

National Monitoring and Evaluation Network of the Kyrgyz Republic

The experience with designing and
implementing strategies to strengthen
capacities of evaluators in general, and
Network members specifically

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National M&E Network of the Kyrgyz Republic

- In the fall of 2007 **National M&E Network of Kyrgyz Republic** was established by 26 NGOs and individuals.
- The participants formulated and approved the founding documents of the Network, identified main areas of work and working plan was created.
- A mailing list was created.

Preconditions for emergence of M&E activities in the Kyrgyz Republic

1991-2005

- Kyrgyzstan had to start the process of strategic planning at various levels of public administration.
- Strategic policy documents were developed with the participation of civil society organizations.
- These strategies contained special sections for monitoring and evaluation activities.

Establishment of evaluation institutions

- Numerous discussions on improving the efficiency of Government in the new situation.
- Numerous different programs and projects in M&E (EU, Eurasia Foundation, World Bank)
- After 2005 - joint activities of government officials and civil society organizations began.
- In the process of such public discussions, a number of civil society organizations realized and agreed that a coordinated approach to monitoring and evaluation was necessary.

Establishment of evaluation institutions

- Each year since 2006 a series of three-day workshops are held for government agencies and NGOs. From 2008 to 2010, one of the organizers was National M&E Network.
- During these seminars an understanding and concept was formed of the need in M&E system to improve the Governance effectiveness.

Training activities for the Network

- In March 2011, 24 Network members participated in a two-month webinar on "Results-Based Management and Evaluation" conducted by British evaluation expert Freer Spreckley.
- In 2010, the Kyrgyz M&E Network organized and conducted online training events as part of the annual IPEN conference that brought together around 80 participants from civil society, think tanks, international donor agencies, and government agencies.
- Workshops in 2011 for NGOs that took part in monitoring humanitarian aid in the city of Osh and the surrounding region that had suffered from inter-ethnic violence in June 2010.

Training activities for the Network

- Five members of the Network took part in "Transformative Mixed Methods Evaluation" workshop conducted by Donna Mertens and organized in Kazakhstan by UN Women and IPEN in 2011. Each of these five participants from the Kyrgyz M&E Network later made presentations for other Network members, experts on organizational diagnostics and gender issues, and held a number of meetings on popularization of transformative mixed methods.
- Since 2007, representatives of key Government departments take part in annual IPEN conferences.

General principles for the organization of events

- Events involve all interested groups and government agencies working in the field of M&E.
- Situation analysis, identification of key interest groups and activities in accordance with them.
- The workshops include two working processes:
 - a discussion of the issues;
 - experts' advices on the issues (possibilities of different solutions.)

A new approach to organization of events (“M&E Week”)

- The event was attended by all stakeholders.
- Seven days of daily M&E trainings and discussions.
- Preparatory stage – M&E papers by participants from different countries were posted and discussed in an online forum prior to the ‘M&E Week’.
- UNICEF supported conduction of webinars by leading experts on the topics. Webinar topics were later discussed during physical conference in the Kyrgyz Republic.

A new approach to the organization of events. (“M&E Week“)

- Events were organized at the local level in Almaty, Kazakhstan; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; and Moscow, Russia. Discussions focused on key M&E issues.
- Such system of event organization requires special facilitation of the process.
- The events of the “M&E Week” were attended by more than 80 people in Bishkek.

National M&E Network of the Kyrgyz Republic - Next steps

- Continue partnership initiatives with the Government, Parliament and local self-government bodies on the introduction of M&E in management processes; support introduction of results-based management and M&E.
- Continue offering capacity building activities for Network members;
- Expand and strengthen membership in the Network;
- Develop methods to improve the M&E skills for network members, government officials and interested persons.
- Promote equality evaluations and transformative Mixed Methods Evaluation in donor-funded project evaluations;
- Continue participating in international M&E initiatives.