UNITE EVALUATIONS

UNODC'S SYSTEM FOR EFFICIENT EVALUATION AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

ABOUT IES

The Independent Evaluation Section (IES) delivers products and services in line with our three strategic pillars of mandated work. We conduct gender-responsive evaluations of projects, programmes and strategies related to drugs, crime and terrorism. We lead and facilitate the aggregation of evaluation results. We develop innovative evaluation-based knowledge management systems and products. And we support evaluation capacity development. IES reports directly on evaluation results to the UNODC Executive Director and Member States.

"An additional major achievement (…) has been the development of an Evaluation Application (…). Feedback from Programme Managers is very positive and the whole module appears user-friendly and highly efficient" (UNEG-OECD/DAC Peer Review, 2016)

BACKGROUND

Member States have strongly and repeatedly requested full evaluation coverage, ensuring that all projects and programmes in UNODC be independently evaluated. However, the limited number of staff and financial constraints of IES make it challenging to effectively manage the entire evaluation portfolio of UNODC.

Thanks to dedicated donor funding, IES has been able to investment in norms, standards and instruments to fulfil these demands. This includes the development of innovative approaches and modern IT-solutions, namely *Unite Evaluations*.

Unite Evaluations supports centralised management and supervision of UNODC evaluations in a seamless and efficient manner. It further facilitates the production of high quality outputs in line with the Evaluation Norms and Standards of the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), thus responding to UN Reforms and the 2030 Agenda.

OVERVIEW

Unite Evaluations is a web-based evaluation management and knowledge sharing application. It facilitates tracking of recommendations and aggregation of evaluation results, as well as reporting with respect to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It has been online since March 2019.

The Independent Evaluation Section developed *Unite Evaluations* in close cooperation with the Enterprise Application Center Vienna (EAC-VN). Sweden, Norway, the United States of America, and Germany provided extra-budgetary funding.

The Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) has highlighted *Unite Evaluations* as a "notable good practice in evaluation management" (A/74/67) as well as "a noteworthy example in advancements made for reporting evaluation results vis-à-vis the SDGs" (OIOS IED-19-001).

Unite Evaluations provides support throughout the entire evaluation process

FEATURES OF UNITE EVALUATIONS

Unite Evaluations serves three major purposes:

1. PLANNING FOR EVALUATION

Unite Evaluations facilitates improved evaluation planning. It contains more than 150 evaluation plans of UNODC projects, programmes, strategies and policies with more being regularly added. Users can retrieve detailed aggregated information about UNODC projects, programmes, Sub-Programmes, thematic areas, regions and the SDGs.
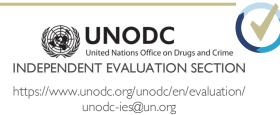
2. MANAGING EVALUATIONS

Unite Evaluations ensures the efficient management of on-going evaluations. It includes a detailed workflow system with dedicated roles and responsibilities for Project and Programme Managers, as well as IES and independent evaluators. It ensures full transparency of the evaluation process, including tracking the usage of the reserved budget for each evaluation. It also tracks gender-disaggregated data, the duration of all steps in the evaluation process and the quality of evaluation reports. It further sends automated reminders throughout the evaluation process. And it includes a database of evaluators.

3. SHARING AND DISSEMINATING KNOWLEDGE

Finally, *Unite Evaluations* offers a dedicated knowledge bank. This ensures that evaluation recommendations and lessons learned are easily accessible and can be used for aggregate reporting and analyses on, for example, the SDGs and UNODC Strategic Framework Sub-Programmes. Moreover, the system automatically tracks the implementation rate of evaluation recommendations, thereby increasing accountability and learning.

UNODC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

INDEPENDENT EVALUATION SECTION

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BENEFITS OF UNITE EVALUATIONS

Unite Evaluations contributes to the delivery of all three pillars of IES work by:

- responding to UN Reforms by increasing transparency and accountability at all levels;
- implementing aspects of the UN Secretary-General's Strategy on New Technologies;
- strengthening evaluation capacity within and outside of UNODC by introducing fully transparent workflows;
- generating knowledge on an aggregate level vis-à-vis the SDGs as well as UNODC's Sub-Programmes;
- increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of evaluation processes;
- disseminating evaluation results to a wide audience;
- allowing dissemination of aggregate evaluation results and lessons learned by thematic areas, region and the SDGs; and
- tracking of, and reporting on, the implementation rate of evaluation recommendations.