



**EvalPartners International Forum on Civil Society's  
Evaluation Capacities  
Chiang Mai, Thailand 3-6 December, 2012**

**Session: Strengthening VOPEs'  
capacities to enhance evaluators'  
skills**

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# History of development and strengthening capacity of evaluators in Kazakhstan

**1998-2000** – First training courses on specialists training in the area of program evaluation.

**Early 2000s** – Attempts by local trained evaluators to evaluate projects and programs themselves and/or jointly with international experts in the area of evaluation.

**Early 2000s** – Evaluators from Kazakhstan actively participate in IPEN conferences and events.

**2005** – The first international conference “Impact Evaluation” in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Participation of international experts. In total, more than 150 people.

**2007-2009** – Organization of schools to train specialists in the area of program evaluation by evaluators in Kazakhstan jointly with the Ministry of Economic Development.



# History of development and strengthening capacity of evaluators in Kazakhstan

**2008-2009** – Local evaluators help the country's Ministry of Economic Development to evaluate state programs, including data collection on a degree of program beneficiaries' satisfaction. Such activity was carried out for the purpose of state programs optimization and elaboration of approaches for the development of result-oriented programs.

**2010-2012** – The projects aimed at strengthening capacity of evaluators are implemented. Presentations delivered at CIS international conferences, at the American Evaluators Association and European Evaluators Association conferences.

**2012** – Jointly with IPEN (Regional Network in Commonwealth Independent States) creation of a glossary of terminology in the area of evaluation in the Kazakh language.



# History of development and strengthening capacity of evaluators in Kazakhstan

**2010-2012** – The projects aimed at strengthening capacity of evaluators are implemented. Presentations delivered at CIS international conferences, at the American Evaluators Association and European Evaluators Association conferences.

**2012** – International conference “Using the Results of Monitoring and Evaluation in the Management Decision-Making Process” in Astana. The conference was held together with IPEN and the Academy of Public Administration. Participation of local evaluators with demonstration and presentations of local cases.

**2012** – Opportunities for creating a national association of specialists on program evaluation are discussed. About 50 individuals raise a topic of program evaluation, implement projects both on evaluation promotion and strengthening the capacity. Schools are organized in order to train specialists on program evaluation in different industries (invalids, ecology, healthcare, etc.).

# CSOs in Kazakhstan are using evaluative approach to influence public policies

The projects on evaluation of urban/rural development programs are implemented on the local level. CSOs organize a transparent evaluation process involving local experts who are capable of offering good-quality recommendations. As a result, more than 50% of recommendations are approved by decision-makers.

CSOs participate in the development of procedures and policies, for example, “Evaluation of Government Authorities’ Activity Effectiveness”, “Public Control” mechanisms, etc.

# Organization of program evaluation on local level

## STAGE 1

- Organization of the public committee/ public trust committee's activity in six regions
- Training for the parties concerned
- Creation of an expert database
- Selection of a program for evaluation

# Organization of program evaluation on local level

## STAGE 2

- Generation of a technical assignment
- Formation and organization of the experts' activity
- Data collection arrangement
- Questioning the programs benefit recipients
- Evaluation of the implementation of program “Youth Policy Implementations in the Southern Region of the Country”

# Organization of program evaluation on local level

## STAGE 3

- Report on evaluation of program implementation effectiveness
- Presentation of an assessment report for public committee members
- Brief form of a report for distribution to the persons, organizations concerned
- Organization of public hearings
- 13 recommendations developed for the program administrator (Internal Policy Department)
- Official letter from the head of local executive body to the public committee stating that 7 of 13 recommendations (54%) have been accepted upon the evaluation results

# Lessons learned for strengthening capacity of local evaluators in Kazakhstan

Training organization is not effective if it is not supported by practical evaluation of projects. I.e. a large number of those interested in monitoring and evaluation could have been trained, but there were no results unless training became more long in time which included projects practical evaluation.

Confusion of such notions as audit, research, monitoring, evaluation takes place. Continuous training of those interested in evaluation performance and potential customers, as well as explanation of differences help differentiate monitoring and evaluation more clearly from other notions.

Association is viewed as an opportunity for rendering services on a paid basis.



# Needs and plans for strengthening capacity of evaluators in Kazakhstan

Training for both beginners and more advanced evaluators, both state officials and businesses and nonprofit organizations. Training may include monitoring and evaluation courses in higher educational institutions and using on-line resources.

Organization of national conferences and events on a permanent basis.

Formalization of the evaluators' network, strategic planning and promotion.

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