



3rd International Congress of Evaluation
"Evaluation as crossing borders"
October 22nd, 2021 (ON-LINE)

Concept note of the 3rd Evaluation Congress

One of the main motives in the founding process of the Polish Evaluation Society in the late 1990s was the will to promote democratic social change. Despite ten years of political transition after 1989, there have been growing and far-reaching needs to overcome political, economic, but also cultural and mental barriers to development. The end of the last century was a period of intensive integration of the evaluation environment created in Poland into the basic challenges of social transformation. The tradition of developing transgressive activities in the system of public life and organizational culture in all possible levels and areas of social reality is a key value of the Polish Evaluation Society. One year ago the Society recorded its 20th year of existence and commitment to socially responsible research and activities promoting developmental and democratic forms of evaluation.

On 22nd October 2021, the Polish Evaluation Society (PES) organizes its 3rd Evaluation Congress entitled "*Evaluation as crossing borders*" that refers to the heritage of transformational evaluation activities and to its contemporary national and international challenges. We will point out for the need of revalue and significant changes in bureaucratic and managerial practices of evaluation as a social action. The search for new standards should transcend dangerous tendencies to over-schematize, duplicate, and unified and often technocratic canons of evaluation. PES wants to ask questions about the possibility of exceeding the limits that have developed in the evaluation itself, its individual concepts, but also in ways of real impact on the projects evaluated. Today's evaluation must therefore be ready for a flexible redefinition of itself at a time of changing conditions for its implementation, and it must also be ready for the changing realities of its context and applications.

There is a growing need to cross the boundaries of evaluation specializations, which, in line with the specific requirements of the specific sectors of social and economic life, have lost their evaluation identity and transferred to highly specialized management techniques. This has happened in the higher education system, but it is also happening in the evaluation of public policies. Therefore, the task of the 3rd Evaluation Congress of PES is to identify opportunities for the development of evaluation functions in self-government activities, find more interactive applications in the higher education system, in the cultural sector, support emerging evaluation of smart cities, recall to evaluation issues of sustainable development, and to the changing methods in evaluation training. Crossing borders in the evaluation itself, its existing functions and place in the evaluated projects is the main transgressive attempt of the 3rd Congress. A common feature of the meeting will be not the common issue being taken into consideration but the nature of its approach, which can be used for many other areas of evaluation theory and practice.

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