



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

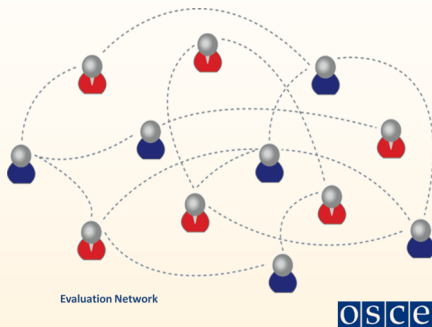
Its aim is to provide insights into the OSCE's work in evaluation, by sharing key evaluation findings and conclusions, as well as new developments regarding the OSCE's overall evaluation culture.

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



Introduction

The OSCE is witnessing a growing demand both internally and from participating states (pS) for more results based management, including for more comprehensive monitoring and evaluation (M&E), and for the dissemination of evaluation findings.

Evaluations in the OSCE are regulated by the Evaluation Framework Administrative Instruction (No. 1/2013), which outlines key evaluation principles and standards, defines the different types of evaluations (independent evaluations, commissioned evaluations and self-evaluations) conducted in the OSCE, and provides guidance regarding the use of evaluation findings. The work of the OSCE's Office of Internal Oversight (OIO), including its independent evaluations, is further undertaken in accordance with its Internal Oversight Mandate (PC.DEC/399).

The OSCE Evaluation Network was established by 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 October 2019, the Network has more than 80 members.

Purpose

The purpose of the OSCE's Evaluation Network is:

- ◆ To strengthen the evaluation culture in the OSCE and to improve results-based management overall;
- ◆ To enhance learning by sharing best practices and lessons learned on Monitoring & Evaluation
- ◆ To create a community of practice engaged in supporting evaluation for evidence-based planning and decision-making;
- ◆ To build capacities of evaluation professionals and management across the OSCE.

Overall, it aims to strengthen the implementation of the Evaluation Framework Administrative Instruction.

Activities



Based on the collegial principle "learning and helping each other learn", The Network holds regular and interactive WEBEX meetings on relevant themes. Presentations are made by OSCE staff and guest speakers from other international organizations or independent experts. The Network also organizes annual in-person meetings that are hosted by OSCE executive structures on a rotating basis. Their main purpose is to strengthen the evaluation capacities of Network members, including by sharing good practices across executive structures.

Information is also shared through its online platform that has a virtual library and a group discussion functionality. The library includes a collection of evaluation guidelines and tools, good practices, templates and other relevant guidance material.



Upon request OIO provides advisory services to Evaluation Network members and other officials on how to design, commission and manage external project evaluations.

Outputs

Among the key outputs of the Evaluation Network are the resources provided to Network members through the online-platform and the tailor-made advice provided to Network members on an individual basis. Resources include evaluation tools and templates that are created and revised on a needs basis, as well as reports and other communication products on evaluations conducted within the OSCE. The platform also provides links to — and information about — evaluation practices of other international organizations and professional communities, including online courses, learning programmes, and interesting data sources.

Outcomes

Through its activities and outputs, the Network intends to generate short-, mid-, and long-term outcomes within the OSCE. Short-term outcomes refer to changes in OSCE staff knowledge, skills and attitudes concerning M&E. These are in turn expected to lead to mid-term outcomes in terms of improved OSCE M&E practices and policies. In the long run this should lead to the establishment of a strong M&E culture within the OSCE, as demonstrated by an increased number and a higher quality of M&E activities.

In order to monitor the evolution of the OSCE's evaluation culture, OIO, in co-operation with the Programming and Evaluation Support Unit (PESU) in the OSCE Secretariat's Conflict Prevention Centre, has in 2015 and 2018 distributed surveys within the organization. These surveys covered all executive structures, and were specifically addressed to staff in programme manager/coordinator roles, and to project officers involved in project management and M&E activities.

The purpose was to collect data on knowledge, prevalence of, and attitudes towards M&E in the OSCE, and overall on the implementation of the Evaluation Framework Administrative Instruction. The surveys also enquired about obstacles against and facilitators of M&E. Survey results have informed OIO's work with the Evaluation Network and other efforts to strengthen the OSCE's evaluation culture.

Overview of recent events

October 2019: Annual Evaluation Network Meeting in Tirana, hosted by the OSCE's Presence in Albania. The meeting was carried out in cooperation with OIO and PESU. More than 35 representatives from OSCE executive structures attended.

August 2019: OIO organised a webinar on **Gender-responsive Evaluation** presented by Isabel Suarez, the UN Women Regional Evaluation Specialist for Europe and Central Asia.

June 2019: Serani Siegel from the Secretariat's Gender Section and Balazs Fule from the Procurement and Contracting Unit gave a presentation on the topic "Contracting and managing a survey".

April 2019: Svitlana Fesenko from the Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine shared her experience with commissioning evaluations.



Questions, Suggestions or Requests?

Would you like to share about your own evaluation practices? Do you have suggestions regarding relevant data sources, useful tools and guidelines, online learning programs, evaluation conferences etc. that could be shared with the Evaluation Network? Perhaps you would like to suggest themes for Network webinars, request Network membership for yourself or recommend membership to a colleague? Or do you simply have a question or comment? Please reach out to us at oio@osce.org.



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