

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

I. Basic profile information

1. Name and acronym of organization (VOPE)	European Evaluation Society (EES)
2. Geographic scope of organization	Regional (multi-national): Europe (with many international members)
3. Contact Details	Name of main contact person: Eva Petrová E-address: secretariat@europeanevaluation.org Postal address: 5.kvetna 65 Prague 4, 140 21, Czech Republic Telephone:+420 261 174 309 VOPE website URL: www.europeanevaluation.org
4. Current membership – numbers of individuals, by their affiliation (if known; please at least give total)	Government: 8,8%- 16% NGOs/CSOs: 5,8%- 10% Academics: 22%- 32% Private sector (consultants): 35,5% - 40% Other: 27,9% 3% <i>(The figures might be influenced by people coming to our Biennial Conference. European governments and universities at this moment are suffering budget cuts which imply not supporting their employees for coming to international conferences. In Blue figures from the 2009 survey. We will need to analyse this further)</i> Total individual membership: 411 (Status August 2012) Total institutional membership: 29 Institutions
5. Year VOPE was founded	1995 (1996 registered in the Netherlands) [says 1992 below]
6. Current status (identify which)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charter and bylaws adopted
7. Information about growth : evolution of the number of members or financial resources in the last 5 years.	Membership growth evolution since 2009: The membership amount varies from 300 up to 450 members depending on the year when the EES biennial conference is held.
8. Purpose and mission of VOPE	The goal of the European Evaluation Society is thus to stimulate and promote theory, practice, and utilization of high quality evaluation especially, but not exclusively, within Europe. This goal is obtained by bringing together academics and practitioners from all over Europe and from different professional sectors, thus creating a forum where all participants can benefit from the co-operation and bridge building opportunities of the EES
9. Current strategy and emphasis	Explained in part 2 of the survey
10. Organizational capacity: Please describe your governance structure, leadership, services provided, finances, human resources, linkages with other organizations, etc.	EES Board: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - President, Vice-President and Board members (Treasurer, Secretary General and members); co-opted members ad hoc elected. Joint authority - Services: membership benefits, networking, biennial conferences, EES seminars - Member of NESE
11. Means of communication with members, e.g. newsletter, listserv, publication, website	Newsletter, mass mailings, website, AGM, biennial conference, EES seminars
12. Past events (e.g. during past year)	Biennial Conferences (The Hague 1994, Stockholm 1997, Rome 1998, Lausanne 2000, Seville 2002, Berlin 2004, London 2006, Lisbon 2008, Prague 2010), EES Seminar in Brussels, 12/2011
13. Forthcoming key events/ conferences – dates, location	10 th EES Biennial Conference, Helsinki, 3-5 October 2012 (preconference workshop 1-2 October 2012)
14. Name and e-address of person submitting this information	Eva Petrova, EES Secretariat secretariat@europeanevaluation.org
15. Date of this update	27 August 2012

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>The EES was founded in 1992, and its first founding conference was held at The Hague in December 1994. At the end of this conference, a Transitional Board was elected for organizing the election of the first President (Fall 1995) and for drafting the statutes, which were registered in 1996. The main driver for this development was the emerging professional needs of individuals who had an interest or who were engaging in evaluation within the European context but did not have a national expression of this interest. The key players at that time were some academics and auditors. The Netherlands Court of Audit had a special role in the beginning in the provision of secretariat services and some in-kind support, as well as the Swedish Court of Audit, which organized the second conference in 1997 and the Belgian Court of Audit which held the secretariat from 1998 and until 2003. From 2004 the secretariat is run by private contractors.</p> <p>Now we have a good balance of academics, free lancers and private consultants, evaluation commissioners and evaluators at governmental institutions and supranational and international organizations, evaluation students and new evaluators (we are recently promoting their presence).</p> <p>By Statues, we have a total of eight elected positions, 2 of them being the Vice-President and President. From the other 6 elected Board members, the roles of Secretary General and Treasurer are assigned. There is also the possibility for the Past-President to remain in the Board for one year, and for co-opting up to three additional Board members for specific tasks. At this moment we are eleven members at the Board.</p>
<p>2. Organizational motivation: What were/are the driving forces of the VOPE and its historical development?</p>	<p>In 1994 when it was created the main driving force was to fill an empty space in Europe for developing evaluation. Now that many European National Societies have been created, the organizational motivation has turned to be more 'Regional' in the sense of fostering, sharing and coordinating other National VOPES and to develop a European dimension and space for evaluation</p>
<p>3. Evaluation Capacity Building: What has your VOPE done to promote evaluation (M&E) capacity?</p>	<p>Training pre-conference programs of high quality in each Biennial conference.</p> <p>International master classes on specific themes (Odense in 2003 and Seville 2007)</p> <p>Specifically within Europe, the EES, in collaboration with other partners or singly have undertaken master classes. The most recent was in collaboration with the EU in Brussels in 2011 titled 'The Vision and Logic of Evaluation'.</p> <p>The EES has fostered specialized university based programmes in evaluation. The USPE University Based Programmes in Evaluation Group was set up in London with 5 programmes, now six (Bern, London, Lyon, Madrid, Odense and Saarbrucken). The EES, in collaboration with Bern undertook work on competencies and a survey was undertaken on different programmes in Europe. There is a document, describing 11 master programmes in Europe, on the EES website</p>

	<p>under 'Training and Jobs'/Master programmes on Evaluation which is very frequently consulted.</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>In a direct way, the European Evaluation community (understanding this in all the possible roles: evaluators, commissioners, students or new evaluators entering the community. Also people working on 'meta-evaluative' activities, such as transferring evaluation knowledge and practice through training, mentoring, producing methods, etc.)</p> <p>Also, national evaluation societies in Europe.</p> <p>And as a 'natural' institution to target would be the EU institutions.</p> <p>As examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotion of NESE: NESE is the European forum for national evaluation associations and societies to foster exchange of knowledge as well as good practices and to promote professionalism and quality. NESE aims to build the capacity of associated evaluation societies to develop sound and independent practice. It provides the arena where evaluation societies can learn and support each other to promote good evaluation practice in their countries. It also gives support to the foundation and growth of new evaluation societies in evolving governance structures, providing value to members, developing standards and guidelines, and organizing conferences. - Competencies survey (see point 8) - The EES has influenced ongoing and dominant evaluation debates and discourses by the provision of statements and manifestos (example statement on impact evaluation in 2007 titled "The importance of a methodologically diverse approach to impact evaluation") - Regarding the strengthening or organizational capacity, one of the most important strategic priorities, apart from the professionalization of EES service providers and a dedicated Board, is the analysis of the community and membership. It is vital to know better the community the EES targets, that is, who are EES members and what profile do they have, including background characteristics and main interests. Since 2009, the EES has used surveys as a tool which enables communication and getting active participation from members and for getting useful information on members. The NESE surveys are a case in point as is the background information survey to members (2009). In that way the EES is building a better profile of its members. In 2011, the EES was able finally to systematize the information addressed in the 2009 survey, doing an 'Individual Member Profile' in the Member Area of the web site. This is where each member can put his/her information in a survey style, so now

	it is very easy to recover that info at any moment for analytical purposes.
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?	Due to our regional nature, we can do this only indirectly and we do not have any success story so far
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>There is special gender sensitivity in the EES Board at this moment. The EES has started some gender analysis on the membership and the activities performed through the Society.</p> <p>In the 2010 EES international conference in Prague, there were several sessions in gender issues, and this has been a trend towards Helsinki, where there are other sessions on equity and empowerment.</p> <p>The first TWG which have been launched is one on 'Gender and Evaluation' (2012)</p>
7. Methods: Experiences in strengthening skills of individual members, by (for example):	Thematic Working Groups initiative See also point 3.
<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.	<p>The EES has produced a general statement from the working group on Ethics and Standards which was completed in 2002. In this document, the EES claims to foster the creation of standards in national societies, but explicitly renouncing to endorse 'European standards'. That statement developed into an important benchmark in the 'standards debate' within the European context. Following on from the contributions to the debate on standards has been the lead the EES has taken on the discussion on competency via survey (results from the survey and explanations of the process by Bob Picciotto are on the EES Web site). This is also an important resource for the professionalization debate. The EES is pursuing at this moment the development of a TWG (Thematic Working Group) on professionalization.</p>
9. Job opportunities: Do you share employment/ consultancy opportunities with evaluators on your database?	Yes, we post them in our web
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>1. The Biennial Conferences</p> <p>The EES has steadily improved conference quality and organization, number of delegates, number of papers, international presence, and donors for bursaries for evaluators in developing countries, etc.</p>

	<p>2. Developing events in non-conference years The Seminar 'The logic and vision of Evaluation' held in Brussels in early December 2011 was a success and helped very much to fulfill the aim of 'being present' in the evaluation community</p> <p>3. Thematic Working Groups The EES has launched one ('Gender and Evaluation'), and plan the launching of other three in Helsinki ('Evaluation in Fragile Countries', 'Professionalization' and 'Sustainable Development Evaluation'). The hope is that new TWG will be formed during the next years</p> <p>4. Improved Secretariat and service provider</p> <p>5. Communication The EES Board is slowly making progress in the communication side, especially in the communication with members: periodic presidential letters, a group in LinkedIn and Board members being active in Facebook and Twitter, etc.</p> <p>6. Membership policy The EES is working on a renewed membership policy, including the already implemented student membership fee. The EES has implemented a reduced conference fee for students, a student paper award and a volunteer program for students in conferences. The aim of all this is fostering the entrance of 'new evaluators' into the community (the surveys found out there were very few students as members and delegates at conferences, and that the age mean among membership is quite high!). There are sign this is working and see a future increase of 'new blood' in EES membership.</p>
<p>11. Lessons learned: Recommendations/ tips to others for good practices on how to organize and sustain VOPEs like yours.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The EES experience suggests it is important to develop a dedicated set of activities beyond conferences to build 'presence' in the European constituency. 2. Explore and use the possibilities of new IT's, Social Networks, Web 2.0 and Web 3.0 3. Work and coordinate strategically with partners and allies NESE, IOCE, International agencies. 4. Think strategically and in a policy based action
<p>12. Next steps: What does your organization plan to do next?</p>	<p>10th Biennial Conference at Helsinki (1-5 October 2012) Launching Thematic Working Groups in different topics. Membership survey in coordination with NESE Planning of other events in non-conference years (2013) Planning of other training initiatives outside the Biennial conferences exploring new formats</p>
<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 /</p>	<p>Yes. We do that in a more formal way through the NESE network, and informally –mainly asking and sharing information- with other evaluation societies. We will be happy to share with others on the coordination of regional-national societies, on membership policies and strategies for increasing membership, on Thematic Working Groups organization, etc.</p>

advice you would seek.	
14. Suggestions: What ideas do you have for what should be included in activities of the EvalPartners Initiative?	Exchange webinars and fora
15. Want to be actively involved? Does your VOPE want to be actively involved in EvalPartners? If so, in what ways?	Yes, as EES we have supported EvalPartners from the beginning. We are proud of being one of the Core Partners Murray Saunders, our representative at the IOCE has a strong leadership in the initiative.