

## **Progress in respect of the EES Thematic Working Group on Private Sector Evaluation – July 2013**

The Thematic Working Group on Private Sector Evaluation started seeking members in the course of December 2012 and reached critical mass by mid January 2013 with 10 members. By mid February 2013 the TWG had 18 members, including the TWG leader. The first priority was reaching agreement on the content of a Work Programme (WP) for the first 1-2 years. Although the content of the WP is now clear, there is remained the need to indicate priority areas for further work. The other key feature of the WP was getting grip on what private sector evaluation is all about, its definition. The members discussed a Definition Chart in which private sector evaluation was looked at from different levels: *Evaluation of private sector activities*; *Evaluation of activities that cross over public and private sectors*; and *Evaluation within the private sector*. The content of in total 19 boxes presented in the Chart has been put in a table and the members of the TWG have been asked to fill out the table with stories of their experiences in respect of private sector experience related to the different areas presented in the boxes. During the first half of 2013 we have gathered members' contribution with their stories of experience. This in fact presented the stock taking exercise of the experience and expertise of the members as presented in the WP. The exercise showed that there is wide experience among the members in respect of private sector evaluation that is taking place in multilateral development banks (MDBs) and in those areas where there is a cross-over between the public and private sector, while experience gained in the private sector is quite thin.

A recent initiative within the EES to establish a TWG on PPP Evaluation was slow in getting support from EES members. In order allow greater synergy as well as broader participation regarding the substantive issues involved in PPPs the EES Board decided recently that it would make sense for the PPP TWG to be folded into the Private Sector TWG. Moreover, PPP Evaluation is covered by the Private Sector TWG as presented in box 14 of the Definition Chart. The EES member who had taken the initiative of establishing the PPP TWG, will take the lead in PPP work as head of a Sub-group embedded within the Private Sector TWG.

The decision of the EES Board to establish a **Sub-group for PPP Evaluation** within the TWG on Private Sector Evaluation is important and showed that focus on other areas could be pursued as well. In view of the importance of development financing of the private sector in developing countries through commercial banks and other financial institution the establishment of a **Sub-group for Evaluation of Financial Intermediaries**, including **SMEs** is warranted. In view of developments in the Private Sector, whereby a focus on corporate responsibility obligations is growing with more emphasis on anti-corruption measures and on social and environmental responsibility, a **Sub-group on Corporate Self-Evaluation** will enhance mutual learning in respect of monitoring and evaluation-related procedures and practices within the Private

Sector. Recent discussions among evaluators from MDBs and bilateral donors have shown the importance to better describe the differences between public sector and private sector evaluation. Therefore a **Sub-group on the Specificity and Dynamics of Private Sector Evaluation** will contribute to the respective dialogue within the evaluation community.

The coming months the TWG on Private Sector Evaluation will concentrate on establishing the four Sub-groups, identifying Sub-group leaders and amend the WP with activities for the individual Sub-groups. With these developments it is expected that the TWG can be more effective in fulfilling its objectives and help the TWG members gaining a variety of experiences and allow the wider EES membership to better understand the important branch of Private Sector Evaluation as part of the evaluation tree that the EES is nourishing. It would also help in better channeling contributions to Connections and support events such as the Dublin Conference and the EES bi-annual conference.

Fredrik Korfker  
Leader TWG on Private Sector Evaluation  
7 July 2013