ANNUAL REPORT

2019

IOCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AS OF APRIL 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE 2019 PRESIDENT

It is my pleasure to share some of the highlights of IOCE from 2019. IOCE's mission is to support VOPEs in contributing to good governance, effective decisions making and strengthening the role of civil society. We have many success stories that supported VOPE activities including the peer to peer projects, innovation challenge projects and the continued development of the VOPE toolkit and e-learning modules.

The VOPE database was a useful tool used in the VOPE Verification Process led by Saule Khamzina and the VOPE Verification Working Group. Information gathered from this exercise will be used to develop criteria for determining the validity of VOPEs.

Weronika Felcis led the development of the Strategic Plan for IOCE for the period of 2019 – 2021. The plan determined how to deliver, track and resource the desirable results.

Under a grant awarded to IOCE in 2018 from the United States Department of State (USDS), six VOPE projects covering 21 countries were awarded Peer-to-Peer grants under the theme of Democracy, Human Rights and Governance (DRG). The project activities were all rolled out in 2019 with great success and several lessons learned from the experience. Still under the USDS grant, four Innovation Challenge projects were awarded grants under the DRG theme.

The VOPE Toolkit was enhanced with a new section based on the DRG theme. This section of the toolkit will be translated to Spanish and French. The section of the Toolbox dealing with Professionalization has been completely redesigned and made available in French, English and Spanish.

While the e-Learning modules fall under the EvalPartners umbrella, they are a valuable resource for VOPEs and evaluators who wish to develop their own capacity. Under the USDS grant, a new module was developed with the primary purpose to clarify, summarize and strengthen the body of knowledge and practical tools available to understand the evaluation of Democracy, Human Rights and Governance interventions.

None of this work would have been possible without the tremendous support I received from the IOCE board members and in particular, I would like to thank Benoit Gauthier, Weronika Felcis, Saule Khamzina and Harry Cummings for the expertise they brought to the IOCE Executive Committee. I am leaving IOCE in very capable hands under the leadership of Silvia Salinas Mulder and will continue to support her in my capacity as Past President.

Adeline Sibanda

President
IOCE 2017 – April 2020

Treasurer's Report

The draft audited financial statements of 2019 for IOCE were issued December 31, 2019. Based on the statements, IOCE Core revenue was $12,100 derived from VOPE memberships. The IOCE Core operating budget is based on Canadian funds.

IOCE's second 2019 revenue stream was grant revenue in the amount of $440,726:

Funder	Full Grant Amount in US$	Amount Received in 2019 in US$
United States Department of State	$243,960	$156,627
Swiss Development Corporate – in Swiss Franks	$800,000	$254,324
UNICEF	$40,000	$29,865
Total Grant Money Received 2019		**$440,726**

IOCE was awarded a grant from the United States Department of State in 2018 in the amount of $243,960 U$. The theme of the project was Democracy, Human Rights and Governance and the following activities were delivered:

•   Peer-to-Peer grants to six North-South or South-South partnerships
•   Innovation Challenge grants for four projects to pilot most viable innovations
•   Development of E-learning module on DRG
•   Development of a section on DRG in the VOPE Toolkit

Quarterly narrative and financial reports were sent to the USDS and approved. A no-cost extension was approved for finalization of the activities until April 30, 2020.

The SDC office received the 2019 narrative and financial reports from EvalPartners and IOCE which were also approved.

The 2019 audit was completed by Peter Hogg located in Ontario, Canada. There were no significant findings made by the auditor (see full audit report).

Harry Cummings

IOCE Treasurer – July 2018 – June 30, 2020

VOPE Verification Project

IOCE's VOPE Verification Working Group was responsible for curating the list of existing VOPEs and for establishing criteria defining active VOPEs. This working group worked closely with regional VOPEs who have practical knowledge about national and sub-national VOPEs and contributed to a better understanding of their dynamic. The review determined:

- 138 VOPEs were registered in the IOCE database

- IOCE should build on growing the membership promoting VOPE registration

- VOPE websites need to be alive, attractive and informative

- VOPEs need to share communications on activities at a regional level and encourage the national VOPEs to be involved

Plans for 2020 include the development of criteria for what constitutes a valid VOPE.

IOCE Strategic Plan

In 2019, the IOCE Executive Committee created a new Strategic Plan. For it to be widely available for all actors within the organization it is published on Prezi in graphic format: https://prezi.com/5ht6jg5nf73_/ioce-strategy/

Crucially, we learn that:

Strengths	Weaknesses
Growing VOPE membership **Has a clear and uncontested mandate (via VOPE verification task)** **Has convening power** **Its status gives it an ability to achieve a global multiplier effect**	Weak visibility due to inability to market its work and success stories Variable level of participation of evaluation leaders because of the multiplicity of engagements at the national, regional, and global levels
Opportunities	Threats
The environment is favorable for IOCE's work, given its clear role and mandate **Members are showing growing interest in IOCE's work, but relevance must be shown** **There are improvements in its relationships with donors, meaning improved funding prospects through EvalPartners** **Potential for collaborative advocacy with the UN agencies and other global institutions to influence global evaluation for example the EvalAgenda 2020 and the proposed UN Resolution on Evaluation**	Priorities of members vary, making it difficult to harmonize the IOCE offering Changes in donor interests can affect sustainability of funding for EvalPartners which will in-turn affect IOCE members Internal threat might be also putting too much of attention to EvalPartners which blurs the identity of IOCE with its initiative

In 2019 we stated targets for our main activities in the Strategic Plan till 2024:

Verification Taskforce	**Detecting and regularly verifying 90% of the world VOPEs**
VOPE Toolkit	50% of VOPEs in the world should know and use VOPE Toolkit, at least to some extent
Professionalization Taskforce	Professionalization Taskforce would reach out with its communication at least to 50% of VOPEs in the world
P2P and Innovation Challenge	50% of VOPEs in the world would ever apply or get a grant from IOCE programs
EvalPartners	EvalPartners would not take more than 60% of BoT time

Overall, for the next Workplan we recommend as below.

Internally:

1. Board of Trustees needs to have clearly assigned tasks and set the rules of reporting back to their regions

2. Executive Committee should be operative, consisting of people with wide range of skills, visionary leadership and good knowledge of IOCE modus operandi

3. Regional VOPEs need P2P exchanges and regular common communication (webinars)

4. National VOPEs needs to know better benefits of being member of IOCE

5. Improve the internal exchange of information, linking VOPEs to IOCE social media and website as well as having consisting visual identity.

Externally:

1. Employ a Communication Expert and prepare communication strategy

2. Refresh visual identity and be more present in social media

3. Strengthen promotion of its programs and projects and initiatives

4. Co-review EvalAgenda 2020 and bring the voice of VOPEs to Global Evaluation Forum 2020

5. Prepare VOPEs for necessary transitions in   evaluation in Anthropocene era

Peer to Peer Projects

Peer-to-Peer grants were extended to six projects in 2019 covering a total of 21 countries through the United Stated Department of State grant awarded to IOCE in 2018. All projects are now complete and have submitted final reports except for Morocco and Tunisia who had to be withdrawn due to unsatisfactory performance. Overall, the results of the Peer-to-Peer projects were impressive, and it would be important to extend this to other IOCE member VOPEs for broader reach. A selected number of projects will be selected for presentation at the global conference which will be held in 2021.

P2P Projects

Countries Involved	VOPEs Involved	Project
Afghanistan, Pakistan, Canada	AfES, PEA, CES	Strengthening Evaluation Knowledge and Practice in Contexts of Fragility, Conflict and Violence (EvalFCV)
Uruguay, Brazil, Argentina	Red EvaluAR, Red brasileña de monitoreo y Evaluación, Red Uruguaya de Evaluación	Evaluation of programs focused on Democracy, Human Rights and Governance in Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay: Three National Maps and an International Catalog of Good Practices
Canada, Kyrgyzstan, Eurasian Alliance, South Asia	SQEP, National Monitoring and Evaluation Network of the Kyrgyz Republic, Eurasian Alliance, CoE-SA	The voice of non-users of evaluation on how to democratize evaluation for better governance, and adjusted VOPEs' role
Macedonia, Poland, UK, Ukraine, Greece, Turkey, Croatia, Balkan	Macedonian Evaluation Network (MEN), Polish Evaluation Society (PES), UK Evaluation Society (UKES), Ukrainian Evaluation Association (UEA), Hellenic Evaluation Society (HES), Turkish Monitoring and Evaluation Society (TMES), Croatian Evaluation Society/Western Balkan Evaluation Network (CEN/WBEN)	Assessment of the current state of DRG evaluation in Europe
Senegal, Togo, Cote D'Ivoire	Senegalese Evaluation Association (SenEval), Ivorian Initiative for Evaluation (2IEval), Togolese Society of Evaluation -Emerging Evaluators (STeval-Ee)	

Innovation Challenge Projects

Under the USDS grant, **Innovation Challenge grants** focused on innovative approaches to strengthening the enabling environment for evaluation. Innovation Challenge grants were extended to four projects in 15 countries. RFE is in the process of finalizing activities in Madagascar and Niger while the other three have completed implementation. Community of Evaluators South Asia hosted a webinar where the results of the innovation project which covered five countries were presented. More webinars are planned to share results of the remaining innovation challenge projects.

Countries Involved	VOPEs Involved	Project
Kenya	African Gender Development Evaluation Network (AGDEN), IDEAS	Expanding Democratic Spaces for more Inclusive and Equitable Governance: Integrating Human Rights approaches, Gender-Responsiveness and Equity-Focus into Evaluation Practice
Cameroon, Niger, Mauritania, Madagascar	RFE, CaDEA, AMSE, ReNSE, MASSE	Building an environment favorable to evaluation in Francophone Africa by reinforcing the evaluation capacity of Parliaments and by facilitating the dialogue with governments
Armenia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, Tajikistan	Eurasian Alliance of National Evaluation Associations	Empower2act: effective evaluation tools for defense and advocacy of democracy, human rights and participation in governance
India, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh	Community of Evaluators South Asia, AfrEA, ReLAC, Parliamentarians Forum for Development Evaluation - South Asia	Mobilizing South Asian Local Knowledge to Democratize Evaluation theory and practice

E-learning

E-learning is an EvalPartners strategy and is a valuable resource for VOPE members to build individual capacities around evaluation and with access to quality education on evaluation. Under the USDS grant a new module on DRG evaluation was developed. The primary purpose of this Module is to clarify, summarize and strengthen the body of knowledge and practical tools available to understand the evaluation of *Democracy, Human Rights and Governance (DRG)* interventions.

In addition, this is another effort of IOCE and EvalPartners to contribute to:

- make evaluation a mainstreamed and necessary part of any decision-making process,
- democratize learning and evaluation,
- build evaluation capacities,
- strengthen the evaluation practice,
- advance democracy, human rights and governance,
- promote knowledge sharing and local solutions.

By the end of this Module evaluators will be able to:

- better understand the definitions and approaches available to design and implement evaluation of DRG initiatives.
- use adequate evaluation frameworks and tools applicable to DRG projects,
- identify the critical components of the evaluation of DRG initiatives,
- gain practical tips on how to conduct evaluation of DRG initiatives,
- access DRG evaluation cases and examples of fragility and conflict and non-violent settings,
- practice exercises on related evaluations.

The new DRG module will be translated to French and Spanish from English.

VOPE Toolkit

The VOPE toolkit is a collection of curated descriptions, tools, advice, examples, software and toolboxes developed by VOPEs and other organizations working to support non-profit organizations. It is a live repository that is constantly reviewed and updated, and is fully available in English, French, and Spanish (http://vopetoolkit.ioce.net/). The toolkit also includes specialized modules on equity in evaluation, gender mainstreaming, national evaluation capacity, engaging with parliamentarians and many others.

Under the USDS grant, a Call was launched to develop a new section on Democracy, Rights and Governance Evaluation. The new section will enable VOPEs to promote DRG evaluation and the members to successfully conduct DRG evaluations. To support more VOPEs, the new section will be translated to French and Spanish from English.

Professionalization

Professionalization is defined differently by different people. At IOCE, we define professionalization as a collective set of actions aiming to equip evaluators with strong values, ethics, knowledge and skills in evaluation that support the likelihood of producing quality and useful evaluations.

The Professionalization taskforce expanded analytical papers that were written and questions to VOPE leaders were drafted. This material was translated into French and Spanish and will be posted on the VOPE Toolkit.

SDC Grant: Strengthening National Evaluation Capacities

Through Grants from the EvalPartners SDC Funded Project on Strengthening National Evaluation Capacities, Flagship 1 Program, aimed to Promote Evaluation in the Implementation of the National Development Plans in line with Agenda 2030, 16 VOPEs received funding. The following VOPEs benefited: Phase 1: Nepal, Senegal, Zimbabwe, Indonesia, Jordan, Chile and Morocco and Phase 2: Cote D'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Macedonia, Mexico, Palestine, Paraguay and Serbia.

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Finland Grant

Through funding from EvalPartners through Finland, another set of Peer to Peer grants and Innovation Challenge projects will be launched in 2020 and 2021.

Ministry for Foreign   Affairs of Finland

IOCE Secretariat

megram
association managers with vision

The Megram team continued its service to IOCE, thanks to the leadership of Lynn Burgess and expertise of the whole team:

Shyanne Barr, Bookkeeping and Accounting Operations, provided monthly financial statements to the IOCE board reporting on expenses and revenues. Shyanne is also responsible for ensuring the annual audit is scheduled and conducted.

Melina Menard provided secretarial support to the networks acting as the webinar moderator. Melina prepared agendas, attended meetings moderating the webinar platform, transcribed minutes and provided follow up support to networks and committees.

Jenny Blake provided website updates for IOCE and EvalPartners. She worked closely with the IT programmer launching the DRG module on the e-learning platform and regular maintenance to the VOPE toolkit.