



NESE Meeting 2014
Draft meeting minutes
Tuesday, 30th September, 2014, Dublin (Ireland)

Attendees (in alphabetical order)

Barbara Befani	European Evaluation Society
Wolfgang Böttcher	DeGEval (Gesellschaft für Evaluation e.V.)
María Bustelo	European Evaluation Society
Julia Espinosa	Spanish Evaluation Society
Harald Furre	Norwegian Evaluation Society
Dagmar Gombitova	Slovak Evaluation Society
Nina Hietekangas	Finnish Evaluation Society
Liisa Horelli	Finnish Evaluation Society
Christiane Kerlen	DeGEval (Gesellschaft für Evaluation e.V.)
Iryna Kravchuk	Ukrainian Evaluation Association
Seweryn Krupnik	Polish Evaluation Society
Fatjon Luli	Albanian Evaluation Society
Riitta Oksanen	Finnish Evaluation Society
Derek Poate	UK Evaluation Society
Jiri Remr	Czech Evaluation Society
Helen Simons	UK Evaluation Society
Claudine Voyadzis	European Evaluation Society

1) Opening and welcome

Brief roundtable introduction of the participants.

2) Approval of last meeting minutes

The meeting minutes from the last NESE meeting that was held in London, April 2013 were approved.

3) NESE/EES Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Project “Strengthening Cooperation among Evaluation Societies in Europe: Identifying and Implementing Synergies”. Discussion of project follow-up.

The P2P project’s programme and outcome of the EES-NESE meeting in Warsaw was briefly reviewed and presented by D. Poate.

Discussion and follow-up on:

3.1 Coordination EES and NESE working groups with common topics – Voluntary Evaluator Peer Review (VEPR), Gender..., etc.

Discussion about the initiatives and different thematic working groups among the national societies:

European Evaluation Society:

- A new TWG on Education and Training was introduced by María Bustelo. This TWG will be set up shortly and launched at the EES Conference in Dublin.
- TWG Gender and Evaluation presented by Julia Espinosa: as broad based working group with more international dimension rather than the European one.
 - o Since 2012, 35 members
 - o Continuously increasing interest in gender and evaluation in last EES and other conferences
 - o Gender and evaluation mapping on annual basis (main networks, websites, publications etc.) and its dissemination to the members
 - o A special issue of the Connections Newsletter to be published
 - o In contact with different TWG from the AEA for a potential cooperation (joint webinar, etc.)
 - o Issue of the gender perspectives in the guidelines of the national societies; what is the European gender evaluation issue (DeGEval is also facing this issue and thoughts about reviewing their standards).

Finnish Evaluation Society:

- Working group on education of evaluators, there are ideas to connect the working group with the universities, however the FES as the process owner.

DeGEval:

- already 17 years of praxis of working groups in place, collecting information on trainings and event on education of evaluation, there is only one master course in Germany and one in Switzerland;
- TWG on professionalization – the standards are in place, available on the website. Try to make a benchmark from this TWG.
- DeGEval members can promote their courses on the website.

UKES:

- Re training and VEPR Helen Simons pointed out that it is important to have training systems in place to provide a framework for as the any competency process that led to certification; summer courses are also important to bring people together. Thirdly courses and trainings are not only about the methods and strategies but finding a way to ensure an understanding of the field politics of evaluation.

Czech Evaluation Society:

- Jiri Remr briefly introduced the accredited evaluation programme by CES, a course organized by the University that is good for the practitioners
- Various Czech-Slovak joint activities

Ukrainian Evaluation Society:

- Young and new society
- There are now plans for opening a new course - evaluation of programmes

Summary:

There are relatively few opportunities for evaluation trainings and courses, though this is on the increase. The national societies (NESE members) could add some value for this. This is one of the reasons for the TWG created by EES. What should be the role of the evaluation courses? What kind of activities can be made on education and training? To exchange experiences, the young societies can learn from the more experienced ones.

There is a relatively high demand for practical evaluation and more practical evaluation is desired (e.g. in a form of pre-conference workshops as organized by DeGEval, EES, etc.).

Action point:

- The idea is to prepare a joint list of the courses and trainings; universities programme over the Europe. There is an overview of the PhD programmes already available on the EES website, but the list can be extended.

Discussion on what is the role of the societies in the promotion of the trainings, just the information collection or recommendations, or organizing ourselves?

- Members of DeGEval can advertise the courses on the website
- In general societies thought it appropriate to take a more neutral position.

The discussion closed with a conclusion that there is a rich diversity of national associations with different TWGs and different issues faced by the National Societies.

3.2 Common activities for the preparation of evaluation Year 2015

Someone pointed out that 2015 is not only EvalYear but also a year of Foreign Aid and Development; it might be worth trying to think of some activities related to both topics.

Idea of Polish Evaluation Society briefly presented:

- Common video on European stories what is the evaluation, evaluation in Europe and different approach and by the different national societies.
- Matrix prepared at the meeting EES-NESE in Warsaw to help the National societies to prepare the communication activities related to this activity.
- What kind of message should be communicated with the EvalYear and different activities?
- To collect the success stories and observe the effect also with other national societies to make a comparative study => discussion about the EvalPartners programme: Evaluations that Make a Difference: Stories from around the world

Further activities of the national societies related to the upcoming EvalYear 2015 briefly presented:

- Czech Evaluation Society is building a database of journalists in the Czech Republic to have media partners to disseminate the information about what is the evaluation, this can also help to increase the number of participants at the local conference, to prepare the list of the successful stories, how the evaluation improves.
- DeGEval is preparing a flyer for dissemination with information on Evaluation and EvalYear 2015 with the aim behind to raise the membership by communicating the year of Evaluation
- Norwegian Evaluation Society has selected "Traces of evaluation" as a theme for 2015
- Albanian Evaluation Society is trying to promote the development of evaluation, there is agreement with Albanian Municipality and with Universities for trainings, supporting the EvalPartners projects, establishing national evaluation capacity
- Finish Evaluation Society plans to organize an international seminar on the topic "What is evaluation", special issue of the Journal about evaluation, opening the discussion forums to be in a discussion spots during the whole year.
- Ukrainian Evaluation Society plans to organize a national conference open internationally, also from Eastern Europe countries, the date is still not decided.
- European Evaluation Society: Meeting with parliamentarians from Asia, Africa, Arab countries, and only 1 Irish parliamentarian to be present. There is a high demand and interest to create national evaluation policies in Africa and Asia, however this not the case in the European countries. In 2015 EES would like to focus on European Commission and European Parliamentarians (awareness already raised with the Brussels meeting in 2013) to organize a non-conference event.

- UKES is proposing a range of events linking with other organizations, plus annual conference of course.

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Summary:

The national societies have different ways of promoting the International Year of Evaluation via publication, other printed materials or subsidiary event, etc. The question is what is the strategy and message behind all these particular activities? Is there an aim to influence national policies?

Discussion about the situation in Europe compared with Africa and Asian countries and how easy it is or is not to reach the politicians and parliamentarians. The demand from the politicians is lacking, the demand should be created from the national governments, the dialog is important to create a synergy between demand and supply. Study about evaluation culture and standards in different European countries.

3.3 *NESE discussion forum on the EES website.*

The NESE discussion forum was created, however not used at all.

Concerns that it may be a wrong medium. On the other hand the NESE participants are already involved in many other media. A physical meeting once a year is preferred and sufficient way to maintain the cooperation among the NESE members.

Decision: To open the discussion form without a need to be registered as an optional tool for communication.

3.4 *Feedback concerning membership data from the national societies (information due 2-3 weeks before the NESE meeting/ EES Conference) & Information from national societies on strategies to increase membership (due 2-4 weeks before the NESE meeting/ EES Conference)*

The initial idea behind the possibility to share the membership data was to harmonize the information about members` to share the data /not personal details.

- To facilitate the participation in both national/European conferences

Discussion about the mutual profit of the sharing database for joint events or discounts for the registration fees

- How to engage more people for the EES conference and in the national events = Incentive in both ways;
- To have one questionnaire across many associations to share and compare the data;
- To have interlinks to TWG or gender structure what can be a lot of uses.

Decision: The NESE members have currently no interest to share the data. There might be a potential but need to have more specific objections, aims and date.

3.5 *NESE Annual Conferences Calendar*

The NESE Annual Conferences Calendar was created and is available on the EES website (<http://europeanevaluation.org/partnerships/network-european-evaluation-societies-nese>) The NESE members are encouraged to contact the EES Secretariat for regular updates of the calendar.

4) Discussion "How to maintain and improve collaboration among members?"

Due to the lack of time, this question was not presented and discussed properly.

Ramon Crespo, Ana Garcia Feminina presented briefly the Iberian network of evaluator professionals = Network of evaluators from Iberia peninsula

- Already several years of cooperation as voluntary movement – master degree in evaluation
- Natural movement of evaluators (teachers, commissioners, evaluators, professionals) = for sharing information and support, observation how evaluation is developing
- As multinational organization to be contributing to the evaluation in Europe, to be a part of the NESE.

5) Professionalization of Evaluation" (by Ian C. Davies, chair of VEPR, the Voluntary Evaluator Peer Review Steering Committee)

Professionalization of Evaluation – by Ian C. Davies (chair of VEPR)

- Joint EES-UKES meeting in London, 2014, participation of EvalPartners
- Proceedings on the website as a result from the workshop
- Steering Committee created to coordinate the initiative
- A special VEPR session is organized at the Dublin conference
- Possibility of harmonization globally different initiatives

Discussion about the VEPR initiative and interest of other countries:

- Also in African development countries is a high interest in professionalization and creating the policies on evaluation (e.g. Uganda)
- Experience from the Canadian perspective and certification of evaluators
- Swiss and Germany is not so far on the way to have an accreditations, but concerns not to exclude anybody. Not only evaluators are the members of DeGEval.

Discussion about a special session for the preparation of the EvalYear 2015 event, to decide the responsibilities and assign the tasks. Some central inventory to be created and regularly updated. EvalPartner is the main vehicle driving this initiative forward.

Glossary of evaluation terms as a possible activity during the EvalYear 2015. There is a mobile application (created by Kylie Hutchinson, for free), it could be used for the glossary in more languages and to extend the application.

- The mobile application is there, is there a sufficient interest to have the glossary extended for more languages?

Action point:

Is NESE interested to coordinate the glossary of more languages? The link person: Ian C. Davies
Discussion that there might some difficulties in case there is more than one definition of one term.

6) Next NESE Coordinator

UKES is ending the role of the chair of NESE.

The next coordinator was approved: Cooperation of the Czech and Slovak Evaluation Society.

Derek Poate thanked the participants for attending the meeting and for fruitful discussions and closed the meeting.