

English-language abstracts

The evaluation of lifelong learning programs in small enterprises

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This article attempts to demonstrate that the proper design and the appropriate selection of mixed evaluation methods are key factors for the development of a comprehensive picture about the results of social and educational programs and the decision making about the most efficient and effective allocation of funds. Through the presentation of the evaluation model of lifelong learning programs for employees in small businesses as a good practice, implemented by the National Centre for Social Research and the Hellenic Adult Education Association under the external evaluation study on behalf of the Institute of Small Business of the General Confederation of Professionals, Craftsmen and Merchants, the article supports that the triangulation and the application of mixed-methods approaches in evaluation, although not a panacea, can better meet the requirements for causal inference and reliable information to decision makers in terms of efficacy, overall performance and impact of lifelong learning programs.

Keywords: evaluation of lifelong learning programs, assessment models, triangulation / application of mixed-methods approaches in evaluation

Assessment methodology and assessment approach of an environmental risk assessment study of the activities of a large industrial site in the Asopos river basin

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This paper presents a self-evaluation methodology and approach of a Preliminary Orientation Environmental Liability Assessment Study (POELS) of a full industrial scale aircraft manufacturing installation in the Asopos River Basin Area. As a general rule of thumb, discovery of pollution, a pollution condition or a pollution event is typically the trigger for an environmental loss or claim. Pollution is generally attributed to the emission of hazardous or non hazardous wastes (air pollutants, liquid and solid wastes), and categorised as one of the following occurrences: CURRENT OPERATIONS-NEW CONDITIONS, SUDDEN AND ACCIDENTAL RELEASES, GRADUAL RELEASES, PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS, ON-SITE POLLUTION, and OFF-SITE POLLUTION. The POELS methodology is in compliance with the Greek and European Union regulations and environmental law specific to the Asopos River Basin Area. Its objectives were to identify major risks at the facility and risk mitigation measures, where risk levels are unacceptable. The Industrial installation site, process characteristics and emissions inventory coupled with industry measurements and current legislation were used as input data to the POELS analysis. Overall, the evaluation approach and relevant review found that the First-time POELS offered a good quality induction programme for first-time study related to Environmental Liability legislative needs.

Keywords: evaluation methodology, hexavalent chromium, Asopos, risk assessment, liability

The implementation of the theory of change in the evaluation of public policies and development programmes

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The article deals with the evaluation seen under the prism of the theory of change, addressing planning and evaluating actions in consideration of medium to long-term strategic objectives. It addresses key questions about the role of evaluation in formulating public policies and achieving their objectives. Reference is made to the effects of the theory of change with a substantial impact at all levels of intervention, from the implementation of an action or an integrated program to the development of strategic development plans. It focusses on evaluation as a continuous process of feedback to decision-making systems by distinguishing between the expected and actual or potentially achievable, through the dynamics of critical theory and impact assessment, under the objective conditions in which the development interventions can significantly contribute in building of feasible, adaptable and self-sustaining development plans and reforms.

Keywords: theory of change, evaluation of public policies, mixed evaluation methods, impact assessment