

Public statement

»FOR ENHANCED EVALUATION OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE WESTERN BALKAN COUNTRIES«

The statement, adopted at the 1st Regional evaluation conference of Western Balkans (29th of October 2015, Sarajevo), acknowledging the International Evaluation Year 2015.

I. Western Balkan Evaluation Network is adopting its evaluation statement acknowledging:

- United Nation's General Assembly's adoption of Recommendations A/69/473 that calls for strengthening international cooperation in building national capacity for evaluation.
- Declaration about International Year of Evaluation in 2015 by UN Evaluation Group and the relevant actors.
- European Commissions communications on smart growth COM(2010)543 and better regulation COM(2014)368

II. About the evaluation:

Following OECD DAC principles (1991), an evaluation is systematic and objective assessment of all aspects of policy-making. An evaluation provides information on relevance and fulfilment of policy objectives, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability. The crucial prepositions of functional welfare state are an adequate level of the quality of public policies and democratic process of their preparation.

III: The statement:

The signatories of the statement shall endeavour for the support and promotion of the development of evaluation systems in the Western Balkans. The objectives are as follows:

- Improvement of the quality of public management in preparation of policies, plans, projects and projects.
- Contribution to the integrated informations to efficiently harmonise the mutual interests.
- Contribution to the transparency and democratic management of public interests and the involvement of **the civil society and private sector** into the processes of evaluations,.

- Contribution to the equal treatment of all stakeholders, especially of vulnerable social groups for equity-focused and gender-responsive evaluation.
- Contribution to the protection of the environment and to the protection of natural and cultural heritage
- Contribution to the integrated solutions of the detected challenges.

The Western Balkans Evaluation Network shall endeavour for the fulfilment of these goals by::

- **Developing national evaluation capacity**
 - o Collaboration of evaluators with the relevant regional and international organisations in the field of evaluation to improve the design, monitoring and upgrading of national policy evaluation systems.
 - o Managing the knowledge in the field of evaluation (publications, magazines, online web portals) to improve the evaluation capacities.
- **Building institutional capacity of VOPE (VOLuntary Organization of professional Evaluation)**
 - o Expanding the network of evaluators in the region to enhance exchange of information and to accumulate the knowledge.
 - o Supporting the certifications of evaluators and supervision of the quality of evaluation deliverables.
- **Building individual evaluation capacity**
 - o Continuously incorporating new methods and practices in their workplans.
 - o Enhancing the professionalisation of the evaluation as an occupation, which is limited by the professional ethics and professional standards.

The statement will be sent to all relevant governmental institutions and international organisations' regional offices in the Western Balkans.

Institutional signatories:

- BHeval – Evaluation Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina

- HEM – Croatian Evaluation Society
- MECG – Evaluation Society of Montenegro
- MEN - Macedonian Evaluation Network
- SDE – Slovenian Evaluation Society
- WBEN – Western Balkans Evaluation Network

Individual signatories:

- Prof. dr. Mojca Golobič, Biotehniška fakulteta, Univerza v Ljubljani (suautorica izjave)
- Mag. Bojan Radej (suautor izjave i koordinator njenog usklađivanja)
- Dr. Marija Sumpor (prevod izjave na Hrvatski jezik)
- Kruno Karlovčec (Translation of the Statement into English)
- Mag. Peter Medica, Koordinator WBEN (2014-2015)
- Rijad Kovač, Predsednik BHeval
- Dr. Dubravka Jurlina Alibegović, koordinatorica HEM
- Vlatko Danilov, predsednik MEN
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