

Policy Framing: Problem Structuring and Analytical Thinking

A key part of developing policy is to quickly identify the problem that the policy is addressing. This can be achieved with a number of tools and techniques that, if used effectively, can successfully move the project forward. Policy professionals will often find themselves up against tight deadlines to come up with a solution that is understood and accepted by colleagues and then put into action promptly.

Description

This topic is part of the core curriculum for policy professionals. It draws on management consultancy techniques to help you define problems quickly and precisely. In this way, advice, policy analysis and strategy projects can be focused effectively.

It will also give you the skills to think in a clearer, more structured way. This will enable you to present arguments effectively and swiftly, as well as helping you be focused and efficient when assessing options and making decisions.

What does it involve?

This topic comprises a 4 hour, face-to-face workshop, during which you will learn about structured-thinking tools. These techniques are an essential building block to giving sound policy advice.

Before joining the workshop, you will be asked to select a suitable policy project, problem or question that you think would benefit from the structured-thinking approach. You will also need to review online materials and prepare a preliminary problem definition sheet for your project.

The initial workshop will be followed a month later by a further 2 hour, face-to-face group mentoring session. This will provide the opportunity to discuss your experiences and share lessons in applying the new tools and skills, as well as drawing on the support of expert practitioners.

During the whole course, you will also have access to written materials as well as an online tool kit of templates and videos.

What's the outcome?

On completing the topic, you will be able to apply the techniques you have learnt in complex policy areas and at all stages of the policy development process to define a problem swiftly and in clear and simple terms.

You will also be able to arrive at good options, recommendations and decisions after taking all relevant information into account. You will also have the skills to work more efficiently, reducing turnaround times and the number of iterations a policy may go through. This will allow you to better meet – or even exceed – stakeholders' expectations.

Learning activities



Delivery method:



Estimated learning time:
7 hours 45 minutes

How to book

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