

Romanian Evaluation Association (EvalRom) – Challenges for Continuity

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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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