



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: STOCKTAKING OF EVALPARTNERS ACTIVITIES 2015-2017

Context

In January 2012, IOCE and UNICEF came up with the idea of the EvalPartners, a global movement to establish evaluation as an essential management and social change instrument. At that time, the evaluation community was mostly inward-looking and interested in technical aspects of the professional practice. The idea that evaluators should become global advocates for their profession seemed incredibly daring but proved to be very effective.

Combined with financial support from several donors – including Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, UNEG, UN Women UNICEF and USAID – it ignited a host of volunteer activities all around the world led by UN Agencies, national and regional VOPEs and civil society organizations.

EvalPartners has already changed the “evaluation world”. For the first time in the history, an international professional year – International Year of Evaluation 2015, also known as EvalYear – was declared by the global evaluation community itself and then endorsed by the UN General Assembly.

The need to build evaluation capacity at national level was recognized by a special Resolution of the UN General Assembly. Evaluation was also explicitly mentioned in the Resolution concerning the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As part of its organic growth, EvalPartners is steadily developing into a network of networks catering for young and emerging evaluators (EvalYouth), bringing an equity-focus and gender-responsive dimension to evaluations (EvalGender+), valuing the strengths of Indigenous evaluation practices (EvalIndigenous), adding value and learning through evaluation to the SDGs (EvalSDGs) as well as the Global Parliamentarian Forum for Evaluation (GPFE).

The “DNA” of the work of EvalPartners is captured in the Global Evaluation Agenda (EvalAgenda2020) which provides a road map towards the vision for the future of evaluation profession jointly developed by thousands of evaluators from different countries and organizations and endorsed by the delegates of the second Global Evaluation Forum held at the Parliament of Nepal in Kathmandu in November 2015.

The EvalAgenda2020 identifies that while evaluation can make major contributions to government and communities, it largely works behind the scenes and consequently its

potential for major impact is under-recognized. The gap between potential value and current acceptance motivates EvalPartners to work harder towards improving evaluation quality and usefulness and spread its benefits worldwide and across all segments of society, including the private and voluntary sectors. This includes the improvement of governance through the promotion of principles and values such as gender equality, social inclusion, non-discrimination, human rights, which are fundamental for development.

The Government of Finland through the Evaluation Unit at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been one of the earliest and most consistent supporters of EvalPartners since 2012. For 2016-2017, EvalPartners/IOCE won a competitive call for proposals entitled “Global Initiative for Strengthened Civil Society’s Evaluation Capacities through Partnership, Peer Support and Collaboration” (450,000 Euros) and “Strengthening individual capacities of evaluators with special focus on young and emerging evaluators” (200,000 Euros). Both projects contributed to 46.2% of the EvalPartners budget during that period.

As the global evaluation powerhouse, EvalPartners derives learning, strength and strategic insights from the evaluation of its own work. A first comprehensive formative evaluation was completed in 2014 and another developmental evaluation is planned for 2019-2020. In preparation for this evaluation, EvalPartners is seeking to conduct a stocktaking exercise for its 2015-2017 activities.

Need

EvalPartners is looking for an individual or a small team to prepare a stocktaking report. The work will be initiated in February 2018 and the stocktaking report must be finalized by 18 May 2018.

Within the logic of its intervention as established in the EvalAgenda 2020, EvalPartners needs an independent review of four dimensions:

1. Management practices. Based on a review of the 2014 evaluation, audit reports, and interviews with key personnel and stakeholders, management practices will be assessed as to their effectiveness and efficiency within the context of a largely volunteer effort.
2. Programming strategy. The programming strategy implemented from 2015 to 2017 will be matched against the ideals elaborated in the EvalAgenda 2020. Areas of strengths and areas of weaknesses will be identified, taking into consideration the resources available.
3. Learning that has occurred. The Peer-to-Peer program and the Innovation Challenge program has supported upwards of 40 project which all generated knowledge about types of actions and interventions that may or may not work in various circumstances. This project will synthesize this knowledge within a realist framework, based on a desk review of project reports.
4. Results generated. Progresses against the EvalAgenda 2020 produced between 2015 and 2017 will be documented as possible. Relevant sources may include case studies of regional and national VOPEs as well as secondary statistics on the state of evaluation in the global landscape.

5. Leveraging capacity. The capacity of EvalPartners to leverage institutional and financial support as well as its outreach strategy will be assessed, in view of determining lessons learned, best practices and opportunities going forward into 2018-2020.

Case studies should focus on the work that was made possible through the Finland grants.

Who are we looking for?

Evaluation is the “bread and butter” of the EvalPartners constituency (including the steering Committee who will oversee this stocktaking exercise). This often includes complex ToRs and lengthy evaluation reports. We are not hence looking for more of the same.

We are looking for an individual or a team of evaluation enthusiasts with:

- A proven track-record in conducting evaluations of complex programmes, particularly those involving a web of networks that are managed by volunteers.
- Aware that outputs are meant to generate outcomes and that outcomes translate into behavioural and/or policy changes. We want this exercise to tell us how the EvalPartners constituency is contributing to change the (Eval)world.
- A “data touch” in presenting findings in an attractive manner, as we have the firm intention to avoid a static report and to use the findings of the stocktaking report to deepen our outreach and advocacy.
- Involving at least one young or emerging evaluator (YEE) will be a definite plus, as we believe that YEEs are the future of the profession.

Eligibility

Members of the EvalPartners Management Group between 2015 and 2017 and their immediate relatives as well as anyone who has personally or corporately benefited from EvalPartners funding in excess of \$5,000 during the same period cannot bid for this work.

Review Criteria

While EvalPartners retains the right to select the proposal it prefers or to select none, the proposals will be rated according to the following criteria by no fewer than three members of the EvalPartners Management Group and the selection will be based on points rather than on budget:

- Understanding of the need, its context, and its complexity (no more than 1 page; 20 points)
- Approach to the assignment including planning, data collection, analysis, and reporting (no more than 4 pages; 30 points).
- Past experience with similar assignments (no more than 2 pages, including links to published work; 10 points)
- Demonstrated ability to deliver in a timely manner (no more than 1 page; 10 points)
- Quality of the consultant or team (no more than 1 page plus appended resumes; 30 points)

The exercise will be predominantly home-based. Proposals exceeding a budget of \$25,000 USD (including taxes) will not be considered. EvalPartners realizes that the work may require

a higher level of effort and will be grateful to individuals and teams who would elect to complete extra work on a volunteer basis.

Proposal Presentation

The proposal must be delivered as a single pdf file to Lynn Burgess <lynn@ioce.net> no later than Monday 19 February 2018 at midnight EST. The proposal should clearly address each of the review criteria and make quite clear what EvalPartners is to expect at the end of the assignment.

Winners will be notified on Monday 26 of February and should be able to start immediately. Applicants are advised to pencil-in the dates of March 11-14 as it might entail the participation of the selected consultant in the EvalPartners Management Group meeting which will be held in Helsinki during these dates.