

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

I. Basic profile information

1. Name and acronym of organization (VOPE)	The Finnish Evaluation Society (FES) Suomen Arviointiyhdistys (SAY)
2. Geographic scope of organization	National: Finland
3. Contact Details	Name of main contact person: Liisa Horelli E-address: liisa.horelli@aalto.fi Postal address: Hopeasalmentie 21 B, 00570 Helsinki, Finland Telephone: +358407305010 VOPE website URL: www.sayfes.fi
4. Current membership – numbers of individuals, by their affiliation (if known; please at least give total)	Government: NGOs/CSOs: Academics: Private sector (consultants): Other: Total membership: 200
5. Year VOPE was founded	1999
6. Current status (identify which)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charter and bylaws adopted Registered association • Legally recognized by government
7. Information about growth : evolution of the number of members or financial resources in the last 5 years.	Increase of members 15/year, but the financial resources are not great as the membership fee is only 30 dollars/year
8. Purpose and mission of VOPE	<p style="text-align: center;">FES-STRATEGY 2012</p> <p>VALUE BASE: "FES-AHAA..." Open, on the edge competence of evaluation</p> <p>Vision 2015: FES is a nationally and internationally recognised promoter of evaluation competence Mission: FES promotes the evolution of evaluation theory, practice and understanding, as well as the deployment of interdisciplinary evaluation know-how in society</p> <p>The Goal: The strengthening of a dynamic, international evaluation culture in the activities of public, private and third sector</p> <p>Objective 1: Interactive development and dissemination of new evaluation knowledge and competence Means: National conferences, discussion forums, evaluation supplement in a journal, thematic groups, website</p> <p>Objective 2: Monitoring the international evaluation scene Means: Meetings and exchange of knowledge with the Nordic evaluation societies and NESE; preparation of the EES conference in Helsinki, 2012</p> <p>Objective 3: Monitoring and enhancement of evaluation education Means: analysis of the situation and proposals for a new curriculum in dialogue with the members and stakeholders</p> <p>Objective 4: Recruitment of members; organisation of FES activities Means: membership survey, yearly conference, discussion forums, evaluation supplement in a journal, recruitment and marketing team</p>
9. Current strategy and emphasis	See above
10. Organizational capacity: Please describe your governance structure, leadership, services provided, finances, human resources, linkages with other organizations, etc.	We have a chairperson, and board with 12 members plus a secretary. In addition we have a general assembly once a year. All members work on voluntary basis. We collaborate with the Nordic network of evaluation organisations, NESE and EES.
11. Means of	The website, listserv, newsletter, discussion forums every second month, a

communication with members , e.g. newsletter, listserv, publication, website	yearly conference, plus a yearly supplement on evaluation in a refereed journal.
12.Past events (e.g. during past year)	See above.
13.Forthcoming key events/ conferences – dates, location	THE 10 th Biannual Conference of EES in Helsinki, 1-5.9.2012 [1-5.10.2012]
14.Name and e-address of person submitting this information	Liisa Horelli liisa.horelli@aalto.fi
15.Date of this update	27.8.2012

II. 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>A few key evaluators came together to found a Voluntary Association in 1999 called The Finnish Evaluation Society (FES). They were mostly professionals from different backgrounds, who either conduct or commission evaluations</p> <p>We have 12 members on the board (half of them full, half deputies but all of them can participate in the board meetings), plus the president. The strengths are the diversity of the members' skills. They represent various backgrounds and professions.</p> <p>Challenges: to get more recognition for evaluators and their important work.</p>
<p>2. Organizational motivation: What were/are the driving forces of the VOPE and its historical development?</p>	To create evaluation as a profession and to share knowledge in the field.
<p>3. Evaluation Capacity Building: What has your VOPE done to promote evaluation (M&E) capacity?</p>	We have [discussed] a plan and content for evaluation training to be implemented by a network of universities next year (2013).
<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</p>	Main focus is 4.1 and 4.3, but also the other targets through our activities.

systems, etc.	
5. Public accountability: Is your VOPE helping to strengthen oversight and transparency of government programs? If so, in what ways? Can you share any success stories of evaluators or others promoting public accountability?	Several of our members are conducting evaluations that promote oversight and transparency of government programs by doing good quality evaluations that are also assessed in our discussion forums.
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.	Gender equality, sustainability, education, social justice. References are mostly in Finnish but some also in English (see Per Mickwitz, Liisa Horelli, Petri Virtanen, Petri Uusikylä, Pertti Ahonen etc.)
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. 	Yes Yes Not yet Not us but collaborative organisations
8. Standards: Has your VOPE developed professional standards/ ethical codes/ competencies (or adheres to those developed by others)? If so, please provide documentation.	We have discussed the ethical codes but do not have our own, nor criteria of competence but will focus on that in the near future.
9. Job opportunities: Do you share employment/ consultancy opportunities with evaluators on your database?	No
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?	The progress is not great but we have quite an experienced group of members who contribute to both evaluation theory and practice in the yearly supplement that we write.
11. Lessons learned: Recommendations/ tips to others for good practices on how to organize and sustain VOPEs like yours.	Voluntary work is fine but also financial resources are needed in order to dig deeper in capacity building. Maybe a good way to get resources is to have successful conferences (cf. Denmark and Sweden).
12. Next steps: What does your organization plan to do next?	To proceed slowly towards an evaluation register and the ethical codes and to implement the training programme
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.	We already collaborate with The Nordic colleagues and NESE.
14. Suggestions: What ideas do	

you have for what should be included in activities of the EvalPartners Initiative?	
15. Want to be actively involved? Does your VOPE want to be actively involved in EvalPartners? If so, in what ways?	Not at the moment