



TIPS TRAINING WORKSHOP

Research Methodologies & Methods

15 – 17 September 2020

VENUE

TIPS Offices
234 Lange Street
Nieuw Muckleneuk
Pretoria

WORKSHOP FEES

R8000 (vat included)
per participant

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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BACKGROUND

Research and the proper interpretation of research findings are crucial for the development and evaluation of policies, policy programmes and frameworks. Understanding what good quality research is, and what type of research can and cannot be done under particular circumstances, helps researchers select what to scrutinise and set out what can be said about what is being looked at and reported on. Importantly, “good” research has implications for policy actions and interventions.

This non-technical, non-specialist research methodology training workshop organised by TIPS seeks to introduce some key elements that would assist a better understanding of:

- (a) what social science research is about 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 methodology training takes place over three consecutive days and will cover the following areas, although not exclusively:

- ❖ Introduction to the theory of change;
- ❖ 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;
- ❖ How to set out good research questions and to address these questions;
- ❖ What is a good literature review and why such reviews are important;
- ❖ Surveys: how to survey and how to sample; and
- ❖ Qualitative research: interviews (structured and semi-structured), running focus groups.

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

The workshop is **not** aimed at any specialist or at those who are working on technical questions. It is meant as a space to discuss research issues, the research context and at generating new ideas that can help research move forward. This workshop will precede a more focused “data in research” workshop.

WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM THE TRAINING

The themes covered in the workshop are relevant for those concerned about the contribution of research to policymaking. Those involved with policy who need to reflect on and deepen their understanding of, research methods would also benefit from the training.

More broadly, by returning to the variety of research methods, this workshop will benefit those who are looking for miscellaneous ways to incorporate research findings into their work or who are looking to address a particular research question. The workshop is not technical, but more advanced data users might also want to participate in the training to reflect back on what they do and how to engage with a diverse non-technical audience.

ABOUT THE FACILITATOR

Your trainer is **Dr Myriam Velia**. Myriam is an economist who has worked on a number of projects, including projects that have involved policymakers. Her interests are with trade and industry policies and with the survival and growth of firms.

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 was recently involved with a survey of medium and large manufacturing establishments in Durban. She is currently an independent researcher and still working on firms and policy issues.