

AfrEA's efforts on knowledge creation and exchange¹

Conferences: Every two years AfrEA organizes a biennial conference gathering evaluators from Africa and outside the region. AfrEA conferences have generally gathered between 500 and 700 people from roughly 60 countries around the world ranging from Africa, Europe, North America, Asia and Oceania. These conferences are attended by people interested in evaluation, coming together from all sectors – government, donors, academia, NGOs, consultants – from many countries within and beyond Africa. The level of experience of these participants ranges from experts/senior evaluators to junior evaluators. African participants have made paper presentations, poster presentations and panels, as well as facilitating professional development workshops during these conferences. They have also been in contact and shared their experience and knowledge in evaluation with evaluators from around the world. AfrEA's conferences have also seen the participation of well-known international evaluators.

Listserv: As an experience-sharing and mentoring tool for evaluators within Africa, a listserv was developed in 2002 and has 600 members currently. The listserv contributes to sharing of evaluation tools, methodologies and discussions on evaluation approaches and paradigms. Here members can also request for peer assistance and guidance. The listserv is also a medium of communication for M&E job opportunities.

Website: The website (www.afrea.org) has been developed, revamped and updated. It contains the list of national evaluation associations, evaluation resources, and AfrEA's history and mission. It also hosts AfrEA e-newsletter (launched 2009) which helps to share experiences and information for evaluators within the continent.

Journal: The African Journal of Evaluation (AfrJE) was developed as part of AfrEA's comprehensive efforts geared towards a "Made in Africa approach to evaluation". The Journal aims at strengthening the evaluation capacity in the continent by providing a platform for the African community to document emerging evaluation theories and practices; providing an opportunity for cross-fertilization of ideas and methodologies across disciplines; providing a vehicle to develop African evaluation scholarly research, as well as field/action oriented research relevant to the continent's development context, authorship as well as promoting a culture of peer-review. The Journal is expected to engage with several partners from the continent to contribute to its different editions; national and regional VOPEs, universities, think tanks and research centres, etc.

EvalMentors: The initiative aims at providing opportunities for young and junior professionals to gain practical evaluation skills and experience in the continent. It aims at supporting development that is anchored in evidence, learning, and mutual accountability to bridge the gap between the supply and demand for evaluation in the continent. EvalMentors is being implemented as part of the EvalPartners Initiative, launched by AfrEA in partnership with the Canadian Evaluation Society (CES) and Société québécoise d'évaluation de programmes (SQEP). EvalMentors provides support and mentoring to emerging African national VOPEs, as well as emerging publishers, and professionals through peer to peer support.

¹ UNICEF, EvalPartners, IOCE in partnership with Cooperacion Espanola, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, UNEG, UNWomen. (2013). *Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation (VOPEs): Learning from Africa, Americas, Asia, Australasia, Europe and Middle East*, available at http://www.mymande.org/voluntary_organizations_for_professional_evaluation

Global online knowledge management system to promote evaluation²

[MyM&E](http://www.mymande.org) (<http://www.mymande.org>) is an interactive web 2.0 platform developed in partnership with UNICEF, IOCE, DevInfo and several other stakeholders, to share knowledge on country-led monitoring and evaluation systems worldwide. In addition to being a learning resource, the platform is a valuable tool for creating a global community, as well as identifying good practices and lessons learned on country-led monitoring and evaluation systems. MyM&E utilizes new technology and innovation as a cost effective strategy to reach out to isolated evaluation communities by providing them access to quality evaluation knowledge and training as well as allowing these communities to reciprocate and contribute to evaluation networks by submission of videos and research. In addition to publically available and free of charge e-learning courses and webinars, website visitors have access to an extensive online resource library that provides handbooks, manuals, videos, online toolkits training, and a listing of evaluation related employment vacancies.

Translation and dissemination of evaluation resources in Arabic in Egypt³

Evaluation materials hardly exist in the Arabic language, and therefore most, if not all of EREN's national partners do not have an opportunity to build their knowledge or to enhance their skills in evaluation. EREN has established an initiative to translate key materials and key national research in the country from English to Arabic to make resources available in the national language, to help accentuate the culture of evaluation, and to activate dialogue amongst partners on evaluation issues.

Building a learning community in Latin America and Caribbean region⁴

ReLAC, as a regional evaluation network, uses the virtual media to enhance its networking opportunities. ReLAC has a mailing list (relac@gruposyahoo.com.ar), which has more than six hundred participants. Through this mailing list information is shared about events, training, consulting, publications and the like, while occasionally it is also used as a space for debate and discussion on issues related to evaluation. In early 2010 ReLAC began to make use of its social media platform (noticiasrelac.ning.com) to broadcast events and publicize information. The site supports thematic working groups to share knowledge and relevant information, to raise and discuss questions, generate new ideas, and to open possibilities for cooperation and sharing experiences. While to participate in the groups you must subscribe to them, the platform allows one to follow the exchanges as a website that provides open access to anyone interested. On the occasion of the 2010 ReLAC conference, one of the groups turned their discussions and exchanges into a panel and various papers. ReLAC is also trying to synergize its site with other sites like PREVAL (Regional Platform for Evaluation Capacity Building in Latin America and the Caribbean), the REDLACME (Network for Monitoring and Evaluation in the Latin America and the Caribbean), the site created by UNDP Regional Office on evaluation, and other sites of the UN agencies. This will help to create synergy in stakeholder participation in various e-spaces.

² www.mymande.org and EvalPartners International Forum on Civil Society's Evaluation Capacities held in December 2012 in Chaing Mai, Thailand.

³ UNICEF, EvalPartners, IOCE in partnership with Cooperacion Espanola, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, UNEG, UNWomen. (2013). *Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation (VOPEs): Learning from Africa, Americas, Asia, Australasia, Europe and Middle East*, available at http://www.mymande.org/voluntary_organizations_for_professional_evaluation

⁴ UNICEF, EvalPartners, IOCE in partnership with Cooperacion Espanola, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, UNEG, UNWomen. (2013). *Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation (VOPEs): Learning from Africa, Americas, Asia, Australasia, Europe and Middle East*, available at http://www.mymande.org/voluntary_organizations_for_professional_evaluation