

# Utility and acceptance of evaluation recommendations through participatory steps

SEVAL Congress / Methods workshop

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# Introduction

- Client requests an external independent evaluation, with recommendations from the external perspectives of the evaluators
- Client wishes for a participatory approach, sometimes even co-creation of recommendations based on evidence
- Client wishes for provocative ('think outside the box') recommendations
- Client wishes for realistically implementable recommendations
- Client needs an implementation plan or prioritisation to implement the recommendations
- ...



Recommendations need to be accepted and used (otherwise what's the point?)

- by the client
- by the evaluation object / project
- by other stakeholders

But it remains a challenging task...

# Objective of the session

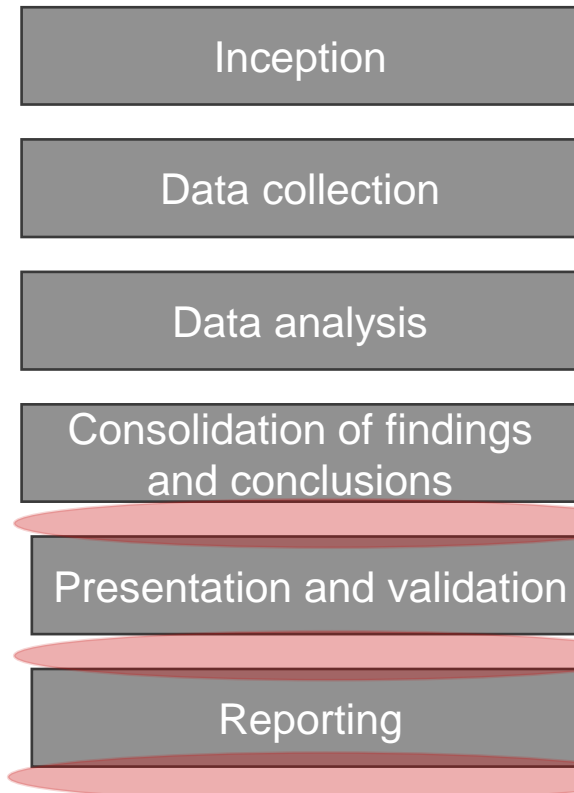
- Participants have exchanged on the meaningful use and potential risks of participatory steps in evaluation processes to increase the acceptance and use of recommendations.
- Participants are invited to bring examples from their own evaluation experiences to support the identification of good practices in using participatory steps to shape, refine and implement evaluation recommendations.

# Outline of the methods workshop

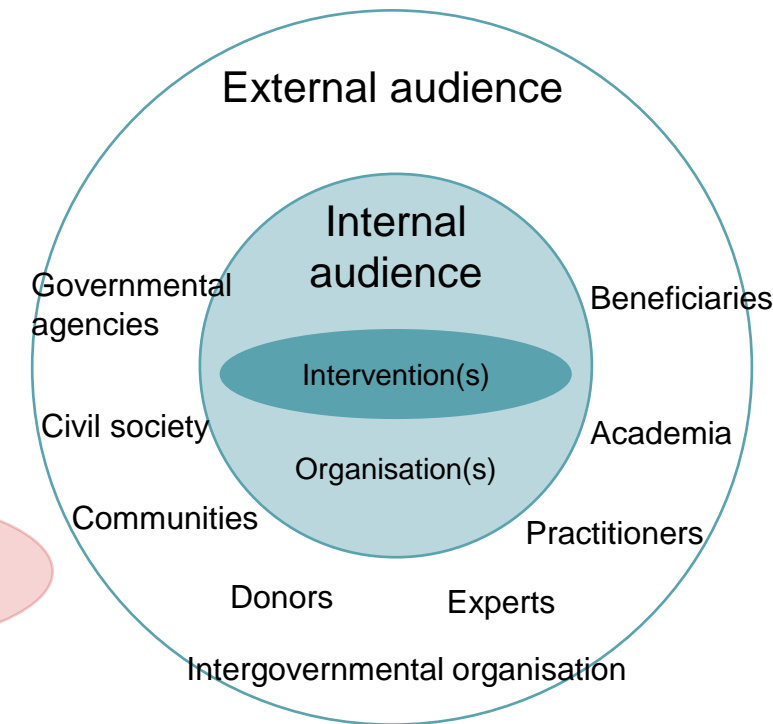
- Introduction & objectives
- Who is in the room? – self-presentation by participants
- Presentation of the participatory steps and practical examples
- Discussion based on experiences of the participants:
  - What are your experiences in increasing the utility and acceptance of evaluation recommendations through participatory steps?
    - What are your ‘good practices’ to shape, refine and implement accepted and actionable evaluation recommendations?
    - What could go wrong? What are the risks?
- Wrap-up & next steps

# Participatory steps for shaping recommendations in the evaluation process

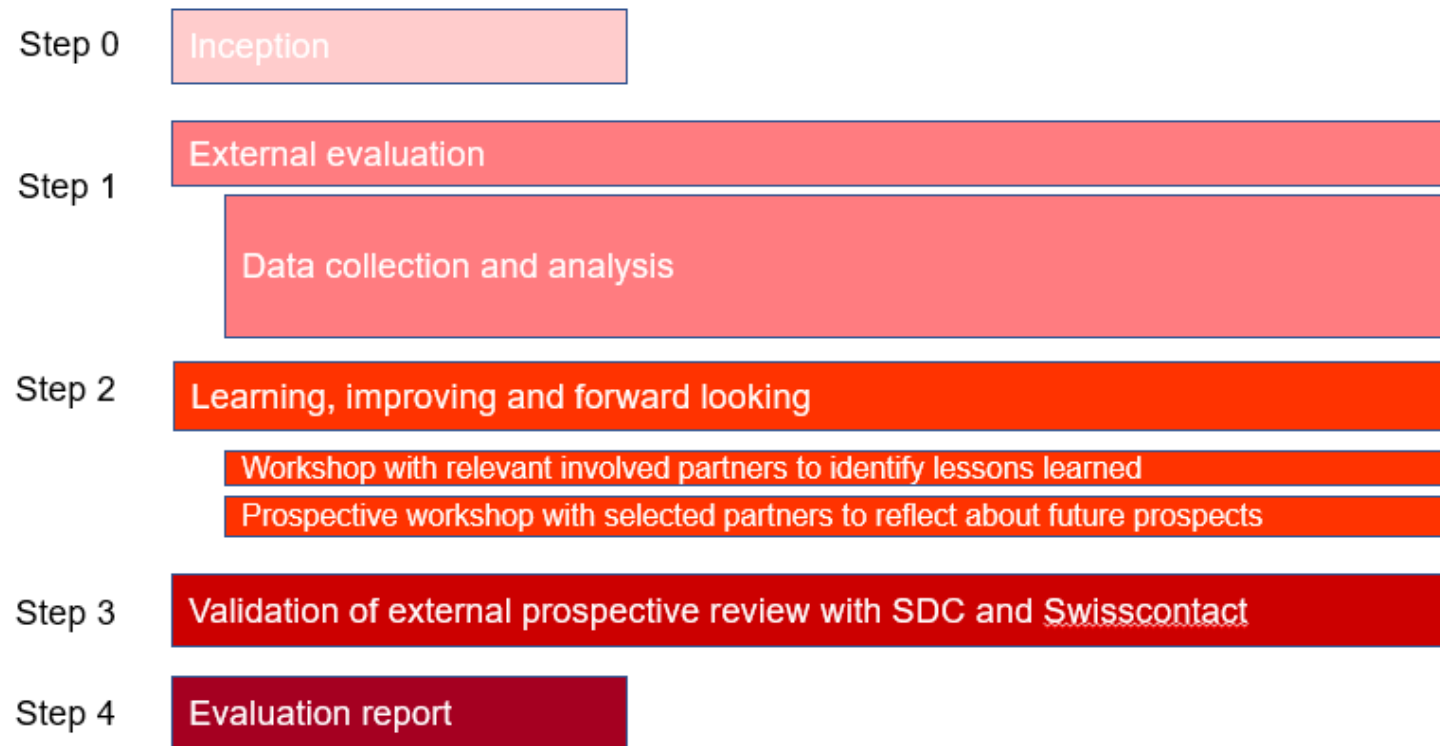
## Evaluation process



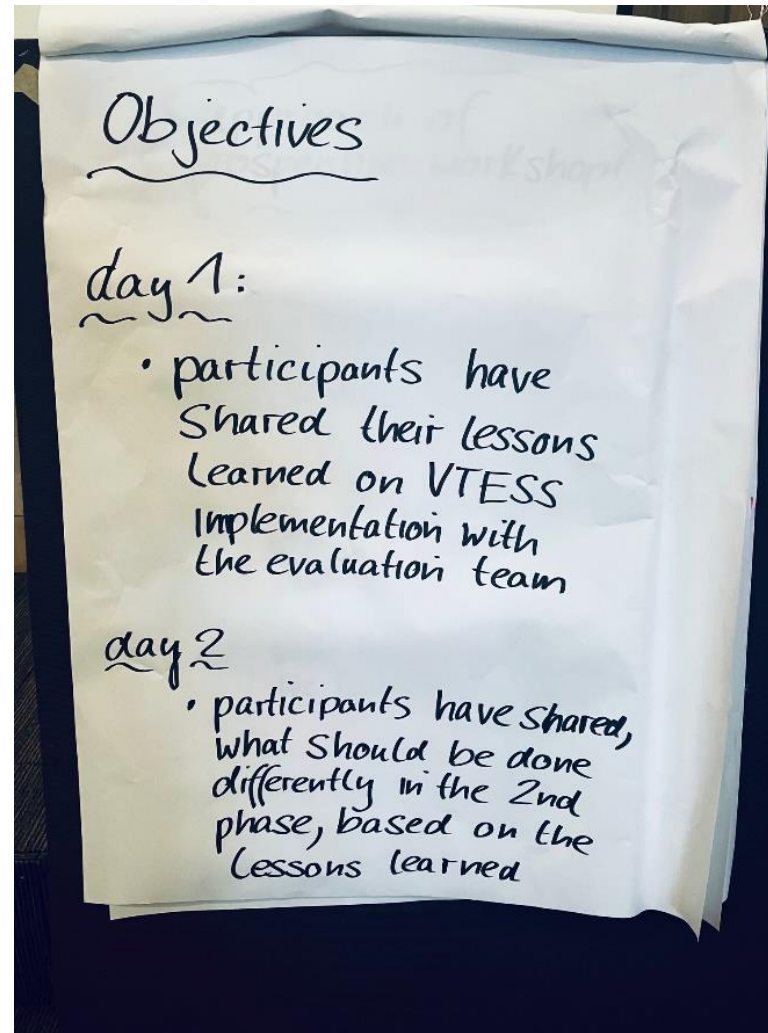
## Participatory steps



# Evaluation of the Vocational Skills Development Project in Laos (2023 by KEK – CDC)



# Example - Laos Workshops I



## Participants:

- Government on ministry level
- Director of VET colleges
- Private business representatives
- Project team
- Donor

## Facilitation:

- Evaluation team

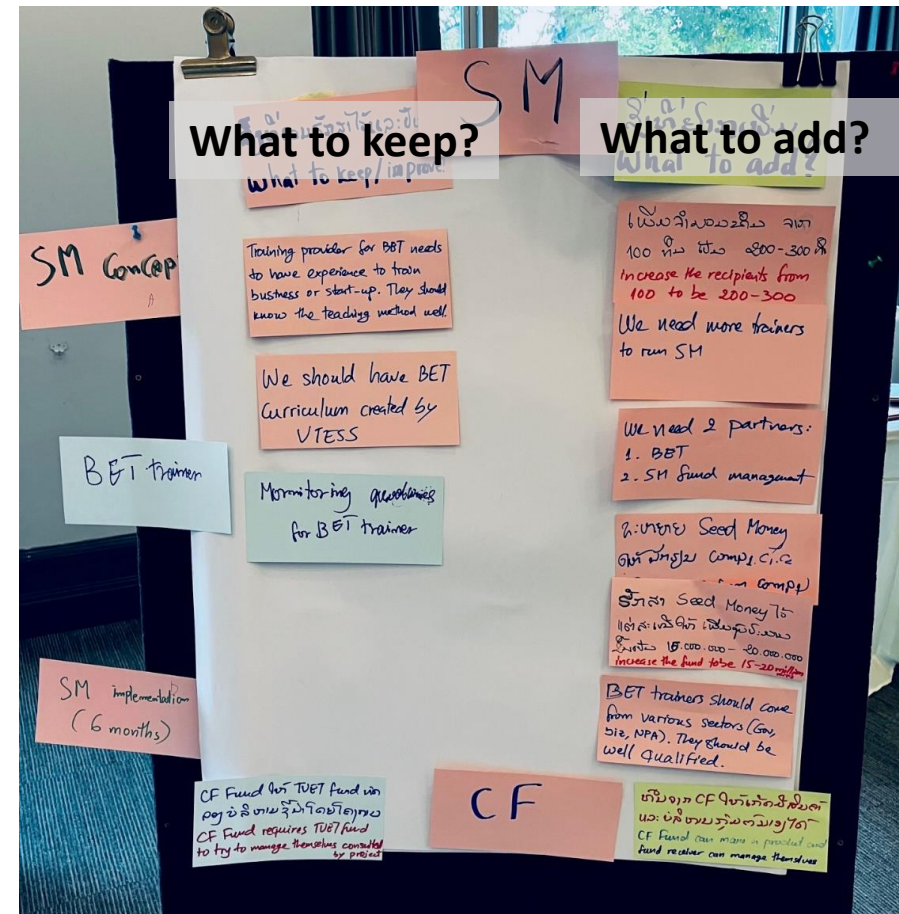


# Example - Laos Workshops II

## Day 1: lessons learned



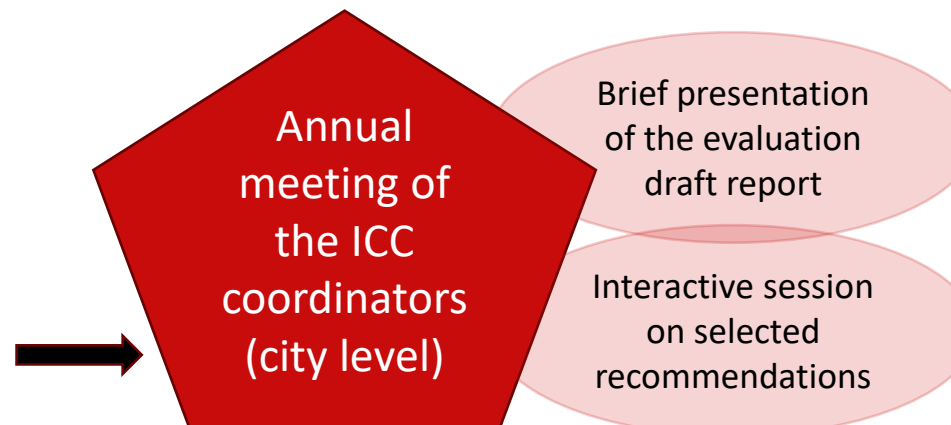
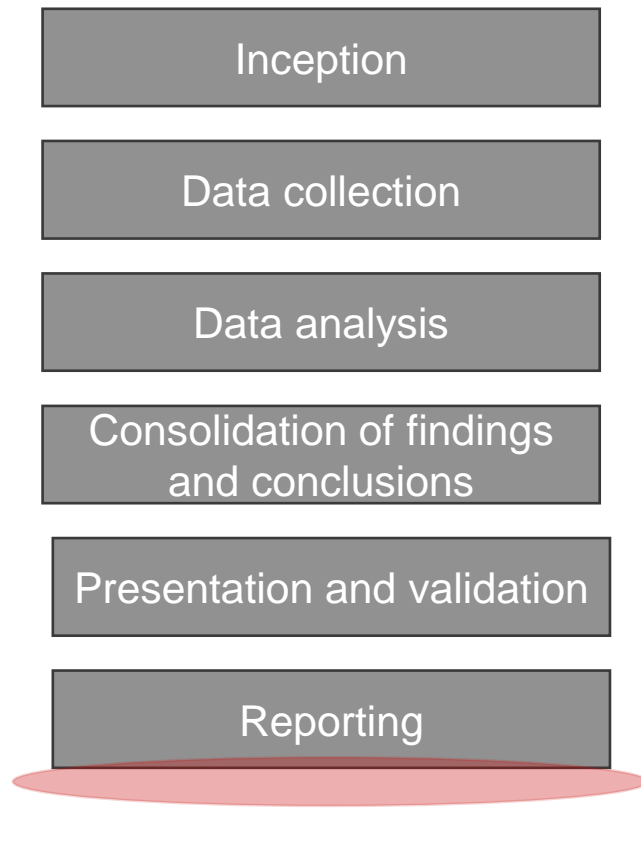
## Day 2: recommendations





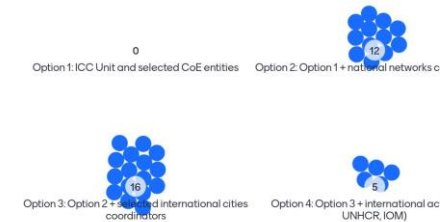
# Evaluation of the intercultural cities programme of the Council of Europe (KEK – CDC 2022)

## Evaluation process

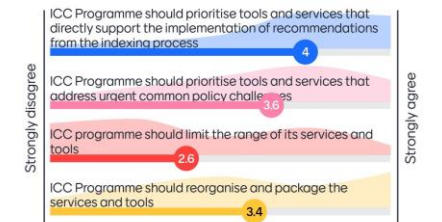


Report of survey results

If a ICC Programme Steering Committee would be established, what should be its composition?



How do you rate the following statements on the ICC tools and services?

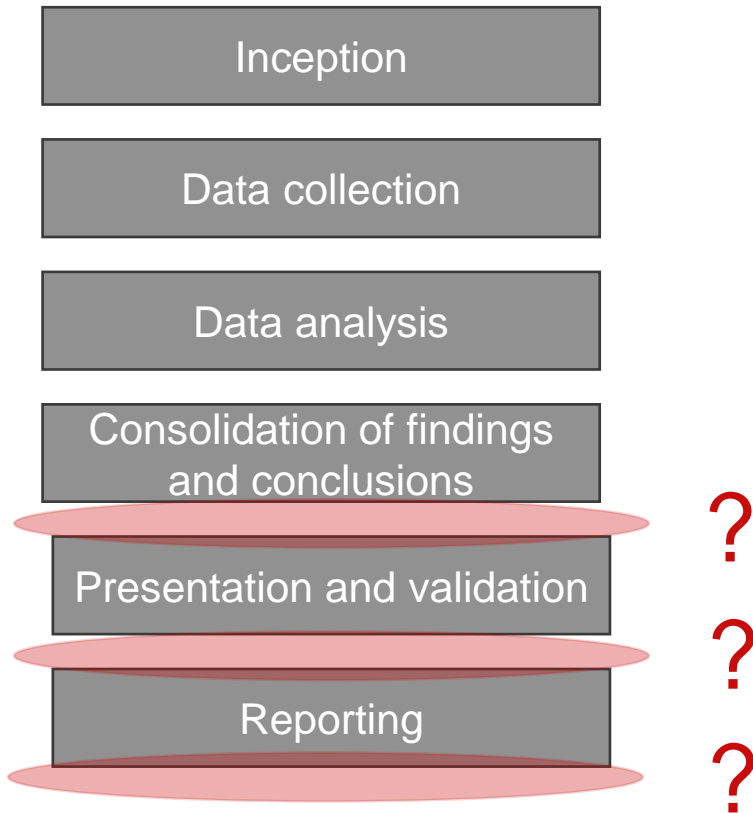


What is your main takeaway of the ICC evaluation?



# Questions for discussion

## Evaluation process



## Participatory steps

What are your experiences in increasing the utility and acceptance of evaluation recommendations through participatory steps?

- What are your 'good practices' to shape, refine and implement accepted and actionable evaluation recommendations?
- What could go wrong? What are the risks?

Thank you for your attention

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# Description of the «methods workshop»

## **Utility and acceptance of evaluation recommendations through participatory steps**

Utility is one of the fundamental principles of good evaluations. Especially with regard to evaluations of multi-phase projects, programmes, strategies or partnerships, where lessons learned for subsequent planning and actions are to be derived, it is important that the evaluation recommendations are perceived and accepted as relevant and useful by the addressees.

In the “methods workshop”, we would like to discuss how to increase the utility and acceptance of evaluation recommendations - both in formative and summative evaluations - through the meaningful use of participatory steps in the evaluation process. After presenting and discussing a short case study, we would like to invite participants to share experiences and together identify “good practices” in the view of using participatory steps to shape, refine and implement evaluation recommendations.