data analysis project and consider the privacy concerns which exist around data sharing and matching. There's also the chance to

conduct some simple analysis yourself, to create an interactive data visualisation and to consider how best to communicate your results.

After the workshop, there is a further task, which will take up to 2 hours, in which you will need to identify and evaluate an existing case study where data analysis was used to inform policy. As well as evaluating how this was done, you'll also need to communicate your findings as if to a decision-maker.

What's the outcome?

Being more comfortable with open data means you can help produce policy recommendations that are underpinned by better, more robust, data analysis. In turn, that should result in more accurate estimates of the cost implications of policy recommendations. And by improving the way in which those policy recommendations are subsequently communicated, you can contribute to more effective decision making across the Civil Service as a whole.

Learning activities



Online
resources



Workshop

Delivery method:

F2F

VLE

Estimated learning time:
8 hours 30 minutes

How to book

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