

Collecting and using good quality information

One of the University of Gloucestershire's **Essentials of Community Development (ECD)** series

High quality evidence is the foundation for good governance and management. But how do you get good quality evidence? A wide range of information currently exists collected at different scales for different purposes.

Being confident to go out and collect your own information (or commission others) as well as making effective use of it will strengthen your community development capabilities ensuring your organisation gets the right type of information that is fit for purpose – creating operational insights and identifying problems.

Often when it comes to developing new policies, or improving management of a resource we find that the information available is out of date, or not available at the right scale, is biased in some way, or only provides partial answers to the questions of interest. So how do you modify, collate and map data to make it useful?

This course provides practical skills in collecting, understanding and using a wide range of community and local level information. You will learn how to collect relevant information (from primary and secondary sources), the common problems associated with secondary data, how various forms of information can be analysed and interpreted, and more importantly, how information can be utilised and presented to underpin resource and policy decisions.

This is a stand-alone one day course, but can be taken as part of the ECD programme (4 x 1 day courses).

What is this course about?

The aim of this course is to introduce participants to the practices and processes involved in collecting good quality evidence used to underpin a variety of organisational activities including decision making and evaluating outcomes.

Who is this for?

- Managers and decision makers in local and regional levels of government, NGOs, local authorities, regional bodies
- Anyone involved in data collection, data management or data analysis
- Professionals involved in: local government, community service delivery, health, education, recreation, natural resources management, rural or urban service delivery
- Anyone with an interest in becoming more proficient in identifying, collecting and using different sources of information effectively



What are the learning objectives?

At the end of this course participants will be able to:

- List the various sources of information (qualitative and quantitative data)
- Describe factors affecting data quality
- Explain issues surrounding data analysis
- List alternative ways of presenting and using information
- Design a basic data collection programme
- Identify strengths and weaknesses of different sources of data
- Undertake basic analysis of community information
- Present information (and data) using a range of approaches

How will participants benefit?

- Develops awareness of sources of community development information and how they can be utilised
- Builds capability of how to commission data collection and analysis projects
- Increases confidence in using different sources of information
- Improves capacity to interpret and use a range of information sources

Follow up activity could include:

- Community Engagement and Governance (Foundation Degree)
- European Rural Development (Postgraduate Certificate/ Diploma, Masters Degree)
- Prince2 Project Management (short course)
- Managing Successful Programmes (short course)
- Essentials of Community Development (ECD) programme (short courses)

About the Countryside and Community Research Institute (CCRI)

The CCRI is a partnership between the University of Gloucestershire, the University of the West of England, the Royal Agricultural College and Hartpury College. The CCRI undertakes research and teaching on a wide range of issues relating to the economy, society, environment and governance in the UK and Europe emphasising sustainable development, economic regeneration, sustainable environments, local distinctiveness and inclusive participatory processes.

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1 day course (one of 4x1 day courses making the ECD programme)

How to book

To book please visit:

www.glos.ac.uk/shortcourses

Duration

1 day

Course Fee (per person)

£175 per 1 day course

£600 full 4 day programme

Time

9am - 4.30pm

Date

Visit our website for the latest dates

Location

Park Campus
University of Gloucestershire

For directions go to:

www.glos.ac.uk/travel

Tutor

Dr John Powell
(Supporting academics)

Contact us

To discuss the course in more detail call the University of Gloucestershire's Centre for Enterprise and Innovation, tel: **01242 714104** or email shortcourses@glos.ac.uk

The University of Gloucestershire's Short Course Programme is supported by Knowledge Escalator.

The Knowledge Escalator project is part financed by the European Union's ERDF Competitiveness and Employment Programme 2007-13 securing £1,833,000 of ERDF investment through the South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA).



1119 8/2011 pdf