



INTOSAI

**International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions
Working Group on Evaluation of Public Policies and Programs
(WGEPPP)**

Forum 2022

26-28 September 2022, Bern, Switzerland

Interviews, documents and data analysis – what else? Innovation@SAI

- How can we rethink our current methods?
- What is the benefit of emerging methods? When should we use them?
- How to choose and mix methods?



Forum Program and Practical Information

(Status as of September 21, 2022)

Why talk about methods?

During the preparation of an evaluation or a performance audit, the most relevant questions must be defined. In order to subsequently answer these questions, the project team will then need to choose the appropriate methods, whether qualitative or quantitative, or both. Sometimes it is only by using several methods in combination ("triangulation"), that the auditor can obtain truly reliable results.

Traditionally the most widely used methods are face-to-face interviews, document analysis and sometimes data analysis. If applicable, other methods should also be considered, such as text mining, meta-evaluation, big data, focus groups, etc.

To understand the world, we must do justice to its complexity. The WGEPPP has decided to dedicate its Forum 2022 to the subject of methods: identifying and choosing the right methods and applying them judiciously. This is an essential subject for both public policies evaluations and performance audits. For this reason, WGEPPP has decided to open the Forum to performance auditors also. It is time to meet again in person, in order to exchange good practices and learn new techniques.

Target audience

This event is particularly suitable for

- regular members of the WGEPPP group, or
- experienced colleagues from all SAI, who are willing to present or discuss a performance audit or an evaluation, in which innovative or a combination of methods were applied

Event format

On the first day, renowned speakers will give keynote speeches. They will address the advantages and disadvantages of the main methods for evaluating public policies. In the afternoon, speakers from 12 countries will present methods used for performance audits or evaluations in the fields as social affairs, health or consumer policies. After the presentations of 20 minutes each, participants will have time for discussion.

The second day will focus on the practical application and selection of appropriate methods. In workshops, the participants will explore the following topics in greater depth: "Selecting suitable methods", "Methodical skills and knowledge managements" and "Finding topics and ways for successful international cooperation". The results of the workshops will be presented in plenary.

During the afternoon, both WGEPPP members and interested SAIs are welcome to the usual working group meeting with given agenda items. In the evening, participants will enjoy a nice evening in Bern.

On the third and final day, the WGEPPP offers an optional training in evaluation methods. This training has been co-financed by the Knowledge Sharing Comity (KSC) of the INTOSAI!

Forum Program

26 September 2022

9:00	Welcome coffee					
9:30	Welcome and Program Overview				Brigitte Christ, SFAO	
Key Notes						
10:00	The more the merrier: why we all should take full advantage of the toolbox of social science methods				Prof. Fritz Sager, University of Bern	
10:30	Auditing in a changing world: How can audit respond to change?				Charles Nancarrow, UK NAO	
11:00	Group photo and coffee break					
11:30	Using new technologies for measuring outcomes				Raj Ganesh Viswanathan, CAG India	
12:00	Lunch					
13:45	Methodological sessions					
	Parallel sessions: Objectives and application of methods				Emmanuel Sangra, SFAO	
14:00	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6
14:45	Session 7	Session 8	Session 9	Session 10	Session 11	Session 12
15:30	Break					
16:00	Session 1	Session 5	Session 7	Session 9	Session 11	
16:45	Session 2	Session 6	Session 8	Session 10	Session 12	
Session 1	National Health Insurance Program - mixed methods				Philippines	
Session 2	Principles of effective regulation - meta-analysis				United Kingdom	
Session 3	Combating the proliferation of green algae - mixed methods				France	
Session 4	Early language development in kindergarten - mixed methods				Austria	
Session 5	Tackling fraud among healthcare providers - innovative methods				Netherlands	
Session 6	Promoting the growth and competitiveness of regional trade and industry - mixed methods				Finland	
Session 7	Spatial analysis methods to assess whether the Internet-access reach the population - innovative methods				Latvia	
Session 8	The National Board of Trade's work to overcome trade barriers - innovative methods				Sweden	
Session 9	EU efforts to fight money laundering in the banking sector - mixed methods				European Court of Audit	
Session 10	Police patrolling and video surveillance - innovative methods				Denmark	
Session 11	Long-term sickness – Back-to-work measures - mixed methods				Belgium	
Session 12	National school upgrading program – mixed method				Kenya	
17:30	End of official program day 1					
19:00	Evening Program: Expect the unexpected and celebrate the tradition! Our Host: Michel Huissoud, former president SFAO (for location see practical info)					

27 September 2022

Workshops, results presentation and closure

Time	Title	Speaker
9:00	Welcome and introduction to workshops	Emmanuel Sangra, SFAO
9:15	Parallel workshop sessions	
10:30	Break	
11:00	Parallel workshop sessions cont'd	
12:00	Lunch	
13:30	WGEPPP Group Meeting Meeting is open to the members of WGEPPP and interested SAI	Brigitte Christ, SFAO
14:30	Results of workshop 1	Charles Nancarrow, NAO
14:50	Results of workshop 2	Brigitte Christ, SFAO
15:10	Results of workshop 3	Laurent Crémieux, SFAO
15:30	IDI Performance Audit Manual – short introduction	Maria Lucia Lima, IDI
16:00	Conclusions	Emmanuel Sangra, Brigitte Christ, SFAO
16:30	Closing and networking coffee	

Workshop (WS) details

WS 1	Choosing the adequate methods Outcomes are never monocausal. But neither can we rely on qualitative in-depth case studies if we want to come up with generalizable learnings. The methods toolbox offers us many ways out of this dilemma and most of them consist in smart triangulation of methods. Still, there are pitfalls we must be aware of.	Charles Nancarrow, NAO
WS 2	Methodological skills and knowledge managements in a SAI For meaningful surveys, reliable data analyses or validation through triangulation, well-founded methodological knowledge, employees with the appropriate skills and further training are required. How does SAI go about this? What pragmatic and proven examples are there? What special features apply to small SAIs?	Brigitte Christ, SFAO
WS 3	Finding topics and ways for successful international cooperations One of the objective of the WGEPPP is to increase knowledge transfer and international cooperation. The objective of this workshop is to identify topics particularly well suited for international collaborations and also to exchange best practices in cooperation.	Emmanuel Sangra, SFAO

28 September 2022

Optional: Training in evaluation methods (Fully booked, no available seats!)

Time	Title	Speaker
9:00	Welcome and introduction	Emmanuel Sangra, SFAO
9:05	Shaken or stirred? How to mix methods?	Prof. Dr. Jan Hense, Justus-Liebig University Giessen, DeGEval
12:00	Lunch	
13:00	Shaken or stirred? Cont'd	
16:00	End	

If your name is Bond, James Bond, you are definitely sure how your drink should be mixed, which vin millésime your Dom Pérignon should have, and that the hair color of the Bond-Girl is not important at all. The best is only good enough – and costs do not matter (by the way – I really wonder about the audit office at MI6 – the auditors at my university will get crazy if I present them such kind of bills of expense).

Well, we are not living in Hollywood and we have to choose our methods more faithfully than Mister Bond. By using our “weapons”, we have to be more careful about collateral damages, we need to be more efficient in its use, and we have to think of cheaper “second best solutions” (Swiss wine is also really excellent, by the way). And this is what the course will be about: we will have a critical look at the empirical methods we usually use, discuss alternatives and new opportunities. This is not a course on how to do empirical research – in most cases you are commissioners of such kind of research, not researchers. It is a course for “gourmets”: You need not to be a wine grower to get a wine expert – but you should now as much as possible of quality criteria for evaluating a glass of wine. This is what we are doing here.

We will tangle four different rubrics:

- 1) Sampling criteria and sampling processes: when do we need representative samples, what do we have to look at if we are managing a sample procedure, when do we have to reject the sample as not appropriate, and what kind of consequences wrong sampling may have
- 2) Interviews and surveys: what are the differences between “good” or “bad” interviews, which kind of survey does produce which kind of errors, what are consequences of bad surveys
- 3) Observations and videos: how to reduce complexity of observation situations, are “cameras” better than “eyes” – and what are the pros and cons? And what are the pitfalls we may get trapped in
- 4) Non-reactive measurements: this is about fingerprints, genetic tasting, automatic control, producing “Big Data” as well as “Big Brother”. Can we always be sure that a quick clock is a perfect measure for time? Do we have to believe technical instruments, and can we be sure they will never fail? How to control and observe measurement – and how to use them in a critical but adequate way.

Practical Information

Registration

You can register now. The SFAO offers meals and refreshments during the Forum. The participants bear the costs for hotel and transport. Please fill in the Google form to register before August 15, 2022!
<https://www.intosaicommunity.net/wgeppp/meetings/>

Contact

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How to find us?

The Forum will take place in Bern, the capital of Switzerland. Bern is a small city – you have a map with the different locations at the end of this document!

Directions from Zurich Airport or Geneva Airport

The best option is the train. There are many direct trains from Zurich (1h20) or from Geneva (2h).

Please refer to <https://www.sbb.ch/en/timetable.html>

Directions to the Forum

The Forum will take place at the **Federal Personnel Office. Address: Eigerstrasse 71, 3003 Bern.**

- From Bern Main Station: Bus 19 to Sulgenau tram stop, then 5 minutes walk. Journey time 10-20 min. [Google map.](#)
- From Hotel Bern: Bus 19 from Zytglogge to Sulgenau tram stop, then 5 minutes walk. [Google map.](#)
- From Hotel Ambassador: 9 minutes walk. [Google map.](#)

Directions to Monday's evening program (19:00 pm)

The evening program will take place in the Rotonda Hall. Address: Sulgeneckstrasse 13, 3007 Bern.

- From Federal Personnel Office: 10-15 minutes walk. [Google map.](#)
- From Hotel Bern: Tram 7/8 from Zytglogge to Hirschengraben tram stop, then 5 minutes walk. [Google map.](#) Or 15 minutes walk directly from the hotel. [Google map.](#)
- From Hotel Ambassador: Bus 19 from Wander to Monbijou tram stop, then 5 minutes walk. [Google map.](#) Or 15-20 minutes walk directly from the hotel. [Google map.](#)

Dress code for the night: Casual

Directions to the training in evaluation methods (Wednesday)

The training in evaluation methods will take place in the Sorell Hotel Ador. Address: Laupenstrasse 15, 3001 Bern.

- From Bern Main Station: 5 minutes walk. [Google map](#).
- From Hotel Bern: Bus 12 from Zytglogge to Hirschengraben tram stop, then 1 minute walk. [Google map](#). Or 15 minutes walk directly from the hotel. [Google map](#).
- From Hotel Ambassador: Bus 19 from Wander to Hirschengraben tram stop, then 2 minutes walk. [Google map](#).

Accommodation

We selected two hotels with special room rates for WGEPPP Forum participants. All hotels are within comfortable distance of the conference venue.

Please note that the special rates are available for booking **until August 15, 2022**. Special rates are available for the nights of 25 to 28 September 2022. Please discuss the price for additional nights directly with the hotel.

Please write an e-mail to your preferred hotel and **do not forget to mention WGEPPP** in order to benefit from the special conference rate. We have negotiated prices for a limited number of rooms, **so book as soon as possible**.

HOTEL BEST WESTERN PLUS BERN

Address Zeughausgasse 9, 3011 Bern
Telephone no. +41 (0) 31 329 22 22
Email reservation@hotelbern.ch
Internet site [Hotel Bern](#)
Way to the forum [google map](#)

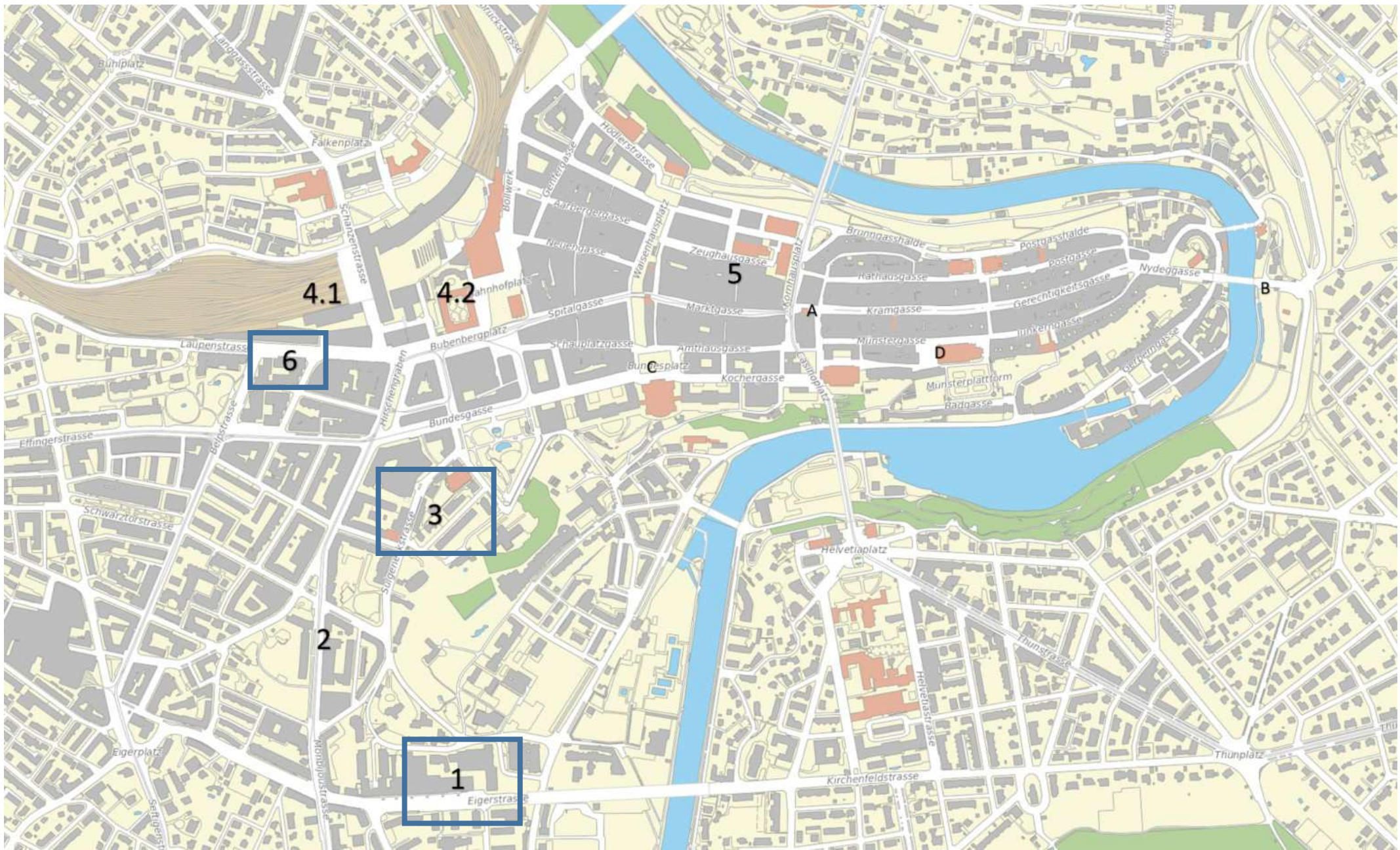
HOTEL AMBASSADOR

Price: 180 CHF per night and person, breakfast and taxes included

Address Seftigenstrasse 99, 3007 Bern
Telephone no. +41 (0) 31 370 99 99
Email ambassador@fhotels.ch
Internet site [Fassbind Hotels: Ambassador](#)
Way to the forum [google map](#)

In case you like to search for other hotels, please feel free to book through Booking.com using [this LINK](#) – regional area and conference dates are entered already

The Swiss Federal Audit Office is looking forward to welcoming you!



Map of Bern Center

- 1 **Forum Venue, Monday and Tuesday** Federal Personnel Office: Eigerstrasse 71, 3003 Bern
- 2 Swiss Federal Audit Office: Monbijoustrasse 45, 3003 Bern
- 3 **Monday's Evening Program**: Rotonda Hall (Parish Dreifaltigkeit): Entrance from the street «*Sulgeneckstrasse*»
 - 4.1 Train Station: Exit «*Welle7*»
 - 4.2 Train Station: Exit «*Bahnhofplatz*»
- 5 Hotel Best Western Plus Hotel Bern: Zeughausgasse 9, 3011 Bern
- 6 **Training in Evaluation Methods (optional - Wednesday)** Sorell Hotel Ador: Laupenstrasse 15, 3001 Bern
- 7 Hotel Embassador, Seftigenstrasse 99, 3007 Bern

Tourist attractions:

A: Zytglogge: Clock Tower

B: Bear Pit

C: Swiss Parliament Building and Square

D: Bern Cathedral