Romanian Evaluation Association (EvalRom) – Challenges for Continuity

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

• EvalRom was founded in 2008, after two years of functioning as an informal network under the same name.

• The first meeting of the informal network took place in August 2006 and was facilitated by Ross Conner, chairperson of IOCE at that time.

• EvalRom was formally founded by 19 individual members, most of them coming from the supply side of the Romanian evaluation market.

• All the activities of the association are based on the volunteer contribution of the members; there is no paid staff.
Main results

• Implementation of a project funded from an EU grant scheme (called “Transition Facility”) focused on promoting transparency and public accountability in Romania

• Professional workshops

• Participation in activities related to the development of evaluation culture
Challenges and bottlenecks

- The immaturity of the national evaluation market (modest size and no diversity)
- Very limited financial resources and a limited resource mobilization capacity of the organisation
- The local cultural context, dominated by low trust and blame culture
Enabling factors

• Country’s EU accession
• Networking with other Romanian NGOs, as well as with other international evaluation associations
• A long process of establishment of the association
Key lessons learned

• A core dedicated group of initiative, with good connections among stakeholders with a constant, long lasting interest in the development of an emerging association acting transparent and flexible
• Starting with an informal network, opened to many professionals and ideas, giving time and space for the ideas to reach maturity and a critical mass of supporters
• Using every opportunity to promote your initiative(s) might increase interest and trust of potential members
• After launching the network addressing promptly to the interests of the members
Thank you!

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