A New Field of Development Cooperation: Strengthening National Evaluation Capacities

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Bonn, May 4 2017
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Discussion
17 goals, 169 targets, 230 indicators
What does the Agenda 2030 tell about Evaluation?

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:

“Follow up and review processes at all levels will be rigorous and based on evidence, informed by country-led evaluations [...]. They will require enhanced capacity-building support for developing countries, including the strengthening of national data systems and evaluation programs.”


“Evaluation should play a more important role in making implementation of the new development agenda more evidence-based than it did in engaging with the MDGs.”
What is the role of evaluation and monitoring in relation to SDG?

Monitoring & Evaluation in the framework of SDG follow up & review processes

Monitoring & Evaluation to improve national politics, strategies and programmes to reach the SDG
Which capacities are necessary at which level: ECD in systemic perspective

- System capacities
- Institutional capacities
- Individual capacities
2. The Approach of FOCEVAL to Strengthen National Evaluation Capacities
Framework

Objective
Strengthening national evaluation capacities in Costa Rica and Latin America to enhance the role of evaluation in decision making and political processes.

Duration
Phase III: 01.2017 – 12.2018

Counterparts
Financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
Implemented by DEval in cooperation with the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy of Costa Rica (MIDEPLAN)
Organizational Structure

- DEval
- MIDEPLAN
- Ministries
- Legislative Power
- National Evaluation Units
- Civil Society
- Universities
- VOPEs
- EvalPartners
- ReLAC
- CLEAR-LA
- UN Women

National Platform
Regional Platform
Working areas

- Supporting ReLAC in the dissemination and application of evaluation standards
- Supporting evaluation systems in Costa Rica, Ecuador and Dominican Republic
- Strengthening young and emerging evaluators
- Evaluation and Legislative Power in Costa Rica and Honduras
- Civil society participation in evaluations
- Evaluation courses in Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala and Honduras
- Supporting the execution of evaluations in Costa Rica and Guatemala
Working areas

- Supporting ReLAC in the dissemination and application of evaluation standards
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3. Examples
3.1 National Evaluation Policy
Objective

The National Evaluation Policy shall

- define the concept and importance of evaluation in the public policy of Costa Rica
- clarify the roles of different actors in evaluation
- propose budgets, institutional setups and necessary action to implement the policy

FOCEVAL supports the National Evaluation Policy by workshop preparation and facilitation, direct inputs and expert studies.
Actors involved

**MIDEPLAN** is the key actor organizing the process of constructing the policy as Ministry responsible to guide evaluation

**DEval** is supporting the process by hiring a consultant and by participating actively in the process

**Other actors** were involved in two consultative workshops: ministries, municipalities, universities, Defensoría (ombudsman), civil society, parliament

However, participation of some actors was weak. Therefore an additional workshop with civil society in May + questions sent to key actors:

Parliament, Contraloría (Auditing Institution), Ministry of Finance, Defensoría (Ombusman) and the Judiciary
Achievements

- MIDEPLAN is the owner of the process – the initial idea to have an evaluation policy drafted by a consultant was discarded during the discussions between MIDEPLAN and Deval in 2016 (institutional capacities).

- More than 60 representatives of different actors have been involved so far in the process – they all have been sensitized for the importance of evaluation (individual capacities).

- Confusion about what is evaluation was reduced, especially between MIDEPLAN and the Finance Ministry (institutional capacities).

- The participatory process ensures a broad support to the expected evaluation policy (system capacities).
Perspective and challenges

• The National Evaluation Policy still has to be written, synthesizing the various inputs

• In this process MIDEPLAN’s experts, consultants and project experts will work together

• The policy will emerge as a product guided by MIDEPLAN which wants its role to be strengthened (institutional capacities)

• It is planned to have it officialized by a presidential decree until the end of 2017 (system capacities)

• In February 2018 the next elections take place – what will be the fate of the National Evaluation Policy under the next government?
3.2 Participatory Evaluation
Objective

Evaluation as an instrument for citizen participation

1. Open new spaces for dialogue
2. Provides information on needs and performance
3. Send a message of transparency
4. Civil society can assess the performance of the Governments itself (Participatory evaluation)
Actors involved

- Local Health Board of Valle de La Estrella (Costa Rica)
- CCSS (Public Health Service of Costa Rica)
- MIDEPLAN
- Ombudsman
- Experts
Achievements

- Conduction of a participatory evaluation process
- Empowerment of the members of the health boards (individual capacities)
- Improving communication between civil society and public institutions (institutional and system capacities)
- Dissemination of evaluation culture (system capacities)
Perspective and challenges

- Address the recommendations to the concerned decision units
- Implementation of the recommendations
- Establishing solid links with the CS through the evaluation
- Share the experience with the evaluation community
3.3

Young and Emerging Evaluators (YEE)
Objective

- Promote YEE in Costa Rica and Latin America
- Enhance practical experience
- Exchange of knowledge & experience
- Increase representation of YEEs
- Support networks
Actors involved

- YEE: young professionals
- Senior evaluators
- University of Costa Rica (UCR)
- Center for Investigation and Capacity Building for Public Administration (CICAP) Costa Rica
- Catholic Pontifical University of Ecuador (PUCE)
- MIDEPLAN
- EvalYouth Latin America
- ReLAC
- CLEAR-LA
Achievements

Promote YEE in Costa Rica and Latin America

- **Practical experience**: Evaluation with YEE as part of evaluation team (individual capacities)
- **Knowledge Exchange**: Regular meetings amongst YEEs in CR (individual capacities)
- **Representation**: 1 representative & 2 substitutes: involvement in project’s activities (system capacities)
- **Networks**: Impulse to self-organization: evaluators’ association in CR (institutional capacities)
Perspective and challenges

- **Practical experience**: implementation of two evaluations conducted with YEEs are planned for CR and Ecuador
- **Knowledge exchange**: mentoring program
- **Networks**: Establish YEE-related objectives in statute of evaluators’ association in CR
- **Others**: Award program for best postgraduate thesis in M&E

But:

- Availability of YEEs for conducting evaluations
- Strong knowledge base vs. institutional landscape: risk of leaving permanent employment for freelance work
- How to change the perspective of officials to engage YEEs?
- How to break “adultcentrism” / “contract monopoly” of experienced evaluators?
Discussion

• How to ensure sustainability in national evaluation capacities?
• How can Germany learn from Costa Rica /from the experience of FOCEVAL?
Thank you for your attention

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