



CEDIL Call for Proposals

Programme of Work 3: Enhancing the use and usefulness of evaluation findings

March 2019



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Preface

This document sets out the requirements for projects submitted to Programme of Work 3. It should be read in conjunction with the overall **Call Overview** and the **Application Guidance Note**.

1. Objective of the Programme of Work

Though the goal of evaluation is to inform policy and practice, the processes through which evaluation evidence is used to inform decision-making is relatively under-researched. While a considerable amount of guidance and tools have been produced¹, these tend to be based on anecdotal information and case studies of 'best practice'. There is scope to build a more rigorous conceptual framework for effectively enabling the use of evaluation evidence, particularly in development contexts that may be characterised by weak institutions and limited capacity and resources.

This programme of work aims to increase the analytical and conceptual rigour applied to the assessment of efforts to get evidence into use.

2. Small Projects

2.1 Evidence synthesis

Evidence synthesis projects in this programme of work should review existing evidence on the effectiveness of various methods to promote the use of evidence. Synthesis projects should aim to produce or contribute to guidelines from these reviews to inform practice. The guidelines may be directed towards research and evaluation teams to support them in maximising the uptake of their work. Alternatively, they may be directed towards policy makers to advise on how to effectively use evidence from multiple sources to make decisions. These latter guidelines would be based on evidence and case studies of the circumstances in which policy makers have been able to effectively use evidence.

2.2 Exploratory and experimental projects

Exploratory projects in this PoW should seek to develop new ways to enable effective use of evidence. This may be through researching models for stakeholder engagement, or experimenting with new approaches to present and disseminate research findings. Ideally, projects should develop and test models and tools for researchers and evaluators to present and visualise their findings in ways that can be effectively used

3. Budget and timelines

Evidence synthesis projects will be provided with up to £200,000 of funding for up to 18 months. Exploratory projects will be provided with up to £100,000 for one year. All projects should commence no later than the 30 September 2019.

¹ See DFID's Research Uptake Guide for a useful summary

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/514977/Research_uptake_guidance.pdf

4. Additional contributions to CEDIL

In addition to carrying out their proposed projects, teams which are funded under this programme of work may be positioned strongly for further work for the Centre, to evaluate the research uptake and engagement strategies deployed by projects in the other programmes of work. If appropriate, the Directorate will discuss these possibilities with project teams once the full programme is commissioned. Additional funding may be made available for this work.

5. Further information

Applicants to the Programme of Work are advised particularly to review the following inception papers produced by CEDIL. Proposals are not required to build on or follow approaches set out in these papers, but applicants are likely to find them a useful reference point to characterise their work in relation to that already done.

- J. Brown, et al. Research uptake in policymaking: from papers to policy
- S. Oliver, et al. Stakeholder engagement for development impact evaluation and evidence synthesis

Questions on this call specification should be directed to: cedil.commissioning@opml.co.uk