

The NERUPI Framework & the OfS Self-Assessment Tool

Wednesday 10 November 2021

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Applying the Tool and the Framework

Work in groups to share and develop ideas about making best use of the OfS self assessment tool and the NERUPI Framework to support your evaluation strategy.

We are going to break into groups **five** times to:

- identify practical examples from your context
- discuss where they would fit on the self-assessment tool
- show how they relate to the NERUPI Framework

You will be in the same group each time

Give some examples on the padlet to share with the whole group

Applying the Tool and the Framework

Introductions & initial thoughts

- Introduce yourselves stating your role, your university & your key WP challenge
- How have you used the self-assessment tool & NERUPI Framework?
- What stops you using them?
- *Write on the padlet to share with the whole group*

Strategic Context (your organization)

Expected aspects

- Opportunities for your VWP team(s) to have conversations about evaluation on a regular basis
- Delivery staff and partners aware of the importance of evaluation and committed to facilitating robust data collection processes
- A skills base/expertise identified amongst professional service staff for undertaking or commissioning evaluation of APP programmes.

NERUPI Contribution

- NERUPI encourages the formation of praxis teams to facilitate regular discussion
- The NERUPI team can support internal dialogue through ad hoc consultancy and ongoing support to institutional VWP teams
- Evaluation is an integral part of the NERUPI framework in terms of planning and review of interventions, and the framework provides a common language to underpin discussions (e.g. at outreach team meetings, APP advisory groups)
- NERUPI framework ensures staff are aware of expectations for data collection

Strategic Context

Commended aspects

- Mechanism for strategic overview of evaluation of access and participation programmes
- Resources deployed with evaluation aspects in mind
- Evaluation activity coherently maintained across the whole programme of activities
- A whole institutional approach to widening participation
- Opportunities for honest reflection and encouragement for reflective practice
- Opportunities to enhance evaluation skills and understanding

NERUPI Contribution

- Strategic overview based on praxis teams
- Mapping activities to the NERUPI framework levels and outcomes supports coherence and a whole institutional approach NERUPI resource bank and toolkits are designed to build capacity and support skills development – both theoretical and practical aspects
- Membership of NERUPI allows APP team and partners to participate in CPD opportunities on an ongoing basis

Strategic Context

Dimension I: Strategic Context

Are access and participation delivery staff and partners committed to facilitating robust data collection processes?	The NERUPI Framework provides a firm foundation for ensuring that staff and partners are aware of our key aims and objectives and our expectations regarding data collection which are integral to our programme. FOR EXAMPLE We embed this into practice by e.g. using NERUPI as a basis for setting objectives when planning interventions, presentations at partner school conferences
Are there opportunities for your widening participation team(s) to have conversations about evaluation on a regular basis?	Evaluation is an integral part of planning and review of interventions. The NERUPI Framework provides a common language and a set of Aims and Objectives to underpin discussions e.g. at outreach team meetings, staff development and planning and at the University's APP Advisory Group.
Have you identified a skills base or expertise among professional service and academic staff for undertaking or commissioning evaluation of widening participation initiatives	FOR EXAMPLE A skills mapping process/recruitment process/commissioning process/CPD workshops/ have been developed based on the NERUPI Framework utilising both the theoretical and practical guidance it provides

I. Strategic Context

- identify practical examples from your context
- discuss where they would fit on the self-assessment tool
- show how they relate to the NERUPI Framework

Give some examples on the padlet to share with the whole group

Expected aspects

- Programmes underpinned by clear objectives
- Programme design informed by evidence
- Clarity on how to measure all of the outcomes and impacts of your programmes
- Success measures focused on impact in terms of achieving outcomes for participants
- Evidence underpinning choice of outcome measures for A&P programmes

NERUPI Contribution

- NERUPI framework is based on a clear set of aims and objectives
- NERUPI built on evidence of what works in WP. The theoretically grounded context specific aims & objectives are a foundation for programme design;
- Learning outcomes focus in the Framework provide a coherent basis for assessing impact of individual activities and programme
- Framework underpins the design of activities and the identification of appropriate outcomes and data collection measures
- Indicator bank associated with the framework is being developed to share measures of the immediate outcomes.

Commended aspects

- Detailed specification of the specific activities your programmes will deliver, and why
- Benchmarks against which to measure the outcomes
- Evaluation specified during the planning stage of interventions

NERUPI Contribution

- Focus on learning outcomes in the NERUPI framework supports process of activity design and specification through theory of change;
- Mapping activities to the framework allows benchmarks to be identified;
- Evaluation is an embedded aspect of the framework and therefore at the forefront during programme design stage

Programme Design

Dimension 2: Programme Design

Are your programmes underpinned by clear objectives for what you want to achieve?	The NERUPI Framework sets out clear Aims and Objectives to provide programme coherence and provide the basis for additional learning outcomes tailored to specific interventions FOR EXAMPLE
Is your programme design informed by evidence?	The theoretically grounded, context specific aims and objectives in the NERUPI Framework provide a firm foundation for programme design. FOR EXAMPLE
Is there a clear and detailed specification of the specific activities your programmes will deliver and why you are delivering them in this way in order to best meet your objectives?	Focus on learning outcomes in the NERUPI framework supports process of activity design and specification through theory of change FOR EXAMPLE
Is evaluation specified during the planning stage of interventions?	Evaluation is an embedded aspect of the framework and therefore at the forefront during programme design stage FOR EXAMPLE.

2. Programme Design

- identify practical examples from your context
- discuss where they would fit on the self-assessment tool
- show how they relate to the NERUPI Framework

Give some examples on the padlet to share with the whole group

Expected aspects

- Evaluation plans for programmes in line with the standard of evaluation expected by OfS
- Clarity about intended audiences for the evaluation and requirements for the evaluation given how the findings will be used.
- Programmes underpinned by explicit and shared understanding of what works in what context(s), through a theory of change, logical framework, or other rationale demonstrating understanding of processes involved
- Evidence used on an ongoing basis to support the development of the processes involved in delivering your activities on the ground

NERUPI Contribution

- Framework & Toolkit designed to underpin evaluation planning supporting decisions on the type of evaluation
- Toolkit resources help teams to gain clarity on the evaluation arrangements.
- NERUPI framework incorporates a theory of change approach by specifying the capabilities required for successful progression into and through HE;
- Praxis teams support an action research based approach to continuous improvement.

Commended Aspects

Formal evaluation plans specifying roles, responsibilities, resources required.

Changes are measured against a counterfactual;

Research design establishes causality and ensures the rigour of results.

NERUPI Contribution

- **Praxis Teams can show roles and responsibilities**
- **Indicator bank supports pre and post activity measurement.**

Evaluation Design

Dimension 3: Evaluation Design	
Are you clear on how you will measure all the outcomes and impact of your programmes?	The NERUPI Framework offers the flexibility to use a range of impact and outcomes and measures as appropriate for the intervention while providing overall programme coherence. FOR EXAMPLE
Are programmes underpinned by an explicit and shared understanding of what works in what context(s), through a theory of change, logical framework, or other underpinning rationale?	NERUPI framework incorporates a theory of change approach by specifying the capabilities required for successful progression into and through HE FOR EXAMPLE
Do you measure change associated with your interventions against a counterfactual?	NERUPI Indicator bank supports pre and post activity measurement FOR EXAMPLE

3. Evaluation Design & Implementation

- identify practical examples from your context
- discuss where they would fit on the self-assessment tool
- show how they relate to the NERUPI Framework

Give some examples on the padlet to share with the whole group

Expected Aspects

- Evaluation reporting acknowledges the limitations of the research design approach used in each case
- A mechanism in place to share the findings from evaluation internally
- Clarity about how findings will be used

NERUPI Contribution

- Praxis based approach as a mechanism for making decisions on use of evaluation findings and sharing internally

Commended Aspects

- Attribution of impact is possible
- Evaluation data is triangulated from different sources
- Reporting contributes to the scholarly literature on effectiveness
- Mechanisms exist to allow evaluation results to influence delivery
- Mechanisms exist to allow evaluation results to influence sector
- Contributing to body of knowledge

NERUPI Contribution

- Mixed methods research is a feature of the NERUPI approach
- Feedback loop from evaluation to delivery supported by our praxis teams
- NERUPI network is a conduit to other practitioners and the sector
- NERUPI has an online repository for evaluation results;
- NERUPI events enable dissemination and sharing of knowledge

4: Learning

Dimension 4: Learning	
Does your evaluation triangulate findings from different sources?	The coherence provided by the overarching aims and objectives of the NERUPI Framework makes it particularly suited to a mixed methods approach FOR EXAMPLE
Do mechanisms exist to allow evaluation results to influence delivery?	Feedback loop from evaluation to delivery supported by our praxis teams WHO ?? FOR EXAMPLE
Are mechanisms in place to enable evaluation results to influence practice across the sector?	Membership of NERUPI provides opportunities to share evaluation practice examples through the members' website, NERUPI seminars and the annual Convention. FOR EXAMPLE We attended??? We presented.....???? We shared practice example on????

Applying the Tool and the Framework

4. Learning

- identify practical examples from your context
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