THE CENTER FOR RAPID EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS

Evidence to Policy Training Programme

Shaping experiences, Enhancing impacts

PROSPECTUS

About the Evidence to Policy Training Programme

The programme will transform the global Evidence Informed Decision Making (EIDM) landscape. It is developed to cultivate all aspects of EIDM, including technical expertise, cultural compitences and collaborative skills. Ultimately, the programme will create a new generation of empowered leaders in evidence informed policymaking to address the most pressing global challenges and foster sustainable development.

WHAT MAKES THE Programme DIFFERENT

The Programme delivers a comprehensive and effective learning experience that equips participants to excel in EIDM. It stands out from others in the field of Evidence-Informed Decision Making (EIDM) due to its unique combination of features:

 The Programme curriculum is designed to address pressing EIDM challenges, providing participants with practical skills applicable to real-world scenarios and make an immediate impact in their work.

 Through interactive exercises and case studies, the Programme develops participants' critical thinking and analytical abilities, empowering them to tackle complex problems.

 The Programme recognizes individual learning needs, offering tailored guidance and support to ensure participants maximize their learning outcomes.

 ACRES' engaging and immersive approach fosters deeper understanding and retention of key concepts, ensuring participants can apply their knowledge effectively.

Building foundations in EIDM

The Foundations of Evidence-Informed Decision-Making (EIDM) level provides a comprehensive introduction to essential concepts including an introduction to EIPM, overview of public systems and policy analysis as well as fundamentals in understanding cross-cultural dynamics among others.

Upon completion, learners will acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to understand the evidence-to-policy spectrum, apply fundamental EIDM principles in practice, engage in policy-relevant activities, and contribute to informed decision-making processes. This foundational level equips learners with a solid understanding of EIDM, empowering them to effectively integrate evidence into policy development and drive informed decision-making.

The Programme caters to three categories of participants:

Policymakers

Are responsible for or involved in formulating policies at the local or national government level, or working in sectors influencing policy. This programme helps you:

- Convert research findings into practical solutions
- Bridge the gap between research and policy
- Enhance efficiency, effectiveness, and policy outcomes

Researchers

knowledge broker, researcher, or evidence intermediary. This programme:

- Deepens your understanding of EIDM
- Fosters collaboration with policymakers through interactive sessions
- Enhances your ability to inform policy decisions

T&C

Interns

On going and Recent graduates

Benefits for All Participants:

- Enhanced understanding of EIDM principles and practices
- Networking opportunities with peers and experts
- Practical skills for evidence-based decision-making
- Improved collaboration and communication

DURATION

Fifteen (15) weeks

Learn from the best

ACRES presents a distinguished faculty of renowned EIDM experts, carefully selected for their exceptional academic and practical experience. The multidisciplinary and multinational faculty ensures participants receive:

- Comprehensive theoretical foundations
- Hands-on skills in EIDM implementation
- Insights from cutting-edge research and best practices
- Guidance from leading authorities in the field

Benefits of Learning from the Best:

- Gain expertise from global thought leaders
- Acquire practical skills for immediate impact
- Network with peers and experts
- Stay updated on the latest EIDM advancements

THE MODULES

Each module in the Programme has features designed to support learners as independent:

- **Exploratory content:** This is the information in every module. It consists of texts that provide information and explain specific topics within EIDM.

- **Self-directed learning activities:** Learn-by-doing activities allow learners to practice the concept they are learning. They provide hints and feedback to guide them in achieving experience.

- **Assignments:** These exercises help the learners apply their knowledge and skills in real-life situations.

- **Tutorship:** Learners are supported by a tutor guiding and supporting a less experienced mentee to enhance their skills, knowledge, and confidence

- **Group work:** These involve peer discussions and encourage collaborations and peer-to-peer learning.

- **Online learning:** These sessions involve synchronous (live) and asynchronous learning. The asynchronous learning includes video tutorials, PowerPoint presentations, and links to reading materials. The synchronous session consists of a 1-2 hour live session with a facilitator and tutor, usually at the end of the week.

- **Feedback:** The participants, facilitators, and tutors continuously provide feedback to evaluate the programme, informing its improvement process.

Technical Competencies Modules

Module TC1	Introduction to EIPM
Description	In this module, the learners will be introduced to the principles and concepts of evidence-informed policymaking, including definitions of evidence and evidence synthesis methods.
Learning objectives	
i)	To introduce participants to the principles and concepts of EIPM as a good practice in public policymaking
ii)	To understand where and how the evidence fits into the policy cycle
iii)	To introduce participants to the available tools and techniques used in the conduct of EIPM
vi)	To introduce participants to the principles and conduct of evidence syntheses within EIPM
Module TC2:	Overview of Public Systems and Policy Analysis
Description	The learner will be introduced to basic concepts in public systems and policy analysis that are essential to understanding the policy environment
Learning objectives	
i)	To introduce participants to the basic concepts in public systems relevant to EIPM
ii)	To introduce participants to the concepts of complex systems analysis
iii)	To introduce participants to the basic concepts in policy analysis relevant to EIPM
Module TC3	Principles of Stakeholder Analysis
Description	In this module, the participants will be introduced to the principles and techniques for identifying and analysing stakeholders for EIPM purposes.
Learning objectives	
i)	To introduce the participants to the principles of stakeholder mapping and analysis

Module TC1	Introduction to EIPM
ii)	To introduce the participants to the principles of stakeholder monitoring.
Module TC4:	**Overview of policy evaluation methods**
Description	In this module, the participants will be introduced to the design of policy research and/or evaluation studies.
Learning objectives	
i)	To introduce participants to the principles and concepts of policy research and/evaluation
ii)	To increase participant's knowledge and skills in data collection and analysis methods
iii)	To increase participant's knowledge and skills in interpreting and communicating findings
Module TC5	**Introduction to values and ethics for EIPM.**
Description	In this module, the participants will be introduced to the principles and concepts of the values and ethics for evidence-to-policy engagement
Learning objectives	
i)	To introduce participants to the principles and concepts of the values and ethics for evidence-to-policy engagement
ii)	To introduce participants to the principles and concepts of Gender, inclusion and diversity in evidence-to-policy engagement
Delivery methods	Face-to-face in a residential workshop

Cultural Competencies Modules

Module CU6	Fundamentals in understanding cross-cultural dynamics
Description	This focuses on Cross-Cultural Dynamics and explores the complexities of cultural interactions in various settings, including the workplace, communities, and global collaborations.
Learning objectives	
i)	To introduce participants to the principles and concepts of cultural dynamics
ii)	To introduce participants to the principles and concepts of effective intercultural communication
iii)	To introduce participants to the principles of cultural intelligence
iv)	To enhance participants' knowledge and skills in managing cultural diversity in evidence-to-policy engagements
Delivery method	
	face-to-face residential workshop
	lecturers
	Group work
	Synchronous (live) online sessions

Collaborative Competencies Modules

Module CO7	Policy communication and engagement
Description	The module includes the processes and strategies to effectively communicate and engage with stakeholders regarding policies, decisions, or changes.
Learning objectives	
i)	To introduce participants to principles of effective policy engagement and communicating science to non-science audiences
ii)	To introduce participants to the principles of interacting and engaging with policymakers and the policymaking process

Module CU6	Fundamentals in understanding cross-cultural dynamics
Delivery method	
	face-to-face residential workshop
	lecturers
	Group work
	Synchronous (live) online sessions
Module CO8	**Building relations**
Description	This module will cover developing and maintaining positive, productive, and mutually beneficial connections with stakeholders and peers.
Learning objectives	
i)	To build the participants' knowledge and skills in building work-interpersonal relationships
ii)	To introduce the participants to the concepts and principles of conflict resolution
iii)	To build the participants' competencies in networking and professional relationship management.
Delivery method	
	face-to-face residential workshop
	Group work
	Synchronous (live) online session

Terms of use

Except where otherwise noted, this prospectus is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License (Deed - Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International - Creative Commons). This allows for non-commercial use, sharing, and adaptation, with attribution to Center for Rapid Evidence Synthesis (ACRES).

About ACRES

The Center for Rapid Evidence Synthesis (ACRES) is a knowledge brokering institution registered as an NGO based in Kampala, Uganda. ACRES builds on over 15 years experience supporting policymakers with evidence at regional, national and sub-national levels in a timely manner.

ACRES implemented the first ever Rapid Response Service (RRS) as a strategy for evidence -informed decision-making for policymaking in a low- and middle-income countries. The RRS involves the synthesis and dissemination of the best available evidence in response to urgent demands of policymaking. As a 'pull' strategy, the RRS facilitates timely access to accurate evidence for policymaking within a specified time, often 28 days.

Mission Statement

To provide timely and responsive knowledge for equitable policymaking.

Our Vision

A world in which the use of evidence for urgent decisions reduces inequity and improves socioeconomic outcomes

Our Objectives

- To facilitate access to timely, relevant and high-quality evidence in response to decision makers' urgent needs and demands for policy and decision making

- To research, evaluate and innovate pathways and strategies for evidence-informed decision-making to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of their delivery globally

- To build and sustain the capacity of researchers, knowledge brokers, and decision-makers in strategies for evidence-informed decision-making

- To assess, analyse, and engage with policy networks to improve the implementation of evidence-informed decision-making

- To build a world-class profile for mechanisms and strategies that promote timely access and evidence use through the growth of robust partnerships, networks and advocacy