




# **VEPR Pilot Review Report - Dagmar Gombitová, 3 January 2017**

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| <p><b>Reviewee details</b><br/> <i>Reviewee name:</i> Dagmar Gombitova<br/> <i>EES membership number:</i> 18564<br/> <i>Email contact:</i> dgombitova@gmail.com</p>  |   |  |
| <p><b>Reviewer details</b><br/> <b>Lead Reviewer</b><br/> <i>Full name:</i> Pam Oliver<br/> <i>Email contact:</i> pamo@clear.net.nz</p> <p><b>Second reviewer</b><br/> <i>Full name:</i> Bob Picciotto<br/> <i>Email contact:</i> r.picciotto@jeunot.net</p>             |   |  |
| <p><b>Review details</b><br/> <i>Date/s of review meetings:</i> 16.12.2016<br/> <i>Medium of review meeting/s:</i> Skype<br/> <i>Comments:</i></p>   |   |  |
| <p><b>Review focus areas (summarised in 25 words maximum)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Low interest of the decision makers to conduct reasonable evaluations</li> <li>2. Reluctance of the client to accept negative evaluation findings</li> </ol> |   |  |
| <p><b>Capabilities explored</b><br/>                 These may include capabilities from the <i>EES Capabilities Framework</i> and/or other identified capabilities.</p>   | <p><b>Learning by reviewee (total 750 words)</b><br/>                 Brief outline of what the reviewee has learned through the review, and which capabilities they wish to develop or strengthen.</p>   | <p><b>Reviewer comments on reviewee learning (total 500 words)</b><br/>                 Brief outline of what <u>each</u> of the reviewers perceive that reviewee has learned through the review. The reviewers may identify their comments with their initials if they wish.</p>  |
| <p>2.15 Reports fairly and encourages effective use of evaluation results</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As regards the evaluation - situation in different countries does not differ so much</li> <li>• The basic preconditions to develop evaluation culture in Slovakia are in place</li> <li>• Further development should continue but it needs the preparation of the Action plan</li> <li>• To improve my planning capabilities, in cooperation with the SES members I</li> </ul> | <p>PO – Dagmar demonstrated a very comprehensive understanding of the barriers at multiple levels to building evaluation culture amongst government decision-makers in Slovakia, and it is commendable that she considers it amongst her professional responsibilities as an evaluator to reduce those barriers. She has identified actions at several levels for both top-down and bottom-up approaches to addressing the current barriers to acceptance of robust evaluation, and appreciates that there is no ‘quick fix’.</p> <p>RP – The development of a long-term Action Plan focused on improving evaluation governance in Slovakia is a highly relevant commitment that demonstrates Dagmar’s dedication to evaluation excellence. It is fully grounded in robust evidence gathered over many years of evaluation practice. The following publication could be useful in this process:<br/> <a href="http://www.transactionpub.com/title/International-Atlas-of-Evaluation-978-0-7658-0095-4.html">http://www.transactionpub.com/title/International-Atlas-of-Evaluation-978-0-7658-0095-4.html</a></p> |

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|   | <p>will try to develop the Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The initial activities could be developed with the municipalities, as one of the former members of the Slovak Evaluation Society is the mayor the common activity can be planned and developed at the municipal level</li> <li>• To deepen my knowledge of municipal operation – I will be engaged in the working group on local government</li> <li>• The process is a long-term process and needs patience</li> </ul> |   |
| <p>2.23 Uses sound negotiating and conflict resolution skills</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To improve my skills in this area:</li> <li>• I will seek for some literature (training course) on negotiation and marketing skills</li> <li>• I will search internet sources on “democratic evaluation” and ethicist language of moral to identify the literature to study</li> </ul>   | <p>PO – Dagmar has identified several practice areas where she can build skills that, in combination, will support her (and others’) attempts to strengthen evaluation culture in Slovakia. It’s good to see that she is joining with colleagues and other potential associates in this endeavour, drawing in relevant expertise and resource from a broad range of stakeholders with potential influence, rather than focusing on solo action.</p> <p>RP – Dagmar has concluded that she would benefit from an exposure to the negotiation literature to improve her effectiveness in tackling the numerous obstacles to good evaluation in Slovakia. Assessing the interests of evaluation stakeholders as well as separating the people from the institutional constraints that hinder evaluation quality and use would indeed help in the design and implementation of the proposed Action Plan. Adopting a principled approach grounded in evaluation ethics is a promising strategy. So is the use of real life examples and academic case studies that can demonstrate to a sceptical audience the public benefits of good evaluation.</p> |
| <p>1.34 Case studies, surveys, interviews, expert panels</p>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Case study example can be used to demonstrate evaluation findings and useful utilisation of recommendations, seek for convenient examples</li> <li>• Where possible I will include “case study examples” into my evaluations to demonstrate the benefits of the evaluations</li> </ul>   |   |
| <p>2.13 Manage resources</p>                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current plan is to develop big data processing skills</li> </ul>   |   |

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| <p>and skills prudently so as to achieve results</p> | <p>with the assistance of my colleague who is excellent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closer cooperation</li> <li>• with academia with the intention to engage available resources (knowledge, tools and equipment) to achieve best possible results</li> </ul>   |  |
| <p>3.2 Reaches out to clients and stakeholders</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There should be an activity developed to engage journalists and work closely with media</li> <li>• Further widening of the evaluation network engaging people from the state administration bodies</li> <li>• Where possible, blogs can be also used as a tool to disseminate evaluation results</li> <li>• These activities should improve my communication skills</li> </ul>                          |  |
| <p><b>Other gains from the VEPR review</b></p>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great opportunity to share and exchange experience and compare how it works in different countries/context, there are no other events to do it on the informal basis, conferences are too busy and formal, with much less time – it helps to improve my networking and benchmarking within the evaluation community</li> <li>• It may work as a “therapy tool” for the frustrated evaluators</li> </ul> | <p>PO – It was valuable for me to have a first-hand insight into some evaluation issues in Slovakia that affect the effective use of evaluation also in New Zealand, which is my main practice context, and the discussion helped me to consider ways in which these issues can be addressed.</p> <p>RP – Dagmar’s admirable focus on improving the enabling environment for evaluation in Slovakia as part of her VEPR review suggests that the EES capabilities framework may need to be revised to bring out more transparently this important dimension of evaluation professionalism and how it can best be strengthened.</p> |

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| <p><b>Other comments on the review outcomes or process</b></p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very useful to find out we are not alone and our colleagues deal with the same issues</li> </ul> | <p>PO – I was impressed with how widely Dagmar had canvassed the contexts in which evaluation is provided and the networks that she has built, and her refusal to be deterred by the very significant barriers to evaluation utilisation in her country.</p> <p>RP – A very successful and informative interaction from my perspective.</p> |
| <p>We declare that the VEPR review for Dagmar Gombitová was completed on 4 January 2017 to the satisfaction in all aspects of the reviewee and the two reviewers.</p> <p><b>Signed</b><br/>                 Applicant: Dagmar Gombitová</p> <p>Lead reviewer: Pam Oliver</p>  <p>Second reviewer: Robert Picciotto</p> |   |   |