Challenges of a new evaluation national society

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Albanian Society of Program Evaluation (ASPE)
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Assessment context in Albania

- An environment favourable to the development of a culture of healthy governance, managing for results and accountability after the post-Communist era
- The evaluation function remains currently underdeveloped in Albania
- The program evaluation is generally justified by audit activities, monitoring or procedures to improve the quality (ISO certification), thus creating a further confusion as to the true nature of the evaluation
The first steps of the ASPE

Formalization of the Albanian Society of Program Evaluation (ASPE) began in April 2011.

Establishment of the contact between ASPE and SQEP

A first informal network was formed in July 2011.

Legally established and officially recognized by the Albanian government in October 2011.

The reasons for establishment: to raise awareness, supply and demand for evaluation, and build a community of evaluation stakeholders.
Organisation and Membership

Organisation

The ASPE is defined as a non-profit organisation with a formal constitution. It is headed by a president and led by a steering board of five members which report to the Assembly members.

The Assembly shall elect for terms of two years, the President and the Board of Directors.

Led and coordinated by volunteers.

Membership

It is a professional organization, open-society, non-exclusive, trying to gather all interested parties in the evaluation.

ASPE had 15 members as of October 2012. It plans a membership of 90 members by the end of 2013: policy maker, manager, practitioner, teacher, student or otherwise, and whether it comes from the government, various public networks, private intersection, municipal or community.
Mission and objectives

The ASPE aims to promote the theory, practice, understanding and use of evaluation.

It has its mission such as:

- Contribute to the development of program evaluation in Albania;
- Promote the use of evaluation in public and private organizations;
Mission and objectives

Specific objectives

- Provide basic training and professional development in areas related to the evaluation;
- Promote evaluation (advocacy) and encourage the understanding and use of evaluation;
- Encourage the development of the theory and practice of evaluation by the publication of these advances and recognizing the exceptional contributions;
- Identify the ethical principles and standards of evaluation practice in Albania and promote their use;
- Organize discussion forums that provide networking opportunities and enrichment of the scope of evaluation (seminars, workshops, conferences, etc.);
- Gather members who have similar interests in evaluation;
How to strengthen the institutional and evaluation capacity

Strategic Plan 2012 – 2013

Promoting evaluation
Professional international cooperation
Professional development and teaching
Funding
How to strengthen the institutional and evaluation capacity

- Agreement ASPE – SQEP (May 2012)
- International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation (IOCE) (October 2011)
- Initiative "EvAlbania." Developed by the ASPE and SQEP within the framework of EvalPartners and under the responsibility of the IOCE and UNICEF
Agreement ASPE - SQEP and two positive outcomes

The following activities support and expert advice from SQEP already underway include:

- Support the formalization of the ASPE (statutes, providing services to members);
- Support the development of individual and institutional capacity in evaluation of the members of the ASPE (university training, training to the emerging community of evaluators);
- Support the integration of ASPE in the existing evaluation networks in Europe, in Francophonie and internationally;
- Support the promotion of evaluation in Albania (standards of practice, ethical principles).

International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation (IOCE) (October 2011)

Francophone Evaluation Network (Réseau francophone de l’évaluation - RFE) (July 2012),
The initiative "EvAlbania" targets the achievement of three specific projects that support the implementation of the strategic plan of the ASPE:

1. The first project concerns the strengthening of the institutional capacity of the ASPE (Permanent secretariat and development of its website).
2. The second project speaks to the evaluation demand and evaluation offer.
3. The third project aims to develop the offer of a university education.
Constraints

- Lack of technical and financial resources
- Non-resident president in Albania
- Neither supply nor demand in evaluation
- A partnership ASPE - SQEP developed on a strictly voluntary basis
- Operate in an environment where everything has to be build in evaluation
Innovations and lessons learned

- Much can be done with little
- Manage and measure the ambitions
- Attach importance to the human factor
- Networking timely
- Innovation
Innovations, lessons learned, next steps

Next steps

- Realise its strategic plan and the initiative "EvAlbania"
- Concrete actions on the ground
- Ensure the interest, support and funding to achieve its ambitions
- Leading a community emerging evaluators
- Increase the role as promoter of the evaluation to institutions and individuals
Thank you very much for your attention

Questions