

National Evaluation Capacities (NEC) Conferences

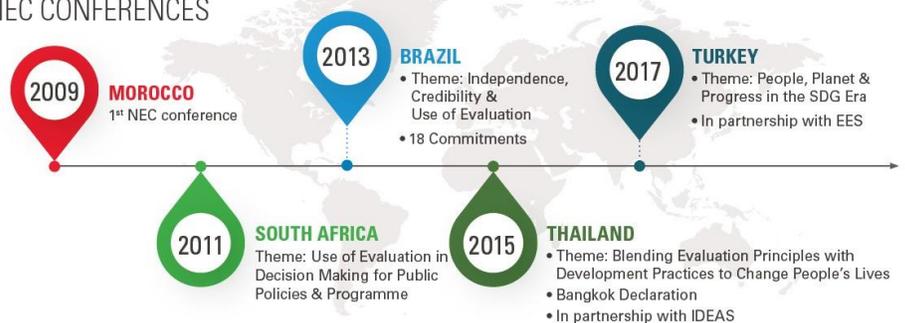


INTRODUCTION

The Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) of UNDP organized the first National Evaluation Capacities (NEC) Conference nearly a decade ago, in 2009 in Casablanca, Morocco, with 55 participants. The conference was a success as it was able to draw unprecedented country and government support. This led to participants calling for follow-up events, and thus IEO launched a series of biennial NEC conferences. The [fifth and latest conference](#) in the series was held in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2017, two years after the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with more than 500 participants.

To date the NEC conferences have engaged over 150 countries and their governments globally. More importantly, they have brought together influential players from oversight and accountability sectors within each of these countries to connect, engage and share about issues that fall within the ethos of good governance, evidence-based decision making and better performance management.

History & Evolution of NEC CONFERENCES



The [proceedings](#) of each of the events reflects the substantive contributions that evaluation can make, and it is for this reason that the event has evolved into a global brand and primacy within the evaluation community.

THE NEC CONFERENCE 2017



The NEC Conference 2017 was co-hosted by UNDP's IEO and Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS in partnership with the Government of Turkey with the theme of *People, Planet and Progress in the SDG Era*. The collaboration led to more than 500 participants from over 100 countries in Istanbul, Turkey. [The conference](#), pre-conference [workshops](#) and presentations offered an opportunity for government and development partners to share experiences and learn from their engagement with evaluation and the SDGs.

The conference opened with welcome addresses from Mr. Indran Naidoo, Director of IEO of UNDP, Ms. Cihan Sultanoğlu, Assistant Administrator and Director of UNDP's Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS and H.E. Ambassador Ahmet Yıldız, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey. An inspiring keynote speech by Ms. Michelle Gyles-McDonnough, Director, Sustainable Development Unit, Executive Office of the Secretary General, set the tone for the remainder of the conference.

Over the five days more than 30 conference sessions and 13 training sessions provided multiple spaces for exchange of experiences and lessons learned between peers, academics and evaluation and development practitioners, debates between





evaluators and evaluands, and brainstorming on the guiding questions of the conference: In the current, rapidly evolving development context and the framework of the SDGs, how do principles and practices of evaluation need to change? What are the implications for national evaluation capacities?

The NEC Conference 2017 concluded that the values, challenges and commitments enshrined in the 2030 Agenda and the concept of sustainable development - 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 – need to be reflected in evaluation principles and

practice in the 21st century. The NEC conferences have become truly global, both geographically and substantively, and these unique gatherings fill an important niche.

The NEC Conference 2019

The UNDP IEO is collaborating with the Regional Bureau for Arab States to plan the next NEC Conference, to be held in October 2019 in the Arab States region. The tentative theme for the conference is *Evaluation for Sustainable and Inclusive Development*, with a renewed focus on both the SDGs and public policy evaluation, as relevant to national governments who are working on the complex task of SDG localization, review, and follow-up. This also resonates with the [UNDP Strategic Plan 2018-2021](#) framework of supporting national and global SDG support platforms.

Format: The proposed format for the 2019 Conference will echo that of the past two conferences with two days of pre-conference technical training workshops, followed by three days dedicated to the conference itself.

Audience: As in the past, the primary target audience of the NEC Conference 2019 will be government officials from national and sub-national institutions directly and indirectly engaged with evaluation and public policy (including central planning and finance ministries, sectoral ministries, evaluation units, national statistical agencies, supreme audit institutions). Other stakeholders will include the private sector, civil society, academia, UNDP staff engaged in supporting national governments on evaluation, governance and/or the SDG agenda, evaluators and other development actors from UNDP programme countries, and members of evaluation networks and the wider global evaluation community will also be invited to the conference.

NEC 2017 statistics and type of participants

