

UNEG Professional Development Seminar
7 May 2018
Meeting Room: Philippine (C 277)

**The use of micro-narratives for design, monitoring and evaluation of
international development programs**
An introduction to the practice of SenseMaker

Trainer: Steff Deprez

What is Sensemaker? Sensemaker is an innovative narrative-based research, evaluation and decision-making methodology designed to generate actionable insights and guide interventions in complex systems and processes. SenseMaker is based on the collection and indexing of micro-narratives. These anecdotes, experiences or stories are self-signified by the storytellers. This means that respondents assign meaning to their own stories (self-interpretation) immediately after they have shared their anecdotes, experiences or stories through a set of questions (signifiers) rather than an external intermediary interpreting the narratives (common in qualitative approaches). SenseMaker implies the collection of a large amount of stories (+300 up to thousands of stories) to gain multiple perspectives on the domain of interest. The signification (indexing) of the fragments allows for quantitative pattern analysis backed with explanatory narratives. A set of well-designed signifiers (compiled in a signification framework) will assist in revealing, comparing and contrasting patterns that cannot be detected by reading (or textual analysis) of the micro-narratives. The SenseMaker® software for the collection and analysis of data is developed by Cognitive Edge (www.cognitive-edge.com).

Workshop purpose: This one-day seminar is an introduction to the SenseMaker methodology. It is designed for participants that want to understand the principles and practice of SenseMaker and how it can be used in monitoring and evaluation of complex international development programmes. Participants will be introduced to the different steps of the SenseMaker process including examples and experiences from different SenseMaker projects.

What participants should bring: A personal laptop is required to access the online SenseMaker analysis tool.

Agenda:

Time	Session Description
09.00h	Welcome & introduction
09.30h	Self-experiencing SenseMaker
10.30h	Coffee break
11.00h	Introduction to the principles and background of SenseMaker
11.30h	The design stage
12.15h	Data collection
13.00h	LUNCH

Time	Session Description
14.00h	The analysis and use stage
15.00h	Case 'Country strategy and programme evaluation – Republic of Cameroon' <i>By Michael Carbon, IOE IFAD</i>
15.30h	Coffee break
16.00h	Q&A
16.30h	Group reflections
17.30h	End of workshop