

# IOCE survey of Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation (VOPEs)

## I. Basic profile information

Please type your responses in the right column. Save Word document with name of your VOPE in title. Send completed document to [IOCE@earthlink.net](mailto:IOCE@earthlink.net)

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| <b>1. Name and acronym of organization (VOPE)</b>   | Association of Serbian Monitoring and Evaluation Professionals (ASMEP)  |
| <b>2. Geographic scope of organization</b> (See typology in right column; highlight appropriate level, delete others)   | <b>1. National (Serbia)</b>   |
| <b>3. Contact Details</b>   | Names and e-addresses of up to three contact persons:<br>1: Mladen Momcilovic, mladen.momcilovic@asmep-srbija.org<br>2: Emilija Nesovic, nesovic.emilija@gmail.com<br>3: Ivan Tasic, taske018@gmail.com<br><br>Postal address of VOPE: Narodnih heroja 13/8 Belgrade 11070 Serbia<br><br>Telephone: +381-63-305-902<br><br>VOPE website URL:<br><a href="http://www.asmep-srbija.org">Http://www.asmep-srbija.org</a><br><a href="https://www.facebook.com/asmepsrbija">https://www.facebook.com/asmepsrbija</a><br>.                     |
| <b>4. a. Current formal/ registered membership</b> – numbers of individuals, by their affiliation (if known; please at least give total)<br><b>4. b. Informal membership</b> (persons on your mailing list) | Government: 2<br>NGOs/CSOs: 5<br>Academics: 3<br>Private sector (consultants): 4<br>Other: 1<br><br><b>a. Total official membership: 15</b><br><b>b. Total informal membership: 140</b>   |
| <b>5. Year VOPE was founded</b>   |   |
| <b>6. Current status</b> (identify which)   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informal network, YES those 140+ affiliates who receive materials and calls for events etc.</li> <li>• Charter and bylaws adopted, YES</li> <li>• Legally recognized by government, IN THE PROCESS it should be soon ended</li> </ul>  |
| <b>7. Information about growth:</b> evolution of the number of members or financial resources in the last 5 years.  | Members/affiliates growth<br>2011: 1/5<br>2012: 3/30<br>2013: 5/55<br>2014: 15/140<br>2015: Target: 15/500<br>Financial resources remain scarce over the entire period.   |
| <b>8. Purpose and mission of VOPE</b>   | ASMEP is establishing a platform for cooperation in and furthering the goals and means for evaluation in Serbia<br>To that end ASMEP seeks to:<br>Work on civil-public partnership and on promotion of values, principles and usage of evaluation<br>Work on professional development of its members and national standards related to monitoring and evaluation good practices<br>Service and enable networking to a wide range of affiliates in relation to their evaluation needs<br>Facilitate regional and international cooperation |
| <b>9. Current strategy and emphasis</b>   | Fortifying a core membership involvement and strengthening the VOPE instruments and means; enlarging the pool of affiliates and users; entering partnership with other civil initiatives and public sector partners   |
| <b>10. Organizational capacity:</b> Please describe your  | Governance structure: Coordinator selected by the assembly, working bodies chaired by core members  |

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| governance structure, leadership, services provided, finances, human resources, linkages with other organizations, etc. | Finances: Sponsors and membership fees<br>Human and other resources split horizontally<br>Linkages with other organizations: ASMEP is a member of WEBEN   |
| <b>11.Means of communication with members</b> , e.g. newsletter, listserv, publication, website                         | Meetings and events, listserv, LinkedIn, Facebook, website  |
| <b>12.Past events</b> (e.g. during past year)   | WBEN meetings in Ljubljana, Belgrade, and Skopje<br>Meetings with various public institutions and research institutes<br>Training events in Sarajevo, Belgrade, and Bangkok<br>Peer to peer learning events in ASMEP premises in Belgrade<br>Joint WG session related to the work on Internet and FB presentation of ASMEP<br>February 2015 workshop/presentation when we plan to present new programming and evaluation challenges in new EU programing period 2014-2020<br>Focus groups organized related to listserv enlargement and detection of affiliates needs.<br>Finally: ASMEP (Association of Serbian Monitoring and Evaluation Professionals) and SiES (Slovenian Evaluation Society) successfully completed a first of two phases of the IOCE sponsored project »Enhancing evaluation capacities in Serbia« (also financed by IOCE). Key project activities included: o Joint team made of ASMEP/SiES reps during the period between November 26 and 28 met 23 colleagues in 11 Serbian public, civil and research institutions and presented the two evaluation communities and the project goals; o All hosts were appreciative of our initiative and each of the meetings resulted in an established communication and prospects for future cooperation; o All visited colleagues were very interested in participating in the announced February 2015 workshop/presentation when the project plans to present new programming and evaluation challenges in new EU programing period 2014-2020, including also transfer of experiences from Slovenia. |
| <b>13.Forthcoming key events/conferences</b> – dates, location  | February 2015 workshop/presentation when we plan to present to wider top policy public level in Serbia a new programming and evaluation challenges in new EU programing period 2014-2020  |
| <b>14.Name and e-address of person submitting this information</b>  | Mladen Momcilovic, Mladen.momcilovic@asmep-srbija.org   |
| <b>15.Date of this update</b>   | 8. December 2014.   |

## II. Experience with Evaluation Capacity Building

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| <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>We grew from a LinkedIn group to formal association in 3 years from one to 15 members and over 140 affiliates/users. Initiate we gathered only WB IPDET alumni. Now we grew to include others too. We are open and transparent, none profit, and voluntary org.</p> <p>1.1 members are engaged in the association building/outreach and knowledge pool enlargement, while the growing pool of affiliates are non-professional users of help/info related to M&amp;E</p> <p>1.2 Five, to be gradually expanded to no more than 15 or so</p> <p>1.3 M&amp;E expertise &amp; capacities in relation to much needed civil-public partnership towards the joint support of building the capacities for monitoring and evaluation of public policies and promotion of the M&amp;E culture and needs; M&amp;E expertise &amp; capacities in relation to feeding the growing pool of affiliates with help related to their M&amp;E work</p> <p>1.4 Financial and time constraints as each committed member wears in</p> |
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|  | parallel to the civic hat a for-profit hat; Know how related to VOPE org building and partnering with public sector.  |
| <b>2. Organizational motivation:</b><br>What were/are the driving forces of the VOPE and its historical development?   | The historic shortage of the M&E culture and usage in the public policies discourses has starting to change and ASMEP has a position to play as a stakeholder role in the future partnerships aimed at necessary capacities growth across of all sectors in Serbia.   |
| <b>3. Evaluation Capacity Building<sup>1</sup>:</b> What has your VOPE done to promote evaluation (M&E) capacity?  | Organized a number of events/meetings; promoted materials on its Internet/FB pages; engaged in international networking; etc.   |
| <b>4. Context / target entities:</b><br>More specifically, who are the persons or institutions your organization seeks to influence (to strengthen evaluation capacity)? For example:<br>4.1 Technical capacities to <i>supply</i> quality evaluations, partnering with experts, local universities or others to provide training for members, etc.;<br>4.2 Strengthening VOPE organizational capacity itself;<br>4.3 Enhancing the enabling environment for evaluation, including strengthening the <i>demand</i> for and use of evaluations by policy makers;<br>4.4 Influencing governmental policies related to evaluation, evaluation designs and implementation of M&E systems, etc. | 4.1. We are now negotiating extending our technical assistance through a partnership with the Ministry of Interior and the Government HR Secretariat; we also plan more of trainings for the members and new ones for the affiliates, pending projects/financial realization.<br><br>4.2. Strengthening of VOPE organizational capacity is planned through enhanced organization of current core membership as well as via further established network and cooperation with WBEN members and other colleagues from the region.<br><br>4.3 APES has already started outreach initiatives related to enhancing the enabling environment for evaluation, including strengthening the <i>demand</i> for and use of evaluations by policy makers (see above);<br><br>4.4. We are already engaged in a dialogue with key government stakeholders regarding our role in contributing to increasing governmental capacities for policies related to evaluation, evaluation designs and implementation of M&E systems, etc. Last year establishment of the new government Secretariat for Public Policies and first EUD comments on the Serbia accession screening process, both are very encouraging signs that there is a new agenda emerging. Current IOCE project implemented by ASMEP and SIDE fits neatly and works hard to this end. However rather than idealistically expecting an overnight change of the situation we hope and work towards creation of islands of excellence which in turn will serve for expansion of good M&E practices. |
| <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?   | While introduction and expansion of good M&E practices in governance sector serves the effort of strengthening oversight and transparency of government programs we are still to embark on a large scaled effort that is to majorly impact the current situation.   |
| <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.  | Transparency and accountability, together with promotion of value and usage of M&E tools and instruments remains core of our present agenda. We hope to enlarge it with scaling up of our activities and partnerships.  |
| <b>7. Methods:</b> Experiences in strengthening skills of individual members, by (for example):<br>• organizing workshops led by local experts;<br>• organizing webinars with international speakers;<br>• designing and delivering e-learning programmes;   | The following is our experience in strengthening skills of individual members):<br>• Attending workshops led by local and international experts;<br>• Attending international workshops and training events such as IPDET;<br>• Ourselves organizing workshops led by local and international experts;<br>• Distributing relevant materials and coaching.   |

<sup>1</sup> By 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).

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>administering mentoring programmes; etc.</li> </ul>  |   |
| <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.  | ASMEP is already adhering to all major international recognized norms and standards, such as WBIEG, OECD, etc. and is currently preparing a set of standards/ ethical codes/ competencies to be published via its Internet portal.  |
| <b>9. Job opportunities:</b> Do you share employment/ consultancy opportunities with evaluators on your database?   | Yes. As well as learning and events opportunities.  |
| <b>10. Progress and results:</b> What progress has been achieved so far in any of the above or other domains? What are expected and unexpected results achieved?  | Increased individual VOPE members' capacities and number of affiliates/users.   |
| <b>11. Lessons learned:</b> Recommendations/ tips to others for good practices on how to organize and sustain VOPEs like yours.   | Keep you core membership strong and engaged, keep your affiliates interested and supplied with needed ad hock expertise and continuous capacity building, as per needs.   |
| <b>12. Next steps:</b> What does your organization plan to do next?   | Engage members per specific tasks. Enter into project partnerships with public and civic sector partners. Enlarge affiliates pool. Attempt publishing and networking events while sharing good newly achieved practice in terms of the usage of M&E usage.  |
| <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. | We are already engaged in such activity through WBEN and we seek to do more of it like widening our cooperation to none West Balkans countries. We seek to share specifically experience related to the VOPE org growth as well as with building effective knowledge sharing national networks and partnerships with public sector towards joint effort of developing systems for generation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluations of public policies. |
| <b>14. Suggestions:</b> What ideas do you have for what should be included in activities of IOCE and the EvalPartners Initiative?   | E.g. organizing specific clubs/committees where VOPE from similar development/democratization contexts can exchange good practices and cooperate.   |
| <b>15. Want to be actively involved?</b> Does your VOPE want to be actively involved in IOCE and EvalPartners? If so, in what ways?   | See the above.  |
| <b>16.</b> Would you be willing to write up a case study providing more detailed analysis of your VOPE's experiences?   | Yes, next Fall.   |

*Thank you very much for taking the time to respond to this survey. As stated in the instructions, it will be added to the [www.IOCE.net](http://www.IOCE.net) website so persons interested in finding evaluators in your country (or state or province) will have this basic information about your VOPE.*

*Please save this entire Word document with the name of your VOPE in the title, then send as an attachment to [IOCE@earthlink.net](mailto:IOCE@earthlink.net).*

*For any questions or further information you may contact Jim Rugh, EvalPartners Coordinator, at [JimRugh@mindspring.com](mailto:JimRugh@mindspring.com).*