

# Research Methodology

TIPS Offices | 227 Lange Street | Nieuw Muckleneuk | Pretoria

24 -26 August 2015

## Background

Research and the proper interpretation of research findings are critical for the development and evaluation of policies, policy programmes and frameworks. Research types are varied however and understanding what good quality research is and what type of research can and cannot be done under particular circumstances helps researchers understand what to scrutinise and what can be said about what is being looked at and reported upon. Importantly, “good” research has implications for policy actions and interventions.

A non-technical research methods training workshop is organised by TIPS that seeks to introduce some key elements that would help assist a better understanding of:

- (a) what social science research is and what constitutes good research in terms of validity and methodology; and
- (b) how research is undertaken and what processes are followed to generate findings.

The research methods training takes place over three consecutive days and will cover the following main areas:

- ☞ Research terminology, the different approaches to research, when to use qualitative and/or quantitative research methods and what are the advantages and disadvantages of these methods;
- ☞ What is a good literature review and why such reviews are important;
- ☞ Surveys: how to survey, how to sample, and when and how to use open and closed research questions;
- ☞ Qualitative research: interviews (structured & semi-structured), running focus groups; and,
- ☞ Introduction to some basic data analysis (e.g. testing for differences).

The workshop programme is meant to be fun while being practical. The programme contains some group exercises with concrete cases and documents to consider. Some concrete examples of participants’ research problems will be debated and some practical solutions proposed.

## Who might benefit from the workshop

The themes covered in the workshop are relevant to all those concerned about the contribution that research can make to policy making. In turn, those involved with policy and who need to reflect on as well as deepen their understanding of research methods would benefit from the training. More broadly, by returning to the variety of research methods, this workshop would benefit those who are looking for miscellaneous ways to incorporate research findings into their work or who are looking to generate their own data. While the workshop is not technical, more advanced data users might also want to participate in the training to reflect on how to best present the data findings and results to a diverse audience.

## ABOUT THE LECTURER

Your trainer is **MYRIAM VELIA**. Myriam is an economist who has worked on a number of projects, including projects that have involved policy-makers. Her interests are trade and industry policies and performance.

Myriam was, until recently, based at the University of KwaZulu-Natal’s School of Built Environment and Development Studies. She enjoys the challenges of working with data. She has been involved with a variety of qualitative and quantitative research projects and is currently involved with a survey of medium and large manufacturing establishments in Durban.

**Workshop fees** (which includes teas, coffees and lunches): R7, 500 (VAT incl) per participant.

**Registration closing date** is Friday 19 August 2015.