

International course

Facilitating multi-stakeholder partnerships to foster sustainable and inclusive food systems



Using interactive approaches to learn and innovate with a diverse range of stakeholders

Wageningen, The Netherlands, 22 October – 09 November 2018

Multiple stakeholders, multiple interests!

Are you in the challenging position to design, facilitate or participate in complex change partnerships, 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 partnerships 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.

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| Fee: | 3,900 Euro |
| Deadline subscription: | 20 August 2018 |
| Deadline OKP/MENA fellowships: | 20 March 2018 |

The course covers state-of-the-art thinking about designing and facilitating multi-stakeholder partnerships and institutional change.

We invite MSP practitioners We welcome participants who are involved, or will be in the future, in the facilitation of multi-stakeholder partnerships. 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 partnerships, complexity and institutional change;
- to analyse different types of multi-stakeholder partnerships 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, and communication 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. Embrace systemic change; transform institutions; work with power; deal with conflict; communicate effectively; promote collaborative leadership; foster participatory learning.
 - 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 reflective monitoring.
 - b. Reflections on group dynamics, preferred communication and facilitation styles.

Further practical information

Application, the procedure is:

- 1) **Apply at the website of Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation**, www.wur.eu/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) **Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation** is unable to assist you in obtaining financial support, however if you want to apply for a **OKP/MENA Fellowship**, Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation will provide you with the full instructions and the web address for registration in **ATLAS**. ATLAS is the online application form for an OKP/MENA Fellowship. You can check the eligibility at www.nuffic.nl/okp or www.nuffic.nl/mena. A limited number of scholarships is available. As this application process takes time and requires several documents, we recommend that you **start as soon as possible**.
 - **Location:** The Netherlands. For prices, see the cost estimate on our website. **OKP / MENA Fellowships include** travel and full board and lodging.
 - **Fee** includes all course related costs (materials, excursions, administration).
 - Participants will be awarded with a **Certificate of attendance**. The programme of the course might be changed to incorporate new insights.