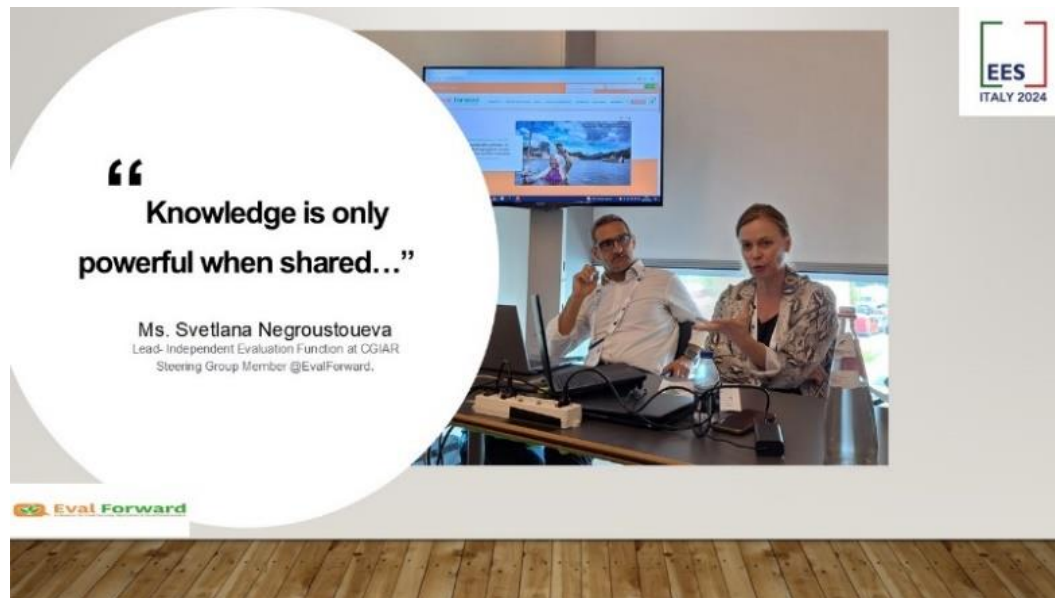


Snippets from EvalForward presentations at the EES conference, Rimini (Italy), 23 to 27 September 2024.

The Power of Networks and Communities to Strengthen Capacities on Evaluation in Agriculture and Rural Development. 26 September 2024.



"Knowledge is only powerful when shared." **Svetlana Negroustoueva's** (Lead Independent Evaluation Function at CGIAR& EvalForward steering group member) insightful presentation underscored the crucial role that networks and Communities of Practice (CoPs) play in advancing the field of evaluation in agriculture and rural development.

Key Takeaways:

- **Context Matters:** Networks and CoPs must reflect the specific needs and contexts of their members. A diverse membership and strong inter-network communication are key to success.
- **Purpose and Process:** The 'why' and 'how' of establishing CoPs and networks are just as important as how they are managed and evaluated. Regular assessment helps ensure these groups continue to meet the evolving needs of their members.
- **Strong Governance:** Steering groups and periodic in-person meetings can enhance governance and facilitate deeper engagement.
- **Evidence-Based Learning:** Reflective exercises, evaluations, and Social Network Analysis can provide valuable evidence on the depth and reach of these networks, informing future strategies.
- **Knowledge Management:** Synthesizing evaluative evidence and creating targeted knowledge products are vital for effective advocacy efforts.

From Data to Decision: The Role of KM and Communication in Evidence-Based Policy Making. 27 September 2024.



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Collaboration is at the heart of EvalForward CoP. By partnering across agencies and sectors, we're proving that shared knowledge leads to stronger outcomes."

Anne-claire LUZOT.

Director Evaluation World Food Programme (WFP)



In the fields of food security, agriculture, and rural development, transforming raw data into impactful policies is a complex challenge. **Anne-Claire Luzot** (Director of Evaluation, WFP and member of the EvalForward Executive group) Community of Practice (CoP), shed light on this process, emphasizing the crucial role of knowledge management and communication in facilitating evidence-based decision-making.

Key Takeaways

- **Bridging the Gap:** The presentation underscored the need to bridge the divide between data and policy decisions. This involves effective knowledge management and communication strategies to ensure that evidence is not only gathered but also translated into actionable policies.
- **The EvalForward CoP Model:** The EvalForward CoP serves as a prime example of how collaboration and knowledge sharing can drive evidence-based policy-making. It acts as a platform connecting various stakeholders, including evaluation professionals, subject matter experts, and decision-makers, fostering a collaborative environment for knowledge exchange.

Benefits of the EvalForward CoP Model:

- **Expanded Reach:** The CoP reaches beyond the traditional audience, connecting with key stakeholders in national institutions and related fields.
- **Collaborative Partnerships:** It fosters cross-agency and cross-sectoral collaborations, amplifying the impact of knowledge sharing.
- **Safe Space for Interaction:** It provides a secure platform for members to engage in Q&A, promoting participation and knowledge exchange.

The EvalForward CoP demonstrates the transformative potential of knowledge management and communication in driving evidence-based policymaking. By fostering collaboration, expanding reach, and creating a space for knowledge exchange, it paves the way for a future where data-driven decisions lead to sustainable progress in food security, agriculture, and rural development.