

An Update on Evaluation in Europe

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I apologize for exclusion of those national societies whose language I have not mastered and would like to encourage evaluators from the European countries to contribute a report about the state of evaluation in their country to JMDE.

Details of events and news items listed below can be found on the corresponding Web sites.

Evaluation and the European Union

Within the European Union (EU), evaluation is promoted by the [Directorate General for Budget](#), which commissions and conducts ex ante (prospective), interim, and ex post (retrospective) evaluations of programs, projects, and policies of the General Directorates within the EU. The Web site of the evaluation unit provides information about evaluation activities and ongoing studies, policies and procedures, guides on evaluation in different contexts (General Directorates) and on evaluation specific methodology, procurement of evaluation via “calls for expressions of interest,” information on evaluation networks, including links to specific commissions within the EU, the expert network of member states, evaluation societies within Europe, and links to other organizations conducting evaluation (e.g., OECD, UNDP, UNICEF, the World Bank, the GAO, and the International Monetary Fund).

The European Evaluation Society

In October, 2004 the EES held its 6th Conference in Berlin, Germany where over 420 participants from all over the world attended. Attendees' feedback and the conference program can be viewed on the [EES Web site](#). Papers and presentations from the conference are available through links within the [Canadian Evaluation Society's Newsletter](#) (Vol. 4, September 2004).

The most recent [Newsletter of the EES](#) (December, 2004) reports on the 6th conference of the EES and introduces the new board for the year 2005. Additionally, the EES Residential Summer School—*Evaluating innovative policy instruments: change, complexity, and policy learning*, which takes place September 25-30, 2005 in Seville, Spain, is announced. Between 24-30 experienced evaluators, policy designers, and change managers are invited to participate and learn from international evaluation experts. More detailed information on how to register will be posted on the [EES Web site](#).

Moreover, the EES published a summary of a proposed strategy for evaluation, training, and education in Europe (see http://www.european-evaluation.org/docs/Strategy_for_Education_and_Training.pdf). The EES board promotes (i) the provision of evaluation training through the society, (ii) support and consulting services for developing evaluation training by national evaluation societies in Europe, (iii) collaboration with institutions of higher education to develop degrees in evaluation, and (iv) functioning as a connector between potential collaborators to develop evaluation training for those in need.

The German Evaluation Society

The [German Evaluation Society](#) (DeGEval) announced various training opportunities. Of specific interest are e-learning opportunities provided by the Center for European Evaluation Expertise ([Eureval-C3E](#)). Moreover, the DeGEval announced an invitation for a conference on *Multifunctionality of Landscape-Analysis, Evaluation, and Decision Support*, on May 18-19, 2005 in Giessen, Germany.

Most recently, the following event were announced on the listserv of the DeGEval:

- EU-sponsored series of three conferences and four training opportunities on the "Evaluation of Sustainability," EASY-ECO, 2005-2007. For details and further information, please visit www.sustainability.at/easy/.
- The first EASY-ECO conference "Impact Assessment for a New Europe and Beyond" takes place June 15-17, 2005 in Manchester. The call for papers is published at: <http://www.sed.manchester.ac.uk/idpm/news/#easyeco>.

The Spanish Evaluation Society

The [Spanish Evaluation Society](#) announced:

- *Fifth Annual Campbell Collaboration Colloquium on Supply and Demand for Evidence* in Lisbon, Portugal, February 23-25, 2005
- *Third Argentine Congress of Public Administration* in San Miguel de Tucumán, Argentina with the topic Society, State, and Administration

The Swiss Evaluation Society

[The Swiss Evaluation Society](#) (SEVAL) announced:

- SEVAL congress—Evaluation in Education, June 3, 2005 in Berne, Switzerland
- International Conference on "Visualising and Presenting Indicator Systems," March 14 – 16, 2005, Swiss Federal Statistical Office, Neuchâtel, Switzerland
- Outcome Mapping: Practical, Flexible, Participatory Approach to Monitoring and Evaluation, a 4-day workshop, February 21-25, 2005 Lebensgarten, Germany

Others events listed on SEVAL's Web site include training opportunities provided in Switzerland.

The UK Evaluation Society

The [UK Evaluation Society](#) (UKES) announced various events sponsored by regional networks:

- London Evaluation Network: *Participatory Approaches to Evaluation*, February 3 or 10, 2005 in the Institute of Commonwealth Studies
- Scottish Evaluation Network: *What's working? Improving the contribution of research and evaluation to organizational learning*, February 25, 2005, in Our Dynamic Earth, Holyrood Road, Edinburgh
- North West Evaluation Network: *Evaluation today: emerging themes and improving practice*, July 1, Manchester, NWEN annual conference.

Additionally and as announced on the EvalTalk listserv, [The 5th International Conference on Evaluation for Practice](#) takes place July 13-15, 2005 at the

University of Huddersfield, England. The conference will focus on evaluation practice and its implications in areas such as social services, social work, education, and health services among other. The keynote speaker is Professor Michael Scriven.