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| Strengthening VOPEs' capacities in Europe – Evaluation Criteria, Key Horizontal Principles and Contemporary Evaluation Challenges5.00 – 6.30 pm. (CET), December 9, 2022Horizontal (cross-cutting) issues are those relevant to all aspects of development. In the evaluation context, they have become increasingly important following global efforts towards achieving human development goals incorporated into the fundamental idea behind the Millennium Development Goals – MDGs, and the Sustainable Development Goals - SDGs. The rationale for assessing horizontal principles stems from the fundamental documents and founding values of the EU such as Treaty on European Union and the Charter of Fundamental Rights. Other important EU documents and guidelines covering evaluation rationales and methodologies envisage mandatory involvement of horizontal issues into evaluation practice as well. Core values are spelled out in the Global Evaluation Agenda 2016-2020 and revolve around equity, gender equality, and social justice and on shared principles of partnership, innovation, inclusivity, and human rights. Whithin this concept, NESE[[1]](#footnote-1) (*Network of Evaluation Societies in Europe*) is organising a virtual Conference under the title: *Strengthening VOPEs' capacities in Europe – Evaluation Criteria, Key Horizontal Principles and Contemporary Evaluation Challenges.* Its scope is to open the public discourse for promoting and streamlining the evaluation of the KHPs in practice. The Conference is organized in two sessions:* **Session A.** The outcomes of the Project *Evaluation of Key Horizontal Principles (KHP) : A practical approach*, funded by IOCE will be presented by the Chair of NESE-Prof. Paraskevi Boufounou. Her presentation will focus on the as-is and gap analyses, in Europe, and on the resulting recommendations forming the CRF, the Position Paper for setting the necessity and the ground for developing quality and credible evaluations, respectful of all their stakeholders, “leaving no one behind“, and applicable to each and particular cultural and political context. An open discussion will follow her presentation.
* **Session B.** The need for a new framework of criteria and principles in evaluation will be presented in the keynote speech by Prof. Michael Quinn Patton. Prof Patton will guide us on *Principles-Focused Evaluation* and on choices about which principles are appropriate for what purposes in which contexts, helping us navigate the treacherous terrain of conflicting guidance and competing advice. Learning to evaluate principles, and applying what you learn from doing so, takes on increasing importance in an ever more complex world where effectiveness depends on adapting to context.

Agenda and Timeline |
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| 17:00-17:10  | **Introduction-Welcome notes** |
| **Section A****17:10-17:45 CEST** | **Key Horizontal Principles in Evaluation** |
| 17:10 – 17:30 | Evaluation of Key Horizontal Principles (KHP) : A practical approach Presenter: NESE´s Chair Prof. Paraskevi Boufounou |
| 17.30-17.45 | Open Discussion |
|  | *The Session will be medarated by Dr. Tina Orfanidou, Chair of the Hellenic Evaluation Society*  |
| **Section B****17:45 – 18:30 CEST** | **New criteria in Evaluation?** |
| 17.45-18.10 | The need for a new framework of criteria and principles in evaluation Presenter: Prof. Michael Quinn Patton |
| 18.10-18.30 | Open Discussion |
|  | *The Session will be modarated by Ms. Monika Bartosiewicz-Niziolek, Chair of the Polish Evaluation Society*  |
| 18:30 – 18:35 | Closing of the Conference |

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| **Michael Quinn Patton** is the Founder and CEO of Utilization-Focused Evaluation, an independent organizational development and program evaluation organization.After receiving his doctorate in sociology from the University of Wisconsin–Madison, he spent 18 years on the faculty of the University of Minnesota (1973-1991), including five years as Director of the Minnesota Center for Social Research and ten years with the Minnesota Extension Service.He has authored numerous books on evaluation, including Blue Marble Evaluation (2019), Principles-Focused Evaluation (2018), Facilitating Evaluation (2018), Developmental Evaluation (2010) and Utilization-Focused Evaluation (2008). He has also edited or contributed articles to numerous books and journals, including several volumes of New Directions in Program Evaluation, on subjects as diverse as culture and evaluation, how and why language matters, HIV/AIDS research and evaluation systems, extension methods, feminist evaluation, teaching using the case method, evaluating strategy, utilization of evaluation, and valuing. His creative nonfiction book, Grand Canyon Celebration: A Father–Son Journey of Discovery, was a finalist for Minnesota Book of the Year.Patton has received both the Alva and Gunnar Myrdal Award for “outstanding contributions to evaluation use and practice” and the Paul F. Lazarsfeld Award for lifetime contributions to evaluation theory awarded by the American Evaluation Association. The Society for Applied Sociology honored him with the 2001 Lester F. Ward Award for Outstanding Contributions to Applied Sociology. He was President of the American Evaluation Association in 1988 and Co-Chair of the 2005 International Evaluation Conference in Toronto sponsored jointly by the American and Canadian evaluation associations. He sits on the Editorial Advisory Board for The Foundation Review. |
| Vivian Boufoun **Dr. Paraskevi Boufounou** is Assistant Professor of Development Finance at the Department of Economics, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. She is the Coordinator of the MBA Strategic Management and Competitivess, offered by the Dept. Of Economics-NKUA. Prof. Boufounou holds an Honours First Class Bachelor Degree in Economics from the National & Kapodistrian Univ of Athens (scholarship during studies), a Master of Philosophy (M.Phil) in Economics from the Univ of Dundee (UK) and a Ph.D in Economics with High Distinction from the National & Kapodistrian Univ of Athens (teaching assistant scholarship during Ph. D. studies). She has as a wide range of Academic experience teaching in various Greek and Foreign Universities at both undergraduate and postgraduate level (M.B.A. Strategic Management and Competitiveness M.A. BankingHOU, M.Sc Mathematical Modelling in Cotemporary Sciences and Economics- NTUA, ect). She has a significant research experience working with Greek and International public and private research Institutions and Universities and has numerous publications. Her teaching and research interests are focused on the fields of development finance, business strategy with special emphasis on economic transformation and development strategy, supply chain finance, business and management strategy development, innovative financial instruments for development (crowdfunding, green bonds, etc), financial systems for optimizing managerial efficiency, upgrading investment environment and speedingup investment implementation, cost-benefit analysis for socio-economic evaluation of investment decisions and policy measures. Further to her academic interests, Prof. Boufounou has a long standing career (more than 30 years) in the Banking/Financial Sector, during which she was appointed top executive managerial positions, both in private and public sector, embracing the full spectrum of financial services, indicatively including: President of “Invest in Greece” (the official agency of the Greek state, under the auspices of the Ministry of Economy and Development, to promote investment in Greece, to attract FDIs and to propose legislative changes towards upgrading Greece’s attractiveness as an international business partner), Senior Economic Advisor to the Chair of the Board of “National Bank of Greece” and to the “Chair of the Hellenic Bank Association”, Special Economic Advisor to the “Minister of Economy, Development and Shipping”, the “Minister of Interior” and the Secretary General of the “Ministry of Finance” in Greece, General Manager of the “Commercial Leasing” (subsidiary of Commercial Bank of Greece), Director of “Commercial Securities “(subsidiary of Commercial Bank of Greece), senior executive of the Strategic Planning Department of the “Commercial Bank of Greece”. |

1. NESE is an open, non-profit umbrella organization that supports national evaluation societies and networks in Europe to become recognized and trusted organizations in their respective countries able to promote and advise for quality and better use of evaluation. NESE aims at strengthening the capacity of associated evaluation societies to develop sound and independent practice. It provides an arena where evaluation societies can learn and support each other to promote good evaluation practice in their countries. NESE also facilitates the foundation and growth of new evaluation societies. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)