

EvalPartners Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Grants Program 2021 Call for Proposals

1. Grant Theme

Evaluation as an agile tool for an appropriate response in uncertain times

In the current world we are facing enormous challenges as well as uncertainty. We are at the public health emergency worldwide in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the COVID-19 is only one among the many that entails severe consequences not only for individuals, organizations, countries but also for the whole globe which stipulates to find systemic solutions to those challenges beyond a pandemic. In this context the role of evaluation as an agile and effective tool for an appropriate response in uncertain times recover an important relevance in order to assess appropriately the situation, consequences, influencing factors, etc that will serve as bases for decision making, is significant. Also, it should help to understand what is happening, how the needs are changing, what are the options for moving forward, decide on what to do and how.

Accordingly, P2P program aims to support projects that will improve and/or suggest new adequate methodologies, approaches, practical ways, solutions on how evaluative evidence could be used to cope with the COVID-19 consequences on a national and regional levels.

2. Background

[EvalPartners](#), received a grant from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland for 2020-2021. The grant helps EvalPartners continue its global engagement to proactively support VOPEs (Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation) by funding a new round of Peer-to-Peer (P2P) grants.

The grant from Finland also includes Innovation Challenge projects, and global evaluation good practice through its Flagship 1 program for strengthening national evaluation capacities. In addition, EvalPartners, with other national and international stakeholders engages in an “Evidence Matters” flagship program for evaluations in the context of the 2030 Agenda. This will include a global forum in 2021, and a series of preparatory events, bringing together multiple nations and stakeholders to celebrate EvalYear +5 and to generate a renewed Global Evaluation Agenda 2021-2030 (EvalAgenda2030).

EvalPartners, formed by the International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation (IOCE) and the United Nations, is an innovative partnership. Its members are Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Evaluation Units of International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and other organizations that share a common goal. EvalPartners has credibly demonstrated its capacity to bring together organizations from across the globe to enhance evaluation capabilities, produce evaluative evidence and strengthen capacities of partners and those of the VOPEs and civil society.

3. The EvalPartners P2P program

The **Peer-to-Peer (P2P) program** offers an innovative approach to strengthening VOPE capabilities by encouraging two or more VOPEs to form partnerships to help each other to strengthen their capacities to achieve any of the four long-term results aligned to the EvalPartners results framework:

- i VOPEs have strengthened institutional capacities,
- ii VOPEs are able to play strategic roles to strengthen enabling environments for evaluation within their countries, contributing to improved national evaluation systems and policies,
- iii VOPE members have strengthened evaluation capacities, and,
- iv VOPEs have adopted principles of equity, gender equality and social justice and on shared principles of partnership, innovation, inclusivity, democracy, and human rights.

The P2P program offers a small-grant facility that supports bilateral and multilateral projects jointly developed by national or regional VOPEs in partnership with research and academic organizations as well as parliaments and the Networks of EvalPartners.

EvalPartners invites VOPEs to apply for the P2P grants for implementation of partnership projects jointly developed by at least two VOPEs. The idea is to encourage two or more VOPEs to form mutually beneficial partnerships with each other to promote shared advice and learning while implementing P2P projects.

Core values of the initiative are spelled out in the [Global Evaluation Agenda 2016-2020](#) and revolve around equity, gender equality, and social justice and on shared principles of partnership, innovation, inclusivity, and human rights. Projects should highlight its contribution to one or more of the EvalAgenda2020 dimensions at local, national and/or regional level.

The four dimensions of EvalAgenda2020 are:

1. Strengthening an enabling environment for evaluation,
2. Strengthening institutional capacities, including those of VOPEs and civil society,
3. Strengthening individual capacities for evaluation, and
4. Strengthening the inter-linkages between each of these dimensions.

4. Project Eligibility

The program will prioritize projects that respond to following:

knowledge sharing highlighting how organizations and evaluators can use contextualized research and evaluative evidence, which illustrates how local solutions can increase the use of evaluative evidence. The P2P projects should **directly contribute** to achievement of at least two of the three objectives under this grant:

- i) Research and documenting experiences of contextualized and locally rooted evaluations and learning approaches, including those responding to COVID19 consequences,
- ii) Communication through blogs and other forms of media that will help advocate for adoption of locally driven evaluation theories and practices,
- iii) Evaluation Skills Development for evaluation practitioners, members of VOPEs, and/or non-evaluation professionals (non-traditional actors) through in-person or virtual training, workshops, conferences, or mentorship.

and at least one out of the three following criteria:

- A) Directly contribute to progress towards achievement of the EvalAgenda2020: stronger evaluators, stronger VOPEs and a better enabling environment for evaluation,

- B) Link to and operate in synergy with the activities of at least one EvalPartners networks/initiatives: EvalGender+, EVALSDGs, EvalIndigenous; EvalYouth; Global Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation,
- C) Have high potential for sustainability and/or scaling up the impact

5. Partnerships for P2P Proposals and VOPE eligibility criteria

As a learning organization, EvalPartners reviews periodically the criteria for partnership selection, considering lessons learnt following the evaluation of previous rounds as well as the feedback/ advise from the main stakeholders based on available evidence. Guidelines for the 2021 are as follows:

- a) Project proposal should be jointly developed by **at least two** VOPEs.
- b) Each partner who has any specific role/ function/ designated activity in the frames of the proposed project must provide a formal letter on letterhead signed by the legal authority binding consent to be a partner (including the managing VOPEs)
- c) VOPEs (**refers to the leading VOPEs**) that received P2P 2018/2019 **and/or** IC grants 2021 are not eligible to apply to this round of the P2P projects.
- d) Applications can only be received from VOPEs that are registered on the IOCE database (see <http://www.ioce.net/vope-registration>), and that have updated their information in the past 12 months before the proposal is submitted. **Any VOPEs that is not registered and/or did not update its information will disqualify the proposal.**
- e) To promote regional distribution of EvalPartners initiatives, in case two or more applicants will receive the highest scores from the same region, only one with the highest score will be selected per region.
- f) **At least one** of those VOPEs should be from the Global South, that is be a national VOPE from the **ODA-eligible country** (The list of ODA-eligible countries is available at <https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/DAC-List-of-ODA-Recipients-for-reporting-2020-flows.pdf>)
- g) Partnerships may also include academic institutions, NGOs, private sector and government agencies, and EvalPartners Networks. Note that only VOPEs are allowed to benefit financially from the grant and be the leading party.
- h) In order to accommodate a maximum number of ideas, VOPEs and countries, a VOPE cannot be partner in more than two partnerships submitting proposals.
- i) **VOPEs approved for grants must be Contributing Members of the IOCE (minimum USD 100 per year).**
- j) EvalPartners grants can be used as seed funding to mobilize more resources for comprehensive and continued interventions by applicants. Co-financing by other stakeholders is desired.

6. Grant Funding Allocations

The maximum amount of a grant is USD 10,000 per project. Under this call for proposals, EvalPartners expect to allocate the total of USD 50,000.

7. Eligible Project Expenses

Grants can be used to cover the following expenses:

- a) Travel (both land and air economy class fair) (boarding passes must be submitted);
- b) Reasonable daily subsistence allowances including hotel accommodations,
- c) Terminal expenses and local transportation,
- d) Visa costs (including vaccinations if required),
- e) Travel-related insurance,
- f) Hire of premises and equipment for project events,

- g) Purchase of office supplies for project events,
- h) Translation/interpretation expenses,
- i) Communication expenses,
- j) Production of information and communication materials, including printable and websites,
- k) Bank fees,
- l) IOCE membership fees,
- m) International travel handling fees – up to USD 100 per round trip per person.
- n) Miscellaneous: To cover any small discretionary items, which should not be more than 1% of the total project budget, item should be mentioned (such as audit fee, photocopies...) – expenses receipts are obligatory

If project events are organized within a framework of a conference or other similar event organized by one of the participating VOPEs, project funding cannot be applied to cover registration fees for the representatives of the visiting partner VOPE and/or academic institution.

EvalPartners encourages VOPEs to seek mutually beneficial partnerships with local NGOs and educational institutions that can provide facilities for project events free of charge, provide secretariat support for events, help to recruit students as volunteers to support the events.

VOPEs are also requested to follow transparent financial management procedures, by requesting 3 offers for services-related expenses, providing justification that the airfares or hotels are lower or equivalent to those offered by commercial providers at the time of engaging expenses (for example running a search on www.expedia.com for airfares and www.booking.com for hotels and keeping evidence as a screen shot or pdf file with dates).

8. Ineligible Project Expenses

Grants cannot be used to cover salaries of VOPE staff and expert fees, purchase of equipment, e.g. computers and IT equipment, and rent of offices for VOPE secretariats. No administrative fees can be included in the project budget. Partners are not allowed to benefit financially from the grant.

9. Language

All project proposals should be submitted in English. In case of a grant award, all reports will have to be prepared in English. Activities can take place in local languages but reports and outputs need to be translated to English.

10. Deadline for Applications Submission

The deadline for proposal submission is 22 April 2021. VOPEs shall plan to complete their projects in maximum of seven months, and no later than 30 November 2021.

11. Questions and Pre-Applications Webinar

EvalPartners will organize two pre-application webinars for potential VOPE applicants on **8 and 13 April 2021** to answer any questions related to this call for proposals and provide more contexts on the purpose and objectives of the P2P projects. Recording of the webinar will be shared for applicants who may not be able to attend.

Registration is required for the pre-application webinar at below link.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=RFS0EVE3G0y6eC8ITezyMbSVn87SCvRCnkfff1ftwxFUM0RPMU5NMVZMWEVDMINCSjVHN1JYVFAQ3MC4u>

Please direct any questions to Samandar Mahmodi, EvalPartners Coordinator at (coordinator@evalpartners.org) with copy to Lynn Burgess at (lynn@ioce.net)

12. Proposal Review Criteria

Criteria		Maximum Points	Proposed range of points to be given			
1	Overall quality of the proposal	15	Excellent (15-12)	Good (11-8)	Adequate (7-4)	Poor (3-0)
2	Relevance of the project to grant theme and EvalAgenda	25	Excellent (25-19)	Good (18-13)	Adequate (12-7)	Poor (6-0)
3	Feasibility of the project activities	20	Excellent (20-15)	Good (14-10)	Adequate (9-5)	Poor (4-0)
4	Internal coherence of the work plan with the objectives of the project	20	Excellent (20-15)	Good (14-10)	Adequate (9-5)	Poor (4-0)
5	Sustainability of changes created by the project and /or scaling potential	20	Excellent (20-15)	Good (14-10)	Adequate (9-5)	Poor (4-0)
Total		100				

The proposal review will be conducted by a panel of reviewers identified from the EvalPartners through the Program Committee. Each proposal will be reviewed by at least 3 reviewers, the average of all reviews will be taken into consideration for final ranking and selection of grant proposals. To promote regional distribution of EvalPartners initiatives, in case two or more applicants will receive the highest scores from the same region, only one with the highest score will be selected per region.

The final results will be also subject to final validation by the EvalPartners Executive Committee to guarantee equity and balanced regional representation.

13. Reporting Requirements

VOPEs in receipt of grant support will be required to submit narrative and financial reports at the mid-term and end of the project, including receipt for expenses; following the templates provided by the IOCE.

They will also be required to provide information about project milestones (e.g. announcements of the forthcoming events, news about completed events with photos, testimonies, etc.).

14. How to Submit a Proposal

Complete **the Project Proposal Template in annex 2** in partnership with another VOPE, the partnership should identify a single person (a project manager) who will be responsible for all project-related communication with the IOCE and EvalPartners. **The proposal should be submitted by the project manager to (coordinator@evalpartners.org) with copy to (lynn@ioce.net)**

EvalPartners strongly encourages applications that are managed by **one** of the partner VOPEs from the Global South submitting the proposal. In case this is not possible, partnerships can entrust the administration of the project to a Managing Partner, which should be a local not-for-profit organization that will be responsible for financial and administrative management of the grant.

Annex 1: EvalAgenda Priorities

1. *The enabling environment for evaluation includes:*

- All sectors of society understand and appreciate the value of evaluation,
- Evaluation is explicitly required or encouraged in national evaluation, policies and other governance and regulatory instruments,
- Sufficient resources are allocated for evaluation, at all levels,
- Credible, accessible data systems and repositories for evaluation findings are readily available,
- Stakeholders are eager to receive and utilize evaluation information,
- Evaluation receives due recognition as a profession,
- The ownership of public sector evaluations rests with national governments based on their distinctive needs and priorities and with full participation, of the civil society and the private sector.

2. *Institutional capacities includes:*

- A sufficient number of relevant institutions, including but not limited to Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation (VOPEs); government agencies, Civil Society organizations (CSOs), academia and institutions that generate and share relevant data exist to develop and support evaluators and evaluation,
- These institutions are capable of appreciating and facilitating quality evaluations,
- These institutions are skilled at collaborating with other relevant and involved institutions,
- These institutions are able to resource quality data generation and evaluations as required, make information readily accessible and are ready to follow-up on evaluation findings and recommendations,
- These institutions are able to continually evolve and develop as the evaluation, field advances,
- Academic institutions have the capacity to carry out evaluation research and run professional courses in evaluation

3. *Individual capacities for evaluation includes:*

- Developing individual capacity for evaluation will be relevant not only to evaluators, but also to commissioners and users of evaluation,
- Commissioners and users of evaluation will have a sound understanding of the value of evaluation, processes for conducting high quality, impartial evaluations; and more commitment to using evaluation findings and recommendations,
- Sufficient numbers of qualified evaluators, drawn from a diversity of relevant disciplines, are available to conduct high quality evaluations in all countries and all subject areas,
- These evaluators have the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to make appropriate use of generally accepted evaluation principles, theories, methods, and approaches,
- Evaluators have integrated the values discussed above and are culturally sensitive,
- Evaluators continually learn and improve their capabilities.

4. *Inter-linkages among these first three dimensions.*

The vision of strong inter-linkages among these first three dimensions is that:

- Governments, parliamentarians, VOPEs, the United Nations, foundations, civil society, private sector, and other interested groups dedicate resources to joint ventures in the conduct of evaluations, in innovation in the field of evaluation and evaluation capacity building,
- A common set of terms exists in all languages to disseminate and share evaluation knowledge,
- Multiple partners in evaluation regularly attend national and international learning opportunities,
- The “No one left behind” principle stated in the SDGs is embedded as a key value that goes across three building blocks of evaluation system – enabling environment, institutional capacities and individual capacities for evaluation.

Annex 2: Project Proposal Template

Download the word copy of proposal template from here: <https://www.evalpartners.org/p2p-projects>

If you have problem accessing or downloading the proposal template, email (coordinator@evalpartners.org) with copy to (lynn@ioce.net) to request the proposal template.