



# The International Evaluation Academy: Ready, Set, Go!

An Overview Presentation on IEAc  
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## *Why IEAc?*

No other organization represents and advocates on behalf of ALL evaluation and ALL evaluators to address global challenges of our time through transformational change.

## WHAT IS IT?

A global movement of volunteers dedicated to transform, grow, and professionalize the evaluation discipline worldwide

- Aspires to make transdisciplinary, *value-driven evaluation* play an influential role in promoting a just, sustainable world
- Important *niche in the global evaluation architecture*, conceived in the concept of Academies of Science worldwide
- Tasked to evaluate the *combined impact of public, private, & civil society impact on problems without passport* plaguing the world
- Tasked with evaluating the enabling environment within which evaluation takes place *within and across borders*
- Tasked with *independent* evaluation

# Origins

## IDEAS GA, Prague 2019

- ▶ IEAc Concept paper presented and discussed
- ▶ Conference culminated in the approval of the Prague Declaration that supported active exploration of the IEAc concept

## IDEAS Survey

- ▶ IDEAS subsequently conducted a survey of evaluation practitioners
- ▶ Survey results confirmed broad international support for the Academy

## Incorporation

- ▶ As of March, 2022 IEAc is a registered UK Charity Incorporated Organization with 3 components:
  1. The Trustees (Bd. of Directors)
  2. The Council
  3. Fellows

### **TRUSTEES**

Set policy directions  
and provide  
oversight over all  
IEAc activities

### **COUNCIL**

Advises the Board,  
develops thematic  
strategies and  
manages the  
initiatives

### **FELLOWS**

Volunteers working  
individually or in  
groups to design  
and implement  
initiatives within  
strategic priorities

Hubs foreseen in the future to respond to local needs

# WHO ARE FELLOWS?



**Fellows are  
IEAc's life  
and blood!**

- ▶ Include eminent eval thinkers, highly experienced evaluators, mid-career practitioners, and YEEs
- ▶ No fees charged
- ▶ Min. of 7 days/yr. in volunteer time

## Proposed Criteria

- ▶ Significant involvement in evaluation or related activities—research, education, training, practice, management
- ▶ Commitment to Academy purposes and values
- ▶ Willingness and ability to volunteer and contribute to Academy goals
- ▶ Application process and international recruitment campaign under development

## HOW: IEAc's Business Model

- As a CIO, and as for all science academies, fundraising is a priority; donations from gov'ts, foundations, international and development finance institutions, private corporations will be as crucial as volunteerism
- An anonymous donation is covering initial start-up and admin costs and a small grants program
- In all financing, IEAc's values need safeguarding and its independence protected with any conditions attached to funding consistent with its charitable objectives, purposes, & values
- IEAc will focus on arm's length funding for *evaluator-directed activities* geared to transformational change; it will steer clear of *user-directed evaluations* controlled by evaluation commissioners
- IEAc will sponsor and oversee evaluations geared to transformational change; it will deliver remunerated expert evaluation services compliant with its conflict of interest standards.
- Its unique potential is its global reach, extensive Fellowship network, and its action orientation

# Small Grants Program

- ▶ IEAc will provide small (up to 10K) grants to help support volunteer-driven creative and innovation initiatives in line with Board-approved thematic strategies
- ▶ Grants would facilitate the design, incubation and/or implementation of projects and events geared to strategies
- ▶ Procedures under development



## Interventions within Board-approved strategies will emphasize:

### Transforming

Pursue systemic social transformation

Work to change mind-sets

Promote inter- and trans-disciplinary

Broker knowledge exchanges

Empower civil society and promote equity

Improve how practitioners identify, conceptualize, plan, conduct and use evaluations

### Influencing

Expand the reach and impact of evaluation through improved evaluation governance norms

Principled advocacy

Increased evaluation engagement across borders, generations, sectors (public, private, and civil society)

### Professionalizing

Contribute to methodological advances at the frontiers of social research & evaluation

Provide professional development support, esp. to YEEs

Lay the foundation for international agreement on what a good evaluator means

# WHEN???

# SOON!!!

## The Board at Work

Constitution & Incorporation documents

Values, Vision & Principles

Developing policies e.g.

- ▶ Partnerships
- ▶ Diversity & Inclusion
- ▶ Conflict of Interest

Developing Procedures e.g.

- ▶ Fellows Application & Review
- ▶ Small Grants Program

Developing website

## The Council at Work

Has laid out thematic strategies reflecting the three priorities

23 initiatives defined under the thematic strategies

Board also calls on Council members for assistance

