Introducing the Irish Evaluation Network

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The Irish Evaluation Network (IEN) is a network for individuals involved or interested in forwarding the theory and practice of high quality evaluation in an Irish context. Established in 2002, to date it has operated as an informal network guided by a voluntary steering group.

There is no formal membership structure, but the network mailing list has approximately 400 subscribers. These include a wide range of individuals who commission or undertake evaluations and related research in public sector bodies, research institutes, academia and consultancy.

Since its foundation, the IEN has

- held a number lunchtime, half day and full day seminars presented by a mixture of international and national evaluation experts, with attendance levels averaging between 30 to 70 participants;
- developed a web page (http://www.dcu.ie/education_studies/ien); and
- held two one-day conferences in September 2004 and January 2007 each attended by over 100 participants. The themes of the conferences were "A culture of evaluation: exploring the Irish experience of evaluation" and "The relationship of evaluation to emerging approaches to quality assurance in organisations" respectively.

Contact details, and downloads of presentations made at seminars and the conferences can be accessed via the website at http://www.dcu.ie/education_studies/ien