



OSCEval News is the evaluation newsletter of the Office of Internal Oversight.

Its aim is to provide insights into the OSCE's work in evaluation, by sharing key evaluation findings and conclusions, as well as new developments regarding the OSCE's overall evaluation culture.

Evaluation is a management tool that contributes to decision-making, strategic planning, and organizational learning.

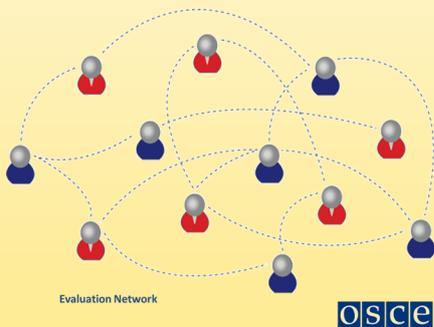


This edition of *OSCEval News* is dedicated to the

OSCE's EVALUATION NETWORK

ANNUAL MEETING

8-10 September 2020 (online)



Introduction

The OSCE Evaluation Network was established by the Office of Internal Oversight (OIO) in 2013. It is a cross-organizational mechanism that is open to OSCE officials from all executive structures who are monitoring and evaluation focal points, involved in the planning, commissioning and managing of evaluations, or simply interested in exploring M&E topics and in strengthening results-based management in the organization overall. By September 2020, the Network counts more than 80 members.

The 2020 Evaluation Network Meeting was hosted by OIO and was conducted for the first time in an entirely virtual

format, in order to respond to the Covid-19 related travel restrictions.

Around 60 OSCE officials (including members and non-members of the Evaluation Network) attended the meeting, as well as representatives of the OECD/DAC, UNEG Decentralized Evaluation Interest Group (UNEG/DEIG), and the Institute for Development Strategy.

Purpose

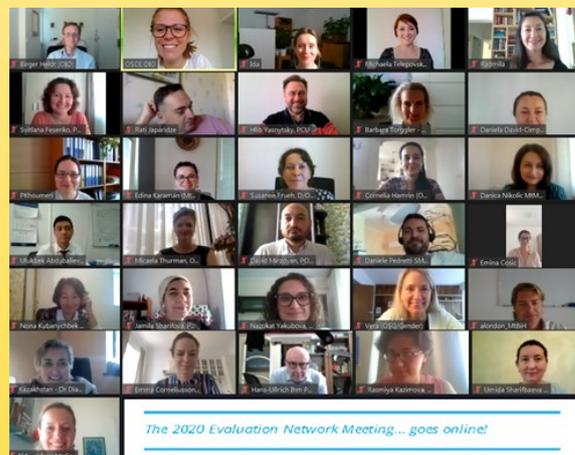
The purpose of the 2020 Evaluation Network Meeting was threefold:

- ◆ To strengthen the Policy Environment for Evaluation in the OSCE;
- ◆ To enhance Results-Based Management; and
- ◆ To advance the effectiveness of the OSCE Evaluation Network.

Content and Format

The agenda of the three half-day meeting focused on the following topics: the draft OSCE Evaluation Policy; the OECD/DAC revised evaluation criteria; OIO's Evaluation of Results-based Management; RBM practices and experiences across the OSCE; UNEG/DEIG on decentralized evaluation culture; the OSCE Evaluation Network, including its vision, mission, and strategy; and evaluation mentoring.

While presentations were delivered by representatives of OIO and several OSCE executive structures, as well as by guest speakers from the OECD/DAC, UNEG/DEIG, and the Institute for Development Strategy, participants were constantly engaged through Q&A sessions, group work, plenary discussions, Zoom polls, and Mentimeter surveys.





DAY I: Strengthening the Policy Environment for Evaluation

Barbara Torggler, OIO, opened the first session by introducing the key cornerstones of the new (draft) OSCE Evaluation Policy which shall supersede the current OSCE Evaluation Framework Administrative Instruction No. 1/2013 (SEC.GAL/23/13). The draft policy reflects issues raised at the 2019 Evaluation Network Meeting in Tirana and subsequent observations and consultations held by OIO. Participants expressed their appreciation of the draft policy provisions, which were all considered relevant. Further consultations will be held over the next months.

The first guest speaker, Megan Grace Kennedy-Chouane, OECD/DAC, presented the revised version of the OECD/DAC evaluation criteria and principles for their use. Group work and plenary discussions focused on the applicability of the six evaluation criteria to the OSCE context and to participants' daily work.

DAY II: Managing for Results

The second day was entirely dedicated to Results-Based Management, with inputs from both OIO and other OSCE executive structures. First, Birger Heldt, OIO, and Markus Palenberg, Institute for Development Strategy, presented preliminary findings of the independent Evaluation of RBM in the OSCE, which is currently being conducted by OIO. Then, representatives of three executive structures (Mission in Kosovo, Programme Office in Bishkek, ODIHR) shared their respective experiences with RBM, thus highlighting recurrent challenges and best practices. Finally, Edina Halapi Stansfield, CPC/PESU, presented lessons learned from the 2019 UBP review process and next steps.

DAY III: Expanding Good Evaluation Practices

On the third day, the Co-Chairs of the UNEG Decentralized Evaluation Interest Group (UNEG/DEIG), Julie Thoulouzan, WFP, and Valentina Prosperi, UNICEF, talked about the added value of decentralized evaluations, main challenges related to them, and the key requisites for the establishment of an effective decentralized evaluation function. They also highlighted the need for co-operation and engagement with other evaluation functions and networks. The presentation was followed by a Q&A session with participants.

The following session was moderated by Barbara Torggler, OIO, and Jelena McCoy, PiA. Jelena set the stage by reminding participants of the key take-aways of the 2019 Evaluation Network meeting in Tirana and actions taken since then. Participants then had the possibility to exchange views on the future of the Network. *Inter alia*, it was agreed that a greater level of 'formalization' (incl. developing ToRs for evaluation focal points) would be desirable to increase the Network's effectiveness.

In the last session, Svitlana Fesenko, PCUK, presented the Project Co-ordinator's evaluation mentoring programme, which serves to address staff capacity-development needs as well as to promote an evaluation culture.



A Roadmap Until the Next Evaluation Network Annual Meeting

At the conclusion of the meeting, OIO committed to follow up on the following five areas:

- ◆ **Evaluation Policy Environment.** OIO will finalize the new (draft) Evaluation Policy based on the feedback received. The draft will be shared with EN members and OSCE management for feedback.
- ◆ **OIO's independent evaluation of RBM in the OSCE.** Once completed, OIO will disseminate the final evaluation report, and discussions with different stakeholders will follow.
- ◆ **Capacity-building.** OIO will continue organizing webinars and meetings, fostering exchange of experiences, and providing EN members with evaluation tools and guidelines.
- ◆ **Decentralized/commissioned evaluations.** OIO has uploaded decentralized evaluation reports to the EN SharePoint platform to encourage learning and sharing of experiences among members and executive structures. OIO has launched an external quality assessment of both independent and commissioned evaluations, and is about to initiate a synthesis of findings from OSCE evaluations. The objective of the latter is to identify recurrent findings across the organization and to bring them to the attention of senior management.
- ◆ **Evaluation Network.** OIO will look into whether and how the EN could be formalized and the role of its members could be strengthened, while continuing to organize activities that raise awareness of the importance of evaluation in the organization, and that are open to a wider audience.

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