

# Challenges of a new evaluation national society

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Albanian Society of Program Evaluation (ASPE)



# Content

- 📖 Assessment Context in Albania
- 📖 The first steps of the ASPE
- 📖 Organisation and Membership
- 📖 Mission and objective
- 📖 How to strengthen the institutional and evaluation capacity of ASPE
- 📖 Agreement ASPE - SQEP and two positive outcomes
- 📖 Initiative EvAlbania
- 📖 Constraints
- 📖 Innovations, lessons learned and next steps



# Assessment context in Albania

- 📖 An environment favourable to the development of a culture of healthy governance, managing for results and accountability after the post-Communist era
- 📖 The evaluation function remains currently underdeveloped in Albania
- 📖 The program evaluation is generally justified by audit activities, monitoring or procedures to improve the quality (ISO certification), thus creating a further confusion as to the true nature of the evaluation

# The first steps of the ASPE

- 📅 Formalization of the Albanian Society of Program Evaluation (ASPE) began in **April 2011**
- 📅 Establishment of the contact between ASPE and SQEP
- 📅 A first informal network was formed in **July 2011**
- 📅 Legally established and officially recognized by the Albanian government in **October 2011**
- 📅 The reasons for establishment : to raise awareness, supply and demand for evaluation, and build a community of evaluation stakeholders



# Organisation and Membership

## Organisation

- 📖 The ASPE is defined as a non-profit organisation with a formal constitution. It is headed by a president and led by a steering board of five members which report to the Assembly members
- 📖 The Assembly shall elect for terms of two years, the President and the Board of Directors
- 📖 Led and coordinated by volunteers



## Membership

- 📖 It is a professional organization, open- society, non-exclusive, trying to gather all interested parties in the evaluation
- 📖 ASPE had 15 members as of October 2012. It plans a membership of 90 members by the end of 2013: policy maker, manager, practitioner, teacher, student or otherwise, and whether it comes from the government, various public networks, private intersection, municipal or community.

# Mission and objectives

The ASPE **aims** to promote the theory, practice, understanding and use of evaluation

It has its **mission** such as:

-  Contribute to the development of program evaluation in Albania;
-  Promote the use of evaluation in public and private organizations;



# Mission and objectives

## Specific objectives

- 📖 Provide basic training and professional development in areas related to the evaluation;
- 📖 Promote evaluation (advocacy) and encourage the understanding and use of evaluation;
- 📖 Encourage the development of the theory and practice of evaluation by the publication of these advances and recognizing the exceptional contributions;
- 📖 Identify the ethical principles and standards of evaluation practice in Albania and promote their use;
- 📖 Organize discussion forums that provide networking opportunities and enrichment of the scope of evaluation (seminars, workshops, conferences, etc.);
- 📖 Gather members who have similar interests in evaluation;

# How to strengthen the institutional and evaluation capacity

## Strategic Plan 2012 – 2013

 Promoting evaluation

 Professional international cooperation

 Professional development and teaching

 Funding



# How to strengthen the institutional and evaluation capacity

- 📄 Agreement ASPE – SQEP (May 2012)
- 📄 International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation (IOCE) (October 2011)
- 📄 Initiative "EvAlbania." Developed by the ASPE and SQEP within the framework of EvalPartners and under the responsibility of the IOCE and UNICEF

# Agreement ASPE - SQEP and two positive outcomes

The following activities support and expert advice from SQEP already underway include:

- 📖 Support the formalization of the ASPE (statutes, providing services to members);
- 📖 Support the development of individual and institutional capacity in evaluation of the members of the ASPE (university training, training to the emerging community of evaluators);
- 📖 Support the integration of ASPE in the existing evaluation networks in Europe, in Francophonie and internationally;
- 📖 Support the promotion of evaluation in Albania (standards of practice, ethical principles).
- 📖 International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation (IOCE) **(October 2011)**
- 📖 Francophone Evaluation Network (Réseau francophone de l'évaluation - RFE) **(July 2012)**,



# Initiative "EvAlbania"

## Initiative "EvAlbania"

The initiative "EvAlbania" targets the achievement of three specific projects that support the implementation of the strategic plan of the ASPE

- 📖 The first project concerns the strengthening of the **institutional capacity** of the ASPE (Permanent secretariat and development of its website )
- 📖 The second project speaks to the **evaluation demand and evaluation offer**
- 📖 The third project aims to develop the **offer of a university education**

# Constraints

## Constraints

- 📺 Lack of technical and financial resources
- 📺 Non-resident president in Albania
- 📺 Neither supply nor demand in evaluation
- 📺 A partnership ASPE - SQEP developed on a strictly voluntary basis
- 📺 Operate in an environment where everything has to be build in evaluation



# Innovations, lessons learned, next steps

## Innovations and lessons learned

📖 Much can be done with little

📖 Manage and measure the ambitions

📖 Attach importance to the human factor

📖 Networking timely

📖 Innovation

# Innovations, lessons learned, next steps

## Next steps

- 📺 Realise its strategic plan and the initiative "EvAlbania"
- 📺 Concrete actions on the ground
- 📺 Ensure the interest, support and funding to achieve its ambitions
- 📺 Leading a community emerging evaluators
- 📺 Increase the role as promoter of the evaluation to institutions and individuals



 Thank you very much  
for your attention

 Questions

