

Appendix 12 – Workshop Evaluation Results

Introduction

This note provides a brief summary of the evaluation findings of the Bridging Research and Policy Seminar in Marrakech on 15 December 2003, just prior to the Annual Meeting of the ERF – the Economics Research Forum for Arab Countries, Iran and Turkey.

This was the first such workshop we have held in developing countries as part of the Bridging Research and Policy Project.

There were 12 participants, 10 of whom completed the Evaluation Form. The form and the detailed findings are attached separately.

Key Findings

On the whole, participants rated the workshop very well.

- All 10 respondents gave ratings of good or excellent to: (i) the overall quality of the workshop and (ii) the organization of the workshop.
- Participants appreciated the theory, case studies and tools.
- The interactive approach was much appreciated.
- The relative weakness was the quality of some of the course materials.

There was very strong demand for training on writing effective policy papers. There was also strong demand for training on communication. Story-telling and selling ideas were two other issues independently raised.

Lessons Learned

Some of the workshop materials could be improved – (i) we received some verbal comments about the need to provide more information in the Teaching Case Studies and (ii) some people found the draft Political Context Questionnaire a bit confusing (much was learned on how to improve it).

- It is important to be very clear about definitions up front – especially regarding research, policy, policy influence and capacity.
- Participants were very interested in comparative information from other regions.
- Perhaps more time could be spent on the “policy mapping” section.
- A topic of interest not covered was fundraising.
- Perhaps more challenging approaches can be used.
- There were 12 participants – 12-15 seems a good number for such a workshop. It helped that most had experience in policy influence.

Other Issues Raised

- A related course should be developed for policymakers.
- A specific course should be developed on managing think tanks (& setting up research teams).