

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

I. Basic profile information

1. Name and acronym of organization (VOPE)	Serbian Evaluation Association
2. Geographic scope of organization	National: Republic of Serbia
3. Contact Details	Name of main contact person: Mr. Ljuban Brkovic E-address: office@evalserbia.com Postal address: Cara Urosa 36-38/8, 11000 Belgrade, Republic of Serbia Telephone:+381 11 303 65 16, mobile:+381 64 15 15 746 VOPE website URL: www.evalserbia.com
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: No NGOs/CSOs: 1 –Group for evaluation, monitoring and impact assessment (GEMIA) Academics: Not yet Private sector (consultants): 7 Other: a. Total official membership: <u>8</u> b. Total informal membership: <u>0</u>
5. Year VOPE was founded	2012
6. Current status (identify which)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal network • 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.	As Association is founded officially at the end of 2012, as initiative of informal group of practitioners, just a few people so far joined to the Association. We will try to attract more individuals and institutional partners like international donors and NGOs.
8. Purpose and mission of VOPE	To develop and strengthen evaluation capacities. To raise awareness in the community about the importance of the evaluation implementation.
9. Current strategy and emphasis	In our Strategy for 2012-2015, plan is to raise number of members and volunteers and to define a strong institutional infrastructure of the Association. In 2013 goal is to build evaluation standards, in 2014 code of ethics, in 2015. To organize first international conference.
10. Organizational capacity: Please describe your governance structure, leadership, services provided, finances, human resources, linkages with other organizations, etc.	We have General Manager who is responsible for economic, legal and administrative issues. Main body is Program Council which defines operative strategy. Council consist of General Manager, President of the Council and leaders of Working Groups. So far, we have three WG, for evaluation methodology, for evaluation in public sector and international aid, for evaluation in civil sector. All full members constitute Assembly of the Association
11. Means of communication with members, e.g. newsletter, listserv, publication, website	Mostly by email
12. Past events (e.g. during past year)	According the Statute, meetings of the Council are once in three months, while every WG defines its own dynamics.
13. Forthcoming key events/ conferences – dates, location	In 2013. we will focus more on individual meetings and developing the work of Working Groups. First conference should take place in 2014
14. Name and e-address of person submitting this information	Milan Brkovic, office@evalserbia.com
15. Date of this update	21.02.2013.

II. Experience with Evaluation Capacity Building

1. Background: Please provide a brief history of the formation of this organization (VOPE).	Initiative for the establishment came from the Group for Evaluation, Monitoring and Impact Assessment (GEMIA) as informal group of practitioners.
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<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>Gemia and President of the Council</p> <p>General Manager, President of the Council, and leaders of three WG (in total 5 key players)</p> <p>Human resources, working experience in public sector, NGOs and in international community.</p> <p>To attract financial support and to achieve understanding of the so far unknown concept and idea of evaluation in our country</p>
<p>2. Organizational motivation: What were/are the driving forces of the VOPE and its historical development?</p>	<p>More transparency in development programmes and projects</p>
<p>3. Evaluation Capacity Building: What has your VOPE done to promote evaluation (M&E) capacity?</p>	<p>Web site, individual meetings, letters to main stakeholders</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>We believe it is equally important to build a strong organization and to maintain contacts with international donors and foreign evaluation community (transfer of the knowledge and experience)</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>Not so far, but we plan to initiate New partnership for development, with a participation of international donors, public policy and civil society. General idea is to reach a consensus about most important things in social and economic development.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>We will focus mostly on but not limit to poverty and access to financial services of vulnerable categories. But also we will cover other important topics such as social justice and cultural policy.</p>
<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. 	
8. Standards: Has your VOPE developed professional standards/ ethical codes/ competencies (or adheres to those developed by others)? If so, please provide documentation.	Not yet, we are currently working on them. We hope till the end of 2013 we will build professional standards and code of ethics in first quarter of 2014
9. Job opportunities: Do you share employment/ consultancy opportunities with evaluators on your database?	We plan to share employment and consultancy opportunities for our members
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?	
11. Lessons learned: Recommendations/ tips to others for good practices on how to organize and sustain VOPEs like yours.	It takes strong commitment and effort, but so far from our experience people are willing to hear about evaluation as they discovering a new perspectives (professional and personal)
12. Next steps: What does your organization plan to do next?	Building of professional standards and code of ethics
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 would be delighted to have a partnership with other evaluation societies. Mostly we are interested in transfer of knowledge in developing a strong national association and national standards. Also, it is important to build professional capacities and to work on constant improvement (courses, certification etc).
14. Suggestions: What ideas do you have for what should be included in activities of the EvalPartners Initiative?	To be discussed as it is open question, we will certainly share our ideas
15. Want to be actively involved? Does your VOPE want to be actively involved in EvalPartners? If so, in what ways?	Generally, we would be delighted to contribute
16. Would you be willing to write up a case study providing more detailed analysis of your VOPE's experiences?	Yes