



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

NATIONAL
EVALUATION CAPACITIES
Conference 2017

 **PEOPLE**  **PLANET & PROGRESS**
in the SDG ERA



The Conference at a Glance

The Conference AT A GLANCE



2017 National Evaluation Capacities Conference - Objectives

“Improved national evaluation capacity enhances progress towards the sustainable development goals” – UNDP Evaluation Policy

The Sustainable Development Goals adopted in 2015 seek to transform our world. As part of this transformation, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls for systematic follow-up and review of implementation of the goals. Country-led evaluations constitute a key element in this process, and therefore strengthening national evaluation capacities is more important than ever. Building on the momentum created by past National Evaluation Conferences (NEC), the 2017 NEC Conference will provide opportunities to:

- Present and exchange lessons, innovations, experiences and perspectives in developing and adapting national evaluation capacities in light of the SDGs;
- Explore the implications of the SDGs for principals, principles and practices of evaluation;
- Develop partnerships to strengthen national evaluation systems.

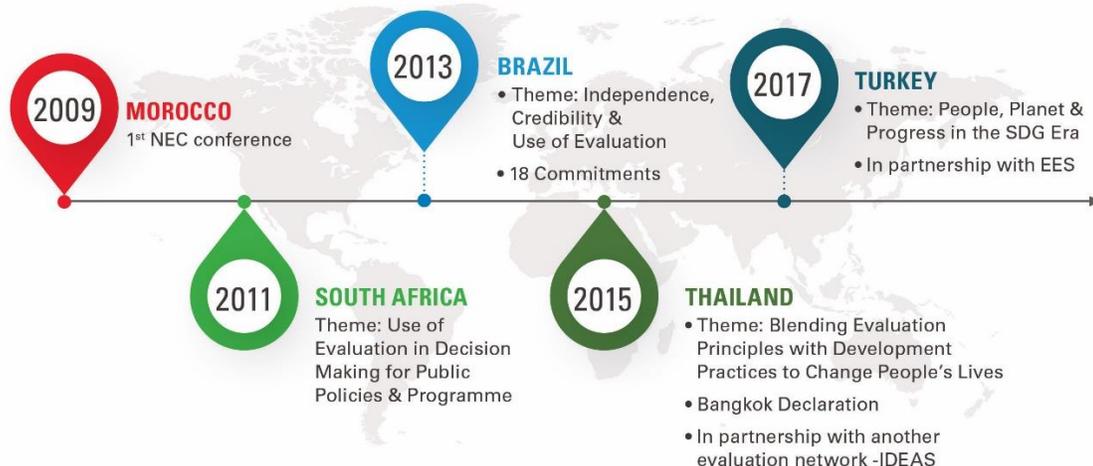
The 2017 NEC Conference is designed first and foremost to offer opportunities to share experiences and learning amongst government officials from national and sub-national institutions directly and indirectly engaged with evaluation and/or the SDG agenda. As the SDGs are universal, participation from all countries will be encouraged, to facilitate the development of new partnerships in new configurations. UNDP staff engaged in supporting national governments on evaluation, governance and/or the SDG agenda, evaluators and other development actors from UNDP programme countries, members of the European Evaluation Society, experts from other networks such as the United Nations Evaluation Group, the Evaluation Coordination Group of the multi-lateral development banks, and OECD-DAC, as well as from professional evaluation associations and other members of the wider global evaluation community will also be welcomed at the conference.



The conference will promote exchanges on progress since NEC 2015 in Thailand, examining innovations and lessons learned in strengthening enabling environments, national evaluation policy frameworks and institutional set-ups, as well as pursue the discussions initiated in Brazil in 2011 on the importance of independence, credibility and use of evaluations to improve the effectiveness of public policy, programmes and service delivery. At the same time, the conference will explore the implications of the SDGs for evaluation and national evaluation capacities. This will include a focus on the principle of “no one left behind” as well as an exploration of multi-stakeholder approaches, including engagement with the private sector. In addition, as “eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, combating inequality within and among countries, preserving the planet, creating sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and fostering social inclusion are linked to each other and are interdependent”¹ conference participants will explore what these interlinkages and interdependencies imply for evaluation practice. Illustrations will be drawn from challenges for evaluation at the intersection of the human and environmental spheres as well as in other areas. Throughout the conference, participants will reflect on new paradigms and new directions for evaluation in rapidly changing world, where, in the words of the 2030 Agenda, bold and transformative steps are urgently needed to shift the world on to a sustainable and resilient path.

¹ United Nations General Assembly, A/RES/70/1, para. 13

History & Evolution of NEC CONFERENCES



2017 NEC Conference Format

The event will take place over five days, beginning with two days of pre-conference training workshops, followed by three days dedicated to the Conference.

The **conference** will be designed to provide all participants with multiple spaces for engagement. A mix of plenary sessions and parallel strands on a range of topics will be organized, using a variety of formats including key note speakers, paper presentations, and panel discussions, as well as innovative arrangements that facilitate more informal discussion and sharing of experiences between partners.

Two sets of one-day **training workshops**, offered for the first time at the 2015 NEC Conference, will again be organized in 2017 to allow participants to explore subjects in-depth with experts from around the world.

The main working language of the conference will be English, however selected sessions and training workshops will be organized in French, Spanish, and Russian, and interpretation into other languages will be available for many sessions during the conference.

About the conference partners

UNDP IEO. At UNDP, evaluation is critical in helping countries achieve the simultaneous eradication of poverty and significant reduction of inequalities and exclusion. By generating objective evidence, evaluation helps UNDP achieve greater accountability and facilitates improved learning from past experience. The Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) promotes accountability and learning by conducting independent evaluations at the country, regional, and global levels, as well as on thematic topics of particular importance to the organization.

In addition, the IEO has contributed to strengthening evaluation capacity since 1987. It is part of the IEO mandate to promote national ownership and leadership in evaluation through country-led and joint evaluations, and to support the development of communities of practice, and to partner with professional evaluation networks to improve evaluation utility and credibility. The NEC Conference series is part of an IEO strategy to support the development of national evaluation capacity. These international conferences are distinctive in that they are global – the 2015 NEC Conference welcomed participants from 100 countries – and focused on supporting the governments with which UNDP works across the globe.

UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and CIS. The UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and CIS is on the ground in 18 countries and territories in the region, working with national partners, connecting people to knowledge and addressing their development challenges. In Europe and Central Asia, UNDP is moving from helping countries steer their ‘transition’ to supporting states in pursuing sustainable development – policy advice that has generated lessons for other regions. The UNDP Regional Hub for ECIS is located in Istanbul.

The Government of the Republic of Turkey. The Government of the Republic of Turkey will co-host the conference. UNDP and Turkey signed a Partnership Framework Agreement in 2011. Turkey and UNDP share a mutual interest to facilitate the exchange of development knowledge and expertise across regions. Turkey’s strategic location at the crossroads of different continents enables the country to take a more prominent role in the international arena. Its active presence and engagement in international and regional organizations allows it to advocate for and advance global development agendas, including Agenda 2030.

The European Evaluation Society (EES). The mandate of the EES is to stimulate, guide and promote the theory, practice and utilization of evaluation in Europe and beyond. The EES vision is a world where evaluation contributes to human welfare through social learning. Specifically, EES seeks to advance evaluation knowledge and to encourage adoption of good practices by fostering evaluation excellence, independence and partnerships. The EES will contribute to the overall conceptualization of the conference, bring high-level technical expertise to the workshops and conference sessions, and assist in moderating different components of the conference.

Supporting partners include the Government of Finland and the UN Evaluation Group.

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