Welcome to this special report highlighting the achievements of the Peer to Peer (P2P) program for 2015-2016, which is one of the flagship programs of EvalPartners aiming at supporting VOPEs. This is also part of the promise made during the IOCE General Assembly to communicate more frequently with members on the achievements of the VOPEs.

We are often questioned about the thin line between IOCE and EvalPartners and the perceived lack of boundaries between both organizations. The IOCE is the global umbrella organization representing and advocating for the best interests of VOPEs while EvalPartners is a broader partnership around evaluation co-lead by IOCE and the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) together with a wide range of partners (Foundations, Development Banks, topical interest groups and civil society at large.

Nevertheless, The P2P model is a clear example of the organic synergy between IOCE and EvalPartners:

- The funds are made available by the Government of Finland as part of a global call which was won by IOCE on behalf of EvalPartners.
- The oversight of the program is by the EvalPartners Management Group (EPMG) while the administration and management of the funds is through the IOCE secretariat.
- The beneficiaries of the program are mainly VOPEs which are 100% IOCE constituency.
- The ownership of the program and its outcomes transcends well beyond VOPEs and is completely aligned with the EvalPartners Theory of Change.

We are also happy to announce that the next call for proposals for the P2P program will be announced around mid-June and will revolve around the operationalization of the Global Evaluation Agenda 2016-2020 (Agenda 2020) and the evaluation of the SDGs.

We are also happy to announce a webinar series during which the partner VOPEs who executed these projects will present the outcomes of their work, and which will serve as a catalyst for the next round of P2P.

Last but not least, we would like to express our extreme gratitude on behalf of IOCE and EvalPartners to the Government of Finland for the generous support without whom the P2P program would not have been possible.

Colin Kirk and Ziad Moussa, EvalPartners Co-chairs
Inside this report you will find updates from the eight Small Grant Program award winners and an update from the Innovation Challenge grant winner. These updates ensure transparency, allow for information sharing and keep VOPEs aware of what is taking place with their colleagues around the world.

All final reports can be viewed on the IOCE Forum here:
http://forum.ioce.net/forum/small-grants-aa

Please contact the IOCE secretariat if you have any questions:
lynn@ioce.net

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Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz, Russia, Tajikistan & Ukraine

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Innovation Challenge P.11
Zambia
VOPEs and partners involved: Armenian Monitoring and Evaluation Association (AMEA), The Evaluators Network in Kazakhstan (ENK), National Monitoring and Evaluation Network of the Kyrgyz Republic (NMENKR), Russian Association of Specialists in Program and Policy Evaluation (RASPPE), Monitoring and Evaluation Community of Practice of Tajikistan and Ukrainian Evaluation Association (UEA).

The project was aimed at developing capacity of the national VOPEs in the Eurasian region though facilitation of mutual learning and fostering strategic partnerships between them. It created opportunities for participating VOPEs (a) to reflect upon their experience in developing evaluation associations, (b) to share that experience with the neighboring VOPEs and to learn from them, (c) to develop strategic partnerships that will promote mutual learning and collaborative activities among the Eurasian VOPEs in the long term. The project included a School for VOPE leaders and a Strategic Planning session for the newly established (2015) regional association of VOPEs. Facilitators for the training modules were assigned and the VOPE toolkit was used to establish a framework and a training curriculum for a Eurasian VOPE Leadership School.

Other activities included:

- Participants in the Leadership School were identified based on a competitive selection process.
- A 2-day training on establishing and running a national VOPE was conducted at the Eurasian VOPE Leadership School, which was followed by one and half days dedicated to strategic planning.
- A three hour meeting of the Coordination Council was held on how to proceed with the strategic planning and other activities of the Eurasian alliance.

**SGP15-08**
Best practice exchange of evaluation standards towards professionalization – BEST Profy

**VOPEs and partners involved:** Macedonia Evaluator Network (MCA 2000), Montenegro Evaluation Network (MEN), Western Balkan Evaluator Network (WBEN), Evaluation Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina

**BEST Profy** builds on the experience gained within Western Balkan Evaluation Network. It aims at identifying and selecting/publishing best practices from four Western Balkan Counties (Macedonia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia) as a first step in deploying common evaluation standards across the Western Balkans.

Main activities include establishing cooperation with national evaluation authorities, identification of best practice in policy evaluation on national level and organization of Western Balkan meeting for presentation of national best practices. The expected results are identified as 20 best practices and harmonized common criteria for issuing evaluator credential in Western Balkan.

**Some specific activities related to this project include:**
- The promotional event for M&E practices in Montenegro that was held on March 9, 2016 in Podgorica
- The regional meeting for promotion of best practices from Western Balkan that was held on March 10, 2016 in Podgorica
- Compilation and printing of best practices brochure
- Preparation of criteria for professional credentials (individual evaluator’s standards)

Updates and reports from the promotional event and the WBEN regional meeting can be found here: [http://men-evaluators.weebly.com/best-profy.html](http://men-evaluators.weebly.com/best-profy.html)
SGP15-09
EvALRO – Development of equitable Evaluation practices incorporating Gender+ perspectives and cultural diversity in ALbania and ROmania through transnational cooperation among VOPEs

VOPEs and partners involved: Albanian Society of Program Evaluation (ASPE) and Romanian Society of Evaluators (RoSE)

The Project EvALRO – Development of equitable Evaluation practices incorporating Gender+ perspectives and cultural diversity in ALbania and ROmania through transnational cooperation among VOPEs” is a twinning among two national professional associations of evaluators. It aims at developing a sustainable partnership for enhancing professional capacities and developing practices that recognize and promote cultural diversity and gender equality in evaluation in both countries. Based on the transfer of innovation and best practice acquired in previous projects implemented under the P2P Small Grants Programme 2012-2014 by both organizations and on the successful results in setting up the occupational framework in evaluation in Romania, the project provided an excellent opportunity for both organizations to become stronger, more influential and to enhance the competences of their members. The specific objectives were aligned with the 3 EvalPartners priorities namely: (i) Enhancing professional capacities of individual evaluators in partner countries, (ii) Enhancing institutional and organizational capacities of partner VOPEs, and (III) Promoting an enabling environment for evaluation in Albania and Romania.

Main activities of the project included:
- Two (2) transnational meetings (1/AL+1/RO) to share experience and develop joint instruments and coordination;
- Carrying out self-assessments in AL&RO with respect to Gender+ and cultural diversity and developing a Joint Code of Practice to be implemented in both countries.
- Drafting a training curricula in evaluation based on Romanian experience to be further implemented in Albanian Universities and;
- Drafting of a Strategy and Action Plan for further strengthening of Albanian evaluation environment

Additional highlights from project activities of this included:
- Organization of the first Transnational meeting in Romania. One half day project kick off and inception workshop was held as well as a one day team work event for planning research on Gender and Cultural diversity in evaluation. A one day workshop on Romanian experiences in qualification framework concerning evaluation was held as well.
- A draft call for the evaluators to adhere to the code of practice was developed and published (document can be viewed here http://forum.ioce.net/forum/small-grants/sgp15-09-albania-romania/1839-evalo-breakthrough-deliverable
- The 2nd Transnational meeting was held on February 29 – March 3, 2016 in Albania and included 5 round tables and presentations with participants and leaders from Albanian School of Public Administration, Municipalities of Durres and Elbasan and the University of Elbasan.
- A website was developed to host documentation of these activities. It can be found here http://www.evaluatoriasociati.ro/en/activities/projects/the-evalo-project.html
Developing an ASEAN Regional Framework on Evaluation Standards

VOPEs and partners involved: Malaysia Evaluation Society (MES), Cambodia Evaluation Society (CamES), Vietnam Network of Monitoring and Evaluation (VNME), Indonesia Development Evaluation Community (InDEC), Malaysia University of Science and Technology (MUST) and Asian Pacific Evaluation Association (APEA)

The development of an ASEAN Regional Framework on Evaluation Standards (ARFES) is aimed at closing the demand-supply gap in evaluation caused by increasing demands for evaluation and the constrained supply of evaluation expertise and standards. This mismatched situation was caused by the absence of national evaluation standards among ASEAN member countries. As a regional framework, ARFES' strategic intent is to offer a common generic and non-prescriptive framework with broad outline so as to enable each country to draw up respective national framework of evaluation standards towards the development of national evaluation capacity as well as the professionalization of evaluation.

Some activities of this project are:

- An expert working group meeting was held at the Malaysia University of Science and Technology on the Development of ASEAN Regional Framework on Evaluation Standards.
- Public consultation was held on the 1st draft of the ARFES by respective partners VOPEs with the 2nd draft being commissioned and completed including translation into Indonesian national language.
- A one day stakeholder consultation workshop was held in Jakarta, Indonesia in March.
SGP15-14
Professionalization for key members of Vietnam Network for Monitoring and Evaluation and National Economic University Hanoi-Vietnam

**VOPEs and partners involved:** Vietnam Network for Monitoring and Evaluation (VNME) Malaysia Evaluation Society (MES) and Malaysia University Science and Technology

The Government Vietnam is steadily moving towards the adoption of an RBM system including mandatory utilization of evaluation (and its results) under the public sector budgeting system. There has been limited capacity building in evaluation so far in Vietnam, and a marked absence of formal training programs leading to certificates, diplomas, and degrees. Evaluation also is not part of any university curriculum in Vietnam.

The project aims to create and sustain a structured and results-based evaluation capacity building (ECB) initiative through a professional evaluation certification program. As there is no official academic program or certificate program on evaluation in Malaysia and especially in any formal higher institution of learning, this project is intended to fill the gap in national evaluation capacity building. The project was implemented in partnership with the Malaysia University of Science & Technology (MUST) with the support and collaboration of the Ministry of Finance, Malaysia and the Center for Development & Research in Evaluation (CeDRE) International, based in Malaysia. The target group of this training program in Vietnam is the potential partners with VNME and key members of VNME, they are individual consultants, officials and lecturers from:

- Monitoring and Evaluation System of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MESMARD)
- National Economic University
- Institute of Management for Agriculture and Rural Development
- Institute of Finance
- VNME key members

The certificate will be an intensive program offering new methodology (theory and practice). The VNME, NEU and IMARD in particular are serious about putting into place a program of formal training and certification in evaluation both for public officials as well as for industry across the board.

The much needed capacity in evaluation for both the VNME members as well as NEU and IMARD will be built. This capacity building needs to be on a formal and accredited basis rather than just attending random courses being offered by private consultants in Vietnam and internationally.

**Some activities under this project include:**

- A 2nd course on Certificate in Evaluation was conducted by MES and VNME in January for three days. This course was the same pilot course that was successfully implemented and run by MES under the 2014 P2P grant cycle.
- A brochure and program for each training session was developed
- A 3rd course was conducted in March lasting three days. Course documents can be found here [http://forum.oice.net/forum/small-grants/sgp15-14-vietnam-malaysia/2177-final-narrative-report-for-sgp15-14-vietnam-malaysia](http://forum.oice.net/forum/small-grants/sgp15-14-vietnam-malaysia/2177-final-narrative-report-for-sgp15-14-vietnam-malaysia)
Development and Implementation at the National Level of Professional Standards Portfolio for Evaluation of Policies, Programs and Projects

VOPEs and partners involved: Ukrainian Evaluation Association (UEA) and Association of Specialist in Program and Policy Evaluation (ASPPE)

The project goal was to develop a portfolio of professional standards for evaluation of projects, programs and policies, and design a list of competences (competence framework) for experts in evaluation. The need for the development and implementation of standards is defined by the growing demand for evaluation of policies, programs and projects, and implementation of evaluation activities in government agencies in Ukraine. There is a need to train evaluation specialists in accordance with national requirements, as well as to introduce evaluation as a profession to the national Classification of Occupations.

The project realized the following activities:

- A video conference was held on “International experience of the professionalization of evaluation policies, programs and projects with representatives of VOPEs from South Africa, Russia, Canada and Switzerland who all shared their experience in professionalization of evaluation.
- Online discussions were held about the standards portfolio lead by UEA and ASPPE experts.
- The portfolio was reviewed and a finalized.
- A general meeting of the UEA members was held to approve the portfolio standards.
- The portfolio standards and guidelines were published.
- A Glossary of Evaluation and Monitoring terms was prepared and printed.
- Brochures and portfolios were mailed to libraries and central authorities in Ukraine

UEA and ASPPE experts developed a website devoted to professional evaluation standards which was kept updated and maintained: [http://evalprof.org.ua/](http://evalprof.org.ua/).
Groundwork to Develop a National Monitoring and Evaluation System in Sri Lanka to strengthen Performance Management in the Public Sector

**SGP15-24**

**VOPEs and partners involved:** Sri Lanka Evaluation Association (SLEvA), South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association (SAMEA) and Malaysian Evaluation Society (MES)

The three VOPEs; SLEvA, SAMEA and MES worked with the respective government agencies in their countries, especially the Department of Project Management and Monitoring (DPMM) of the Ministry of Finance (MoF) towards a National Monitoring & Evaluation System in Sri Lanka. This grant was used to catalyse relationships amongst the VOPEs and Government Agencies in the three countries. The 6-month Project was part of a longer term initiative.

**Some of the activities of this project include:**

- An Evaluation Capacity Development Seminar was held in the Ministry of Finance in Malaysia on January 13 – 15, 2016
- Two 1½ day workshops on IRBM were conducted by the MES team from January 5-7, 2016
- Two 1-day workshops were conducted by the South African team on Capacity Building towards Development a Policy framework to establish a national M&E system in Sri Lanka on February 17 – 18, 2016.
- February 19, 2016 was dedicated for a Preliminary Stakeholder consultation to develop a policy framework to establish a national M&E system in Sri Lanka.
- A proposed action plan was developed to formulate a national M&E policy in Sri Lanka.
Timely development of regional basic SDG-focused evaluation capacity, networking membership and public evaluation advocacy in Central America

**VOPEs and partners involved:** Central America Association (ACE), Nicaraguan Network for Monitoring and Evaluation (RENICSE), Instituto de investigación e incidencia ciudadana (INCIDENCIA), Guatemalan Institute of Economists (IGE), Guatemalan Evaluation Network and Servicio de Información Mesoamericano sobre Agricultura Sostenible (SIMAS)

The project objectives were to timely: i) develop regional basic SDG-focused evaluation capacity; ii) promote and strengthen gender- and cultural-sensitive participatory national and regional evaluation VOPEs networking; and iii) advocate for public evaluation policies, in Central America. The main activities were: gender- and equity-focused evaluation capacity development, attracting and incorporating new young and emerging evaluators into country and regional networks and linking with relevant international networks, public evaluation advocacy activities especially with public institutions, publications, web-based (TIC) communication and knowledge management and regional conference with stakeholders of Central America.

As well, the following activities were also recognized:

- A new ReNicSE logo was designed
- A new Facebook page was developed under “Red Nicaragüense de Seguimiento y Evaluación”
- Peer-to-Peer conceptual training among ReNicSE members was carried out in SIMAS at Managua on Saturday March 12, 2016
- The 3rd Regional Central America M&E Conference was held in March. More information can be found here [https://www.facebook.com/ReNicSe/](https://www.facebook.com/ReNicSe/)
- A Qualitative and Quantitative methods workshop was held in Quetzaltenango on March 26 – 27, 2016.
VOPEs were invited to participate in the call for an Equity and Gender Innovation Challenge with a spotlight on VOPE initiatives that looked at evaluations that have made a positive difference with equity and gender policy. One Innovation Challenge was awarded in January 2016 to Zambia Monitoring and Evaluation Association (ZaMEA)

Strategic Advocacy for Equity Focused and Gender Responsive Evaluation policy

**VOPE involved: Zambia Monitoring and Evaluation Association (ZaMEA)**

The project was aimed at creating awareness about an enabling environment for equity focused and gender responsive evaluation through the following objectives:

1. To advocate for the importance of equity focused and gender responsive evaluation policy
2. To facilitate a professional development training in Equity-Focused and Gender Responsive Evaluation
3. To improve ZaMEA’s capacity to be able to advocate for evaluation through south to south corporation
4. To increase access to information for parliamentarians through support to the development of an evaluation database on the website of the research unit of the national assembly where evaluation findings/reports as well as evaluation management response will be posted.

A more detailed project update will be provided once this project is completed.