

# Institutionalization of evaluation systems

## The Czech experience

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**Even small Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluations can (and must) be influential**

**Czech Evaluation Society was established in 2007  
by 4 evaluators**

**Now we have 48 active members including the first  
institutional member**

- **Code of Ethics, 2011**
- **Formal Standards for Conducting Evaluations, 2013**
- References to these documents are included in the ToR for evaluations and also in governmental regulation (2013) for the programming period 2014-2020
- **Methodology for Evaluating Cross-cutting topics, 2017**
  - **Methodology for Procuring Evaluations, 2018**

## **Council for Development Cooperation**

### **Working Group on Evaluations:**

- Evaluation plans for next 2 years
- Responses to evaluation recommendations
- Recommendation Tracking System (2 previous years)
  - Approving guidelines and templates

## **MFA Reference Group on Evaluations**

(independent expert of the Czech Evaluation Society):

- **Commenting ToR, including key evaluation questions**
  - **Meetings with the evaluators**
  - **Commenting Evaluation Reports**
- **Approving evaluations for publishing on the MFA website**
  - **Annual Summary Report on lessons learned**

## **MFA Reference Group on Evaluations**

(independent expert of the Czech Evaluation Society):

- **Proposing new templates**
- **Assessment criteria for public procurement**
  - **Flexibility clause in the contracts**
  - **Workshops on evaluation plans**
- **EvalCafe with MFA and evaluators on sharing experience**

## Trainings for institutional partners:

- Czech Development Agency
- FoRS – Czech Forum for Development Cooperation
  - Ministry for Regional Development
  - Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs
  - Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
  - Regional authorities (European funds)

## Trainings for members and partners:

- Pre-conference workshops (half-day)
  - Evaluation Minimum (2-day)
  - 11 years of EPDET (5-day)
- Mentoring and/or focused trainings (2 to 10 days)
  - EvalCafe (half-day)



- Annual Conference (1 to 2 days)
  - Newsletter (2-month)
  - Flash News (weekly)
- Evaluation Theory and Practice (biannual)
  - Peer-reviews (2013, 2014)
- Evaluation competition for students (annually)
  - Website: [www.czecheval.cz](http://www.czecheval.cz)

- **European Evaluation Society**
- **NESE – Network of Evaluation Societies in Europe**
  - **IDEAS – International Development Evaluation Association**
    - **Slovak Evaluation Society**
  - **Other national platforms / societies**

- **IPDET 2003 – IDEAS member**
- **2006 – Workshop on Country-led Evaluation and Systems**
  - **2006 – member of IDEAS Board**
  - **2007 – start of EPDET (539 graduates until 2017)**
  - **2009 – Vice-President of IDEAS**
- **2012 – IDEAS Competencies for Development Evaluation Evaluators, Managers, and Commissioners**
  - **2013 – IDEAS Code of Ethics**

**Czech Evaluation Society is already quite big  
to be managed on a voluntary basis**

**BUT**

- **Missing core funding (only membership fees and fees from the Conference and trainings)**
  - **Project funding is not appropriate**
- **The society cannot compete with own members**

## Rotation of people in the Board:

- Lack of volunteers
- Potential conflicts of interest
- Risk of missing institutional memory
- Risk of loosing contacts (nationally, internationally)
- Confusion for „outsiders“ – changing contact person

## Development Cooperation X National programs:

- **Totally different context**
- **Totally different budget (especially for the programs co-financed by the European Commission)**
  - **Predictability issues**
  - **Specific approaches and methods**
- **Practitioners X Academics X Consultants**

## Role of the Evaluation Society:

- Capacity building?
- Awareness raising and advocacy?
- Ethical Committee, advisory body or „judge“? Where the independence ends?
- „Chamber“ of evaluators? What can be the mandate?

## Role for our partners:

- Further cooperation in providing IPDET (or EPDET)?
  - Support for evaluators from Central and Eastern Europe / EU 13?
    - Joint evaluations?
      - International competition for students?
- IDEAS Global Assembly 2019 in Prague?



**Impact of evaluations is much more important  
than impact evaluations...**

**Even small national evaluation societies  
must be influential!**

**We are not alone – we are members of  
IPDET and IDEAS family!**

# Future?

## Let us cooperate!

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