

International course

Facilitating multi-stakeholder processes and social learning



Using participatory approaches for institutional change

Wageningen, The Netherlands, 29 September – 17 October 2014

Multiple stakeholders, multiple interests! Are you in the challenging position to design, facilitate or participate in complex change processes, in which diverse stakeholders are involved? Are you wondering how best to deal with power dynamics and conflicts? What the best strategies are when working in such complex situations? How to create social learning processes and enable effective communication between the different actors? The MSP course helps you in taking up this challenge!

Multi-stakeholder processes Today's world is faced by many complex issues; the over use of natural resources, climate change, continuing poverty and inequality. Quite simply, these complex problems require innovative solutions that call for new ways of working together across the boundaries of business, government and civil society.

However, good processes don't just happen, they need to be designed and facilitated. Specifically, they need to be designed and facilitated on the basis of a sound rationale for change based on a good understanding of the context, with a clear purpose and vision in mind, and based on principles for transformative change.

This obviously implies some quite specific facilitation capacities and skills - from the capacity to engage with the complex political context underpinning the rationale for the MSP, to the capacity to work with individuals and groups in a way that enables them to challenge themselves and each other in the quest for new approaches and collaborative learning.

The course covers state-of-the-art thinking about designing and facilitating multi-stakeholder processes and social learning.

Fee:	3,800 Euro
Deadline subscription:	18 August 2014
Deadline NFP fellowships:	04 February 2014



We invite MSP practitioners We welcome participants who are involved, or will be in the future, in the facilitation of multi-stakeholder processes. They can be from NGOs, government, private sector, research, universities or consultants.

Using and learning from your own experiences The course is highly interactive and builds on the participants' own experiences and cases of MSPs. You will have active discussions, work on group assignments, engage in role-plays and undertake fieldwork to explore a real-life MSP. You will practice with a wide range of participatory methodologies and tools. The course facilitators follow a flexible programme that allows adaptation to the specific needs of individuals and the group.

Becoming a good process facilitator

At the end of the course you will feel confident to design and facilitate complex change processes, in which diverse stakeholders are able to meet, share experiences, learn together and contribute to decisions.



The course objectives are:

- to understand the concepts and rationale of multi-stakeholder processes, complexity, institutional change and social learning;
- to analyse different types of multi-stakeholder processes in terms of the issues at stake, the stakeholders, their interests, (power) relations, conflicts, external context, etc.;
- to discover how to design and plan an extended MSP;
- to practice and learn how to use a broad range of participatory methodologies and tools in MSPs;
- to be challenged on your own facilitation, communication and conflict management skills.



Programme

The main topics of the course are:

1. INTRODUCTION: What is an MSP?
 - a. Where is it applicable? What are the different types?
2. RATIONALE: Why do we need MSPs?
 - a. Introductions to complexity thinking, systems thinking, institutional change, experiential learning, Theory of Change.
3. PRINCIPLES: What are the key elements for successful MSPs?
 - a. Working with complexity; fostering collective learning; reinventing institutions; dealing with conflict; shifting power; enabling effective communication and promoting collaborative leadership.
 - b. Using interactive processes and tools to achieve this.
4. PRACTICE: How to design and facilitate MSPs?
 - a. Different phases of an MSP: initiating, adaptive planning, collaborative action and reflexive monitoring.
 - b. Reflections on group dynamics, preferred communication, facilitation and conflict management styles

Further practical information

- **Application**, the procedure is:
 - 1) **Apply at the website of CDI, Wageningen UR:** www.wageningenur.nl/cdi
You will receive a confirmation and more information within a week. Early application is recommended as some procedures to finalise subscription (f.e. funding, visa) can take some time.
 - 2) If you want to apply **also** for a **NFP Fellowship**, check the eligibility at www.nuffic.nl/nfp. A limited number of scholarships is available. To apply for it, register at this website through Scholarships Online. As this application takes time and requires several documents, we recommend you to **start it as soon as possible**.
- Participants will be granted a **Certificate** of attendance. The programme of the course might change to incorporate new insights
- Participants are expected to be proficient in English and to have at least a BSc level through study or work experience.
- **Fee** includes all course related costs (materials, excursions, administration).
- **Accommodation:** Hof van Wageningen, Wageningen, The Netherlands. For prices, see the cost estimate on our website. **NFP Fellowships include** travel and full board and lodging.
- CDI is unable to assist you in obtaining financial support.

Proven concepts & state-of-the-art science and methodology For an overview of all the courses visit our website: www.wageningenur.nl/cdi. More than 20,000 participants have gained access to the latest insights from research and best practices. From September 2013, all participants of our courses offered in Wageningen will use tablets as a learning tool.

