

Evaluation of sustainable development as a way to co-create a NEP in Finland

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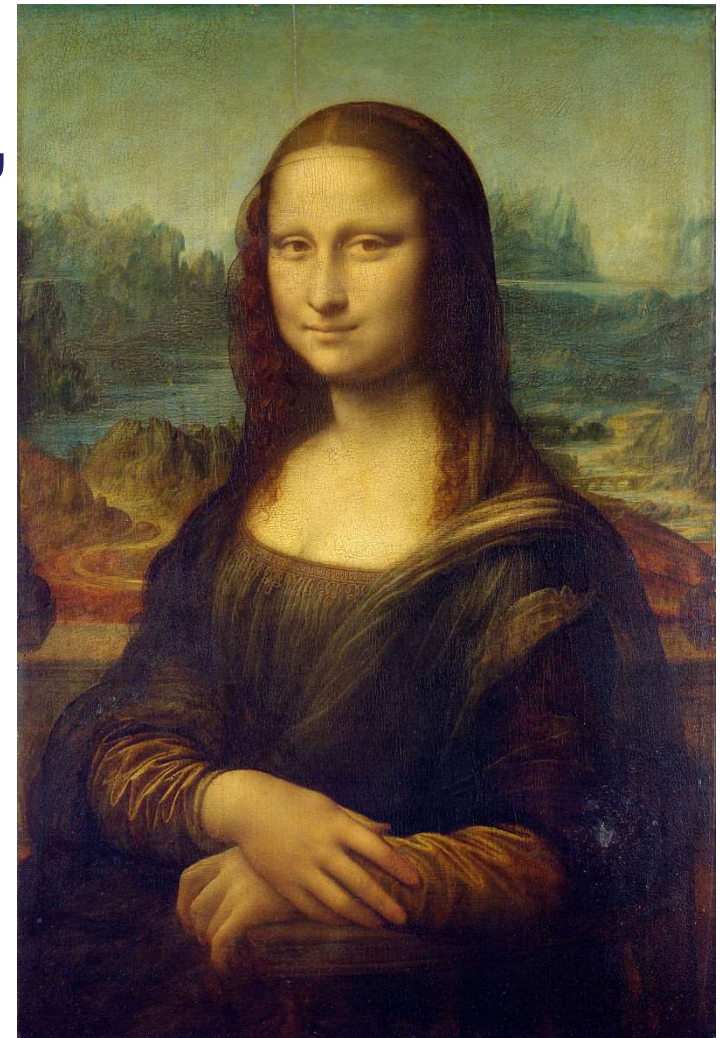
Finnish Evaluation Society



APEA, GPFE Roundtable, EES- conference 2021

Aim

**To present and discuss,
how the evaluation of
Agenda 2030 can be
used to co-create a
National Evaluation
Policy (NEP).**



Background: International EvalYear 2015


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IOCE
(International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation) with 220 VOPEs
<http://www.ioce.net/en/index.php>



EvalPartners
(International Evaluation Partnership Initiative)
<http://www.mymande.org/evalpartners>

Pakistan Evaluation Network
(Parliamentarian Forum on Development Evaluation), Community of Evaluators/South Asia(CoE), EES & FES

Engaging Parliamentarians for an Enabling Environment for Evaluation

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Research questions

- How to define the basic concepts, for ex. the enabling environment for evaluation (EEE)?
- What is the role of parliamentarians in the creation of an EEE?



Results 1 (basic concepts):

Is the Enabling Environment for Evaluation the same as:

- the National Evaluation culture? (Furubo et al.2002; Jacob et al., 2012)
- the National Evaluation Policy? (Rosenstein, 2013; 2015; Globe)
- the National Evaluation System? (Raynolds & Williams, 2013)

International Atlas on Evaluation Cultures (Furubo et al. 2002; Jacob et al. 2012) defined by

9 Indicators:

E. in many domains
E. in diff. Disciplines
E. discussions
National eval. society
E. by gov. institutions
E. by Parliament inst
Pluralism in policies
E in Supreme Audit
institutions
Impact not juts output

OBS: No citizen voice



The Lay of the Land in 2012

Table 1: Evaluation culture in 2012

	I. Domains	II. Disciplines	III. Discourse	IV. Profession	V. Inst. - Government	VI. Inst - Parliament	VII. Pluralism	VIII. SAI	IX. Impact	SUM
Australia	1,3	1,7	1,7	2,0	0,7	1,0	1,7	2,0	1,7	13,7
Canada	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	1,8	0,8	2,0	1,8	1,8	16,0
Denmark	1,8	1,8	1,8	2,0	1,3	1,0	2,0	1,5	1,3	14,3
Finland	2,0	2,0	1,8	2,0	1,8	1,2	2,0	2,0	1,8	16,6
France	1,6	1,4	1,8	2,0	1,4	1,2	1,2	1,0	1,4	13,0
Germany	1,3	2,0	1,3	1,8	1,0	1,0	2,0	1,3	1,5	13,3
Ireland	1,0	1,3	1,5	1,0	1,0	0,3	1,3	1,0	0,8	9,0
Israel	1,3	1,8	1,0	1,8	1,3	1,0	1,8	1,3	1,3	12,3
Italy	1,7	1,7	1,3	2,0	1,3	0,7	1,0	0,3	0,7	10,7
Japan	2,0	1,8	1,5	1,3	2,0	0,3	1,5	1,3	1,3	12,9
Netherlands	2,0	1,9	1,5	1,8	1,8	1,5	1,8	1,8	1,4	15,3
New Zealand	1,4	1,0	1,4	2,0	1,2	0,6	1,4	1,4	1,2	11,6
Norway	1,9	1,5	1,1	1,8	1,4	0,9	1,8	1,8	1,3	13,5
South Korea	2,0	2,0	1,7	1,7	2,0	1,7	1,7	1,3	1,3	15,3
Spain	1,3	1,8	1,5	2,0	1,3	0,5	1,3	0,3	1,5	11,3
Sweden	1,8	1,6	1,6	1,8	1,8	1,4	1,6	1,7	1,6	14,8
Switzerland	1,8	2,0	1,6	2,0	1,3	2,0	1,8	2,0	2,0	16,4
United Kingdom	2,0	2,0	1,5	2,0	1,5	1,3	2,0	1,8	1,3	15,3
United States	1,6	2,0	1,8	2,0	1,8	1,4	1,6	1,8	1,8	15,8
Mean	1,7	1,8	1,5	1,8	1,5	1,0	1,7	1,4	1,4	13,7
Top 3	1,9	2,0	1,8	2,0	1,6	1,3	1,9	1,9	1,9	16,3
Bottom 3	1,3	1,6	1,4	1,7	1,2	0,5	1,2	0,5	1,0	10,3

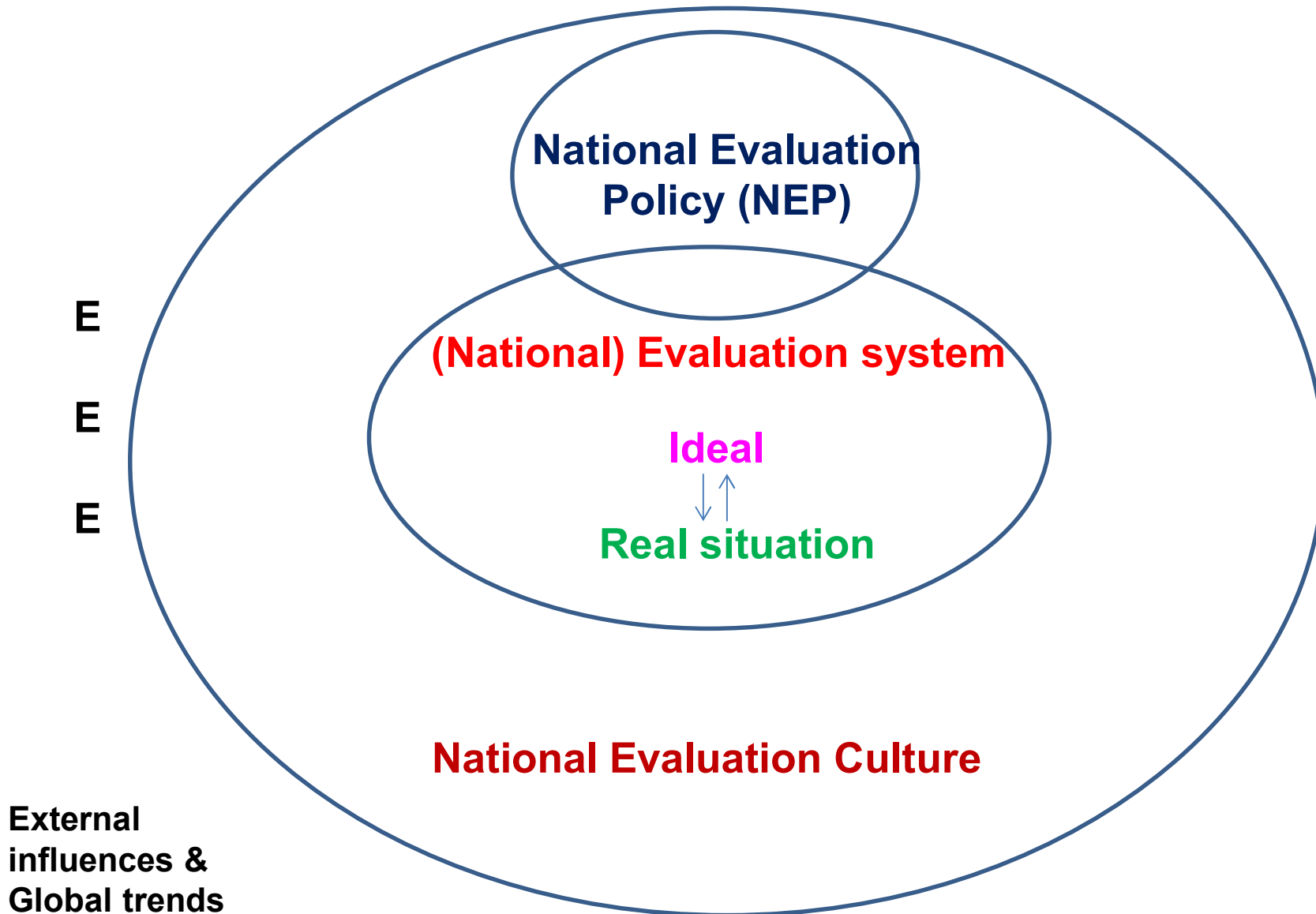
Mapping the Status of National Evaluation Policies (Rosenstein, 2013; 2015)

<http://gendereval.ning.com/forum/topics/parliamentarians-for-development-evaluation-publishes>

- NEP is a legislated policy or regulative framework that serves as a basis for evaluation across government agencies.
- However, only a few countries have it and they are not in Europe.



Enabling Environment for Evaluation is a complex setting for the demand, supply and use of evaluations, conditioned by the NEP & NES, embedded in the national evaluation culture



Results 2:

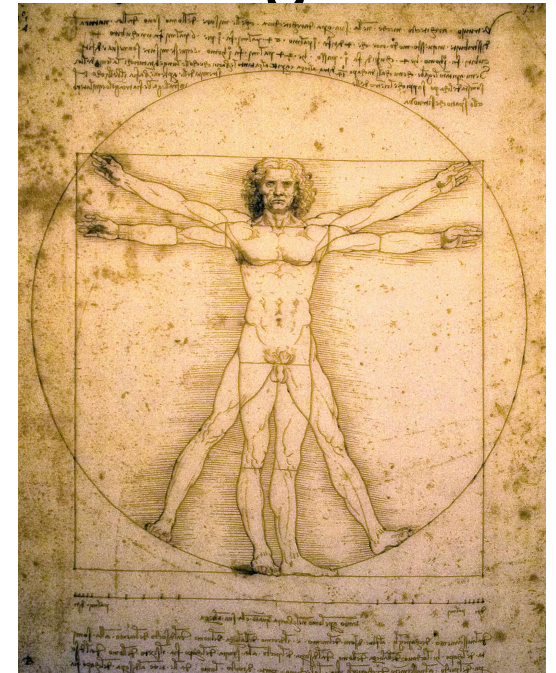
The role of parliamentarians reflects the maturity of the evaluation culture

- Developing countries stress the oversight function of Parliament through NEP
- Mature evaluation countries mostly opt for a managerial model of evaluation
- Just a few strive for a democratic, deliberative model of evaluation

Results 3:

Strengthening the citizen voice through transparency and access

- **Evaluation in Democracy** (transparent, accessible and flexible structures)
- **Democracy in Evaluation** (flexible epistemologies and mixed, empowering methods) (Picciotto, 2015)



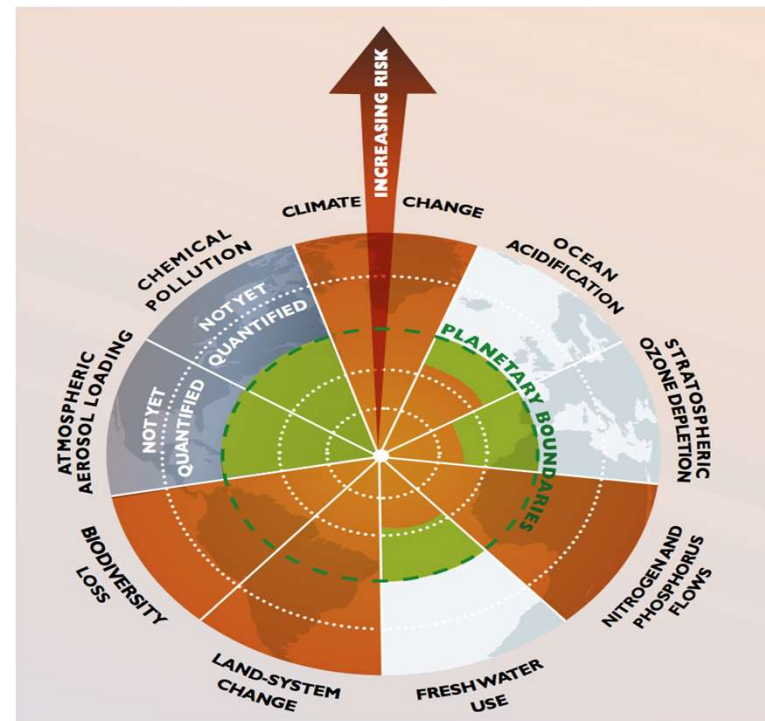
A new question arises:

**Is a NEP necessary for every context
or is evaluation readiness/culture
more important?**



No and Yes to NEP by the Finnish Evaluation Society (FES)

- Evaluation of the Finnish Sustainable development goals (Path 2030) in 2019.



A photograph of a snowy road winding through a forest of snow-covered trees. The road is covered in a thick layer of snow, and the trees on either side are heavily laden with snow, creating a serene winter scene. The sky is a pale, hazy blue.

Conclusions

SD has become widely accepted, but Finland still has a lot to do concerning inequality, climate change, environmental questions and consumption.

Sustainable transformation requires long term vision, policies and a transformational NEP.

#Path2030

What is a transformational NEP like?

- FES is mapping the ecosystem of evaluation through its strategy, fora, networks & capacity building in order to sketch **a dynamic mosaic of evaluative thinking and approaches that support the coping with wicked problems**



References

- Lähteenmäki et al. (2019) *Path2030. Evaluation of the Finnish Sustainable development goals*. <http://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/161601>
- [EVALSDGs Insight #11: Participatory evaluation as an approach to evaluating the implementation of Agenda 2030: The case of Finland – EVALSDGs](#)

THANK YOU

