The Network on Development Evaluation is an international forum with a rich history that brings together evaluation managers and specialists from development co-operation ministries and agencies in OECD DAC member countries and multilateral development institutions. The network has been instrumental in developing key international norms and standards for development evaluation and promoting collaboration. The network’s guidance documents on evaluation have a wide influence on development evaluation practice and are frequently used in evaluations of development programmes world-wide.

As a subsidiary body of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), the Evaluation Network holds regular meetings attended by members and observers. The network has managed to have a reach far beyond its membership through the publication of practical, concrete norms and standards, a glossary, and evaluation practice studies which have been translated into many languages and are used around the world by both established and emerging evaluators in the field. The network also hosts the DAC Evaluation Resource Centre (DEReC), a user-friendly online database containing over 3 800 evaluation reports – one of the largest sources of development co-operation evaluations available on the web. The network actively supports joint and collaborative evaluations and encourages capacity building of evaluators and evaluation functions in member countries and in developing partners. The network meets about every eight months, and its task teams meet in between, to advance the programme of work. The network is supported by a secretariat, housed in the Development Co-operation Directorate of the OECD in Paris, France.

OBJECTIVES OF THE EVALUATION NETWORK

• To advocate and share knowledge on best practices in evaluation.
• To provide an international forum for exchange on emerging practice, innovative approaches and new ideas in the development evaluation community.
• To synthesise evaluation evidence on key development topics and to share findings and lessons.
• To work with developing partner countries to increase collaboration, and promote and support evaluation capacity development.

WHAT IS DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION?

Evaluation rigorously assesses the significance and worth of development projects, programmes and policies. Evaluations explain how activities have affected people’s lives and help us better understand how development goals can be reached. This evidence supports transparency and accountability and is used to improve the effectiveness of ongoing and future programmes.

NETWORK MEMBERS:

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States, the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the European Investment Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank Group, and the United Nations Development Programme.
THE WORK OF THE EVALUATION NETWORK AND MEMBERS

The network’s primary goal is to increase the effectiveness of development co-operation policies and programmes by promoting high-quality evaluation and strong evaluation cultures and practices across organisations. Network members include the evaluation units of 30 OECD development co-operation ministries and agencies, five regional development banks, the World Bank, IMF and UNDP. Other partners, including developing countries and civil society groups, attend as invitees or participate in specific activities of mutual interest. The evaluations conducted by network members are used by decision-makers, operational staff, and policy makers. Evaluations are undertaken to promote knowledge sharing on best practices, to test new models of development co-operation, to assess implementation, to suggest possible improvements and ways to increase impact, and to ensure and build cultures of trust and mutual accountability.

Evaluation specialists brought together by the DAC Network on Development Evaluation are called upon to contribute to the accountability and learning agendas of their respective organisations. The DAC Evaluation Network helps evaluation managers and specialists rise to this challenge by offering them an international forum for dialogue, exchange and knowledge sharing. It serves as an international specialist platform enabling members to work together to improve the quality of evaluations and harmonise evaluation approaches. It is also a forum where evaluation professionals discuss their recent work, new evaluation challenges and emerging issues.

DAC EVALUATION RESOURCE CENTRE

The DAC Evaluation Resource Centre (DEReC) to support the use of evaluation evidence. DEReC provides easy access to member evaluation reports and studies. On DEReC, evaluations can be browsed by topic, country or donor, and full texts can be downloaded for free: www.oecd.org/derec

DAC EVALUATION PLANS INVENTORY

The Evaluation Plans Inventory is used by the Evaluation Network to promote collaboration and joint work among development partners. Through the inventory members can have an overview of the main topics to be evaluationed, geographical distribution and more. www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/evaluation-plan-inventory.htm

Responding to Refugee Crises in Developing Countries: What Can We Learn From Evaluations? (OECD, 2017) draws from the evaluation of the OECD DAC member countries and aims to strengthen the evidence base to help improve response to refugee crises in developing countries. The working paper and the supporting case studies on Afghanistan, South Sudan, Ethiopia & Uganda provide evidence from evaluations to feed into the Guidance for donor policy maker and practitioners on forced displacement.

Evaluation Systems in Development Co-operation (OECD, 2016) looks at the changes and trends in evaluation systems since 2010. The report describes the role and management of evaluation in development agencies, ministries and multilateral banks.

The network publishes Evaluation Insights, a series which highlights emerging findings and policy messages from evaluations to inform the policy and practice of development on issues ranging from the role of civil society in development co-operation, rural water and sanitation, to job creation.

Based on agreed consensus, the Evaluating Development Co-operation: Summary of Key Norms and Standards (OECD, 2010) is a reference document guiding efforts to improve development results through high-quality evaluation. Included in this guide are standards for each phase of a typical evaluation process: from defining purpose, to planning, implementing, and reporting results.