

3rd International Congress of Evaluation
"Evaluation as crossing borders"
October 22nd, 2021 (online)

1. ABSTRACT OF DISCUSSION PANEL: *Evaluation of SDGs*

MODERATOR: Weronika Felcis

Sufficient scientific evidence shows that traumatic experiences of climate disasters – such as this year's fires in California, Greece, and Turkey, floods in Germany, China, and England, and heatwaves in Canada and Siberia – affect all continents; therefore, evaluation must help tackle far-reaching, complex and comprehensive policy decisions on energy, consumption, education, transport, etc. [The latest IPCC report \(AR6 from 2021\)](#) shows that immediate action is the only way to avoid worsening effects; the above-mentioned ones are just a foretaste.

Despite the IPCC reports showing that the temperature 1.5 higher than in pre-industrial times significantly disturbs the ecological processes on which our civilization relies, the current development model brings us closer to the temperature by four degrees higher [1]. Supposingly small denominations mean little, yet global warming of four degrees means the irretrievable loss of the wildlife and unpredictable weather, thus the loss of crops and our safety [2].

[The Prague IDEAS Declaration on Evaluation for Transformational Change](#) (2019) sets out the basic principles of professionalism of evaluators who, in recognition of the seriousness of planetary threats, should work in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals. During the session, we will talk about the transdisciplinary knowledge that a modern evaluator should have and the scientific and political coalitions that we must build together. We will also show good practices of building sustainable public policies and continue by posing a moral question that future generations require of us now: *What else should we do to bring humans to the safe operating space on the nexus of social and environmental systems in the following decades? Which limits of our current practices do we still have to cross, as challenged by the very title of 3rd Congress?*



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[1] For a global scenario with little or no mitigation action, as it is today.

[2] This is best demonstrated by [this WWF report](#).

2. ABSTRACT OF DISCUSSION PANEL: *Trust and its lack in assessment and evaluation of systems*

MODERATOR: Anna Kierzkowska-Tokarska

The issue of trust, and the lack of it, has been a topic addressed by scholars and researchers for several years. Especially during the Covid-19 crisis, the issue of trust becomes very topical. Is trust always linked to the efficiency of complex systems, such as societies, organisations or states? Can the existing lack of trust in a part of the society be exchanged for trust in the institutions and systems at different levels, including democratic institutions, public institutions, government and local authorities?

The outbreak of the pandemic has verified the perception of processes around us, including the evaluation of political, economic and social decisions. In the panel planned during the Congress - we would like to discuss the question **whether the evaluation of decisions made in the state, economic and social institutions is directly related to the trust linked with those organisation or systems? Is it the trust factor that plays an important role in society's assessment of their functioning?** Are the societies guided in their assessment by objective indicators and true information about political, economic and social decisions, or do other factors¹ play a role, such as political views, education level, income, place of residence, etc.? We would like to invite some speakers to present us the results of their participation in projects, including those implemented by the EU, and dedicated to trust².

We also put some questions regarding the links between citizenship science, the evaluation of complex systems and the factor trust as an important “influencer” in both fields. Citizenship science is an emerging field where volunteer non-scientist participation in the research process is a key element. The issue of trust takes on double importance in the evaluation of citizenship science projects. On the one hand, it refers to the relationship between scientists and volunteers as well as the reliability of the collected data and the knowledge derived from it. On the other hand, it is a question **whether the development of citizen science can contribute to an increase in society's trust in science in general.** Evaluation in citizen science projects addresses these important issues, but it is at the beginning of its development path. Currently, an evaluation framework is formed and various criteria are defined, but there is still a need to discuss the directions of evaluation in this area.

The aim of the panel is also to present, in an accessible way, conclusions which may be helpful in carrying out evaluation research in a reliable manner, not only by PTE members, but by all those interested in **dependencies which are hidden on the borderline - between the object of the research and its external evaluation, with the aim of crossing these borders.**

¹ e.g. about distrust and trust, CBOS (Public Opinion Research Center), newsletter on research no. 35/2018

² e.g. [TIGRE – Trust in Governance and Regulation in Europe \(tigre-project.eu\)](http://tigre-project.eu)

3. ABSTRACT OF DISCUSSION PANEL: *Evaluating youth employment projects - a perspective of emerging evaluators*

MODERATOR: Sławomir Nałęcz, PhD – Foundation in Support of Local Democracy J. Regulski, Youth Impact Project

One of the greatest challenges of contemporary public policies and their evaluation is adapting them to diverse and changing social needs, while ensuring effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the planned effects. The answer is, on the one hand, the development of civic participation in the processes of creating, improving and implementing public policies, and on the other - evaluators try to include stakeholders in the evaluation process at all stages and conduct evaluation not only of national or regional policies and programs, but also to conduct evaluation for the use of entities operating locally. In order to cope with the latter demand, it is necessary to transfer appropriate knowledge and evaluation skills to people operating in local, small entities, usually non-governmental organizations.

In response to this last challenge, the Foundation in Support of Local Democracy, acting as part of the international consortium YOUTH IMPACT³, conducted on-line trainings and workshops, as well as provided mentoring support for evaluation studies actually conducted by novice evaluators associated with the local organizations running youth employment /entrepreneurship projects.

The panelists will be young participants of the above mentioned mentoring program as well as two representatives of organizations that support novice evaluators.

The main aim of the panel will be to identify challenges faced by emerging evaluators as well as to present the solutions found to deal with them. Thanks to different perspectives and experience of the panellists we hope to get a rich picture of novice evaluations of local youth projects, including also the issue of COVID-19 effects.

³ YOUTH IMPACT is supported by joint grant of Norway, Lichtenstein and Island. The project aims to develop evaluation capacities of in the area of small youth employment projects in Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland.