

# The Future of Evaluation

Global Trends, New Challenges, Shared Perspectives

Edited by

Reinhard Stockmann

Wolfgang Meyer



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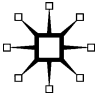
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# Foreword

This book, *The Future of Evaluation*, gives a global overview on the development of the evaluation function, which is a great need at this juncture. The book discusses evaluation perspectives in line with international commitments with practical experience from different regions and countries. It connects theory and methods with practice and utility, global trends and the role of society, addressing current challenges such as civil society engagement and national ownership in evaluation. The book is published to mark the tenth anniversary of the Center for Evaluation (CEval). Overall, it covers very interesting topics: the role of evaluation in society; evaluation as a profession; new challenges for evaluation: practice and utility; new challenges for evaluation: theory and methods; the future of evaluation: shared perspective. It is therefore our great pleasure to provide a foreword on behalf of EvalPartners.

The book ensures the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness endorsed in 2005. The EvalPartners initiative, which also follows the principles of the Paris Declaration, is an innovative global partnership movement to strengthen national evaluation capacities, particularly through civil society, co-led by the International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation (IOCE) and UN Women. Since the inception there has been remarkable progress in forming an impressive partnership of over 50 international development agencies, regional evaluation networks, foundations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and others, engaged in many ways to promote evaluation through the strengthening of civil society, especially Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation (VOPEs). The book is also an effort of a great partnership of evaluators from around the world to promote evaluation. Authors of papers in this book represent different countries and regions, and bring different perspectives, including creative thinking to promote an enabling environment for evaluation. Engaging parliamentarians in evaluation is an example where policy-makers are creatively engaged. The book emphasizes this need.

Declaring 2015 as the International Year of Evaluation (EvalYear) at the Third International Conference on National Evaluation Capacities in 2013 was an important milestone in strengthening an enabling environment for evaluation with partnership between civil society and other stakeholders. The aim of designating 2015 as the International Year of Evaluation is to advocate and promote evaluation and evidence-based policy-making at international, regional, national and local levels. In the spirit of the EvalPartners guiding principles, EvalYear will bring together diverse stakeholders into a movement designed to mobilize the energies

and enhance the synergy of existing and new monitoring and evaluation initiatives at international and national levels. EvalYear features **inclusion** where everyone has a role to play: civil society, governments, international partners, academia and individuals. EvalYear invites **innovation** at many levels: methods of engagement and capacity-building, peer-to-peer exchanges, use of technology for communications and scale-up and involvement of new partners. EvalYear will bring together a **strategic partnership** of committed individuals and organizations around the world for coordinated action to promote evaluation as a catalytic intervention for better human development.

Giving a clear foreword to the EvalYear 2015, the book starts with global trends and challenges while looking at country and regional levels with a developmental evaluation lens. It also looks into the role of evaluation in the society, both from developed and developing country experience and perspectives. The book is a good example of inclusion, innovation and partnership which are EvalPartners principles as well.

EvalYear will also be a strategic opportunity to shape the future of evaluation. Social equity and gender equality will be central to ensure the realization of sustainable and equitable development, including sustainable development goals. Evaluation must be equipped to inform its design and implementation, both at global and national level. National development policies and programs should therefore be informed by evidence generated by credible national evaluation systems that are equity-focused and gender-responsive, while ensuring policy coherence at regional and global levels. The 'Global Evaluation Agenda for 2016–2020', to be launched in 2015 in the framework of EvalYear, will set the priorities to address the challenges faced by the international evaluation community and strategies to strengthen national evaluation capacity. This book represents an important contribution to the ongoing initiatives of EvalYear and identification of the priorities for the 'future of evaluation' being shaped through global partnership.

Finally we thank the Center for Evaluation for giving this wonderful book to the global evaluation community as a gift in the EvalYear. CEval is a well-known university institute on evaluation in development cooperation and it plays a great role as 'a Center of excellence for Evaluation' by hosting the university-based Master's course on Evaluation in Germany and the scientific *Journal on Evaluation* in the German language. Moreover, CEval has been very active internationally since 2002, implementing evaluation capacity-building measures in many countries. The center has had a long-standing partnership with the Universidad de Costa Rica since 2008 in the field of evaluation. It has carried out the academic support of the Evaluation Capacity Development (ECD) project of the German Federal Government in Costa Rica. The center advises the Costa Rican government in the field of evaluation on behalf of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale

Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). On behalf of the Federal Ministry of Economic Corporation and Development (BMZ) and in cooperation with GIZ the center has developed a blended Master's course in evaluation which will be offered soon. We truly welcome the book and wish you interesting reading.

Marco Segone and Asela Kalugampitiya

# Acknowledgments

The history of this book started with the tenth anniversary of the Center for Evaluation (CEval) at Saarland University. In 2002, this institute rose like a Phoenix from the ashes of the closed-down Sociological Institute in Saarbrücken and developed itself rapidly to be one of the most important places for evaluation research in Germany. While planning an international conference for celebrating its birthday, we appraised this child for being still young enough to look into the future instead of honoring its credits of the past. We asked some of our friends to contribute to this conference by offering their own look into the future. While listening to these insightful talks, we decided to edit a book on this topic and to add some more perspectives in order to complete a global view.

One may not be surprised to hear that it was a long and winding road from this early beginning to finish up with a voluminous book like this. Many people encouraged us to proceed and helped us to carry the burden. First and most importantly we want to thank Andrew Baird, Jemima Warren and all the staff at Palgrave Macmillan for their kind support and commitment in creating this book. We are really thankful for the polite cooperation and all the assistance we received.

Moreover, we have to thank all the authors for delivering their interesting contributions, taking our comments into account and for finalizing their chapters on schedule. We know that some of them had to finish their chapters in really difficult circumstances and we appreciate their willingness to contribute. We hope that all the authors are satisfied with the product and enjoy reading the other chapters – as we did.

Many of our colleagues have shared their thoughts about this book with us and it is not possible to name all these contributors here. Nevertheless, there are helping hands who must be highlighted here because we would not have been able to finish this project without their support. We would like to thank Oleg Brauer and Selina Roehrig for the editing work and Gareth Bartley for proofreading some of the chapter. They managed to keep to the toughest deadlines and adhered to the schedule even if at times it was deemed impossible.

Because of this hard work we have managed to fit this book into EvalPartners 'Year of Evaluation' and to contribute to the discussion on the Global Evaluation Agenda. We are thankful for this opportunity and we are certain about the ongoing success of evaluation in the foreseeable future.

# Contributors

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