

IOCE EvalPartners profile survey of Voluntary Organizations of Professional Evaluators (VOPEs)

I. Basic profile information

1. Name and acronym of organization (VOPE)	Red Argentina de Evaluación
2. Geographic scope of organization	National: ARGENTINA
3. Contact Details	Name of main contact person: Esteban Tapella E-address: etapella@gmail.com Postal address: Islas Malvinas Argentinas 332 Sur. J 5406 CYB - Rivadavia - San Juan, ARGENTINA Telephone: +54 264 4331309 VOPE website URL: ---
4. Current membership – numbers of individuals, by their affiliation (if known; please at least give total)	Government:10 NGOs/CSOs:20 Academics: 30 Private sector (consultants):10 Other: 20 Total membership: 90
5. Year VOPE was founded	2005
6. Current status (identify which)	Informal network
7. Information about growth: evolution of the number of members or financial resources in the last 5 years.	The network has not growth since its inception, and we have been connected mainly by a email discussion group. We have not have any financial resources.
8. Purpose and mission of VOPE	To increase the visibility and importance of the evaluation in the context of Argentina, both for governmental and non governmental institutions.
9. Current strategy and emphasis	With the support of the Argentinean office of FLACSO (Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales) we are planning a meeting for mid June in Buenos Aires. We hope this will be an important step in order to gain new membership and begin with new strengthens the life of the network.
10.Organizational capacity: Please describe your governance structure, leadership, services provided, finances, human resources, linkages with other organizations, etc.	Since the beginning we have had a “promoter group”, as we didn’t have the chance to have a general Assembly of the Network. This group has organized some meetings in Buenos Aires, but until now it didn’t succeed in advancing towards a more formalized structure. We really hope to have some changes about this next June (in the meeting we mention previously)
11.Means of communication with members , e.g. newsletter, listserv, publication, website	We have a listserv (a Yahoo group) for the Argentinean Network. But most of the people tend to follow just the ReLAC listserv. We have the opportunity of using a section of the NING platform that the ReLAC is using.
12.Past events (e.g. during past year)	We tried to have a general meeting last year, but as it was an electoral year in Argentina, we decided to move to 2012. We only had some emails interchanges.
13.Forthcoming key events/ conferences – dates, location	An Evaluation Meeting, in the venue of FLACSO-ARGENTINA (Buenos Aires) next June 2012.
14.Name and e-address of person submitting this information	Ana Pereyra: anapereyra67@hotmail.com
15.Date of this update	27 th March 2012

Experience with Evaluation Capacity Building

<p>1. Background: Please provide a brief history of the formation of this organization (VOPE).</p> <p>1.1 Who were/are the key players?</p> <p>1.2 How many members do you have on your governing board/ committee?</p> <p>1.3 What are the main existing strengths that your VOPE is trying to capitalize on?</p> <p>1.4 What are the main challenges that your VOPE is trying to address?</p>	<p>Three members of the network participated in the 2004 1° ReLAC Conference in Lima, Peru. They decided to constitute a “promoter group”, and they organize a first meeting in Buenos Aires in 2005, with Osvaldo Feinstein as a guest speaker. The promoter group was constituted by four people, three of them are still members of it (Esteban Tapella, Nerio Neirotti, Pablo Rodriguez-Bilella) and a new one (Ana Pereyra). This group is, in a way, the governing committee. The network was initially supported by Ada Ocampo, with information and advices. She also was a guest speaker in a couple of activities we organized in 2007.</p> <p>Our strengths are that we still believe in the potential of networks in order to push for a culture of evaluation in the country. We are motivated people, and despite the lack of financial resources we believe it is possible to have an useful network in the country.</p> <p>Among our main challenges, we have difficulties to coordinate face to face meetings, and to persuade other people about the relevance of the network. We also have some problems in finding ways to incorporate more people to our “promoter group”.</p>
<p>2. Organizational motivation: What were/are the driving forces of the VOPE and its historical development?</p>	<p>We are quite interested in promoting the evaluation culture in different spaces of Argentina (government and NGOs ones). We understand that our policies and projects lack evaluations, and we firmly believe that increasing the number and quality of evaluations will improve the implementation of policies, programs, and projects.</p>
<p>3. Evaluation Capacity Building: What has your VOPE done to promote evaluation (M&E) capacity?</p>	<p>Until now, we have only had e-mail communications, and the meetings of 2005 and 2007 that we mentioned before. This year we expect to have in June an Evaluation Meeting in Buenos Aires.</p>
<p>4. Context / target entities: More specifically, who are the persons or institutions your organization seeks to influence (to strengthen evaluation capacity)? For example:</p> <p>4.1 Technical capacities to <i>supply</i> quality evaluations, partnering with experts, local universities or others to provide training for members, etc.;</p> <p>4.2 Strengthening VOPE organizational capacity itself;</p> <p>4.3 Enhancing the enabling environment for evaluation, including strengthening the <i>demand</i> for and use of evaluations by policy makers;</p> <p>4.4 Influencing governmental policies related to evaluation, evaluation designs and implementation of M&E systems, etc.</p>	<p>We have a broad focus about who we want to influence. Perhaps our first concern is to have more people involved in the network, and then have discussions about this topic. However, in our interchanges these years, we have talk many times of our interest in Influencing governmental policies related to evaluation, evaluation designs and implementation of M&E systems, etc.</p>
<p>5. Public accountability: Is your VOPE helping to strengthen oversight and transparency of government programs? If so, in</p>	<p>No</p>

what ways? Can you share any success stories of evaluators or others promoting public accountability?	
6. More specifically, what are some of the key themes for which you advocate? For example, are you promoting issues related to cultural sensitivity, equity, social justice, empowerment, transformation, gender, environment, poverty? If so, please describe or attach relevant documents.	We haven't advance yet these topics.
7. Methods: Experiences in strengthening skills of individual members, by (for example): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • organizing workshops led by local experts; • organizing webinars with international speakers; • designing and delivering e-learning programmes; • administering mentoring programmes; etc. 	We have had two main meetings with guess speakers (in 2005 and 2007), and some members of the promoter group have been involved in the e-learning master the ReLAC developed in 2007 with the support of UNICEF.
8. Standards: Has your VOPE developed professional standards/ ethical codes/ competencies (or adheres to those developed by others)? If so, please provide documentation.	No.
9. Job opportunities: Do you share employment/ consultancy opportunities with evaluators on your database?	Yes.
10. Progress and results: What progress has been achieved so far in any of the above or other domains? What are expected and unexpected results achieved?	We are not happy with the results achieved so far, and we expect to change this soon, so we are working now in the meeting for next June in Buenos Aires.
11. Lessons learned: Recommendations/ tips to others for good practices on how to organize and sustain VOPEs like yours.	We don't have much to share here.
12. Next steps: What does your organization plan to do next?	As mentioned before, we plan to have an Evaluation Meeting next June in Buenos Aires, with guess speakers from Government and NGOs. This will be an opportunity to revive our network.
13. Willing to share with other VOPEs? For example, would you be interested in forming peer-to-peer partnerships with one or more other VOPEs to share lessons learned, advise each other? If so, describe what you would be willing to share / advice you would seek.	YES, OF COURSE! We are very interested in this kind of interchange, and we would love to have some support and advice about how to organize the governance and activities of an evaluation network, with the particularities of the national context.
14. Suggestions: What ideas do you have for what should be included in activities of the EvalPartners Initiative?	Facilitating the interchange between VOPEs. Advising about institutional issues (governance, standards, etc.). Strengthening the institutional and individual capacities of VOPEs on evaluation.

15. Want to be actively involved? Does your VOPE want to be actively involved in EvalPartners? If so, in what ways?

YES, we really want to be actively involved in EvalPartners. We are eager to have more dialogue with other VOPEs, both from the North and from the South. We are open to learn from them, and to receive their advice. We are interested in supporting EvalPartners with diffusion of their activities. In that way, we would love to have one representative of EvalPartners in our June meeting in Buenos Aires.