



Development of Ukrainian Evaluation Association: From Virtual Network to Cooperative Community

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Structure of presentation

- evaluation context
- the main points of UEA development
- challenges at nascent stage
- our first lessons
- our needs

Evaluation Context in Ukraine

- misunderstanding of terms hinders development of M&E
- lack of political will hampers M&E development
- evaluation demand is created only by donors
- lack of financial and human resources in NGO and public sectors
- international experts with high level of professionalism are involved in evaluation but they often don't know local context
- insufficient supply of M&E services on local market and low quality on national market
- difference in donors standards brings to unsystematic commissioning and use of evaluation results

UEA development

- since July 4, 2011 till October 2012 – from FB group to horizontal network of people led by common mission and goals (in July 2011 - 5 members, in July 2012 – 117, in September 2012 – 122)
- since October 2011 – platform for communication and sharing experience - regular monthly workshops led by local experts, sharing links, announcements, trainings and conferences on FB group
- December 2011- draft UEA Concept defining it's mission, goals and forms of activities

UEA development

- February – August 2012 base-line study “State of Evaluation Capacity Development in Ukraine: Demand, Supply, Institutionalization” (coordinator K. Stolyarenko) – basis for future UEA Action Plan 2013-2014
- September 2012 - needs assessment of UEA members to develop activities corresponding to the needs and capacities of members (done by Rinat Akhmetov Foundation Development of Ukraine)
- October 2012 – new phase:
 - Temporary Rules of Procedure of UEA on decision-making, membership and competence of Strategic Group
 - composition of Strategic group approved - responsible for internal communication, coordination and institutionalization of UEA.

Challenges at nascent phase

- to identify and reach all interested experts (at the very beginning)
- to organize activities/initiatives of UEA and thematic groups that will correspond to the different needs of UEA members and willingness to be involved
- to develop appropriate organizational structure and procedures sustaining interest and enthusiasm
- to obtain financing for activities that can't be sustained on volunteer basis, such as organizational development, web-site creation, publications, office space, etc.

Our first lessons:

- it is live face to face communication that keeps interest to association
- internal climate and interpersonal relations are important: enthusiasm, creativity, friendly and open atmosphere, understanding and trust attracts people
- use of social networks increases the speed of communication and growth of members
- mutually agreed “rules of the game”, e. on decision-making in the association, need to be adopted at early stages, to avoid conflict and ensure legitimacy of all decisions taken

But...

- development of association begins from common vision and fruitful teamwork

Our first lessons

- some first impulses may be created by separate individuals but further implementation of initiatives depends on real commitment and permanent mutual work of many people organized in working groups, small teams on concrete projects.
- try to create a core team of people able and willing to work together – working like a magnet that is permanently integrating more and more people
- it is impossible to do everything in the first year – choose 2-3 realistic priorities for the first year that will create teamwork and basis for future initiatives

Our first lessons

- A lot of work can be done on pro bono basis at the beginning. Members of UEA provide meeting/conference rooms, equipment for presentations and workshops in their offices free of charge.

But

- volunteering should not be overused. Many activities require involvement of specialists and can't be done on a volunteer basis.
- feel the right moment and decide when informal cooperation is not enough and you need procedures and institutionalization

Our first lessons

- don't be afraid of conflicts and divergent views. Use it for identifying weak points in organization and improvement
- make needs assessment to identify expectations and valuable volunteers ready to help and be involved
- **Love what you do and people 😊 and keep patience !**



БІЛЬШЕ
ЗА
ЩАСТЯ!

Our needs:

- smooth institutionalization and development of effective organization
- professionalization of evaluation
- capacity-development of evaluators and users of evaluation
- sharing of experience among Ukrainian evaluators
- cooperation with public sector and potential “evaluation champions”
- reaching agreement on terminology, standards, competence framework
- popularization and advocacy activities
- learning and adapting foreign experience
- deeper cooperation, incl. on projects, with international evaluation professionals



Thank You for Your attention !

UEA on FB:

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