

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

## I. Basic profile information

<b>1. Name and acronym of organization (VOPE)</b>	Slovenian Evaluation Society / Slovensko društvo evalvatorjev (SiES)
<b>2. Geographic scope of organization</b>	<b>National: SLOVENIA</b>
<b>3. Contact Details</b>	Name of main contact person: E-address: Bojan Radej, <a href="mailto:bojan.radej@siol.net">bojan.radej@siol.net</a> Postal address: - Telephone: - VOPE website URL: <a href="http://www.sdeval.si">http://www.sdeval.si</a>
<b>4. Current membership – numbers of individuals, by their affiliation (if known; please at least give total)</b>	Government: YES NGOs/CSOs: yes Academics: yes Private sector (consultants): yes Other: Total membership: less than 50
<b>5. Year VOPE was founded</b>	2008
<b>6. Current status (identify which)</b>	Legal person of private law, Society of citizens
<b>7. Information about growth: evolution of the number of members or financial resources in the last 5 years.</b>	Slovenia is small country. Growth in number of members is not our goal. We have qualitative goals in this regard. Quantitative goal is linked to our network of non-members (1000+).
<b>8. Purpose and mission of VOPE</b>	SDE is non-governmental, not-for profit organisation comprised of academics, practitioners and users of program and project evaluation in a variety of fields- regional and rural development, spatial, urban and landscape planning, education, social services, business, and others.
<b>9. Current strategy and emphasis</b>	Improvement of the administrative evaluation system and promotion of independent but effective evaluation of public policies in Slovenia and in European union Promotion of public policy synergies.
<b>10. Organizational capacity: Please describe your governance structure, leadership, services provided, finances, human resources, linkages with other organizations, etc.</b>	Society consists of 3 working commission and one regional branch. Simple governance structure (operating chairman, secretary) Society is a member of Slovenian Spatial Network, Slovenian Forum for Social Economy and several others coalitions with national NGOs; Society is a member of NESE – National evaluation societies of Europe, IOCE, IOCOMSA (representative for Slovenia). Services: Publications, support to evaluation in NGO sector (free of charge), presentation and discussion of evaluation reports, methodological research, education, media.
<b>11. Means of communication with members, e.g. newsletter, listserv, publication, website</b>	Newsletter (in Slovenian one per month / in English 1-2 per year), Publication – working papers 3 books Website <a href="http://www.sdeval.si">http://www.sdeval.si</a>
<b>12. Past events (e.g. during past year)</b>	Public presentation of results of mid term evaluation of rural development plan 2007-13; Large conference room of the Government (4. February 2011) Public lecture: Multi-level complexity; Out of the Box Seminars, University of Maribor – Rektorat (20. april 2011) Public lecture: Prioritisation of public alternatives, Gea College Ljubljana (23. june 2011) Workshop for Users of CAF – Common Assessment Framework, Faculty of applied social research, Ljubljana (18. nov 2011) Workshop Evaluation of Spatial Plans Center Evropa, Ljubljana (13. dec 2011) 4 working papers published (in Slovenian language): - Intersectional prioritisation of projects; - Primary and secondary perspective in policy evaluation;

	<p>- Problème d'agregation dans des évaluations sociales complexes;</p> <p>- Movement 99%: Through Exclusion to the Community)</p> <p>1 Book (in Slovenian, Evaluation of policies: Horizons of new mentality. Ljubljana: Vega, 224 pp)</p> <p>1 Paper published in Sage, Evaluation (17/2, april 2011)</p> <p>8 articles published in main daily newspapers in the country</p> <p>Press conference – presentation of book at its release</p> <p>Book presentation: (29. IX, University Maribor, and 3. X. Large conference room of the Government, Ljubljana)</p> <p>Statement for the media (24 oct. 2011) regarding our Initiative to the Government</p> <p>Social events (2. may, 23. June, 2. November, 19 December 2011)</p>
<b>13. Forthcoming key events/ conferences – dates, location</b>	<p>4 public events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ethics and Health, Slovenian Academy of Science (17 january 2012, Ljubljana);</li> <li>- Presentation of mid-term evaluation results for Innovation, research and tertiary education in Slovenia, june 2012)</li> </ul> <p>2-3 working papers:</p> <p>(Excellence Squared: Selfassessment in Public Administration, jan 2012)</p> <p>1 book (Social complexity: Mesoscopic evaluation of heterogenous phenomena; in Slovenian)</p> <p>Promotion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Golden Fiscal Rule – lecture at the conference in the lower house of the national parliament; 16. march 2012)</li> <li>- Social responsibility Conferense, Maribor: Lecture (8. marc 2012)</li> </ul> <p>Free of charge Support to Slovenian NGO sector in evaluation</p> <p>Regular tasks</p>
<b>14. Name and e-address of person submitting this information</b>	Bojan Radej; info@sdeval.si
<b>15. Date of this update</b>	26. march 2012

## II. Experience with Evaluation Capacity Building

<p><b>1. Background:</b> 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>1.1 Civil society: Intellectuals (professors), highly experienced practitioners.</p> <p>1.2 Board: 4 persons</p> <p>1.3 Innovation; Independence from market as well as from government</p> <p>1.4 See our mission statement</p>
<p><b>2. Organizational motivation:</b> What were/are the driving forces of the VOPE and its historical development?</p>	Active citizenship.
<p><b>3. Evaluation Capacity Building:</b> What has your VOPE done to promote evaluation (M&amp;E) capacity?</p>	Through research, publishing and education.
<p><b>4. Context / target entities:</b> More specifically, who are the persons or institutions your organization seeks to influence</p>	<p>4.1 not really</p> <p>4.2 not as a priority</p> <p>4.3 yes, our the most important target</p>

<p>(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&amp;E systems, etc.</p>	<p>4.4 yes, this is very important target</p>
<p><b>5. Public accountability:</b> 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?</p>	<p>a. yes</p> <p>b. We base our efforts on the law which sets obligation of the government to disseminate information.</p> <p>c. We have made our government to prepare a list of commissioned and planned evaluation (which were previously scattered on the web).</p>
<p><b>6. More specifically, what are some of the key themes for which you advocate?</b> 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.</p>	<p>One of our main efforts is to develop tools which enable indiscriminate evaluation in the context of deep social oppositions (such as between environmental, social and economic goals of development).</p> <p>Our methodology has been published in Sage, Evaluation (17/2, <a href="http://evi.sagepub.com/content/17/2.toc">http://evi.sagepub.com/content/17/2.toc</a>; also <a href="http://www.sdeval.si/Publikacije-za-komisijo-za-kodekse-in-standarde/Alternative-social-welfare-measures-justify-alternative-welfare-doctrines.html">http://www.sdeval.si/Publikacije-za-komisijo-za-kodekse-in-standarde/Alternative-social-welfare-measures-justify-alternative-welfare-doctrines.html</a> )</p>
<p><b>7. Methods:</b> Experiences in strengthening skills of individual members, by (for example):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• organizing workshops led by local experts;</li> <li>• organizing webinars with international speakers;</li> <li>• designing and delivering e-learning programmes;</li> <li>• administering mentoring programmes; etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- organizing workshops led by local experts: Yes</li> <li>- organizing webinars with international speakers: No</li> <li>- designing and delivering e-learning programmes: No, <b>we can afford direct exchange.</b></li> <li>- administering mentoring programmes: Yes</li> </ul> <p>Society if offering evaluation support to NGO sector in Slovenia – free of charge.</p>
<p><b>8. Standards:</b> Has your VOPE developed professional standards/ ethical codes/ competencies (or adheres to those developed by others)? If so, please provide documentation.</p>	<p>No standards, no ethics. It is our opinion that standards and codes can not provide ex-ante for the improvement of the field. We found it more effective to stimulate improvements with ex-post public presentations of studies.</p>
<p><b>9. Job opportunities:</b> Do you share employment/ consultancy opportunities with evaluators on your database?</p>	<p><b>Sometimes; but we wish not to act as a head hunters for commercial purposes.</b></p>
<p><b>10. Progress and results:</b> What progress has been achieved so far in any of the above or other domains? What are expected</p>	<p>Our progress is moderate.</p> <p>Our initial decision to operate as much as possible independently from market and government has been</p>

<p>and unexpected results achieved?</p>	<p>confirmed as appropriate as it supported our moral weight in the general public.</p> <p>We decided to work independently from the mainstream evaluation doctrine – this enabled us to go out of the box, to go beyond conventional approach to evaluation, which is either excessively positivistic or excessively relativistic.</p> <p>Probably the most unexpected experience in negative terms has been our disappointment <b>with the low quality possible of exchanges with the international community in particular between national societies and between national societies and international hubs</b> in the field of evaluation. <b>Too many mainstreams, too few originality, innovation, openness.</b></p>
<p><b>11. Lessons learned:</b> Recommendations/ tips to others for good practices on how to organize and sustain VOPEs like yours.</p>	<p>See above.</p>
<p><b>12. Next steps:</b> What does your organization plan to do next?</p>	<p>No major changes are foreseen, we will continue in the previously set direction.</p>
<p><b>13. Willing to share with other VOPEs?</b> 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.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>We operate in an open way so we are willing to share what we know. Our strengths are in the evaluation methodology, in particular in the algorithm of synthesis, <b>evaluation in complexity, management of deep social oppositions.</b></p>
<p><b>14. Suggestions:</b> What ideas do you have for what should be included in activities of the EvalPartners Initiative?</p>	<p>No ideas. Wish to see it as an opportunity to link with others to focus on certain evaluation issues which are not very mainstream, no project money behind it but important.</p>
<p><b>15. Want to be actively involved?</b> Does your VOPE want to be actively involved in EvalPartners? If so, in what ways?</p>	<p>Probably. We require <b>and expect</b> certain quality of <b>your</b> work and <b>two directional substantive exchanges</b>. If this is provided we will be happy to interact.</p>