

IOCE EvalPartners profile survey of Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation (VOPEs)

I. Basic profile information

1. Name and acronym of organization (VOPE)	Association for Development of Evaluation in Romania (ADER)
2. Geographic scope of organization (See typology in right column; highlight appropriate level, delete others)	National: Romania
3. Contact Details	Name of main contact person: Monica Chiffa E-address: monicachiffa@gmail.com Postal address: Romania, Bucharest, Vintilă Vodă no 2/64 Telephone:+40723508988 VOPE website URL: www.ader-evaluare.ro
4. a. Current formal/registered membership – numbers of individuals, by their affiliation (if known; please at least give total) 4. b. Informal membership (persons on your mailing list)	Government: 2 NGOs/CSOs:-1 Academics: 7 Private sector (consultants):7 Other: 7 a. Total official membership: 25 b. Total informal membership: 45
5. Year VOPE was founded	As an informal group in 2009, as a formal active organisation in 2012
6. Current status (identify which)	Charter and bylaws adopted Legally recognized by government
7. Information about growth: evolution of the number of members or financial resources in the last 5 years.	From 5 members to 25 official members and 45 informal members Limited financial resource from membership fees
8. Purpose and mission of VOPE	Purpose and Mission of ADER: - to promote efficiency and effectiveness in the public sector - to develop the use of evaluation in Romania by promoting best practices - to advocate for evaluation as a means to manage development - to promote dialogue and public debate between academia, civil society, professional and public institutions - to train professionals - to promote the use of evaluation in governance - to play an advocacy role to serve good governance - to promote and facilitate research and development efforts and publications related to evaluation
9. Current strategy and emphasis	-Developing of evaluative research as a distinct academic activity, as a domain of training and professionalization in Romania -Promoting and developing the national evaluation capacity that is crucial for the creation of results-oriented and evidence-based policy-making -Building the institution of professional evaluation -Initiating debates on issues related to monitoring and evaluation -Providing a platform to share knowledge, opportunities, experience in evaluation -Advocacy for more rigorous evaluations of development programs -Developing evaluation into a mature profession ADER uses as its main strength, the status and network of its founders, important figures of the Romanian academic world and active member engagement
10. Organizational capacity: Please describe your governance structure, leadership, services provided,	Governance structure: Board committee composed of President, Vice-president General-Secretary. Decisions are made collectively by the management committee

finances, human resources, linkages with other organizations, etc.	We communicate and maintain relationships with Romanian universities, with related organizations, with governmental entities as Evaluation Central Unit and some of the important consultancy firms from Romania Service provided: a) educational and research program under partnership with universities. b). expertise and services in order to evaluate public policy, programs and institutions c) studies, policy proposal analysis, d) library e) advocacy, awareness raising f) networking
11.Means of communication with members , e.g. newsletter, listserv, publication, website	Website www.ader-evaluare.ro , regular meetings of members and informal links
12.Past events (e.g. during past year)	Successfully organized the national conference: "Improving efficiency and effectiveness of cohesion policy. Structural instruments in Romania" – November 2012-Hotel Howard Johnson Bucharest
13.Forthcoming key events/conferences – dates, location	National conference "Building national evaluation capacity" -November 2013, Bucharest Establishment of a working group of representatives from public administration, academia and private sector for the purpose of developing a White Paper Evaluation in Romanian Public Administration
14.Name and e-address of person submitting this information	Monica Chiffa Email: monicachiffa@gmail.com
15.Date of this update	22 February 2013

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>1.1. ADER started in 2009 as a small informal group of academics from National School of Political Science and Public Administration (http://www.snsa.ro/) with interest in the field of public policy evaluation. In 2011 two senior professors from this university together with two independent evaluators initiated the organizing process of Association for Development of Evaluation in Romania (ADER) but the fulfilment of formal requirements was achieved only in 2012.</p> <p>The key players of ADER are professor Adrian Miroiu, a leading figure in the field of evaluation of Romanian higher education system- institutional level and programmes studies- and professor Iordan Bărbulescu, a leading figure in the field of European public policy, both of them professors at the National School of Political Science and Public Administration (Bucharest, Romania).</p> <p>1.2 On the board committee there are three members: President, Vice-president and General Secretary</p> <p>1.3. The main strength of ADER is the existence of a solidly built network between academics, evaluators and officials from Romanian government.</p> <p>1.4 Lack of resources</p>
<p>2. Organizational motivation: What were/are the driving forces of the VOPE and its historical development?</p>	<p>The dissatisfaction with the actual public policy process in Romania and determination to demand evidence-based policy-making.</p> <p>Members of ADER create a national network in Romania and advocate for the utilization of program evaluation standards by the government in order to determine government to be more accountable, responsive, transparent and efficient</p> <p>Other challenges addressed by ADER : the huge shortage of specially trained personnel in the field of monitoring and evaluation; the need to change the legislation in the field of evaluation and the urgent need to strengthen the evaluation capacity of the Romanian administration</p>
<p>3. Evaluation Capacity</p>	<p>1.Developed a master program in the field of programs evaluation and</p>

<p>Building: What has your VOPE done to promote evaluation (M&E) capacity?</p>	<p>public policy evaluation within the National School of Political Studies and Public Administration</p> <p>See http://www.europeanevaluation.org/images/file/Study_programmes/16_profiles_Novembre%202012.pdf</p> <p>2.Organized a national conference attended by over 120 participants from all over the country (Romania) with emphasis on development programs, development policy, monitoring and evaluation, evaluations of programs (national and European), training needs for evaluators, training needs for students..</p> <p>3. Evaluation Library which consists of important academic books in the field of evaluation</p> <p>4. Share on website (together with the Evaluation Central Unit) the Evaluation Library a centralized library of evaluation reports on the performance of Romanian policies and programs financed by European Union</p> <p>5. Elaborated academic studies in the field of evaluation</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>Members of ADER work to create a new academic qualification: evaluator of programs and public policies and to make the registration of this new qualification on the National (Romanian) Framework of Qualifications in Higher Education.</p> <p>ADER seek to develop evaluation as a profession and to promote highest levels of professionalism by introducing master programs in the field of policy evaluation and program evaluation in some of the most important universities in Romania.</p> <p>ADER is building the capacity of national institutions and individuals in evaluation of public policy enhancing public awareness with regard to evaluation through dedicated workshops, conferences, seminars and lectures</p> <p>Members of ADER are strengthening the existing network between evaluators, academics, officials from government in order to provide a platform for those different actors to interact and exchange information and to promote and develop national evaluation capacity.</p> <p>ADER aims to enhance knowledge, attitudes, skills and competence in evaluation in Romania through training, workshops and seminars</p> <p>Develop and advocate evaluation policies, legislative and regulatory acts in the field of evaluation and monitoring</p> <p>Recruit new members and forge strategic partnerships with consultancy firms and universities</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>Members of ADER undertake research and support national institutions in their process of planning and development of public policy thus strengthening institutions of governance</p> <p>Members of ADER provide retrospective assessments of the implementation, output, and outcome of government measures in order to effect deeper understanding and well-grounded decisions on the part of those in charge of government operations</p> <p>Members of ADER communicate with the policy makers and government officials trough joint meeting, conferences</p>
<p>6. More specifically, what are some of the key themes for which you advocate? For</p>	<p>Empowerment: advocate vigorously for more accountable, responsive, transparent and efficient government - public opinions (media, conferences, seminars, books)</p>

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>7. Methods: Experiences in strengthening skills of individual members, by (for example):</p> <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. 	<p>Organize lectures, seminars and conferences led by experts for members and non-members</p> <p>Develop educational programs in cooperation with universities</p> <p>Creating and maintain a body of knowledge and set of skills unique to evaluation through dedicated training and dedicated library</p>
<p>8. Standards: Has your VOPE developed professional standards/ ethical codes/ competencies (or adheres to those developed by others)? If so, please provide documentation.</p>	Not yet
<p>9. Job opportunities: Do you share employment/ consultancy opportunities with evaluators on your database?</p>	Not yet
<p>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?</p>	<p>To-date we designed and implemented one master program in public policy evaluation and programs evaluation in one university (National School of Political Science and Public Administration) and, in the near future, this master program will be introduced in other two universities (Babeş-Bolyai University and University of Oradea)</p> <p>We provide a forum for open discussions on issues confronting evaluation in Romania</p>
<p>11. Lessons learned: Recommendations/ tips to others for good practices on how to organize and sustain VOPEs like yours.</p>	The lesson learned is to build a strong network between academics, professionals and government officials; to build knowledge and a set of unique skills in evaluation and to be dedicated to work for a strategic goal and not for immediate results.
<p>12. Next steps: What does your organization plan to do next?</p>	Continue to build the national evaluation capacity
<p>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.</p>	Yes
<p>14. Suggestions: What ideas do you have for what should be included in activities of the EvalPartners Initiative?</p>	<p>Capacity building for regional and local VOPEs</p> <p>Organizing regional meeting (workshops, conference)</p> <p>Facilitate exchange of best practices between VOPEs</p>
<p>15. Want to be actively involved? Does your VOPE want to be actively involved in EvalPartners? If so, in what ways?</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Networking</p>

16. Would you be willing to write up a case study providing more detailed analysis of your VOPE's experiences?

Yes