



**Draft Meeting Minutes
of the Meeting of
Network of Evaluation Societies in Europe (NESE)
April 2013, London, United Kingdom**

Attendees (in alphabetical order)

Barbara Befani	European Evaluation Society, EES Board member
María Bustelo	European Evaluation Society, EES President
Joana Hofmann	Polish Evaluation Society
Collin Jacobs	UK Evaluation Society, President
Christiane Kerlen	DeGEVAL
Iryna Kravchuk	Ukrainian Evaluation Association
Flavia Pesce	Italian Evaluation Association (AIV)
Robert Picciotto	UK Evaluation Society, EES Board member
Derek Poate	UK Evaluation Society, Past President
Anu Räisänen	Finnish Evaluation Society
Murray Saunders	EES representative on IOCE, Executive Committee member of EvalPartner, past EES President, co-opted Board member
Helen Simons	UK Evaluation Society
Nicolas Subieau	French Evaluation Society

1) Opening and welcome

Derek Poate, the Past President of the UK Evaluation society and the new NESE coordinating partner as of 2013 for the upcoming 2 years, and María Bustelo, the EES President, opened the meeting and introduced the Agenda. The Agenda was approved. Short introduction round table followed.

2) Approval of the meeting minutes in Helsinki

The meeting minutes were endorsed after implementation of minor corrections made by UK Evaluation Society.

The paper "Exchange of practice and experiences on impact evaluation" scheduled on the agenda at the NESE meeting in Helsinki has never been discussed. The discussion will not be open again.

3) Round table: news from national societies

Discussion about the statistical data on membership of the Evaluation Societies and experiences with trainings

- *The membership data can be as basis for a global survey for EvalPartners Initiative*

- *Importance of analysing the membership of national members in other Evaluation societies for mutual benefit, to focus on the relationship and test the consumption*

Italian Evaluation Association:

- Training courses at the University
 - o to attract new people attending the courses for the Conference and AIV membership
- Summer school in the past addressed to the members
- Register of people doing evaluation by profession (list of competences)
- Proposal by Board to the UKES conference to organise the workshop
- Statistics:
 - o just a few data collected, no systematic data collection due to the voluntary basis

Ukrainian Evaluation Society:

- founded 2 years ago
- Data:
 - o collecting only simple membership data from membership application form
- Trainings:
 - o pilot basic training (ABC of Evaluation) and monthly workshops on different topic
 - o questionnaire development about training assessment
 - o topic selection is challenging to avoid conflicts and unnecessary competition

Polish Evaluation Society:

- Training:
 - o strong demand for training in evaluation and for training how to become professional evaluator (commission evaluation and conduct evaluation)
 - o Delivery of short term courses as introductory, basic skills courses
 - o Lack of short basic courses and more comprehensive programmes, there is no continuity between these courses, lack of practical aspect of evaluation trainings
 - o No trainings to perform special roles in evaluation
 - o Currently there is less funding available to organise training courses and programmes, the participants are funded by institutions or employers
- Data:
 - o basic data collected, but might not be up to date as data collected when paying the membership

Finnish Evaluation Society:

- Training:
 - o no training programmes of evaluation at University
 - o Continues education programme developed by the Evaluation Society, for private and public sector, different modules (theoretical, practical), 1 credit=1 week
 - o Discussion with University of Helsinki and potential cooperation with other universities
- Data:
 - o No statistical data, just a few people working in evaluation, no features to be measured

- Nordic agreement- discounted conference fee, other benefits in cooperation with other Nordic countries (Sweden)

French Evaluation Society:

- Trainings:
 - o no trainings in evaluation, 40% from private companies and consultancy
 - o to involve more decision makers and elected representatives into trainings
 - o some projects: finalizing the guidelines (handbook) about elected representative (sensitisation), tutoring/mentoring of the board and members of evaluation society
 - o idea to establish a database on evaluation courses at universities in different field/topics, without any assessment
- Statistics: some basic data only

European Evaluation Society:

- Trainings:
 - o TWG on Professionalization, USPE network (focus on university based programmes and training)
 - o Proposals for collaboration on training discussed within EES Board (Direct delivery by EES, accreditation or cooperation with NESE members for training)
 - o List of different programmes on evaluation at universities in Europe available on the EES website
 - o Pre-conference training programme, a part of the EES Biennial conference
 - o direct training on evaluation organised by EES in the past
 - o Proposals for webinars within TWG Gender and Evaluation
- Data:
 - o 2 surveys: Capability framework, based on two surveys
 - o Quite well completed data from EES membership thanks to the online application questionnaire

DeGEVAL

- Data:
 - o new statistics now in preparation
- Trainings:
 - o guidelines for commissioners
 - o trainings offered by members selves
 - o active working group on trainings of evaluation, list of companies offering internship, list of members offering the trainings (not technically set up yet)
- September 2014 joint conference with Swiss evaluation society (theme on professionalization)

UK Evaluation Society:

- Accreditation of the courses might be discussed in the future again, Evaluation form already in place, guidelines etc.
- Two courses in relation with the government department were organised without any funding
- Focus on more trainings and more cooperation with government departments
- Trainings as advanced seminars, workshops, pre-conference workshop etc., evaluators' training is lacking

- London evaluation network re-launched – several ideas for organising workshops
- Dialog: commissioners and evaluators
- Capability framework recently published, as guiding framework for training courses
- Summer institute
- Challenges: organising trainings is important as well as funding, there is big demand on organisation, however the trainers cannot be paid as they are a part of the Board – conflict of interests
- Concentration on the website development
- Blended in terms of funding, not basic level training – intermediate
- Statistics: most of the data come from recruitment, fluctuation with the conference, some surveys were done in the past
- Cooperation with New Zealand

4) Suggestions for some actions to work jointly within the NESE, among the NESE members

Discussion about providing of trainings in cooperation with universities, also with some concern:

- possible conflict of interest
- Looking for opportunities for funding, which would exclude the private sector and would focus on ground sources, professional associations
- Lack of interest in training by members coming from private companies, private consultancies already providing trainings
- Universities in Europe are facing critical financial situation, low interest in joint projects
- USPE – specific programme in evaluation – some of them are facing problems – lack of students
- Collaboration with universities in regards with the accreditation
- To promote training or one day seminars as visible services provided by the evaluation associations
- Massive gap in trainings
- Lack on data about the interest on topics for trainings and seminars
- Partnership; agreement on the programme, jointly work and sharing the benefits

Discussion about the situation in different countries, different experience of Evaluation societies (AIV, FES,)

- Facilitating trainings is expected by members from societies
- Brokering role of the evaluation societies (training programme and lecturer cooperation)
- Italian Evaluation Association (AIV): list of master programmes on evaluation available on the website, but not so far of creating trainings with the universities together, only some incentive with specific agreement with universities

5) EvalPartners Initiative by Murray Saunders:

- EvalPartners as international partnership initiative within IOCE to promote Evaluation Capacity Development
- to promote collaboration among evaluation organisations (VOPEs), for generating knowledge resources and focus on knowledge exchange – peer to peer connection
- Premised on the belief to need to strengthen evaluation capacity development – to play a role in national evaluation processes
- Make connection between society and policy making and its evaluation

- Provide build capacity among evaluation organisations
- VOPE – two possible different definitions:
 - o Voluntary organisation of professional evaluation or
 - o Voluntary organisation of to promote evaluation (open to a wide variety of members, communities of practise)
 - o VOPE is connected to IOCE – EvalPartners (1/2012 Unicef and IOCE) – all the effort of IOCE is to support EvalPartners
- Increase of evaluation societies worldwide within VOPEs since 1981
- Interactive world map and database of global VOPEs
- Interest in improving professional societies of involvement
- No comparison with other professional societies
- Evaluation as secondary discipline

Action:

- to include the EES – NESE to the IOCE interactive map and join EvalPartners as NESE
- NESE needs to be registered as VOPE at EvalPartners, no strategic implication of being registered

Case studies:

Capacity building:

- Strengthening the capacity in three levels, focusing on
 - o individuals
 - o institutions (societies, government development)
 - o enabling environment (government practices, policies, legislation, social norms, power relations)
- Guiding principles: strategic partnership, innovation, inclusion
- Governance: international Advisory Group and Management group (executive of four people)

EvalPartners:

- High international legitimation of EvalPartners thanks to the main partners (31)
- EvalPartners progress: launch + mapping in March 2012 (strategic pressure, no single European voice), opportunity to analyse the practice in your own society
- Launch of specific funding opportunities in 12/2012 (5000 USD) for mutual support and learning:
 - o To think about the cooperation within Building capacity and knowledge exchange
 - o Creation of task force (TF): enabling environment TF at national, regional and global level, knowledge generation (building eval resources), toolkit (using information, placing information, to do)
 - o Peer-to peer (P2P): a short proposal knowledge exchange and building capacity with a deadline 1 May, so far as a concept, but it might continue as a core activity of IOCE.

Discussion about possible project to be submitted within P2P, as joint NESE application (at least 2 societies):

- To link it with anything what the national societies are doing anyway, e.g. to review the German standards with Swiss society
- the project might be used for NESE as one of the joint activities
- to try to adapt a different way of working and connecting as “networking across the societies”
- idea of designation, how to analyse and identify the membership
- the proposal should be signed by at least two VOPEs

- Sharing data of NESE members to use for IOCE project
- Brought criteria for the proposal, it should be something additional you cannot get money for anything that you are doing anyway.
- Idea of joint membership or conference package – joint conference, economy effort, not for subsidizing conference, as added value

Discussion:

- About the “professional” in the definition of VOPE, for some of the national societies the word “professional” can be problematic
- Ukrainian Evaluation society is very interested in the peer-to peer proposal of a session of IPEN
- first to identify the topic and then who could participate from NESE members (exchange of knowledge on international lobbyist), conference in September, strategically Europe to be present there is important

Discussion about the relationship of NESE and IOCE:

- NESE shall become a member of the IOCE network
- how many members of NESE filled in the IOCE questionnaire (VOPEs)
- In case of submitting a proposal as NESE, this would mean additional meeting of NESE during 2013
- The funding has to be spent by March 2014, it might continue through 2015

Action:

- To draft the project on data statistic sharing and the membership questionnaire, on opportunities for funding activities, website – integrating of all NESE websites
- Working group: Barbara, Flavia, Murray, Derek

Discussion:

- about the leading of the project, extension of the deadline, expanding the membership base, etc.)
- about the fluctuation and changing the Network and about the need to inform also the past participants
- about the possibility to harmonize the membership statistics according to the EES questionnaires
 - o This is just a suggestion that can be still modified
 - o The NESE should agree on a template
 - o Being a voluntary network NESE is not allowed to take decision without informing the national boards
 - o sensitivity of some national societies that are not at the meeting
 - o sensitive issue of proposing something on behalf of EES

Evaluation year 2015

- focus on evaluation positioning

Discussion:

- about the ideas, what event could be sponsored in 2015
- what is already planned to do in 2015 and finalized and agreed in Dublin, 2014
- The cooperation with EvalPartners and contribute with ideas what the year should be about, not vice versa
- Year to promote evaluation in a public sphere, question of promotion
- To ask for some more ideas the other evaluation societies
- what will be done by every NESE member to celebrate the evaluation year

Discussion:

- to have an earlier meeting (October 2014 might be too late) to discuss the project of the Evaluation year
- Proposed possible dates and places for the project: October 2013, Warsaw or September 2013 Munich

Action:

- To coordinate the dates of the next conferences of the national societies.
- To send it to the EES Secretariat and then decide on the tentative date and place of the potential NESE meeting before Dublin

6) Who will be next coordinator as of 2015?

There is no formal process of the elections of new NESE coordinator:

Action:

- To prepare a call for next NESE coordinator for the upcoming Dublin NESE meeting in 2014

Estonian Evaluation Societies expressed interest in volunteering, however to be discussed in Dublin.

María Bustelo and Derek Poate thanked the participants for attending and for fruitful NESE meeting and closed the meeting.