



OECD-DAC EVALUATION NORMS AND CRITERIA

Presentation at the 16th ODA Evaluation Workshop,
Bangkok 29-30 January 2019

Hans E. Lundgren, Manager, DAC Evaluation Network

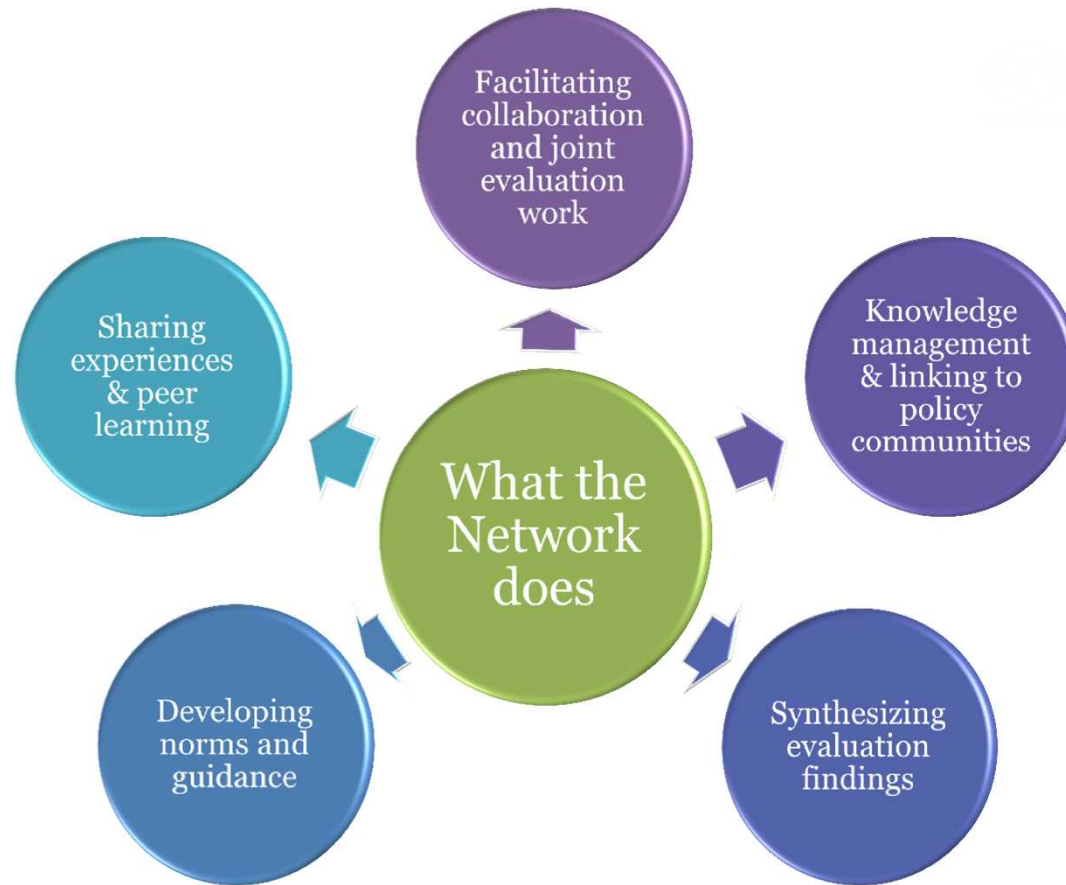




The DAC Evaluation Network

- Network in the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC)
- Brings together evaluation heads and managers of Ministries of Foreign Affairs as well as development agencies, and major multilateral development funders.
- Chair and Vice-Chairs are elected among members.
- Providing a forum for dialogue, exchange and knowledge sharing, with meetings approximately every 8 months, and workshops in between.







Why is this work important?

Stronger
evaluation
systems and
higher
quality

Better use of
evidence for
decision-
making

More
effective
programmes
and services

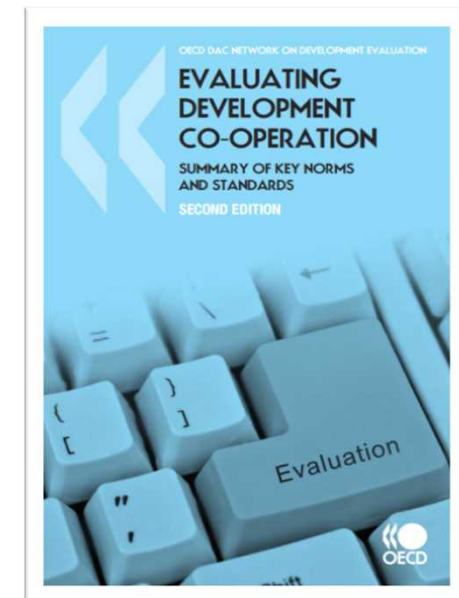
Better lives
and
sustainable
development





Work on development evaluation norms

- **The development of key norms and standards** for development evaluation - used by many actors around the world.
- Normative work: **principles for evaluation**, a **glossary** translated into 15 languages, **quality standards** and **evaluation criteria**.
- **Specific guidance on evaluating:** humanitarian aid, conflict prevention & peacebuilding and managing joint evaluations.





Strengthening evaluation quality

DAC Quality Standards for Evaluation are intended to:

- Improve the quality of development evaluation processes and products;
- Facilitate the comparison of evaluations across countries;
- Support partnerships, collaboration and joint evaluation;
- Increase development partners' use of each others' evaluation findings.





Principles – example: The importance of credibility and impartiality for a good evaluation system

- The evaluation process should be impartial and independent from the process concerned with policy-making and delivery.

- Impartiality contributes to credibility and legitimacy and reduces the potential for conflict of interest which could arise if policy makers and managers were solely responsible for evaluating their own activities

- Ways to strengthen impartiality and independence:
 - In multilateral development banks and international organisations → independent evaluation units reporting to governing boards
 - In Governments → ensure independence through policy, evaluation guidance and institutional structure, e.g. separation of functions, reporting to senior management or evaluation committees
 - Ensure transparency of the evaluation process and its results





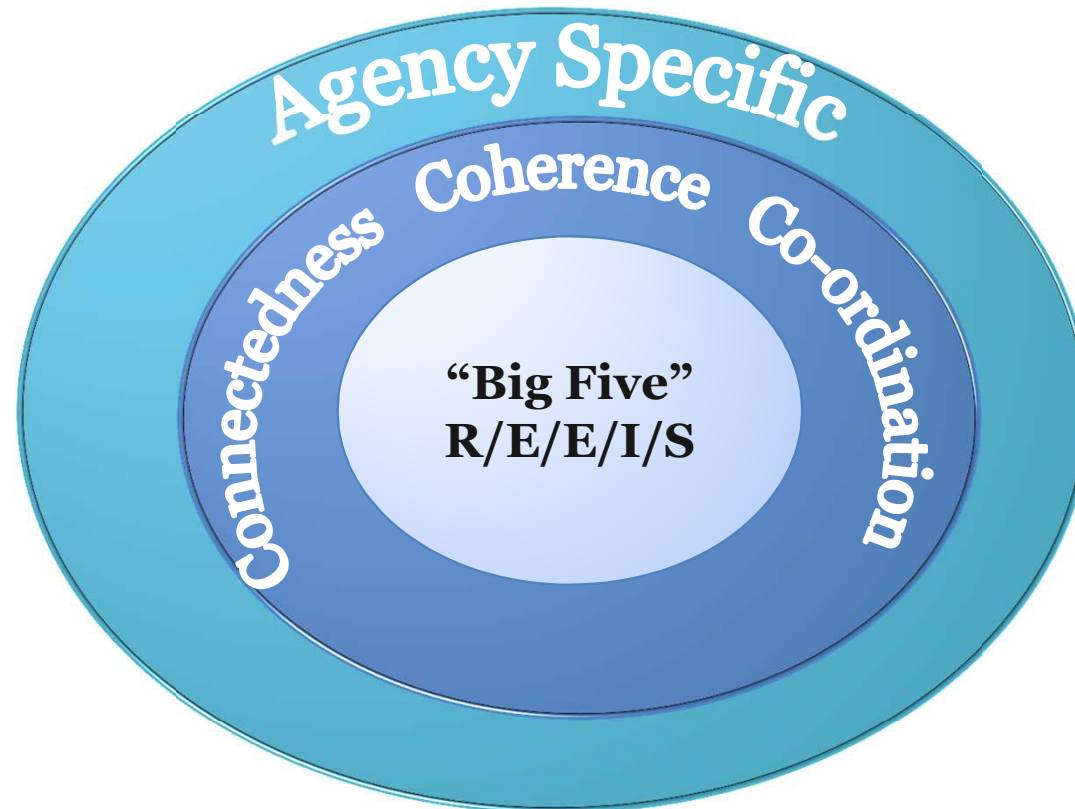
The role of evaluation criteria

- Assessing the merit, worth and value of a development activity, project or programme.
- Supporting the development of the evaluation framework or terms of reference for individual evaluations
- Relevance, Efficiency, Effectiveness, Impact and Sustainability – the so called “big five”





Evaluation Criteria – current situation





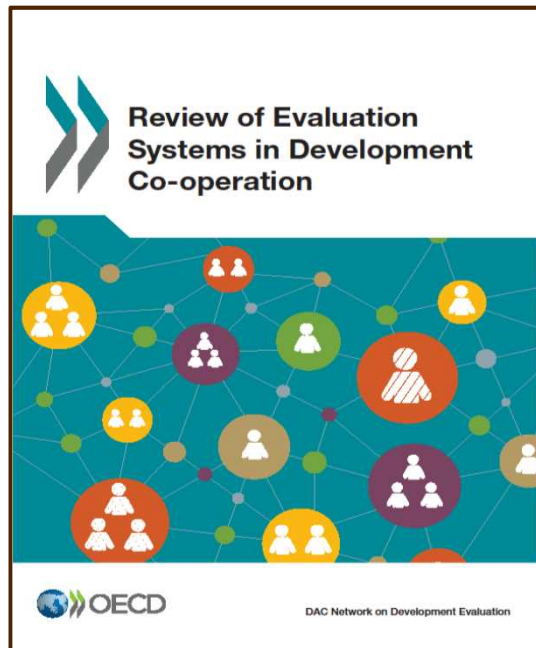
Ongoing work and next steps

- High Level Meeting “encouragement to explore the adaptation.”
SDGs and new development landscape.
- Consultations with stakeholders through workshops, online survey (691 responses) and at international events (Africa, Asia, Europe).
- Results of consultations – to better adapt existing criteria than introduce a full new set.
- The drafting of an adapted set is underway. Guidance on how to apply to the criteria will also be developed.





Evaluation Systems review



To monitor the implementation and use of norms and standards, we do individual peer reviews of members and “across-all-member” reviews with regular intervals.

Review of Evaluation Systems in Development Co-operation:

- A review of Evaluation Network members – 37 evaluation entities – and 8 multilaterals
- Contains profiles for each member and information on institutional set ups and governance, polices, resources, quality assurance processes, and communication.

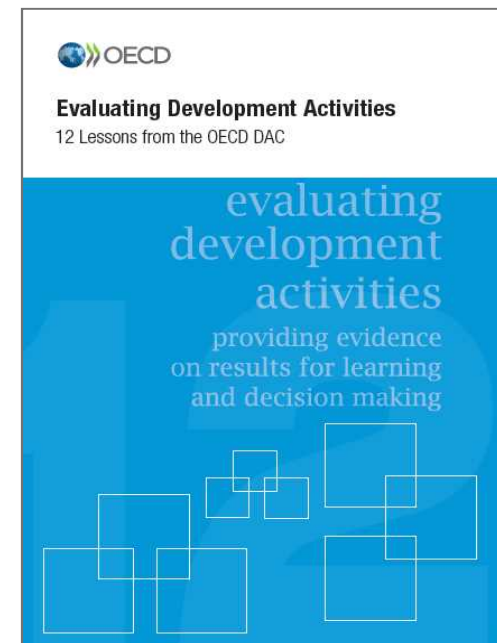




Strengthen the evaluation culture

This publication draws on insights from the OECD DAC peer reviews:

- The strategic framework for learning and accountability
- Delivering evaluations effectively
- Strengthening the culture of learning





Strengthen the evaluation culture

12 lessons

1. Base development policy decisions on evidence
2. Make learning part of the culture of development co-operation
3. Define a clear role for evaluation
4. Match ambitions with adequate resources
5. Strengthen programme design and management systems
6. Ask the right questions and be realistic about expected results
7. Choose the right evaluation tools
8. Work together
9. Help strengthen partner country capacities and use them
10. Act on evaluation findings
11. Communicate evaluation results effectively
12. Evaluate the evaluators





Conclusion and Summary

- A set of international evaluation norms and guidance are available – can be used and adapted to fit to local circumstances.
- It is important for users that evaluations have credibility and meet quality standards.
- An enabling environment and leadership support is needed for evaluation to realise its potential in an organisation.





Thank you!

Visit and follow us at:
www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation
www.oecd.org/derec



@oecd_evalnet



» What is DEREc?

» The DAC Evaluation Resource Centre

- An online resource containing over 3000 evaluation reports
- An easy to search database of members' evaluations

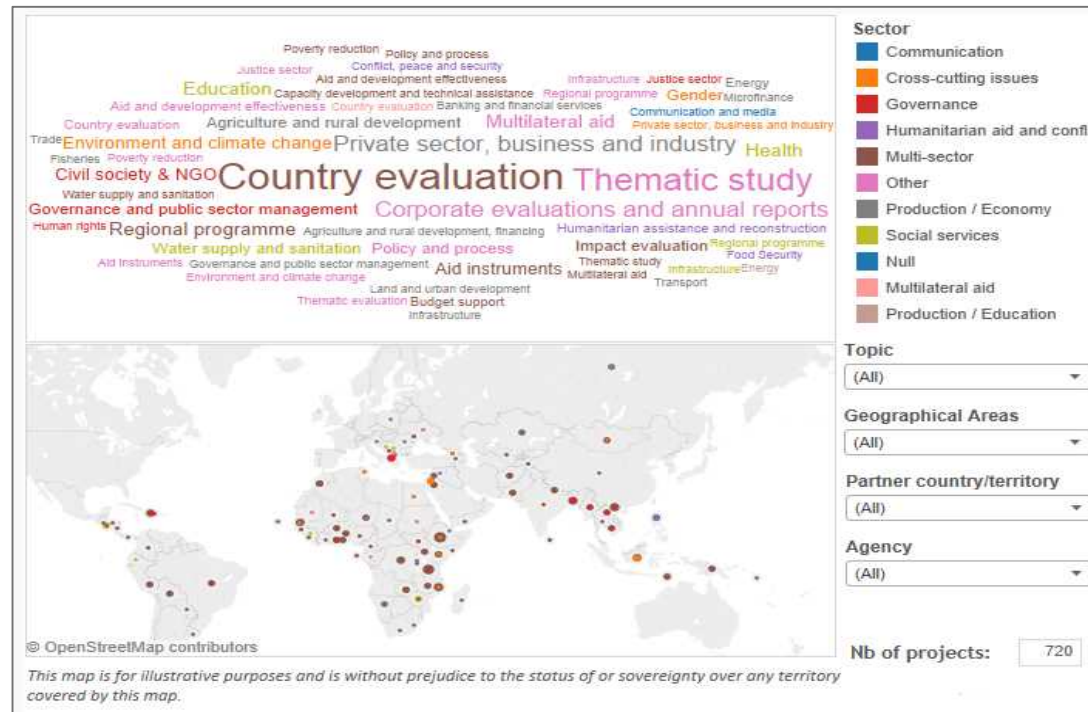


www.oecd.org/derec/





Sharing evaluation plans of members



<https://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/evaluation-plan-inventory.htm>

