



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΕΤΑΙΡΕΙΑ ΑΞΙΟΛΟΓΗΣΗΣ
HELLENIC EVALUATION SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Hellenic Evaluation Society

February 2019

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear HES members and friends,

For the Hellenic Evaluation Society (HES), 2018 was an important year, during which evaluation was a central issue of public debate at all levels of society and policy decision-making centers in Greece. With the organization of the 13th biennial conference of the European Evaluation Society, in October 2018 in Thessaloniki, Greece became a central meeting point of the global community of evaluators, in one of the most important international events in the field of evaluation.

In June 2018, the HES Board set up a thematic working group to prepare proposals for the development of a National Evaluation Strategy. Through this initiative, HES seeks to stimulate public debate on evaluation, and to make a substantial contribution to the development of strategies and tools for coordinating evaluation practices in ministries and public bodies, so that projects, policies and programs can be evaluated in terms of effectiveness, efficiency and impact based on national priorities and standardized evaluation procedures.

The regular actions of HES continued in 2018, with the organization of the 2nd HES Annual Conference, on the theme "Evaluation of Public Policies". As part of the conference, the HES awards for "Good Practices in Evaluation" competition were announced in a special award ceremony. The publication of the bi-annual scientific journal "Hellenic Evaluation Society Review" also continued, as well as training activities in the framework of the "Evaluation Week 2018". Finally, since December 2018, monthly meetings of members and friends of HES have been established, with the aim of getting to know each other and strengthening the opportunities for cooperation through the actions of HES, and beyond.

The year 2019 will begin with the intensification of the work for the elaboration of the position paper of HES for the development of a National Evaluation Strategy, aiming at its public presentation in the Spring 2019. Informative and educational activities will continue. The promotion of collaborations with universities and other education and training institutions will be intensified, with the aim of providing the community of evaluators, as well as young students and professionals interested in evaluation, with integrated educational programs, which will provide appropriate training certification.

The 3rd HES Annual Conference will take place in October 2019, on the theme "Evaluation in the context of EU co-financed actions". We will then will announce the HES awards for "Good Practices in Evaluation" for the year 2019.

With the aim of promoting evaluation at all levels of society, we will continue in 2019, to work intensively for the consolidation of evaluation in Greece and contribute in every way to the improvement of the quality of evaluations. We will also continue supporting the community of evaluators, through targeted actions.

I would like to thank the members of the Board of HES, the members of the working groups, the members and the friends of HES, who volunteer a great deal of their time, knowledge and experience in this endeavour.

Athens, 22 February 2019

Dimitra Ioannou, HES President

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THE HELLENIC EVALUATION SOCIETY

The Hellenic Evaluation Society (HES) is a professional organisation created in September 2014 with the objective to implement, adapt and disseminate methods, techniques, technologies and applications of evaluation.

Our vision is to establish an evaluation culture that will contribute to the development, rational use of resources, to the attraction of investments, the strengthening of entrepreneurship, to ensure social cohesion and the effectiveness of public policies.

OBJECTS OF THE HES

The HES seeks for promotion of knowledge development and project evaluation methods, programs and policies to support evaluation activities of public bodies and private sector, academia and universities, dissemination of information and studies relevant to the evaluation and development of links among Greek and European experts - evaluators. HES aims also to promote the capitalization of knowledge acquired as a result of assessments and contribute to the recognition of specific qualifications and skills required for planning and implementing evaluations.

As a whole, the stake for HES is to help in creating an evaluation community that will be able to meet the diverse and interdependent challenges of growth prospects, economic and social disparities and governance failures.



HES BOARD

The new Board of HES was elected on 8 February 2018 by the General Assembly, in accordance with the provisions of the Statute of HES. The term of the Board is three years.

President: Dimitra Ioannou

Vice-President: Leonardos Kantsos

Secretary General: Tina Orfanidou

Treasurer: Stavros Divanis

Member: Manolis Koutoulakis

Secretariat: Penny Strapatsaki

Dimitra Ioannou

Dimitra Ioannou holds a PhD in Sociology from the University of Strasbourg, France. She has long working experience in programming, management and evaluation of development programmes and structural interventions, and significant professional experience in providing advisory services on public policies and strategic development frameworks. She has conducted numerous evaluation assignments for the European Commission in Greece and in many other countries, acquiring a thorough knowledge and substantial expertise in conducting evaluation studies.

Leonardos Kantsos

Leonardos Kantsos holds a postgraduate degree from LSE with a specialization in EU social policy, and serves at the National Coordination Unit of NSRF (ESF Evaluation Unit), having participated in the past in the elaboration of multiannual programs such as the NSRF 2007-2013. Since 1999 he has been working on evaluation studies (Ministry of Economy, Development, Labour, etc.) and since 2004 he has been working at the Ministry of Economy on the

coordination of evaluations and follow-up of the NSRF results.

Tina Orfanidou

Tina Orfanidou holds a Ph.D. in Biophysics from the University of Athens. She is President of ELESMA and member of the Board of Directors of SESMA. She has significant collaborations with Academic Institutions and she is responsible for coordinating and monitoring the co-operation program for supervising graduates for the Master's Program of the Athens University of Economics and Business in cooperation with SESMA. She has 15 years' experience in evaluating programs and projects, especially in the field of social innovation, education and human resources development.

Stavros Divanis

Stavros Divanis is a Political Scientist holding a postgraduate degree from UEA Norwich in European Integration Policies. He is working since 2003, at the Executive Agency for the EU funding (ESIF) at the Ministry of Health, where he is responsible for the elaboration of the Ministry of Health strategies for the EU funds' co-financed investments, policy and programme evaluation. He has served as Head of the Strategic and Operational Planning Unit of the Executive Agency and he has participated in all evaluation studies' steering committees since 2003.

Manolis Koutoulakis

Manolis Koutoulakis is a Regionalist - Planner, holding a PhD from the University of Piraeus. He has been a Consultant at the Ministry of Development and Competitiveness (2010-2012) in Public Investment Program, Development Law, ERDF management, while in the period 2014-2015, he was a Special Adviser at the Ministry of Labor, Social Security and Welfare, with a responsibility in the field of planning and employment and social economy programs.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The HES is member and cooperates with the main international organisations for cooperation in evaluation.



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2018

JANUARY 2018

Organization of an awareness raising event at the City Hall of Thessaloniki on 26 January 2018, on the topic: "Evaluation for Development: Implementation of the Global Evaluation Agenda at European and national level".

During the meeting, the following topics were presented and discussed:

- Evaluation as a policy-making tool
- The real prospects of evaluation in the private sector in Greece as an investment in business development
- The contribution of evaluation to finding solutions to current social and economic crises and challenges

During the event, the President of the European Evaluation Society (EES), Mr. Bastiaan de Laat announced the organisation of the 13th EES Biennial Conference in Thessaloniki, on October 1-5, 2018.

<https://hellenicevaluation.org/index.php/el/draseis/sinedria/item/79-imerida-eea-thessaloniki-2018>

MAY 2018

Participation of the Hellenic Evaluation Society in the project "Evaluation of the integration of the principles of democracy, respect for human rights and good governance in public policy in Europe".

The project was funded by the International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation

(IOCE) and implemented by Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation (VOPEs) from seven countries (Greece, Poland, Croatia, Serbia, North Macedonia, Turkey and Croatia).

The aim of the project was to record the current situation regarding the integration of the principles of democracy, respect for human rights and good governance in public policy and to submit proposals for improvement both in the countries of action and in other European countries.

In this context, HES organized a working meeting with competent bodies in Greece, and prepared a relevant report of conclusions and recommendations, which was presented at the joint workshop of the seven Voluntary Organizations, which took place during the 13th EES Biennial Conference in Thessaloniki.

At the end of the working meeting, the "Thessaloniki Declaration" was signed, as a sign of common will and commitment of the seven bodies for expanded cooperation, with the aim of strengthening and promoting the integration of the principles of democracy, respect for human rights and good governance in public policy in Europe. The statement was co-signed by the President of EES Mr. Bastiaan de Laat and the Executive Coordinator of EvalPartners Mr. Asela Kalugampitiya.

The report of conclusions and proposals for improvement for Greece, as well as the "Thessaloniki Declaration", were posted on HES website.

https://hellenicevaluation.org/index.php/el/draseis/erga_tis_eea

JUNE 2018

Establishment of a group of experts for the elaboration of a position paper for the development of a National Evaluation Strategy (NES) in Greece.

The experts' group is composed by academics; government officials specializing in evaluation, public administration and regional development policy; and, members of the Board of HES. The group produced at a first stage a mapping of the existing regulations for the evaluation by policy sector, and analysed the experience of other countries, capturing alternatives and added value information for Greece, formulating the main concerns and proposals. The result of this work was presented in October 2018, in a panel session of the 13th EES Biennial Conference, entitled "Prospects for developing a National Evaluation Strategy in Greece: the role of the Hellenic Evaluation Society".

The work of the expert group continues in 2019, with the aim finalising HES's position paper on NES, and put it up for public consultation in Spring 2019.

OCTOBER 2018

The 13th EES Biennial Conference was organized by the EES in Thessaloniki, Greece, with the active participation of HES, on the theme: "Evaluation for more resilient societies".

The conference was attended by more than 700 representatives of the international evaluation community. It was held from 1 to 5 October 2018 at the "Ioannis Vellidis" Conference Center in Thessaloniki.

The aim of the conference was to discuss in depth issues related to the contribution of evaluation to the empowerment and strengthening of the resilience of societies, after a decade of crises and upheavals where many changes have taken place, positive and negative, at all levels, which we are called now to manage. The conference was highlighted mainly by the EES's concerns about the role that evaluation can play in a changing Europe and how it can help create added value for its citizens and address critical social issues.

As part of the Conference, the Hellenic Evaluation Society (HES) in collaboration with the International Cooperation for Evaluation Organization (IOCE) organized a series of thematic events for the evaluation, which took place on 1 and 2 October 2018.

<http://www.ees2018.eu/>

The 2nd HES Annual Conference was organized on 2 October 2018, on the theme: "Evaluation of Public Policies", at the Conference Center "Ioannis Vellidis" in Thessaloniki.

The objective of the 2nd HES Annual Conference was to take a step in the dialogue on the contribution of the evaluation to shaping public policies of added value for citizens and societies, taking into account real needs and realistic growth prospects, through discussion around the following key questions:

- Why is evaluation an essential part of governance and development policies?
- How can standardization processes be developed to evaluate and use their results?

- In what ways can lessons be learned through the evaluation of projects, programmes and policies in terms of effectiveness, efficiency and impact of national priorities?
- How can an evaluation culture be established for evidence-based policy making?

The conference was attended by distinguished representatives of the community of evaluators from Greece and abroad, public officials, representatives of public administration evaluation units and the European Commission, academics and researchers, as well as organisations active in the field of evaluation at European and national level.

At the end of the conference were announced the results of the HES awards for "Good Practices in Evaluation" competition, as follows

1st Category "Young Emerging Evaluator 2018": Mr George Palamidis, for his thesis "Performance Management Systems and Efficiency-The role of HR Metrics"

2nd Category "Better Applied Integrated Evaluation Methodology": National Center for Social Research, for the Interim External Evaluation of the Action: "Labour market entry voucher" (award), and Municipality of Agios Dimitrios Attica for the project: "Report on the Sustainable Development of the Municipality" (honorary mention).

3rd Category "Optimal Use of Evaluation Conclusions and Recommendations": Secretariat General for Digital Policy for the study "Evaluation of the Results of the National Digital Strategy".

<https://hellenicevaluation.org/index.php/el/draseis/sinedria>

NOVEMBER 2018

Organization of the "Evaluation Week 2018", with the theme: "Evaluation in practice" during the period 12-16 November 2018.

The action included, among other activities, the organization of training seminars on the following topics:

- Introduction to Evaluation
- Design and implementation of impact assessment

The objectives of the training program were to familiarise participants with evaluation methods and techniques, to support the development of new professional skills, and, to broaden their professional horizons.

<https://hellenicevaluation.org/index.php/el/draseis/%CE%B5%CE%BA%CF%80%CE%B1%CE%B9%CE%B4%CE%B5%CF%85%CF%84%CE%B9%CE%BA%CE%AC-%CF%83%CE%B5%CE%BC%CE%B9%CE%BD%CE%AC%CF%81%CE%B9%CE%B1>

DECEMBER 2018

As of 3 December 2018, the Hellenic Evaluation Society (HES) established monthly meetings among HES members and friends, with the objective to strengthening contacts, exchange of experience and networking.

The meetings take place on the first Monday of each month (from 17: 00 to 19: 00) at the café of the building "Kostis Palamas" of University of Athens, Akadimias & Sina 48, Athens.

Each month, a topic for discussion is announced in advance, while HES members

have the opportunity to submit proposals on topics that would be of interest to them for discussion in future meetings.

Participation is free and no pre-registration is required.

HES website (www.hellenicevaluation.org) is regularly updated and contains information about our activities and announcements of interest to the community of evaluators, such as employment opportunities, information on evaluators' databases and announcements for upcoming evaluation conferences and seminars.

