



Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Support Program

Final Narrative Report

Project ID

<b>P2P Project number</b>	# 20
<b>Project Title:</b>	Supporting 2015 as the International Evaluation Year (EvalYear); achievements and challenges of evaluation in Argentina.
<b>Project Managed by:</b>	EvaluAR – Argentina’s Evaluation Network
<b>Date of this report</b>	30/04/15
<b>Focus of the Project:</b> (check all that apply)	Advocacy for enabling environment for evaluation
	Academic courses in evaluation
	* Strengthening VOPE institutional capacity
	Individual members’ evaluation capacities
	Capacity to promote equity-focused and gender-sensitive evaluation

VOPEs involved:	Name and acronym of VOPE	Country/Region
#1	EvaluAR – Argentina’s Evaluation Network	Argentina
#2		
#3		
#4		
[insert others if more than 4]		

Project start date	
Project end date	

Contact person(s) for this project

VOPE	Contact Person Names	Email addresses
EvaluAR	Natalia Aquilino	naquilino@cippec.org

1. What was the purpose of the project? What did the project plan to achieve and how? (Brief description of the project, max 100 words).

EvaluAR – Argentina’s Evaluation Network – jointly with academic and government institutions, aims at contributing to the consolidation of 2015 as the international year of evaluation in Argentina by fostering an enabling environment for evaluation in the country. To this end, our network designed and developed an "Appraisal Evaluation Map of Argentina", and on this basis we planned and hosted a large event to serve as a public space for presenting the results as well as to gather relevant actors (national and sub national governments, parliamentarians, academics, professional evaluators, practitioners) to publicly declare adhesion to the international initiative.

**2. Did the project achieve what it planned to achieve? Yes, fully.**

**2.a. Please comment on degree of achievement:<sup>1</sup>**

The members of EvaluAR were able to develop an "Appraisal Evaluation Map of Argentina". We were able to assess legislation on evaluation in several provinces and to include them in a working paper. The working paper includes an assessment of legislation on the national level as well as the provinces of Mendoza, Salta and Córdoba and the city of Buenos Aires.

On April 16th EvaluAR hosted a launch event of the document. We partnered with several organizations (Universidad de Buenos Aires (UBA), Universidad de San Martín, Universidad de Lanús, Universidad Nacional de La Plata Commission for Scientific Research of the Province of Buenos Aires, Evaluation Network of Latin America and the Caribbean (ReLAC), International Evaluation Network) to carry out the event. The most salient example is our partnership with UBA, through which they granted us use of their facilities for our event.

The event was planned as a half-day long conference. During the first session we presented the findings of our study, which were well received among our audience. In a second session we held three workshops on capacity building for evaluators. The final session consisted of a lecture by Dr. María Bustelo, former president of the European Evaluation Society and director of the Master in Evaluation at Universidad Complutense de Madrid.

More than 100 people attended the conference.

**3. Was the project implemented as planned? If there were changes in the planned activities, why they were necessary?**

The activities planned in the proposal were carried out without alterations. However, there were changes in the workplan as some activities were added. The main change in our workplan is that we invited María Bustelo to be the keynote speaker at the seminar.

As part of the project, María also traveled to the city of Córdoba (800km from Buenos Aires and one of the largest cities in the country) where she gave a lecture on the importance of public policy evaluation to improve the performance of the state. Her focus during this lecture was the strengthening of provincial monitoring and evaluation systems as well as VOPEs. Her audience in Córdoba was mainly made up of public officials.

None of the additions to the original work plan led to an increase in our budget.

**4. What are the main lessons learned from the experience of this project that you would like to share with other VOPEs?**

What sometimes threatens this kind of endeavor is that, being a voluntary organization, members have day jobs and other obligations and usually the responsibility of organizing everything relies on a very small group of people, if not a single volunteer. This was not the case here. Although delegating tasks was difficult in the beginning, once that was taken care of things started to flow more naturally. We held several Skype and face-to-face meetings to work on the Appraisal Map. Also, the organization of the conference was an excellent demonstration of quality team work. Most of the event was organized in an email chain. A member of the network gave a daily summary of the exchanges that took place so as to have everyone on the same page. A lesson that we learned is that it is possible to do things collectively without having a coordinator that takes care of most activities or that simply assigns tasks. What worked for us on this occasion was having a person that overviewed everything and gave coherence to our exchanges via email. This allowed us to arrive at democratic decisions in an orderly manner.

Another lesson learned that is worth sharing with other VOPEs is to organize satellite events whenever they organize a major event such as our conference on April 16<sup>th</sup>. We were able to transform the conference into the "Evaluation Week in Argentina" by putting together other events. One of these events was Mrs. Bustelo's visit to Cordoba. Another event was CIPPEC's Annual Gala<sup>2</sup>, to which Mrs. Bustelo was invited. There, we were able to introduce her to some of the leading M&E practitioners in the country.

A third lesson learned is to take advantage of what every member of the VOPE can bring to the table. It was thanks to contacts that many of the members had that we were able to secure the venue for our event, entirely for free. It was also thanks to contacts of our members in universities (many are professors) that these universities endorsed us and helped us both inviting their staff and alumni and by co-signing our invitation.

**5. Are there plans to continue or expand collaboration started under the project? If so, please describe.**

Yes. There are concrete plans to expand collaboration under the project. As previously mentioned, we received very positive feedback from our audience. Many colleagues got in touch with us to explore the possibility of becoming part of the study by assessing the situation in other provinces.

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<sup>1</sup> Please limit your responses to this and other questions to no more than 500 words each.

<sup>2</sup> CIPPEC is a leading think tank from Argentina that hosts its annual gala in April. Over 1000 public figures attend each year.

Furthermore, representatives of EvaluAR and María Bustelo had a meeting with Ana Edwin, director of the National Institute for Public Administration (INAP), Alberto Bonifacio, head of Training at INAP and Violeta Nagase, National Employment Director. During this meeting they presented the Appraisal Map as well as EvaluAR. The main outcome of this meeting is that INAP proposed to hold a conference in July in which we will present the findings of the Appraisal Map. There will also be other lectures and there will be a strong focus in involving different areas of the government. There are talks of using this opportunity to launch the 2<sup>nd</sup> Evaluation Week in Argentina.

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*Please save with P2P# in file name, then send via email attachment to [IOCE@earthlink.net](mailto:IOCE@earthlink.net)*

*Once approved by EvalPartners, the report will be posted on the IOCE website.*