

## EvalYear SDGs Innovation Challenge Call for Proposals Supported by Thomson Reuters

### Introduction:

2015 is the International Year of Evaluation and also the year when the Millennium Development Goals will be replaced by a new set of internationally agreed goals called the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).<sup>1</sup> The new SDGs will be applicable to all countries and there is strong emphasis on developing national evaluation capacity and innovative processes to evaluate the proposed 17 goals. On behalf of EvalPartners, IOCE has already launched Calls for Proposals for Peer-to-Peer (P2P) and Gender & Equity Innovation Challenge in 2015.<sup>2</sup> IOCE is now announcing a supplemental opportunity for a new Innovation Challenge support offered by Thomson Reuters. This Call for Proposals is described below.

### Thomson Reuters Innovation Challenge Objective:

We would like to offer this opportunity to identify innovative ideas for strengthening the use of research evaluation as it relates in context to the Sustainable Development Goals. Applying academic research methods to practical approaches for evaluating real-world projects and programs to influence governmental evidence-based policy making. These ideas can relate to proposed actions at the international, national and/or sub-national levels. Thomson Reuters is offering an Innovation Challenge grant of \$12,000.

### Eligibility:

Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation (VOPEs), i.e. regional, national or sub-national associations, societies or networks of evaluators. Proposals might include cooperative partnerships with not-for-profit/non-governmental organizations, governmental or inter-governmental organizations, academic institutions or private sector organizations with an interest in and/or mandate for evidence-based policy making and programming. Proposals would also be welcome from two or more VOPEs partnering together, though one VOPE would be expected to take the lead and have fiscal and reporting responsibility.

### Process:

Interested VOPEs are invited to submit the entry form on page 4 below, with an *initial, brief description of the innovative idea*. Proposals can be submitted by one VOPE or by a partnership of two or more VOPEs. However the lead partner should be a VOPE from an ODA-eligible country.<sup>3</sup> During the first phase of the selection process up to 3 proposals will be short listed for further consideration for this Innovation Challenge. Those semi-finalists will be then be asked to submit more detailed proposals. Eventually one finalist will be selected out of the short listed proposals. Selection will be done based on the criteria explained below and acknowledged by both IOCE and Thomson Reuters.

### Qualifications:

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<sup>1</sup> The UN's proposed SDGs can be seen at [www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals), and the UNEG's considerations about how they should be evaluated at [www.unevaluation.org/document/detail/1711](http://www.unevaluation.org/document/detail/1711).

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.ioce.net/forum/forum/small-grants>.

<sup>3</sup> The DAC list of ODA-eligible countries can be found at <http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/49483614.pdf>.

This Call for Proposals is addressed to Voluntary Organizations for Professional (VOPEs) that are registered on the IOCE database and thus recognized as Members of IOCE.<sup>4</sup> The VOPEs selected for receiving these and any grants from IOCE are expected to be Contributing Members of IOCE before the grant funds can be sent to them.<sup>5</sup>

### **Judging:**

All eligible entries during the entry period will be screened for completeness and adherence to the relevant Challenge Objectives.

The criteria to judge the entries are as follows:

1. Catalytic Innovation (up to 40 points). The extent to which the idea:
  - a. Develops a product, process or service that yields new pathways to enhance an enabling environment for evaluation in relation to the SDGs;
  - b. Reframes, reimagines, or recombines different points of view and different existing elements for sufficient action or impact;
  - c. Shows potential for implementation and replication;
  - d. Is rooted in an evaluation methodology or process.
2. Potential impact (up to 30 points). The extent to which the idea could significantly enhance an enabling environment for evaluation if implemented because it:
  - a. Improves the demand for and use of evaluation by policy makers;
  - b. Is adaptable to different organizations and countries;
  - c. Addresses a core need or core challenge in ensuring evaluation is demanded and used in policy making and program implementation;
  - d. Proposes a strategy for dissemination of results on completion;
  - e. Accounts and accommodates for risks and potential unintended consequences.
3. Context (up to 20 points). The extent to which the idea responds to context:
  - a. Accounts for specific contexts (geographies, cultures, beliefs, norms);
  - b. Attempts to solve a particular problem (or a set of problems).
4. Spark (up to 10 points). The degree of innovation embedded in the idea: originality, expression and potential in relation to evaluation of the SDGs.

### **Award**

The winner will be announced at the Global Evaluation Week celebrating the International Year of Evaluation at the Parliament of Nepal in Kathmandu, Nepal on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015. They will receive recognition on the IOCE and EvalPartners websites and through the EvalSDGs network. The winner of the Thomson Reuters grant will receive up to \$12,000. Implementation of the innovative idea can take place between December 1, 2015 and December 31, 2016, with final narrative and financial reports due by January 31, 2016.

### **Application Procedures**

Applications can be submitted by completing the entry form below. The **deadline** for receipt of initial proposals is **October 15, 2015**,

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<sup>4</sup> The VOPE registration information is accessible at <http://www.ioce.net/en/VOPERegistration.php>.

<sup>5</sup> Winners of these Innovation Challenge grants can elect to have their membership contributions deducted from their grants before they are transmitted.

**To submit a proposal for the Thomson Reuters Innovation Challenge**, fill in the Entry Form on the next page; save it with name of submitting VOPE in the title; and send it to Danielle Pokusa ([danielle.pokusa@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:danielle.pokusa@thomsonreuters.com)), with a copy to [IOCE@earthlink.net](mailto:IOCE@earthlink.net) by October 15, 2015.

Note: the EvalPartners EvalSDGs Taskforce will also be involved in reviewing these proposals.

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## Thomson Reuters Innovation Challenge Initial Entry Form

### Details about the applicant:

1. Name of the VOPE/organization taking responsibility for this project:
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2. Name of main contact person:
3. Email:
4. Position/role within VOPE:
5. City:
6. Country:
7. Phone Number:
8. VOPE/organization website:
9. Other VOPE(s) or other organization(s) that will be a partnering in this project:
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### Innovative project

1. Provide a title for your idea:
2. Briefly summarize your idea in 1,000 words or less, addressing the issues related to this Call for Innovation Challenge Proposals (see page 2).