



OSCEval News is the evaluation newsletter of the Office of Internal Oversight.

Its aim is to provide insights into the OSCE's work in evaluation, by sharing key evaluation findings and conclusions, as well as new developments regarding the OSCE's overall evaluation culture.

Evaluation is a management tool that contributes to decision-making, strategic planning, and organizational learning.



of OIO and emerging findings

This edition of OSCEval News is dedicated to the

2022 Annual Meeting of the OSCE Evaluation Network

which was hosted by the Office of Internal Oversight, on 12 - 14 October 2022, in Vienna (in a blended format).



Around 55 OSCE officials attended the event either in person or remotely, as well as a representatives of international organizations (UNIDO, UNODC, FAO) and government agencies (Austrian Development Agency, Sweden's Expert Group for Aid Studies, Global Affairs Canada). The objective was to promote the implementation of the new OSCE Evaluation Policy — with the ultimate aim of establishing an organizational culture of accountability, learning and innovation.

DAY I: Celebrating Our Achievements

On the first day, participants took stock of the results achieved over the past year. They heard updates from OSCE field operations managing decentralized evaluations under difficult circumstances, the importance of paying attention to local context and inclusion of local evaluators, and the relevance of a 'whole-of-mission' approach in evaluation. Participants also reflected on the progress and outstanding challenges to deliver high-quality and usable evaluations in the OSCE. On the one hand, the OSCE Secretariat's Gender Issues Programme and the OSCE Mission to Skopje received the first OIO's Annual Evaluation Award in recognition of the quality of (two of) their decentralized

evaluations. On the other hand, the outcomes of OIO's 2022 Quality Assessment confirmed that the capacity-building activities initiated by OIO, albeit started to pay off, need to be scaled up. Plenary discussions demonstrated the value of sharing lessons learned between OSCE executive structures, with a view to promoting peer-learning and replicating best evaluation practices in the organization.

DAY II: Learning From Others

On the second day and throughout the event, participants were inspired by external speakers who had been working on promoting a culture of evaluation in their respective organizations, balancing relevance and independence, rigour and timeliness, accountability and learning. They were encouraged to



try or pilot new evaluation approaches and tools (e.g., country programme evaluation, coherence evaluation, evaluability assessment, visual story-telling) and, consequently, be ready to seize opportunities and take on challenges.

DAY III: Walk The Talk

On the third day, participants started to look forward by identifying what topics and crosscutting themes of strategic relevance should be evaluated in their respective executive structures, and for what purpose. They also elaborated ambitious ideas on how to implement the new OSCE Evaluation Policy in collaboration with OIO (e.g., organizing an evaluation roadshow, raising awareness among OSCE senior management, creating informal working groups on policy and other evaluation related matters).

In conclusion, OIO reiterated its commitment to communicate the new OSCE Evaluation Policy, build capacities, raise awareness, update the roster of evaluation consultants, showcase results regionally, thematically and for the OSCE as a whole. OIO also emphasized that the OSCE Evaluation Network – including 42 OSCE Evaluation Focal Points – remains instrumental in implementing the new OSCE Evaluation Policy and promoting an organizational culture of accountability, learning and innovation. For this reason, its role and function deserve adequate resources, support and recognition within the OSCE.

