# **Bi-weekly Newsletter**

# **MEASURE-BiH**

December 5 - 16, 2016

#### **Program Evaluation Learning Resources**

Evaluation Journal, The Tavistock Institute: <a href="http://journals.sagepub.com/toc/evi/current">http://journals.sagepub.com/toc/evi/current</a>

United Nations Documents Database: http://www.un.org/en/documents/index.html

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), Publications and Resources: http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources

## **Recommended News Articles and Blog Posts**

Keith Zvoch on Strong Program Evaluation Design Alternatives

William Faulkner on A Righteous Cover-up: Behind the Scenes of the Most Famous "Experiment" in International Development History

Melinda Davis on Research Designs and the Control Group Problem

Swedish development cooperation and its results in figures, 2015

OSCE 2015 Hate Crime Data, Key Findings

Comparative analysis of the tax legislations regulating the treatment of CSOs

An Inside Look into the Democratization of Data

Food for Thought: Why Investing in Agriculture is the Next Big Thing

Visualizing What Needs to Be Done for Better Health

Research: Why Americans Are So Impressed by Busyness

The push against performance reviews



#### **Upcoming Events**

April 30

2017 Canadian Evaluation Society Conference, Vancouver, Canada

May 10

2017 UK Evaluation Society Annual Conference, London, United Kingdom

#### **Useful Sites**

http://www.cep.gov/

http://hatecrime.osce.org/

#### **Examples of Evaluation Projects**

Impact Evaluation: Education for a Just Society in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Final Report by USAID BiH, November 2016

A mid-term evaluation of the Health Communication Capacity Collaborative (HC3) Nepal Project, USAID, September 2016

#### **Relevant Publications**

## Advocacy Strategy for the EU Integration of the Western Balkans, Guidelines by International Visegrad Fund and Deutsche Zusammenarbeit

The WB countries do not have an advocacy strategy aimed at promoting and speeding up their EU accession. Although there is growing awareness of the need for such a strategy, it has transpired that the WB government institutions have only communication strategies targeting specific groups within their national borders: decision makers and initiators/multipliers of public awareness of the EU accession process, youth, or opponents of integration. However, these strategies have not been oriented towards the relevant target groups in the EU. The Advocacy Strategy for the EU Integration of the WB - Guidelines (ASWB), developed by eight Western Balkan and Visegrad Group think tanks, is the first initiative of the kind.

This document aims at supporting and facilitating EU enlargement to the WB. It offers practical guidelines for national administrations, parliaments and civil society organisations (CSOs) in order to encourage their advocacy efforts to accelerate accession to the EU and contribute to the development of positive perceptions of the region in the Brussels institutions, EU Member States, as well as the Western Balkans. The future regional and national advocacy strategies stemming from these guidelines are expected to synergize with other regional mechanisms/leverages for the faster European integration.

With a view to fostering the EU integration of the Western Balkan countries, the Guidelines argue that the key impediments are to be confronted through joint advocacy endeavors. They propose that a civil society coalition (the WB6 Advocacy Group) leads on the development of the regional strategy and coordinates its implementation. The authors offer guidelines on the preparation of the regional strategy and its elements: goal-setting, delineation of the desired outcomes and required courses of action, identification of the key target groups and the messages tailoring the courses of action to the groups' particularities, and case-building. They outline typical advocacy products regarding the particular goals and recommendations on their delivery through selected communication channels. The Guidelines propose activities and suggest ways to map and evaluate the stakeholders, which is prerequisite for establishing and maintaining productive relations with them. Mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the realization of the outcomes are proposed to ensure the flexibility of the strategy and facilitate its fine-tuning during implementation.



#### **Recommended Reading**

Debate on the Appropriate Methods for Conducting Impact Evaluation of Programs within the Development Context by Norgbey, E.B, University of Otawa

Donors and decision-makers use impact evaluation reports to assess the effectiveness of development programs and identify ways to improve the design and implementation of projects, programs, and policies in developing countries. This paper explores the existing published impact evaluation literature on development programs and provides an overview of the types of approaches and methods that are being used to conduct impact evaluations.

The aim of the paper is to shed light on issues related to appropriate methods for impact evaluations of development programs. Finally, the paper suggests a list of approaches and methods that can be used to conduct impact evaluations of programs within the development context.