



Bundesministerium für  
wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit  
und Entwicklung



To:

Heads of evaluation departments of  
the DAC, ECG and UNEG

Representatives of IOCE and regional evaluation associations

January 18, 2010

## **NONIE Meeting 2010**

Dear colleague,

You are cordially invited to participate in the **next meeting of the Network of Networks on Impact Evaluations (NONIE) on March 29-30, 2010 in Bonn, Germany**. It will be organized by the Evaluation and Audit Department of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), in cooperation with the German Development Institute (DIE).

NONIE is a dedicated network of networks – the DAC Evalnet, ECG, UNEG and IOCE, including regional associations. Its aims are modest (exchange and mutual learning on “rigorous” impact evaluations) while at the same time ambitious (mainstreaming more rigorous impact evaluations in development cooperation). Whereas a growing number of initiatives and (individual) researchers share similar aims, and evaluation societies embrace a broad membership and a large array of evaluations, NONIE is a “niche” network in terms of focus and membership.

After its ups and downs, NONIE continues to work without a formal structure or secretariat. As communicated to (current) members by Nick York (DFID), former chair of the NONIE steering committee, sharing ideas and experiences on impact evaluations now works primarily through regular networking meetings. For more information on the work completed by April 2009 please consult the website <http://www.worldbank.org/ieg/nonie/> and the NONIE Guidance on Impact Evaluations.

### ***Focus***

The focus is on (rigorous) impact evaluations dealing with changes induced by development interventions at the beneficiary level (individuals, households, communities, SME etc), using quantitative techniques in combination with qualitative analysis to address the attribution problem. NONIE clearly does not deny the equal importance of other types of evaluations (actually the mainstay of most evaluation departments), but focuses on these specific approaches and methodology considered in rather short supply.

With the many and growing number of initiatives and conferences in this field, we intend to refocus the next meeting to the needs and tasks of evaluation departments. Whereas specialized evaluation departments have so far been mainly a feature of donor organizations (for the sake of brevity including multilateral banks and UN-organizations), there is a growing number of M&E units in developing countries' counterpart organizations, particularly the central ministries. We would like to involve specifically some of those, complemented as usual by representatives of IOCE and regional evaluation networks of developing countries.

### ***Programme***

The meeting will start in the late morning of March 29 and will end in the afternoon of March 30. On the **first day** we intend to provide space for presenting ongoing or preferably concluded impact evaluations which are deemed useful - because of the importance of the development intervention evaluated, the methodology used or any other reason for sharing the experience with fellow participants. No restrictions as to the topic to be presented; meta-evaluations /synthetic reviews are most welcome. **Presenters** should be either staff of the commissioning evaluation department or researchers carrying out these evaluations. Researchers having conducted impact evaluations of development interventions *outside* the realm of evaluation departments will be **selected upon specific request of NONIE members**. Depending on the number of participants we will run parallel workshops.

The morning of the **second day** is dedicated to impact evaluations of governance interventions and conflict settings. Since we do not expect many of those to have been conducted or being underway, we would particularly appreciate suggestions also for works even those done outside the evaluation departments.

In the afternoon of the same day, an **internal meeting** of NONIE members is envisaged to discuss housekeeping issues. Exchange of experiences on the use of impact evaluations and/ or advocacy work (mainstreaming impact evaluations in operational or research units) might be suitable topics. In particular, the way forward for NONIE will be discussed. **Suggestions for topics are most welcome!**

### ***Participants and Registration***

Although the conference is primarily targeted to NONIE members (and possibly M&E units of partner ministries), attendance at the conference will be open for interested evaluators/ researchers as well, contingent upon the availability of space.

Please use the attached **registration form**.

**Suggestions by members for additional participants from other development agencies, funds or networks and M&E units /specialized agencies in developing countries are encouraged!**

### ***Call for papers***

The success of the workshop depends on Your Contribution! Please find attached the **call for papers**, where you are asked to indicate what you intend to present.

### ***Sponsorship***

DFID offers funding to a limited number of individuals from developing countries to attend the meeting. Regional associations are asked to nominate suitable individuals as in previous meetings and to handle logistics. DFID would cover the costs of travel and accommodation. Requests for sponsorship (through IOCE please) can be sent **directly** to DFID, addressed to Mark Clayton [M-Clayton@dfid.gov.uk](mailto:M-Clayton@dfid.gov.uk). DFID will not be booking travel or accommodation or dealing with visa queries for participants, although can arrange a standard letter of support for applications.

Furthermore, BMZ is willing to sponsor a limited number of staff of M&E departments of developing countries' ministries or specialized agencies under the same terms and conditions. Requests can be sent *directly* to [Melody.Garcia@die-gdi.de](mailto:Melody.Garcia@die-gdi.de). Please use the attached form.

### **Membership**

The membership list needs an overhaul. Members of the three “donor” evaluation networks are therefore asked to reassess their interest in participating and to possibly nominate a representative of their unit, who is willing to contribute in one way or another to NONIE goals. IOCE is kindly asked to check on membership as well, including the regional associations.

### **Logistical issues**

Block reservations for accommodation will be made for participants, who will have to book for **it** themselves. Further information will be provided soon.

### **Feedback**

Contact addresses for registration (including logistics), presentations (call for papers) and sponsorship are provided in the attached forms (for DFID sponsorship: see above). Your suggestions for the programme and for additional participants (see above), feedback concerning membership (please send names of individuals, e-mail address and affiliation (full name and acronym), or any other inquiry or suggestions of general nature concerning the meeting should be addressed to [Michaela.Zintl@bmz.bund.de](mailto:Michaela.Zintl@bmz.bund.de) cc: [Felix.Gaisbauer@bmz.bund.de](mailto:Felix.Gaisbauer@bmz.bund.de)

Further information will be provided on the meetings' website in due course. Please check the website of the German Development Institute <http://www.die-gdi.de> / events for updates by the end of January.

Looking forward to a lively meeting.  
Yours sincerely,

Michaela Zintl  
Head of Evaluation and Audit Department  
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development  
Germany

### Attachments

Registration form  
Call for papers (presentations)  
Application form for sponsorship by BMZ