

IOCE survey of Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation (VOPEs)

I. Basic profile information

1. Name and acronym of organization (VOPE)	AMEA- Armenian Monitoring and Evaluation Association
2. Geographic scope of organization	National (Armenia)
3. Contact Details	<p>Names and e-addresses of up to three contact persons: 1: Artak Saghatelyan artaksaghatelyan@yahoo.com 2: Anna Pokhsraryan anna.pokhsraryan@gmail.com 3: Kristine Ter-Abrahamyan kristine.terabrahamyan@gmail.com Postal address of VOPE: amea.initiative@gmail.com Telephone: 077120308, 095005315 VOPE website URL: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Armenian-Monitoring-and-Evaluation-Association/445394962247917 /in process of development/</p>
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)	<p>NGOs/CSO</p> <p>a. Total official membership: n/a b. Total informal membership: 10</p>
5. Year VOPE was founded	2013
6. Current status (identify which)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informal network
7. Information about growth: evolution of the number of members or financial resources in the last 5 years.	<p>At this stage there are 10 active members of informal professional group. Once the AMEA Facebook page development is completed, there is a hope that the number of members will grow accordingly.</p> <p>There are no available sources of financing currently. All work is done on voluntary basis. AMEA members provide meeting/conference rooms, equipment for presentations and workshops in their offices free of charge or funds gathered from membership fees are used for AMEA purposes.</p>
8. Purpose and mission of VOPE	<p>Armenian Monitoring and Evaluation Association (AMEA) aims at promoting transparency and accountability culture in Armenia for informed policy making through quality M&E practices. That includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop and establish M&E Systems in public and private sectors, - Establish web-based project performance management systems, - Promote education, training on evaluation theory and practice aimed at advancing qualification of field practitioners, state and non-state entities, - Provide consultancy on program/project design, monitoring and evaluation, - Lead social research, - Provide methodological guidance to social research entities active in the field - Champion contextualization and application of world leading M&E methodologies, - Institutionalize M&E theory and practices through development of curricula for and in cooperation with academic institutions, - Enhance evidence base and knowledge management in M&E sector through development, translation and publication of guidelines, handbooks and other relevant materials, - Further in-country/regional/international networking and experience exchange among M&E practitioners.
9. Current strategy and emphasis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Map existing M&E practices and capacities, - Promote quality evaluation and social research, - Strengthen partnerships with academic institutions, think-tanks, state, international entities and businesses, - Promote in-country/regional/international positioning of AMEA,

	- Conduct other activities at achievement of AMEA mission.
10. Organizational capacity: Please describe your governance structure, leadership, services provided, finances, human resources, linkages with other organizations, etc.	Since AMEA is informal network yet, does not have formalized governance structure. There are 10 active members ready to devote their time and efforts for establishment and development of AMEA.
11. Means of communication with members, e.g. newsletter, listserv, publication, website	Email: amea.initiative@gmail.com , FB group page: Armenian-Monitoring-and-Evaluation-Association
12. Past events (e.g. during past year)	N/A
13. Forthcoming key events/conferences – dates, location	It is scheduled to participate in 2014 Conference of the EES in Ireland to share our experience in evaluation and to share the situation, context of M&E in Armenia, learn from others' practices. Organize annual conferences/events on evaluation topics among practitioners and commissioners of Armenia.
14. Name and e-address of person submitting this information	Artak Saghatelyan: -artaksaghatelyan@yahoo.com Kristine Ter-Abrahamyan: Kristine.terabrahamyan@gmail.com Anna Pokhsrryan: Anna.pokhsrryan@gmail.com
15. Date of this update	December, 2013

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?	1.1 Founding members represent international development agencies working in Armenia. 1.2 AMEA does not have official governing board yet, 10 active members are involved in regular meetings and discussions around the establishment of AMEA. 1.3 Our Strength -Sound academic background in Social Sciences, -Lecturing experience at University level, -More than 10 years of experience in professional evaluation in Armenia and abroad, -Experience in leading trainings and conferences in M&E field in Armenia -Participation in International Evaluation conferences, trainings, workshops, -Wide network of interviewers experienced in quantitative and qualitative research methods. 1.4 -Formal registration of association in Armenia; -Marketing and positioning of AMEA in Armenia and in international evaluation networks; -fundraising for organisational growth, including organisational development, web-site, office maintenance; -Identification and networking among M&E specialists
2. Organizational motivation: What were/are the driving forces of the VOPE and its historical development?	Enthusiasm around building DM&E capacity in Armenia in order to have evidence based decisions at governmental and nongovernmental sectors. As well as willingness to share information on new developments among DME professionals.
3. Evaluation Capacity Building¹: What has your VOPE done to promote evaluation (M&E) capacity?	As of now, our VOPE didn't conduct capacity buildings, while its members has years of experience in M&E capacity building for beginner evaluators and for evaluation commissioners in Armenia both from governmental and nongovernmental sectors.

¹By evaluation capacity we refer to the capacity of individuals to produce credible and useful evaluations (supply side), but also to institutional capacities to call for and utilize evaluations (demand side).

<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>4.1 In partnership with Yerevan State University Professors and Evaluation scholars visiting Armenia to strengthen the evaluation capacity of M&E practitioners from state, business and non-governmental organizations.</p> <p>4.2 Organization of peer-to-peer experience exchange meetings, discussions of new books and developments in the field among AMEA members. On-line debates, group discussions and information sharing among AMEA members.</p> <p>4.3 and 4.4 AMEA is planning to organize conferences on evaluation and monitoring with participation of policy makers from governmental and nongovernmental agencies, where they can hear and be sensitized on conducted evaluations in different social spheres with recommendations for policy improvements. As for influencing governmental policies related to evaluation and overall DM&E Systems, AMEA is first planning to promote design, monitoring and evaluation related ideas among governmental, nongovernmental and business agencies, create solid understanding around the need of working and efficient DM&E systems and later on be helpful in creating those systems in aforementioned agencies with different means: information sharing, consultation, on-job trainings, tailor-made workshops, coaching, as well as with new methods especially with presentation of on-line performance management system for all interested parties.</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 yet.</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>Not yet.</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. 	<p>AMEA members are planning to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct experience sharing meetings among evaluation practitioners; • Conduct trainings led by local experts; • Conduct regular meetings among members; • Run conferences on evaluation topics among practitioners and commissioners; • Organize webinars, on site seminars with international speakers for practitioners; • Promote new methods in evaluation
<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>	<p>Not yet, while this will be developed in upcoming years.</p>
<p>9. Job opportunities: Do you</p>	<p>Not yet, however, it is planned to develop the roster of local and</p>

share employment/ consultancy opportunities with evaluators on your database?	international evaluators. Accordingly, evaluation opportunities will be shared among those via established email list and will be announced in Facebook and on official website.
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?	So far AMEA have not shown any progress as an organization, as strategic and implementation plans are not yet developed.
11. Lessons learned: Recommendations/ tips to others for good practices on how to organize and sustain VOPEs like yours.	Since AMEA is not yet sustained, there are no lessons learned from the process. After a while once AMEA is officially registered, it will be possible to share good practices on how to sustain. The first motto is the enthusiasm to promote DM&E capacity in Armenia.
12. Next steps: What does your organization plan to do next?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Official registration - Facebook page and website development - Organization of a general meeting of AMEA members and people interested in AMEA - First-year implementation plan development - Conduct of survey among INGOs, NGOs and Governmental organisations, in order to map existing M&E capacities and M&E situation in Armenia - Discussion on the AMEA participation at EES 2014 conference - Round table discussion on AMEA preparation for 2015 International Year of Evaluation
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>AMEA is enthusiastically eager to share practices in evaluation with other VOPEs. Anyone in AMEA represents an organisation and could share the existing M&E practices within those organisations, discuss similarities, lessons learnt from the M&E systems, processes. As well as AMEA could share the lessons learnt from the used new tools, methodologies, sampling approaches and organise discussion around the latter.</p> <p>The advice that AMEA would like to seek is connected with advance statistical analysis to be used in evaluations.</p>
14. Suggestions: What ideas do you have for what should be included in activities of IOCE and the EvalPartners Initiative?	
15. Want to be actively involved? Does your VOPE want to be actively involved in IOCE and EvalPartners? If so, in what ways?	AMEA can act as contributing partner for IOCE and be actively involved in all EvalPartners initiatives as far as we have some funding from our projects.
16. Would you be willing to write up a case study providing more detailed analysis of your VOPE's experiences?	AMEA would like to have more history and experience in order to write up a case study about VOPE.