

Webinar “Evaluation Spring in MENA: the Experience of the MENA Evaluators Group”

The IOCE webinar series “Evaluation Associations: Sharing Experiences and Ideas” continues with the presentation by one of the newest regional evaluation networks: the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) Evaluators Group. We are happy to invite you to a webinar on the **“Evaluation Spring in MENA: the Experience of the MENA Evaluators Group”** which will be available on your own computer via the internet at **14:00** (2:00 pm) on **Thursday, 24 November**.

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region has been making the headlines throughout 2011 with various countries embracing the “Arab Spring”. The profound changes that the region is witnessing will definitely shape the way development is perceived, planned and delivered in the region, hence the additional relevance and the unique opportunity to consolidate the evaluation outlook and the evaluative spirit in the region.

The MENA Evaluators Group brings together evaluation practitioners from all MENA countries and beyond. It comes as a natural continuation of the ad-hoc gatherings that have been steadily taking place at international evaluation forums such as AfrEA’s 5th General Assembly which was held in Cairo, Egypt, in 2009, and IDEA’s Global Assembly in Amman, Jordan, earlier this year.

The webinar presentation will focus on:

1. the challenges faced by the group in trying to develop a joint research agenda to avoid being donor-driven;
2. descriptions of initiatives to kick-start evaluation societies at the national level to consolidate its legitimacy;
3. the decision of if and how the regional network should formalize itself, and what the best governance mechanisms might be;
4. what it would take to publish and gain visibility across the development evaluation sphere;
5. ... and much more.

Ricardo Wilson-Grau who delivered the first advanced workshop on evaluation and complexity for the group in June 2011 in Beirut will deliver the opening remarks, while Ziad Moussa will give an overview of progress achieved so far and will ask selected contributors from the various constituencies of the network to give their inputs as well.

The webinar will be conducted in English and, as mentioned above, will take place on Thursday November 24th at 14:00 GMT. It is advised that you allow 15-30 minutes ahead of time to download the Blackboard (formerly Elluminate) software (see URL below) and be sure your computer and sound system (microphone and headphones) are properly set up so that you can not only to listen to the presentation, but also participate in the Q&A discussions afterwards.

To repeat: well before 14:00 GMT on 24 November go to <https://sas.illuminate.com/site/external/launch/dropin.jnlp?sid=vclass&password=J26K7V9DN1UCZT0K0MXU>, follow the instructions and log in.