



ROOM DOCUMENT

Agenda Item III, b

JOINT EVALUATION PLATFORM

PROGRESS REPORT

This progress report has been prepared by the Secretariat for discussion at the 10th meeting of the DAC Network on Development Evaluation, 10-11 February 2010.



10th meeting
10 – 11 February 2010

Joint evaluation platform – progress report

At the 9th meeting of the DAC Network of Development Evaluation, 15-16 June 2009, it was decided that the Secretariat should develop a pilot web-based platform for information exchange and interaction on joint evaluations for Network members. The purpose of the platform is to facilitate sharing of ideas and information on planned evaluations and to enable members to find appropriate partners for joint evaluations. The creation of the platform follows up on one of the recommendations in the report *Challenges, opportunities and approaches for increasing joint donor programming of evaluations* (SADEV, 2008).

The Secretariat researched several models and options for a web-based platform and opted for a software package currently being piloted at the OECD.¹ After a phase of design, customisation and initial testing, the online joint evaluation platform for the Network was created: <https://community.oecd.org/community/deveval>. The platform was launched on 21 August 2009 when members of the Network were sent individual log in and passwords by email.

Design features, functions and content

The joint evaluation platform is restricted to members of the DAC Network on Development Evaluation. To access the platform users must register for a free myOECD account (see link: <http://webnet.oecd.org/Account/>) **and** be given access to the platform by the Secretariat. There are currently 122 people with access to the site.

Members can access content, upload items, start a discussion and post comments on documents and discussion threads. Today, the platform includes three posts; an evaluation of budget support in Tanzania, general evaluation ideas from DFID and one on a possible joint evaluation in the field of agriculture.

The platform complements the meetings of the Network as a place to discuss joint evaluations as it allows not only those that are physically present at the meetings to participate, but also other colleagues from evaluation departments of member agencies.

Initial experience and issues

Interactivity on the platform, in the form of document uploads, discussion and commentary, is in its infancy and at this stage there has been only limited use of the platform.

While it is far too soon to measure the usefulness of the platform, there is some evidence that there is interest in the platform. For example, more than 20 additional staff members from various evaluation departments have signed up to the platform, since the members were initially emailed log in and passwords. Feedback from the Bureau has also confirmed interest in using the platform to complement face-to-face interaction. As one participant in a discussion thread has put it: "It really feels like we are now a network that is in the 21st century..."

Future trajectories

The joint evaluation platform is now at a stage of development where additional input from members is needed if it is to go beyond "proof of concept" to become a mature platform for key stakeholders of joint evaluation work. While the Secretariat will continue to manage the platform as a common resource, ultimately the most important investment will be that made by Network members themselves. As members, your efforts to raise awareness within your agency, promote the platform and contribute relevant materials will make the greatest difference to the value generated. To promote the platform you could circulate information about the website among your colleagues.

¹ The OECD is actively exploring the possibility of using this type of online social media platform as a means of improving ongoing, year-round and "virtual" engagement with its main stakeholders – the members of its committees, governing boards and subsidiary bodies.

To contribute to the platform you could upload information on possible joint evaluations and provide documents, start a discussion on an evaluation topic, ask a question or post a comment – and invite colleagues to do the same.

To ensure that the platform's future development is sustainable and best meets the expectations of its key stakeholders, members are invited to:

- DISCUSS this progress report and their experience to date with the joint evaluation platform.
- PROVIDE FEEDBACK on their expectations for future development of the joint evaluation platform.

Staff from member agencies/countries that want to join the platform need to:

1. Register on: <http://webnet.oecd.org/Account/>
2. Tell the Secretariat that you have registered by emailing us.
3. Login to the platform on: <https://community.oecd.org/community/deveval>

If you already have a MyOECD account but have forgotten your password you can reset it here: <http://webnet.oecd.org/Account/SetPassword.aspx?t=p&apId=643634>.

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the OECD Community: Development Evaluation website. The browser title is "OECD: Community: Development Evaluation - Windows Internet Explorer provided by OECD - 11 April 2007". The address bar shows "https://community.oecd.org/community/deveval". The website header features the "DAC NETWORK ON DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION" logo and a navigation menu with "New", "Your Stuff", "History", and "Browse". The main content area is titled "Development Evaluation" and includes a navigation bar with "Overview (customize)", "All Content (6)", "Discussions (3)", and "Documents (3)". A yellow announcement banner reads "ANNOUNCEMENT: Join these recent discussions!". The main text area contains a welcome message and instructions on how to start a discussion or create a document. On the right side, there are sections for "Actions" (Start a discussion, Create a document, Create an announcement, Create a poll, Create Tag Group, Edit the Community), "Notifications" (Receive email notifications, View feeds), "Search by tag" (budget_support, co-ordination, country-led evaluation, evaluation, evaluation_plans, harmonisation, inventory, joint, ongoing_evaluations, planned_evaluations, tanzania), and "Top participants". The bottom of the page shows the Windows taskbar with the Start button and several open applications.