

Minutes

of the Meeting of

Network of Evaluation Societies in Europe (NESE)

5th of October 2010, Prague, Czech Republic

Participants: Christiane Spiel (DeGEval), Wolfgang Böttcher (DeGEval), Ian C. Davies (EES), Jan Hense (DeGEval, invited presenter), Jan Ehler (SEVAL, invited presenter), Bob Picciotto (EES/UKES), Marie Kaufmann (EES/Czech Evaluation Society), Liisa Horelli (Finnish Evaluation Society), Helen Simons (UKES, invited presenter), Ulrich Schiefer (Portuguese Evaluation Society), Kim Forss (Swedish Evaluation Society), Flavia Pesce (Italian Evaluation Society), Mirna Macur (Slovenian Evaluation Society), Bojan Radej (Slovenian Evaluation Society), Dagmar Gombovita (Slovak Evaluation Society), Dmitris Svec (Czech Evaluation Society), Helen Morell (UKES), Annie Fouquet (SFE), Jacques Toulemonde (SFE), Liisa Horelli (Finnish Evaluation Society), Martin Obuch (Slovak Society for Evaluation), Einar Lier Madsen (Norwegian Evaluation Society), Karin Haubrich (DeGEval, NESE coordinator), Sandra Speer (EES, NESE coordinator)

1. Opening

Ian Davies (EES, host of the meeting) opens the meeting and introduces the agenda. The purpose of the meeting is: (1) to exchange good practices between the societies and networks, (2) to finalize the NESE mission statement (3) to agree on a working plan for the near future.

2. Exchange of Good Practices and Experiences

- Jan Ehrler presents experiences from Switzerland “Introducing evaluation to politicians: what are the challenges?”

- Bob Picciotto moderates an update on capabilities and professionalization in Europe
To summarize some issues: the Swedish Evaluation Society wants to remain open to people who do evaluations and to include all of them in their conferences irrespective of any formal qualifications/certifications, they offer a kind of “yellow pages” for their members; the Slovenian Evaluation Society would like to have a “chamber of evaluators” in the future and they are working on an introduction in evaluation for “critical occasional users”; the SFE has a working group on competencies and is also working on a third edition of standards, additionally the SFE is working on standards in training at the university-level; the Italian Evaluation Society is working on a “list of evaluators” and will introduce it soon.

- Flavia Pesce presents “The process for the implementation of an Evaluators Register (LIST): the experience of the Italian Evaluation Society”
- Helen Simons presents “Experiences with Competencies in the UK”
- Jan Hense presents experiences from within the DeGEval on “Competencies for Evaluators and Didactics of Evaluation”

3. The Mission Statement

The history and the process of the mission statement are explained and illustrated by Karin Haubrich and Sandra Speer (see “suggested way forward” as described in the minutes from the previous NESE annual meeting in Muenster - 2009). The mission statement is agreed upon by the DeGEval, the Czech Evaluation Society, the Finnish Evaluation Society, the SFE French Evaluation Society, the UKES, the Norwegian Evaluation Society, the Italian Evaluation Society, the Slovak Society for Evaluation, the Portuguese Evaluation Society and the EES.¹ All the other societies and networks in Europe, who were not represented at the meeting are invited to agree upon it as well.

The Slovenian Society raises concerns about the openness and the democracy of the process, and abstains from voting. All other societies present perceive the process as democratic and open as it was moderated over many months and anyone could bring in suggestions, which were incorporated in the text of the mission statement on the basis of the agreements and compromises found during the previous annual meeting in Muenster - 2009.

4. Future Activities, Work plan 2010/2011

The Italian Evaluation Society volunteers to be the next national society coordinating NESE in cooperation with the EES. This is welcomed and it is agreed that they will take over this responsibility from the DeGEval at the next meeting, which is always in connection with the conference of the respective national society. The Italian Evaluation Society is currently planning its meeting at the end of March/beginning of April 2011 and will inform all NESE members as soon their plans are confirmed.

It is agreed that the working plan continues to contain the topics which were earlier identified by the survey among evaluation societies in 2009. Additionally the need to engage in key issues with EU institutions, where the detailed way has still to be identified, and to work on multi-lingual glossary is articulated. The following priorities will guide the future work:

- a) Competencies, standards, and ethics
- b) Getting politicians involved
- c) Engaging in key issues with EU institutions;
- d) Glossary
- e) Running a society

¹ Each evaluation society/network had one vote.