This is an update of the EvalPartners Initiative (February 2012 – present), including progress for EvalYear 2015, building evaluation capacity in civil society, and moving toward sustainability of the International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation (IOCE).

Prepared by:
Tessie Catsambas
on behalf of IOCE and EvalPartners

June 25, 2015
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Be true to the nature of real partnership; no matter the size or power of partner organizations, it’s an engagement among equals.

Marco Segone
EvalPartners Co-Chair
UN Women Independent Evaluation Office
EvalPartners Global Partnership

The EvalPartners Global Partnership includes 58 members: UN agencies, universities, bilateral funders, multi-lateral banks, Voluntary Organizations For Professional Evaluation (VOPEs), and others.
Civil society organizations in general, and VOPEs in particular, must play a key role in influencing and enhancing the demand for evaluation and the use of evaluation results; in developing the capacity of national and local authorities, as well as communities, NGOs, academia and the private sector, to endorse and support evaluations of their own policies and programmes.

We commit ourselves to working together to achieve the following changes:

• VOPEs are stronger. Their institutional and organizational capacities are enhanced;
• VOPEs are more influential. They are better able to play strategic roles in strengthening the enabling environment for evaluation within their countries, and so help to improve national evaluation systems and promote the use of evaluation evidence in developing policies geared towards effective, equitable and gender-equality responsive development results.
• VOPEs develop sustainable strategies to enhance the evaluation skills, knowledge and capacities of their members, and of evaluators more widely, to manage and conduct credible and useful evaluations.

We will hold each other accountable for making progress and regularly reporting towards these commitments that will be implemented through the 2013 action plan and the strategy towards declaring 2015 the International Year of Evaluation, as discussed in Chiang Mai, as well as joint actions beyond 2015. We accept that sustained cooperation and adherence to these common goals and principles will call for continued and dedicated support by each and every partner. We approach this undertaking with a shared sense of responsibility and accountability; with an enthusiasm to learn from one another through dialogue and shared information; and with respect for the values of diversity, integrity, gender equality and our shared humanity.

EvalPartners Commitment

EvalPartners is committed to supporting civil society capacity to conduct and use evaluation to influence public policy according to the Chiang Mai Declaration. A few extracts are given here.
First, we adhere to values that explain why we promote and conduct evaluation. At our core, we believe evaluation can help create a world that better reflects our values of equity, gender equality, social justice, and human rights.

Second, these core values imply operational values that describe how we believe evaluation should be conducted. We believe that good evaluations emphasize their use and usability, are culturally sensitive, evidence-based, ethical, and transparent.

In order to emphasize to all audiences both why we conduct evaluation and how, EP written materials will reflect the importance of all these values and use a balanced terminology whenever referring to them.
Overview of Recent Achievements 2014-2015

**EvalPartners aims to build capacity in civil society to conduct evaluation as an effective instrument for promoting and supporting equitable human development**

In February 2014 UN Women and IOCE signed a Cooperative Agreement for the implementation of a project entitled, “Strengthening Global Evaluation Community in Preparation to EvalYear 2015,” a twelve-month project that was completed in March 2015.

The project goal was to create a stronger global VOPE community driven by principles and objectives of Chiang Mai Declaration, with equity, gender equality and social justice as central values, founded on shared principles of partnership, innovation, inclusivity and human rights.

Expected project outcomes were:

1. Stronger regional and national VOPEs, with enhanced institutional and organizational capacities.

2. More influential VOPEs, able to strengthen the enabling environment for evaluation within their countries, improve national evaluation systems, and promote the use of evaluation.

3. Strengthened individual capacities of evaluators to conduct credible and useful gender-responsive evaluations.

UN Women succeeded UNICEF as the core partner with IOCE responsible for managing EvalPartners.
All of us share a responsibility to strengthen the evaluation function.

Ban Ki-moon
United Nations Secretary-General
UN Resolution A/69/237

For the first time in the history of the United Nations - a landmark, stand-alone United Nations General Assembly Resolution, titled "Capacity building for the evaluation of development activities at the country level" was approved through general consensus and cross-regional support of forty-two countries, during the UN General Assembly Second Committee meeting of 13 November 2014 and adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in the plenary session of 19 December 2014.

https://youtu.be/2bdTGwcBqOY

EvalPartners and IOCE mobilize the global evaluation community.
 EvalYear launch at the United Nations

Ambassador Thomson of the Fiji Mission to the United Nations (sponsor of the UN resolution on National Capacity Development), Deborah Rugg (UNEG and OIOS Evaluation) and Marco Segone (EvalPartners and UN Women Evaluation) lit the 2015 International Year Evaluation Torch launching EvalYear. The torch was then passed on to Indran Naidoo (UNDP Evaluation), Colin Kirk (UNICEF Evaluation), Scott Green (OCHA Evaluation), Navis Hanif (UN DESA), Andrea Cook (UNFPA Evaluation), Vincent Herlihy (Mission of Ireland), Rafael Lourenço Beleboni (Mission of Brazil) and Peni Suveinakama (Mission of Fiji).

The torch is being symbolically passed on to the global evaluation community through more than 70 events scheduled all over the world to celebrate the International Year of Evaluation (EvalYear).
EvalYear logo in 32 languages

http://mymande.org/evalyear/evalyear-logo-different-languages
Parliamentarians for Evaluation

A new alliance between evaluators and parliamentarians offers one more avenue for evaluation to influence policymaking.

In South Asia, the Parliamentarians Forum on Development Evaluation is an emerging collective of parliamentarians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka committed to development evaluations in SAARC countries. The Forum was initiated by a small group of parliamentarians aiming to establish National Evaluation Policies in SAARC region.

In Europe, the European Evaluation Society organized a 'public hearing' on Evaluation in Democracy at the European Parliament.

In Africa, the African Parliamentarians Network issued the Yaoundé Declaration in March 2014.

In the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), parliamentarians spoke for evaluation at the EvalMENA conference in February 2015.

In October 2014, in Dublin, the Global Parliamentarians Forum was established during the EES conference.

http://www.mymande.org/evalyear/working_with_parliaments
Advocacy Toolkit for Evaluation

This toolkit is intended to develop advocacy strategies to strengthen an enabling environment for evaluation.

The Advocacy Toolkit contains guidance and tools on how Voluntary Organization of Professional Evaluators (VOPEs) can plan, design, implement, monitor and evaluate advocacy strategies to promote national evaluation policies and systems in decision making. This toolkit helps users understand the role of advocacy in increasing demand for evaluation, and develop operational strategies to promote demand for evaluation services.

http://www.mymande.org/evalpartners/advocacytoolkit
Advocacy e-learning brings visitors to EvalPartners website

The E-learning course on Advocacy for Evaluation is online and announced widely for people to have access and enroll. The E-learning course was developed using the EvalPartners Advocacy Toolkit.

IOCE provided a grant to Red de Mujeres Latinoamericanas y del Caribe en Gestión de Organizaciones (RedWIM). RedWIM has developed an e-learning program (in Spanish) on gender-responsive policy and evaluation for evaluation practitioners and policy makers.
**Access to e-learning**

*EvalPartners strengthens individual evaluation capacity by the development of an increasing number of tailored, easily accessible e-learning programs*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>E-Learning Program Title</th>
<th>Number of Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Equity-Focused and Gender-Responsive Evaluations</td>
<td>2487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Evaluation Capacity Development for Country-led M&amp;E Systems</td>
<td>1575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emerging Practices in Development Evaluations</td>
<td>1750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocacy for Evaluation</td>
<td>203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Evaluating Humanitarian Action</td>
<td>1748</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curso introductorio de evaluación</td>
<td>1766</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian e-Learning</td>
<td>375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arabic e-Learning</td>
<td>292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intro to Development Evaluation</td>
<td>1420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total current registered participants</strong></td>
<td><strong>12,102</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total cumulative registered participants</strong></td>
<td><strong>25,351</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VOPE Institutional Toolkit

One visitor indicated she intend to use the Toolkit as follows: “I need to familiarise myself with all aspects as the new chairperson”.

This Voluntary Organization of Professional Evaluators (VOPE) Institutional Capacity Toolkit is a collection of curated descriptions, tools, advice, examples, software and toolboxes developed by VOPEs and other organizations working to support non-profit organizations.

It was compiled by IOCE and EvalPartners under leadership by the Toolkit Task Force responsible for Institutional capacity building of VOPEs.

Accomplishments:


A More Sophisticated English Toolkit with increased functionality, more resources and better organisation now hosted on the IOCE website and launched during the EvalMENA Conference in Cairo in February 2015.

The website had been visited by 728 users in the three month period from Feb 24 till May 23, with some visitors downloading full sections of the toolkit in PDF format. A fully-fledged Francophone Toolkit launched during the CES Conference in Ontario in May 2015.

Spanish Toolkit Translations for the core Toolkit posts have been done and makes the possibility of enabling a Spanish version of the toolkit possible with minimal additional resources.

http://www.vopetoolkit.ioce.net/en/page/about-toolkit
Peer-to-Peer and Innovation Challenge Grants to VOPEs 2013 + 2014

Projects used IOCE, EvalPartners and IDEAS guidelines

First round of the Peer-to-Peer was supported by a grant via UNICEF in 2013. The 2nd round was supported by a grant via UN Women in 2014.

Led by the P2P Taskforce, there was an extensive peer review process.

Applications for P2P & Innovation Challenge Grants
- 94 applications from a combined total of 78 national and 24 regional VOPEs

Application Review
- Total of 141 volunteers reviewed the applications

Awards
- 42 P2P + 8 IC grants total $360,397

All grant-related documents (proposals and reports) are accessible at http://ioce-p2p2.wikispaces.com/
We need to offer everyone opportunities for meaningful and successful engagement.

Natalia Kosheleva
EvalPartners Co-Chair
former IOCE President
South to South Capacity Development

Examples of South to South collaboration

At the AfrEA conference in Yaounde, EvalPartners offered workshops on the Advocacy Toolkit and Institutional Capacity Toolkit. Representatives of 13 African VOPEs were trained in advocacy, while 19 African VOPEs were trained in institution building.

IPEN conducted a pre-conference workshop and a conference session for 8 VOPE leaders from the region and state officials on the cooperation between VOPEs and state agencies on developing national evaluation policies and strengthening national evaluation systems.

Regional VOPEs including AfrEA, CoE-SA, IPEN, EvalMENA and ReLAC received grants and conducted pre-conference workshops at conferences held in 2014 and 2015.
EvalPartners invested in an evaluation to serve as a reflective stocktaking at a critical juncture in the initiative’s history. This evaluation provided a broad snapshot of what EvalPartners is, does, and signifies amongst the key constituents with whom it engages. This feedback has informed decisions about what EvalPartners could be and achieve in the future, beyond 2015.

**Full Report:**

**Executive Summary:**

**Management Response:**
IOCE updates

- IOCE membership growth
- IOCE mission and vision
- IOCE increased management capacity
- IOCE funding

- IOCE grants
- IOCE services to clients
- IOCE promoting impact evaluation
- IOCE strategy
In 2014, the IOCE was primarily involved in leading and managing initiatives under the umbrella of EvalPartners.
There has been a remarkable growth in the number of VOPEs around the world. Between 2002 and 2015, the number of subnational, national, regional, and international VOPEs verified by IOCE has increased from 32 in to 166 by June 2015, with a total aggregate membership of over 50,000. These include 125 national VOPEs in 109 countries.

The IOCE has significantly increased its capacity to manage funds.

In 2012, UNICEF managed all EvalPartners funding on behalf of the IOCE.

In 2013 IOCE received a grant for $267,000 from UNICEF.

In 2014 the IOCE managed $680,000. The 2014 IOCE audit was completed successfully.

### IOCE Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>$10,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>$267,179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$680,028</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Increasing the IOCE’s financial responsibilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VOPE Mapping</td>
<td>Enabling Environment TF</td>
<td>Enabling Environment TF</td>
<td>Enabling Environment TF</td>
<td>Enabling Environment TF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chiang Mai Forum</td>
<td>Institutional Toolkit TF</td>
<td>Institutional Toolkit TF</td>
<td>Institutional Toolkit TF</td>
<td>Institutional Toolkit TF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Equity-Focused and Gender-Responsive Evaluation TF</td>
<td>Equity-Focused and Gender-Responsive Evaluation TF</td>
<td>Equity-Focused and Gender-Responsive Evaluation TF</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Enabling Environment and Gender Innovation Challenges</td>
<td></td>
<td>Gender Innovation Challenge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>P2P Program</td>
<td>P2P Program</td>
<td>P2P Program</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EP Executive Coordinator</td>
<td>EP Executive Coordinator</td>
<td></td>
<td>Global Forum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|                | Managed by UN partner     | Managed by IOCE           |                |                |

Managed by UN partner managed projects:
- VOPE Mapping
- Chiang Mai Forum

Managed by IOCE managed projects:
- EP Coordinator
- Enabling Environment TF
- Institutional Toolkit TF
- Equity-Focused and Gender-Responsive Evaluation TF
- Enabling Environment and Gender Innovation Challenges
- P2P Program
- EP Executive Coordinator

|                |                |                |                |
|                | $267,179       | $680,028       | $689,544       |
Increase in the # of funding organizations

Major donors to EvalPartners have been the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland and USAID.
## IOCE grants to members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$5000 per project</td>
<td>$5000 per participating VOPE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No project cap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>28</strong> P2P projects</td>
<td><strong>11</strong> P2P projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>$129,776</strong></td>
<td><strong>$98,185</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5</strong> Advocacy projects</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>$24,460</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5</strong> grants to Regional VOPEs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$100,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IOCE supports methodologically inclusive evaluation

At the AfrEA 2014 Conference, IOCE, in cooperation with UNIDO and 3iE, sponsored the Impact Evaluation Strand Program and Networking Event.

IOCE gave 12 bursaries to participants from 8 eligible African countries
IOCE Strategy

EvalPartners has enabled the IOCE to become a stronger institution, and to build new strategies to fulfill its mission and vision.

Over time, the IOCE has taken on increased responsibilities in implementing EvalPartners’ activities.

The partnership with the UN family of organizations has been synergistic: both systems—the UN and the IOCE have increased their legitimacy through EvalPartners.

IOCE VISION
Evaluations are widely used, leading to evidence-based decision making, effective policies, good governance, and a strong role for civil society.

IOCE MISSION
Evaluation is Legitimized Globally as an Important Management and Governance Tool

Remains a Global Evaluation Leader

Advocates and advances evaluation (w EvalPartners)

Manages Operations Effectively

Develops and strengthens VOPEs
IOCE
Core strategies

Strategy 1: IOCE manages its operations effectively.
Increases the number of VOPE members of IOCE; ensures sufficient operating funds; maintains a well-functioning Board and Secretariat; complies with an agreed-upon set of values; achieves effective communications, internally and externally; and works at and evaluates clear desired activities and outcomes.

Strategy 2: IOCE develops and strengthens VOPEs.
Within an individual VOPE: helps create new VOPEs in unserved areas; develops capacities of VOPE leadership; develops competencies of individual evaluators; and shares up-to-date information on evaluation.
Between/among VOPEs: maintains database of key VOPE information; helps VOPEs exchange information, ideas; and helps VOPEs collaborate in partnerships.

Strategy 3: IOCE remains a global evaluation leader.
Co-leads EvalPartners as a leading evaluation partnership
Represents VOPEs and the global evaluation community; analyzes latest evaluation thinking and discourse; and advocates for the interests of practicing evaluators.

Strategy 4: IOCE, VOPEs, EvalPartners advocate for and advance the power of Evaluation.
Promote current capabilities of the evaluation field: policy makers, managers, and public are aware of evaluation; and each audience understands the potential value of evaluation.
Promote new advances by the evaluation field: encourage evaluators to push the frontiers of knowledge; develop new principles, standards, and procedures as needed; and address global challenges that arise to face evaluation.

The IOCE has grown tremendously since the launch of EvalPartners in 2012.
A new secretariat, two coordinators, improved bylaws, and high visibility are propelling the IOCE forward.
Managing the Peer-to-Peer grants was a major achievement.
The future
Future directions for EvalPartners

The final Global EvalYear event will be hosted by the Parliament of Nepal from 23-27 November where the Global Evaluation Agenda 2016-2020 will be launched.

The Global Evaluation Agenda 2020 will mobilize a consolidation of our gains in evaluation advocacy, broaden the EvalPartners coalition, and drive for results.

We support new networks and Task Forces: e.g.
- EvalGender+
- EvalYouth
- EvalSDGs

We will drive for the professionalization of evaluation.

We will launch a State of Evaluation report

We will continue to nurture and support the partnership, promote global cooperation in evaluation, support building of evaluation capacity at country level, and build the IOCE’s and its member VOPEs’ capacities to lead country advocacy for the use of evaluation in policy making inclusive of the perspective of civil society.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Emerging Global Agenda Topics and Relationships</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Committed Sponsors</th>
<th>Potential Sponsors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EvalYouth+ Network</td>
<td>Focus on building a network of Young and Emergent Evaluators</td>
<td>RFE</td>
<td>DfID, UNICEF, EES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EvalGender+ Network</td>
<td>Focussed on gender, disabilities and vulnerable populations</td>
<td>UN Women + approx. 30 orgs.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EvalCulture Network</td>
<td>Representative of under-represented groups and understanding their cultural context</td>
<td></td>
<td>United Nations Human Rights Council, CES, AEA, EES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EvalSDG Initiative</td>
<td>Strategies for countries to evaluate own evaluation policies and systems, especially those related to Sustainable Development Goals</td>
<td>DEAS, UNDP/NEC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Parliamentarians Forum</td>
<td>Building parliamentarian support for and capacity to work with evaluations</td>
<td>Various Development Banks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professionalization of Evaluators</td>
<td>Dealing with issues of credentialing, accreditation and quality control</td>
<td>IDEAS, CES, CLEARR, EES, SAMEA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building civil society partnerships and capacity</td>
<td>VOPE capacity building through: Peer2Peer grants, innovations challenges, using and contributing to the VOPE Toolkit</td>
<td>IOCE</td>
<td>Finland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge management and communications</td>
<td>How do we communicate about evaluation? Where are the repositories and the Knowledge Management best practices</td>
<td>IOCE, UNICEF</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The future of IOCE

Investment in the IOCE has paid off, and will continue to do so in the years to come.

The IOCE needs to stay on its path of providing leadership to the global evaluation community through its support of VOPEs, use its legitimacy by continuing to bring into the EvalPartners coalition the perspectives of civil society in evaluation, and continue to work for VOPEs, building their capacities, facilitating communication and action, and advocating for their concerns.

Future funding in support of the IOCE is an investment in promoting equity, gender equality, and other social goals through evaluation, as well as the use of evaluation to increase transparency and accountability in governments and the international community.

The IOCE’s legitimacy comes from its success in representing all countries equally, investing in peer-to-peer collaboration for learning, and promoting an enabling environment for evaluation.
Be ready to test new mechanisms and take some risks so we select initiatives that lead to results.

Riitta Oksanen  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland