



# *Quo vadis evaluation? A new vision for an International Evaluation Academy*

Presentation by Linda Morra Imas for the Annual  
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**HELLO!**



I am Linda Morra Imas  
Interim President of IEAc

You can find me at  
[lindag1000@gmail.com](mailto:lindag1000@gmail.com)

# IEAc

**Why? What? How?  
When?**

## *Why IEAc?*

**No other organization  
represents and advocates on  
behalf of ALL evaluation and ALL  
evaluators!**

## WHAT IS IT?

A global  
movement of  
volunteers  
dedicated to  
evaluation  
influence,  
professionalism,  
and  
transformative  
impact

- Aspires to make transdisciplinary, value-driven evaluation play an influential role in promoting global justice and social, economic, environmental sustainability
- Important niche in the global evaluation architecture, conceived in the concept of Academies of Science worldwide
- Tasked to evaluate the combined impact of public, private, & civil society impact on problems without passport plaguing the world
- Tasked with evaluating the enabling environment within which evaluation takes place within and across borders
- Tasked with independent evaluation

# Origins

## IDEAS GA, Prague 2019

- ▶ IEAc Concept paper presented and discussed
- ▶ Conference culminated in the approval of the Prague Declaration that supported active exploration of the IEAc concept

## IDEAS Survey

- ▶ IDEAS subsequently conducted a survey of evaluation practitioners
- ▶ Survey results confirmed broad international support for the Academy

## Incorporation

- ▶ Setting up as a UK Charity Incorporated Organization with 3 components:
  1. The Trustees (Board of Directors)
  2. The Council
  3. Fellows

# Principles and Values

## SUBSIDIARITY

- ▶ IEAc seeks cooperation with other evaluation and social research orgs that share the same purposes and values
- ▶ It will not take the lead in all its initiatives
- ▶ It will seek partnerships with IOCE and other evaluation associations, societies, and networks as well as orgs in the scientific, academic, & social research fields

## VISION

- ▶ A world where evaluation is an integral part of gov'ts, civil society, and private sector efforts towards a just, sustainable world
- ▶ IEAc is an inclusive, ambitious and, above all, activist venture to promote evaluation excellence, advocacy, and social relevance dedicated to evaluation transformation

## VALUES

- ▶ Integrity, compassion, courage, competence, & inclusivity ('ICCCI')
- ▶ IEAc favors eval approaches that respect nature, protect human rights & promote gender equality
- ▶ It stands for sound, objective, professional eval in the public interest
- ▶ It aims to be self-reflective, open, respectful, and honest as it strives for justice, diversity & tolerance

Embraces the  
vision of  
Agenda 2030,  
the SDGs, and  
Paris  
Agreement

Aims for  
creativity to  
unleash the  
potential of  
new ideas in  
the evaluation  
space

Strives for  
innovation to  
accelerate  
change in  
global  
evaluation

**TRUSTEES**  
Set policy directions  
and provide  
oversight over all  
IEAc activities

**COUNCIL**  
Advises the Board,  
develops thematic  
strategies and  
manages the  
initiatives

**FELLOWS**  
Volunteers  
working  
individually or in  
groups to design  
and implement  
initiatives within  
strategic priorities

Hubs foreseen in the future to respond to local needs

## HOW: IEAc's Business Model: Financing

- As a CIO, and as for all science academies, fundraising is a priority; donations from gov'ts, foundations, international and development finance institutions, private corporations will be as crucial as volunteerism
- An anonymous donation is covering initial start-up and admin costs and a small grants program
- In all financing, IEAc's values need safeguarding and its independence protected with any conditions attached to funding consistent with its charitable objectives, purposes, & values
- IEAc will focus on arm's length funding for *evaluator-directed activities* geared to transformational change; it will steer clear of *user-directed evaluations* controlled by evaluation commissioners
- IEAc will sponsor and oversee evaluations geared to transformational change; it will deliver remunerated expert evaluation services compliant with its conflict of interest standards.
- Its unique potential is its global reach, extensive Fellowship network, and its action orientation

# Small Grants Program

- ▶ IEAc will provide small (up to 10K) grants to help support volunteer-driven creative and innovation initiatives in line with Board-approved thematic strategies
- ▶ Grants would facilitate the design, incubation and/or implementation of projects and events geared to strategies
- ▶ Procedures under development

# WHO ARE FELLOWS?



Fellows are  
IEAc's life and  
blood!

- ▶ Include eminent eval thinkers, highly experienced evaluators, mid-career practitioners, and YEEs
- ▶ No fees charged
- ▶ Min. of 7 days/yr. in volunteer time

## Proposed Criteria

- ▶ Significant involvement in evaluation or related activities—research, education, training, practice, management
- ▶ Commitment to Academy purposes and values
- ▶ Willingness and ability to volunteer and contribute to Academy goals
- ▶ Application process and international recruitment campaign under development

## Interventions within Board-approved strategies will emphasize:

### Transforming

In pursuit of systemic social transformation

Work to change mind-sets

Promote inter- and trans-disciplinary

Broker knowledge exchanges

Empower civil society and promote equity

Improve how practitioners identify, conceptualize, plan, conduct and facilitate use of evaluations

### Influencing

Expand the reach and impact of evaluation through improved evaluation governance norms

Principled advocacy

Increased evaluation engagement across borders, generations, sectors (public, private, and civil society)

### Professionalizing

Contribute to methodological advances at the frontiers of social research & evaluation

Provide professional development support, esp. to YEEs

Lay the foundation for international agreement on what a good evaluator means

# WHEN???

# SOON!!!

## The Board at Work

Constitution &  
Incorporation documents

Developing policies e.g.

- ▶ Partnerships
- ▶ Diversity & Inclusion
- ▶ Conflict of Interest

Developing Procedures e.g.

- ▶ Fellows Application & Review
- ▶ Small Grants Program

Developing website

## The Council at Work

Conducting mapping and  
developing thematic  
strategies reflecting the  
three priorities

- ▶ To go to Board in June-  
July

Board also may call on  
Council members for  
assistance



**THANKS! See more on IEAc and  
Professionalization in *Transformational  
Evaluation for the Global Crises of Our  
Times.***

Questions?