EVALUATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Transforming life through global and regional partnerships, with an emphasis on Latin America and the Caribbean.

4 - 8 December 2017
Guanajuato, Mexico

A JOINT CONFERENCE

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS
Deadline: 31st of August

BACKGROUND

The global association of evaluators IDEAS has joined forces with the regional evaluation networks ReLAC and REDLACME, to organize a joint conference to reflect on, discuss and develop paths of action and evaluation practices that will help improve the quality of life of people around the world, with special attention to the Latin America and the Caribbean region.

During this important conference, different approaches, methodologies, institutional frameworks and learning in M&E will be presented. The conference will take place in light of the global commitment for the SDGs to fight poverty, promote prosperity, protect the planet and enter into partnerships for all people to enjoy their rights, in an atmosphere of peace.

IDEAS is pleased to issue this call for IDEAS-ReLAC-REDLACME Joint Conference, during which the 2017 Global Assembly and Annual General Meeting will be held.

THE EVENT IS BEING HOSTED BY

Visit the website of the event at http://www.conferenciadeevaluacion.mx/en
CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

The Joint Conference seeks to promote the exchange of international, regional and local knowledge and experience on the progress and challenges of M&E of the SDGs. Its specific objectives are:

1. TO PROMOTE A DIALOGUE on the challenges of monitoring and evaluating countries’ progress towards the SDGs.
2. TO ADDRESS THE ENORMOUS DIVERSITY OF THEORIES AND PRACTICE of M&E in the international community.
3. TO REFLECT ON THE EXPERIENCES of national and sub-national governments in the use of evidence from M&E systems.
4. TO PROMOTE COOPERATION between networks of evaluation professionals to exchange experiences and generate recommendations to strengthen their sustainability and impact on the evaluation community and institutions.
5. TO REFLECT ON THE DIVERSE REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES on M&E, based on the lessons learned on the implementation of the global 2020 evaluation agenda, in order to provide the basis for the development of a joint Latin American and Caribbean agenda for the participating networks and other participating actors, to strengthen evaluation as a means to improve actions that affect the people who live or transit in the region.

CONFERENCE THEMES

1. M&E and the SDGs

The aim is to promote a dialogue on the challenges of monitoring and evaluating country progress towards the SDGs. Good practices and lessons learned in M&E on actions aimed at achieving the SDGs will be presented. Discussions will also address the complexity of implementing initiatives that favor sustainable development. Sub-themes are:

- Monitoring systems for progress towards the SDGs.
- Institutional and information challenges.
- The participation of multilateral organizations.
- New and emerging partnerships for achieving the SDGs.
- Experiences in M&E supporting:
  - Agriculture; Eradication of Poverty and Hunger;
  - Health and Wellbeing;
  - Education;
  - Sustainable Development and Climate Change;
  - Employment;
  - Infrastructure and Economic Development;
  - Gender Equality and Reduction of Inequalities;
  - Sustainable Communities and Cities;
  - Actions for Peace and Justice.

2. M&E Approaches and Methodologies

This theme will address the enormous theoretical and practical diversity in M&E in the international community. Presentations and discussions will address M&E theories and methods, and reflect on existing paradigms and the challenges and benefits of participatory, culturally based M&E or other non-conventional approaches. Sub-themes are:

- Innovation in M&E theories and methodologies.
- Evaluative experiences, including in evaluating partnerships.
- Evaluation and participation.
- Transformative evaluation.
- Participation of children and adolescents in M&E.
3. Use of evidence from M&E systems

This theme will reflect on the experiences of national and sub-national governments in using evidence from M&E systems. Sessions will take into account the advances, challenges and lessons learned in the generation and consolidation of M&E systems seeking the improvement of public actions. Participants will share experiences in capacity building in M&E, fostering a culture and institutionalization of evaluation, as well as the use of information technologies as key elements in building effective M&E systems. Sub-themes are:

- Institutionalization of M&E.
- Capacity building in M&E, including on evaluating partnerships.
- Use of evidence for decision-making.
- Technologies in M&E.
- Culture and ethics of evaluation.
- The role of international organizations in M&E.

4. Roles of evaluation networks and associations

The objective of this theme is to promote cooperation between networks of evaluation professionals to exchange experiences and generate recommendations to strengthen their sustainability and impact on the evaluation community and institutions. Best practices, and the internal and contextual challenges that evaluation networks face to improve evaluation practices will be identified. The theme will also address the role of networks and associations in promoting an evaluation culture and the professionalization of evaluators, as well as current limitations and setbacks facing the evaluation community. Sub-themes are:

- Experiences of advocacy of networks and associations in evaluation policies and systems.
- Contexts and enhancing factors.
- Cooperation and strengthening between networks and associations.
- The role of networks and associations in professionalization.
- Sustainability of networks and associations.
- Standards and ethics in M&E.

5. Evaluation agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean

This theme will reflect on the diverse regional perspectives on M&E based on lessons learned from the implementation of the global 2020 evaluation agenda. Reflections will provide the basis for the development of a joint Latin American and Caribbean agenda for participating networks and other participating actors to strengthen evaluation as a means to improve actions that affect people who live or transit in the region. Sub-themes are:

- Young and Emerging Evaluators (in Spanish, EJE).
- Evaluation and gender, human rights and interculturality.
- -Parliaments and evaluation.
- -Indigenous people and evaluation.
- -The role of universities and research / training centers.
- The role of foundations, institutes, private organizations and the third sector, including new and emerging partnerships for the SDGs.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

This joint conference opens an array of possibilities for participation: thematic panels, oral presentations, posters or infographics, activities in special formats and capacity development workshops. Deadline for proposals is 31st of August, except for workshops, which is 31st of July.

A review committee will select the proposals according to criteria published on the website.
The Central Committee will take final decisions in the composition of the program and allocation of sponsorships, as far as funds are available.

All proposals need to be made electronically, filling forms at the website, which are specific for each modality of activity. In what follows you will find the relevant guidelines for each modality, and the indication of the website address to fill the form to propose the activity of your choice.

We strongly recommend you prepare your proposal in a Word document, which you can keep for your records and for your co-authors. After doing so, copy and paste the text of the proposal into the relevant box on the registration website. The website does not allow you to print the proposal as you submit it, and you might lose sight of what you submitted. An alternative would be to do a “print screen” of all screens you fill in while registering.

1. Thematic panels

Thematic panels or roundtable sessions aim to promote dialogue on Conference Themes from different perspectives and actors, and stimulate conversations on a range of ideas, positions, problems and challenges that are presented at subnational, national, regional or international levels. The abstract to be presented, within the limits of 350 to 400 words, must include objectives, main issues involved in the discussion, conclusions or perspectives opened by the panel. The chair will fill the form at http://www.conferenciadeevaluacion.mx/panels, following these guidelines:

1. Select one of the Conference Themes for the Panel.
2. Panels with formal presentations must have unpublished content.
3. Panels will consist of three (3) to five (5) panelists, including the coordinator.
4. Panel discussions will last a maximum of 90 minutes.
5. The chair and moderator of the panel will allocate the time between the panelists, necessarily considering a minimum of 30 minutes for Q&As.
6. The panel moderator and panelists will be responsible for the preparation and delivery of materials to the audience, when necessary.

2. Presentations

Oral presentations aim to present evaluative work relevant to the development and promotion of M&E among the global evaluation community, and to engage in a dialogue with this community in subjects akin to the Conference Themes. The individual papers will be grouped according to the conference themes and proposal content. The abstract to be presented, within the limits of 350 to 400 words, must include objectives, main issues involved in the discussion, methodology (when relevant), conclusions or perspectives opened by the study. The proponent(s) will fill the form at http://www.conferenciadeevaluacion.mx/presentations, considering the following:

1. Select one of the conference themes for the presentation.
2. Individual presentations must have unpublished content.
3. Co-authored papers may be proposed. One author only will present the paper.
4. Sessions are planned for 90 minutes, with a minimum of three presentations per session. Our or five presentations may take place if circumstances require this. Each presentation must not exceed the time allocated to it, as specified in the program. The sessions will necessarily include a 30-minute Q&A session with the audience.
5. The session Chair and presenters will be responsible for the preparation and delivery of materials to the audience.

3. Posters or infographics

The objective is to bring to the evaluation community evaluative work relevant to the development and
promotion of M&E, akin to the Conference Themes, through visual expression and graphics. The abstract to be presented, within the limits of 350 to 400 words, must include objectives, main issues involved in the discussion, methodology (when relevant), conclusions or perspectives opened by the study. The proponent(s) need to consider the following to fill the form at http://www.conferenciaedevaluacion.mx/posters:

1. Select one conference theme for the poster or infographic.
2. A poster or infographic must have unpublished content.
3. Graphics should use size 24+ fonts. When using photographs, please consider the size of the poster to ensure quality and avoid image distortions.
4. Posters must adjust to one of the following sizes (paper sizes A0 or A1):
   a. Paper format A0: 118.9 cm wide x 84.1 cm high
   b. Paper format A1: 59.4cm wide x 84.1cm high
5. The poster or infographic must be delivered before the start of the conference. If your work is selected, keep an eye on directions on a date closer to the event.

4. Special activities

The Central Committee encourages evaluation professionals that are experienced in participatory activities to send in proposals that prioritize participation, conversation and reflection, effectively involving the audience in the exchange of experiences and knowledge, and the building of innovative ways to address the challenges currently presented in the field of M&E akin to the Conference Themes and Objectives.

Due to the exceptional characteristics of such kind of activities, the abstracts to be presented, within the limits of 350-400 words, must include a detailed description of the activity proposed, indicating its relevance/justification; objectives; methodology; main issues to be approached; expected outcomes. Considering the guidelines bellow, the proponent(s) will fill the form at http://www.conferenciaedevaluacion.mx/special-form.

1. Select one of the conference themes that your proposal addresses.
2. The proposed activity may be new or may replicate activities you have developed in circumstances equally appropriate for the topic and suggested format.
3. The proposed activity needs to be detailed as much as possible, specifying the dynamics it entails, the expected results, the justification for your choice of format.
4. The special activity proposed shall have a maximum duration of 90 minutes.
5. The proponent will be responsible for the preparation and delivery of materials to the audience.

5. Capacity development workshops

The joint conference aims to provide world-class training at the workshops on the Monday and Tuesday before the conference starts. The Central Committee therefore will invite a number of world-class trainers and lecturers to provide these workshops. However, proposals are also invited, having the deadline for proposals been established to 31st of July. The Central Committee will review the proposals. Proponents should consider the following guidelines when filling the form at http://www.conferenciaedevaluacion.mx/workshop:

1. Select one of the conference themes that your proposal addresses.
2. The proposed capacity development workshops may be new or may replicate courses that have a proven track record.
3. Each workshop may take 1 or 2 days, lasting 14 hours at the most with at least 4 hours of classroom work, according to the morning and evening schedules to be defined.
4. Workshops will have a maximum capacity of 35 participants.
5. The workshop facilitator will be responsible for the preparation and delivery of materials for the development of the workshop.
IMPORTANT DATES

Please note:

1. Workshop proposals deadline is July 31st. For all other modalities, the deadline is August 31st.
2. Only those who are interested in undergoing a further selection for eventual publication need to consider the deadline of October 15th to submit a final version of the work.
3. No abstracts presented out of the electronic platform will be accepted.

THE VENUE

The State of Guanajuato is an important international cultural and business hub in Mexico. Its capital, declared Cultural Heritage of Humanity, has a unique historical and architectural richness, as well as an exquisite diversity of traditions and customs. Guanajuato has become the ideal city to hold events for its infrastructure, easy air and land access, history, art, climate, gastronomy, safety and comfort, that contribute to their success. Visit the webpage for details: http://www.conferenciadeevaluacion.mx/venue

CONTACT

Bo Weston
IDEAS Coordinator
ideascoordinator@gmail.com

Cristina Magro
IDEAS Secretary
magro.cristina@gmail.com