



Declaration of Support for the Global Evaluation Agenda 2016-2020 "EvalAgenda2020"

EvalPartners, the global movement to strengthen national evaluation capacities, is proud of the Global Evaluation Agenda 2016-2020. This agenda builds on the support from UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/69/237 and the 92+ events that were organized around the globe in celebration of EvalYear 2015.

This declaration recognizes that evaluation has enormous potential to help improve society. By influencing policy makers, other key stakeholders, and public opinion, evaluation can help to ensure that public policies, programs, and processes are informed by sound evidence and lead to effective and equitable results, thus improving the lives of all peoples and ensuring a sustainable development to protect our planet. **However, we note that evaluation has not yet reached its full potential.**

This gap between the potential value of evaluation and its current acceptance **motivates EvalPartners and the signatories below to work harder towards improving evaluation quality and usefulness and spread its benefits** worldwide and across all segments of society, including the government, private and voluntary sectors.

We know that evaluation is not simply a value-neutral management tool. **We and EvalPartners are united by a shared commitment to promoting and supporting equitable and sustainable human and ecological development.** We promote evaluation processes and criteria grounded in values of equity, gender equality, and social justice and on shared principles of partnership, innovation, inclusivity, human rights and the protection of the planet.

We declare our support for evaluation priorities during the first five years of the 15-year period addressed by the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We understand that the "*No one left behind*" principle stated in the SDGs is embedded as a key value that goes across the three building blocks of an effective evaluation system – enabling environment, institutional capacities and individual capacities.

Therefore, we commit to the EvalAgenda2020 which aims to:

1. Strengthen the **enabling environment** for evaluation, so that it:
 - Ensures that all sectors of society *understand* and *appreciate* the value of evaluation,
 - Explicitly includes evaluation through national evaluation *policies* and other *governance and regulatory instruments*,
 - Provides sufficient *resources* allocated for evaluation,
 - Uses credible, accessible *data systems* and *repositories* to make evaluation findings readily available,
 - Involves stakeholders to *receive* and *utilize* evaluation information,
 - Increases *civil society's* demand for and role in evaluation, and
 - Recognizes evaluation as a *profession*.

2. Develop **Institutional capacities**, so that a sufficient number of high-quality institutions, including but not limited to Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation (VOPEs), government agencies, civil society organizations (CSOs), academia, and institutions that generate and share relevant data *exist* and are *able* to:

- Promote and facilitate *quality evaluations*,
- Develop skills at *collaborating* with other relevant and involved institutions,
- Resource *quality data and evaluations*, make information readily accessible, and promote the ability to follow-up on evaluation findings and recommendations,
- Evolve and develop continuously as the *evaluation field advances*,
- Support *evaluation research*, and
- Run *professional courses* in evaluation *particularly to ensure sufficient numbers* of qualified evaluators.

For **VOPEs in particular**, we note EvalPartners commitment to provide materials and tools to facilitate VOPEs' abilities to:

- Strengthen their capacity and role in *influencing* the enabling environment for evaluation,
- Disseminate the *importance* of evaluation,
- Be *strategic* and *inclusive* in soliciting their members and in their internal management, and
- Engage in *peer learning* across countries and through the IOCE.

3. Participate in EvalPartners efforts to build **individual capacities** for evaluation, focusing on evaluators, commissioners and users of evaluation, so that:

- **Commissioners and users of evaluation** will develop:
 - A sound understanding of the *value* of evaluation,
 - A proactive and positive *disposition* of collaboration of evaluated instances towards professionals that evaluate them,
 - *Processes* for conducting high quality, impartial evaluations, and
 - A stronger commitment to *using* evaluation findings and recommendations.
- **Evaluators**, drawn from a diversity of relevant *disciplines*, are available to conduct *high quality* evaluations in all countries and in all subject areas and:
 - Have the knowledge, skills and dispositions to make appropriate use of generally accepted evaluation *principles, theories, methods* and *approaches*, as well as the subject matters they evaluate
 - Integrate in evaluation the *values* of equity, gender equality, social justice, and the protection of the planet, in ways that are culturally sensitive, and with respect to the principles of partnership, innovation, inclusivity, and human rights, and
 - Commit to continually *learn* and *improve* their capabilities.

4. Finally, we support the **inter-linkages** among these first three dimensions by working together (as governments, parliamentarians, VOPEs, the United Nations, foundations, civil society, private sector, academia, and other interested groups) in order to:

- Dedicate *resources to joint ventures* in the conduct of evaluations, and in *innovation* in the field of evaluation and evaluation capacity building,
- Participate in developing a *common set of terms* in all languages to disseminate and share evaluation knowledge, and
- Attend national and international *learning opportunities*.

We, the following which includes many evaluation actors such as our VOPE(s), civil society organizations, government, donors, businesses, networks, etc.] at Bulgaria on 13 February 2018 declare our support for EvalAgenda by our signatures below:

Lars Soeftestad

Chair, Governing Board &
National Coordinator

Bulgarian Monitoring and
Evaluation Network (BEM)



