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

I.   Basic profile information

1. Name and acronym of organization (VOPE)	**Geneva Evaluation Network (GEN)**
2. Geographic scope of organization	**Sub-national (e.g. local affiliate) in Switzerland**
3. Contact Details	Name of main contact person: Craig Russon E-address: russon@ilo.org Postal address: Telephone: VOPE website URL: http://geneva-eval.blogspot.fr
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**: 95 members subscribed to listserv
5. Year VOPE was founded	2006
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.	N/A
8. Purpose and mission of VOPE	The GEN was born in September, 2006, to answer a need in the Geneva international evaluation community. It follows a global trend nowadays of building local space for evaluation practitioners.
9. Current strategy and emphasis	We have been focused on meetings around experiences presented by evaluation practitioners from different areas: UN organizations, Universities, International NGOs and independent consultants.
10. Organizational capacity: Please describe your governance structure, leadership, services provided, finances, human resources, linkages with other organizations, etc.	The network is owned by all who are interested in participating by sharing experiences and providing an opportunity to know each other in the Geneva area (i.e. UN evaluation staff and consultants). Besides the local evaluation community sharing their experience and expertise, visiting professionals are invited to
11. Means of communication with members, e.g. newsletter, listserv, publication, website	Listserv, website, blog
12. Past events (e.g. during past year)	2011: Workshop March 16th Evaluating conferences Laetitia Lienart and Glenn O'Neill Presentations March 31st The Chinese Evaluation Network Laura P. Luo June 28th Mixing evaluation methods Richard Longhurst
13. Forthcoming key events/ conferences – dates, location	ECDG presenting a mini-workshop on the New Guide to ECD, UNICEF, Geneva 24 April, 2012.
14. Name and e-address of person submitting this information	Karen Russon on behalf of Craig Russon

15.Date of this update	April 15, 2012

II.   Experience with Evaluation Capacity Building

1. Background: Please provide a brief history of the formation of this organization (VOPE). 1.1 Who were/are the key players? 1.2 How many members do you have on your governing board/ committee? 1.3 What are the main existing strengths that your VOPE is trying to capitalize on? 1.4 What are the main challenges that your VOPE is trying to address?	The Geneva Evaluation Network (GEN) was created in 2006 by Craig Russon when he moved to the area. There was no local evaluation network at the time. Ricardo Furman created and maintains the GEN website. There is no governing body. Although Craig has initiated and hosted most of the presentations at his organization, there is no formal administrative structure. Anyone can organize and host an event. A strength of GEN is the diversity of local expertise and the nature of Geneva as a headquarters of the UN and many NGOs which receive visiting evaluation experts who may present to the group.
2. Organizational motivation: What were/are the driving forces of the VOPE and its historical development?	The organization was created to strengthen the individual evaluation capability of its members through informal presentations or seminars. A second objective is to enhance networking among the local evaluation community.
3. Evaluation Capacity Building: What has your VOPE done to promote evaluation (M&E) capacity?	Informal presentations on evaluation-related topics
4. Context / target entities: More specifically, who are the persons or institutions your organization seeks to influence (to strengthen evaluation capacity)? For example: 4.1 Technical capacities to *supply* quality evaluations, partnering with experts, local universities or others to provide training for members, etc.; 4.2 Strengthening VOPE organizational capacity itself; 4.3 Enhancing the enabling environment for evaluation, including strengthening the *demand* for and use of evaluations by policy makers; 4.4 Influencing governmental policies related to evaluation, evaluation designs and implementation of M&E systems, etc.	GEN's target audience is evaluation practitioners or anyone interested in learning and sharing evaluation-related issues/topics.
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?	No
6. More specifically, what are some of the key themes for which you advocate? For example, are you promoting	N/A

issues related to cultural sensitivity, equity, social justice, empowerment, transformation, gender, environment, poverty? If so, please describe or attach relevant documents.	
7. Methods: Experiences in strengthening skills of individual members, by (for example): • organizing workshops led by local experts; • organizing webinars with international speakers; • designing and delivering e-learning programmes; • administering mentoring programmes; etc.	Informal presentations are organized when a member wishes to present a topic or when a visiting evaluation expert is in town and agrees/offers to present to the group. An email is sent to those on the GEN list advising them of the upcoming event. Following the presentation, participants often have lunch together in the cafeteria of the hosting organization (to continue informal networking).
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?	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?	N/A
11. Lessons learned: Recommendations/ tips to others for good practices on how to organize and sustain VOPEs like yours.	GEN has been successful because its structure is simple and not laden with rules. When someone has an evaluation topic to share that might be of interest to the group or can invite a speaker to present, an announcement is made to the group and people gather. Events usually held around the noon-hour followed by lunch together in the facility's cafeteria for whoever would like to join. Resources can be shared via the website.
12. Next steps: What does your organization plan to do next?	
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.	GENs structure of being a loose affiliation of members GEN's loose organizational structure does not lend itself to sustaining organization-to-organization partnering.
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?	No