

---

EVALUAČNÍ TEORIE A PRAXE / EVALUATION THEORY AND PRACTICE

**Special issue:**

***Evaluation Culture and Evaluation Capacities in Central Europe***

**Call for Papers**

**Guest editors:**

**Oto Potluka**, Universität Basel, Switzerland

(oto.potluka@unibas.ch)

**Jiri Remr**, Institute for Evaluations and Social Analyses (INESAN)

(jiri.remr@inesan.eu)

Some Central European Countries witnessed dynamic socio-economic development during the last two decades. Also the approach to evaluations changed during that time. EU membership brought the concept of programming to these countries and also evaluations of intervention programmes. It was a new experience for civil servants, consultants, and academics.

Evaluation practice had also been developing. The evaluation experts took part in the official development assistance and pre-accession assistance. They collected experience in cooperation with the European Commission, international organisations and by taking part in international expert teams.

The process of gaining experience was long as evaluations were perceived as a tool for supervision and an EU requirement. Then, some departments and public agencies started to use evaluations as management and accountability instrument (MRD Poland, 2009, p. 149). Evaluation associations appeared to gather professionals interested in evaluations. During the last few years also impact evaluations have been conducted to inform about actual effects of implemented programs and policies.

In an evaluative culture, programme managers and evaluators look up information on programmes' performance in order to learn how to improve management and delivery of programmes. Empirical evidence on the results, outputs, outcomes and impacts is used for better performance of programmes (Mayne, 2008). Such processes do not come by themselves as building evaluation capacities requires leadership, supportive organizational structures, and learning focus (Mayne, 2008). The experience from Central European Countries proves that the evaluation culture is developing, but it needs to be studied further to share experience, skills and knowledge for.

### **Possible research topics:**

Transition from state-planned economies caused, among others, changes in management of intervention programs, including evaluation practice. Some Central European countries joined together the EU in 2004. Huge allocation of Structural and Cohesion Funds brought also a need to evaluate its effectiveness.

Manuscripts therefore might focus on evaluation topics relevant for countries in question but not limited to the following suggestions:

- Evaluation practices of national intervention programs, EU Cohesion Policy and official development assistance;
- Influence of political context on evaluation culture and evaluation capacities;
- Human capital (knowledge and skills), organization (technical infrastructure and processes) and networks in management of evaluations;
- Development and practical application of evaluation methods;
- Building evaluation culture, building evaluation capacities – application of ethics and evaluation standards;
- Knowledge sharing and exchange of good practices within evaluation communities in countries in question; Peer-review and feedback for evaluators;
- Evaluation Ethics, Governance, and Professionalism.
- Quality of evaluations;
- Impact of evaluations;
- Meta-evaluations.
- Data accessibility for evaluation purposes.

### **Submission deadline:**

To be considered for publication in the special issue, full manuscripts should be submitted by **February 2, 2017**. However, it is recommended that authors send an abstract to editors prior the submission to ensure the relevance and to receive preliminary feedback in good time before the submission deadline.

### **Manuscript submission:**

Manuscripts should be submitted by e-mail to the guest editors at the following addresses: [potluka@unibas.ch](mailto:potluka@unibas.ch), [jiri.remr@inesan.eu](mailto:jiri.remr@inesan.eu), and copied to: [rukopisy@evaltep.cz](mailto:rukopisy@evaltep.cz).

Accepted articles will be double-blind peer-reviewed by two anonymous referees.

Do not hesitate to contact us for more information about the special issue and submission process.

### **About the journal:**

Evaluation Theory and Practice is the only journal in the Czech Republic that is systematically focused on evaluations. Evaluation Theory and Practice provides an opportunity for publishing original scientific, previously unpublished texts related to evaluation methodologies, evaluation theories, approaches and studies. The journal provides information on current topics of evaluation and contributes to sharing practices and promoting standards of evaluation.