The International Evaluation Academy: Ready, Set, Go!

An Overview Presentation on IEAc
Dr. Linda Morra Imas
IDEAS Conference 2022, 27 September
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
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<th>Origins</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>IDEAS GA, Prague 2019</strong></td>
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<td>▶ IEAc Concept paper presented and discussed</td>
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<td>▶ Conference culminated in the approval of the Prague Declaration that supported active exploration of the IEAc concept</td>
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<td><strong>IDEAS Survey</strong></td>
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<td>▶ IDEAS subsequently conducted a survey of evaluation practitioners</td>
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<td>▶ Survey results confirmed broad international support for the Academy</td>
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<td><strong>Incorporation</strong></td>
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<td>▶ As of March, 2022 IEAc is a registered UK Charity Incorporated Organization with 3 components:</td>
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<td>1. The Trustees (Bd. of Directors)</td>
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<td>2. The Council</td>
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<td>3. Fellows</td>
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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?

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

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

Fellows are IEAc’s life and blood!
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
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