

EES

EUROPEAN  
EVALUATION  
SOCIETY

# 12<sup>th</sup> EES Biennial Conference



Evaluation Futures in Europe and beyond  
Connectivity, Innovation and Use



September 26 – 30, 2016  
MECC Maastricht, the Netherlands

## Communication 2

Open Space On Site Information  
Handout



# Come and join the first EES Open Space!

## What's an Open Space?

An Open Space is a self-organized conference track that relies on people's participation. Before the actual event, everybody is welcome to suggest issues they want to address; the suggested topics are then grouped and scheduled in a big board so that everybody can see what discussions will take place, where and when. So instead of the regular pre-planned list of presentations around a thematic strand, the open space consists of a series of discussions around self-selected issues where everybody can participate.

## What's the plan for the first EES Open Space?

We want to benefit from our collective intelligence to address relevant, urgent or appealing topics related to connectivity, innovation and use in evaluation. The actual Open Space will take place on Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, from 16:00h to 17:30h at the Auditorium 1. Before that, on day one and two, there'll be two sessions where you will be able to suggest topics, which will be grouped on a big chart. You will also be able to add topics on the chart whenever you feel to, during the first two conference days.

Even though topics can be suggested at all times during the conference, don't hesitate to participate in the scheduled sessions: talking to people about their topics' suggestions can easily lead to new topics, and it's bound to be enlightening.

### DAY ONE

**Open Space Corner**  
– 14:45

Presentation session

1

### DAY TWO

**Open Space Corner**  
– 12:30

Presentation session

2

### DAY THREE

**Auditorium 1:**  
Open Space Event:

Building up the agenda and discussions

3

## What can you do?

### You can suggest an OpenSpace discussion

- Come up with an issue related to connectivity, innovation and use in evaluation that you'd find interesting to solve or address.
- Write it down on one of the cards available at the Open Space Corner during the planned presentation sessions or whenever you feel like it. Do not forget to indicate your name on it, for the people to know who is going to break the ice when the time comes.
- Place the card with your topic on the schedule you'll find in the big chart of the Main Hall. If you see topics that have something in common, consider combining them into a single time slot.
- Check the final schedule on Friday at 16:00, show up on time where your conversation is planned and get ready to act as a "discussion convener".

## How to lead an Open Space conversation

- First, whoever shows up at your conversation is the right group. Whatever happens, is the only thing that could happen and when it's over, it's over. Let go and let it happen.
- This is an Open Space event, not a paper session. You're more than likely well used to presenting to groups, so you'll find it easy to slip into lecturing mode. Resist this impulse, because that's not what Open Spaces are about. If you find yourself writing notes or flipcharts before your conversation takes place, step back and take a breath. You're probably preparing a lecture.
- By suggesting a topic, you are not supposed to lecture on it. Actually, you are not even supposed to control the conversation you suggested to have. You are only supposed to act as a "discussion convener" and to steer your topic to facilitate a significant conversation on it.
- If you absolutely must give an introduction, make it no longer than 5 minutes, and note it on the topic card so that people can choose not to come until the discussion starts.

## You can attend an OpenSpace Talk:

- Check the schedule (big chart in the Main Hall) and just drop in if you wish on Friday at 15:00.
- Use the 'Law of two feet.' If you feel that you are not contributing or benefiting from a conversation, please feel free to move on to another group.
- Allow the discussion convener to steer his or her topic and feel free to spontaneously react to what he or she suggests.
- It doesn't matter if you contribute a little or a lot. You'll probably be surprised that you may know something that others may not. Everyone has something to give, whether they know it or not – even if it's the "beginner's mind" that asks the right questions.
- If you have any doubt or concern, do not hesitate to ask the Open Space staff. They'll be more than happy to attend you at the main hall.

Credits: This handout is based on the Bruce Enkel production about Open Space. Find more at <http://www.mindviewinc.com/Conferences/OpenSpaces.html>





## The Presidential Fishbowls

### **Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 10:45–12:15, Room 2.14**

Fishbowl Panel: Evaluation and Market-Oriented Development

### **Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 17:00–18:30, Room 2.14**

Fishbowl Panel: Evaluation and Sustainable Development

### **Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 10:00–11:30, Room 2.14**

Fishbowl Panel: Emerging Evaluator

### **Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 15:30–17:00, Room 2.14**

Fishbowl Panel: Evaluation in Policy and Political Decision Making

### **Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 10:00–11:30, Room 2.14**

Fishbowl Panel: Let us introduce Evalpartners – Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

Riitta Oksanen, current President of the EES, will be hosting 3 fishbowl sessions based on what she has been posting at the EES blog before the conference.

It is going to be a great occasion for all participants to join ongoing and interesting debates, through an innovative format that allows participants to enter and leave the fishbowl at any time during the session.

## The Knowledge Cafés

### **Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 10:45–12:15, MECC Cafe**

Knowledge Café 1 – Innovation in Motion

### **Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 10:00–11:30, MECC Cafe**

Knowledge Café 2 – Connectivity with Contact

### **Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 10:00–11:30, MECC Cafe**

Knowledge Café 3 – Ethics and Coffee

We describe the Knowledge Café as a workshop, which aims to provide an open and creative conversation on a topic of common interest to surface collective knowledge, share ideas and insights.

That's all. It does not aim to set up a common understanding or a joined strategy on anything.

There is no other objective than promoting significant conversations in an informal and comfortable atmosphere. Sounds appealing, right?

These three Knowledge cafés are especially thought out for those that prefer to start the day with a significant and relaxed conversation based on sharing experiences, resources, tools and tips.

*Find them at the Bistro,  
every morning after the keynote session!*

