

UK Evaluation Society Annual Report 2015



contents

Introduction	3
Treasurer's report	4
Conference 2015	5
Pilot of a Voluntary Evaluator Peer Review (VEPR) system for UKES	6
UKES response to consultations in 2015	7
Overview of regional network events	8
Evaluation Training and Development – developing capacity and capability	9
UN International Year of Evaluation (EvalYear)	9
Society publications	12
Special Edition of Evaluation Journal	12
Communications	13
Affiliations	14
Representation at international events	15
Annex 1: List of 2015 Council Members	16
Annex 2: List of Institutional Members	17
Annex 3: Accounts year ending December 2014	18

introduction

WELCOME TO OUR FIRST ANNUAL REPORT, which covers major UKES activities in 2015. I would like to thank everyone in the Society and on Council for all their work in helping to achieve these.

There were several highlights in the year:

- We had a successful **conference in May 2015** on how we could be more inclusive and have more impact and influence in evaluation. The new venue in Central London was a more compact setting, which made it easier for delegates to move between sessions, as well as providing ample opportunity for networking. The programme was a good mix of theory and practical experience and the enthusiasm displayed left us all enriched and keen to do more evaluation.
- Preparations for the **2016 conference** on *Building a Culture of Evaluation: challenging assumptions, unpacking complexity, championing change* were well ahead of schedule. We received a good number of high quality abstracts, more poster applications than in previous years and confirmed two excellent keynote speakers. Much of this was due to the production of an updated conference information note which sets out the rationale for the various sessions as well as specifying a structure for abstracts. We were also more proactive in disseminating this information to encourage submissions.
- We have made good progress with the **Voluntary Evaluator Peer Review** process, working in collaboration with the EES. 2015 saw the development of various documents including guidance notes, application forms and report structures. The pilot went live at the beginning of 2016.
- We produced a policy on **Council membership** and strengthened the nomination process. All the Council members whose term ended in 2015 applied for re-election and I am glad to say were successful. We also welcomed Alison Girdwood from British Council as a new member.
- In response to **external requests for views**, we offered comments on *suppression of government research* and surveyed our membership (and others) for DFID's consultation on their new supplier framework and evaluation quality assurance & learning service. Two of the three bidders for the new Centre for the Evaluation of Complexity Across the Nexus also approached us for views.
- Our **regional network activities** have flourished in the London and South East area, and we have been actively trying to reinstate networks in other areas. The reinstatement of the Evaluation and Training Development group may help to accelerate this intention. Our corporate membership has increased and we have instituted a policy whereby each such organisation is linked to a specific Council member who acts as a contact point both to disseminate information and feedback any suggestions or specific issues.
- As you will recall, 2015 was the **International Year of Evaluation** and we were involved in several initiatives to promote and sponsor evaluation. However, the end of 2015 doesn't mean we have to stop such initiatives, and indeed some of the EvalYear work will continue into 2016.

So, much has been achieved in 2015, not all of which is covered here but the list above is indicative of the time and effort that UKES has spent on developing evaluation in 2015. I hope our UKES members have found these activities of benefit and that 2016 will prove to be another successful year.



Elizabeth Robin
President 2015-2016

treasurer's report

AS TREASURER, I feel that this annual report is a really important development in ensuring transparency in how the Society uses its members' funds and the activities it undertakes to promote the use of evaluation and the professional development of colleagues.

The most recent set of company accounts for UKES relate to the financial year ending 31st December 2014. The Society started the 2014 financial year with reserves of £74,670 and has used some of this money to provide match funding for a study on introducing a voluntary evaluator peer review system, the 20th Anniversary Celebratory Conference, publications, development of the website and supporting the UN International Year of Evaluation, including piloting a small grants competition to fund events and projects and representation at events.

A large source of income for the Society is the annual conference. Location and timing do make a significant difference to the financial surplus it generates. We have found that holding the conference in London increases the number of delegates. We have learned to avoid school holidays to ensure that members with childcare responsibilities are not potentially excluded: the 2014 conference coincided with the school holidays resulting in it not meeting its financial targets.

The Society has ring-fenced funding for regional networks. London and South East network have held a number of financially successful events. There are other regions which have funds available to support activities that currently lack a network steering group. I strongly encourage colleagues in the regions to consider becoming involved in their local network.

The Society ended the 2014 financial year with reduced reserves of £54,616. The Society aims to maintain reserves that cover at least a year, if not two years of operating costs. We have been able to do so but need to build up our reserves going forward.

Finally, I would to thank members who have provided their time and venues for meetings and seminars over the year.



George Bramley
Treasurer 2010-2017

review of the year

CONFERENCE 2015

THE THEME OF THE 2015 ANNUAL EVALUATION CONFERENCE was *Evaluation and Influence: Innovation, Inclusion and Impact*. The conference considered the role of civil society and private sector organisations in evaluation and how to facilitate their involvement in the policy and programme cycle – from design to implementation to evaluation and beyond.

A wide range of keynote speeches varied from the very practical to the philosophical. Presenters included:

- **Derek Poate**, Chair of the UKES Voluntary Evaluator Peer Review Working Group giving an update on the proposed VEPR pilot scheme
- **Siobhan Campbell**, Chair of the Cross Government Evaluation Group and Head of Evaluation, Department for Energy and Climate Change highlighting the need for innovative methodology to evaluate ever more complex government interventions
- **Professor Karen Kirkhart** from the School of Social Work, Syracuse University discussing culturally responsive evaluation
- **Dr Alison Evans**, Chief Commissioner Designate, Independent Commission for Aid Impact giving her views on how ICAI will work in the future.

The conference was attended by 155 delegates. 30 oral presentations were given in 19 parallel sessions, selected from submitted abstracts. 11 posters were displayed and judged by an assessment panel, with the prize for best poster being awarded to Rens Rutten, Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Expert, Cordaid for her presentation on the Flourishing Community Index.

Rens is seen here receiving her prize from Elizabeth Robin, UKES President.



PILOT OF A VOLUNTARY EVALUATOR PEER REVIEW (VEPR)¹ SYSTEM FOR UKES

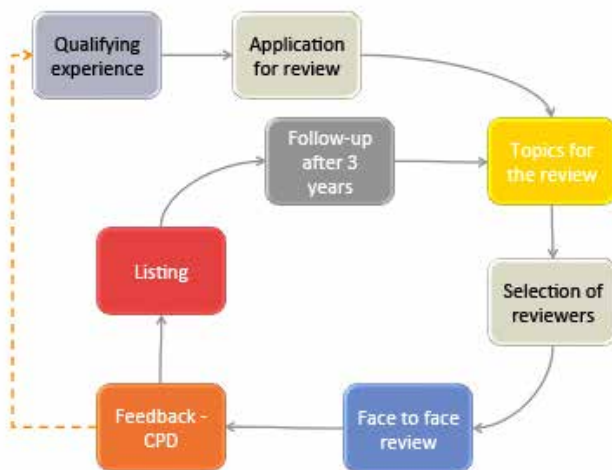
THE UKES DECIDED IN 2015 to pilot a peer review process to enhance professionalisation based around reflective practice related to the UKES Framework for Evaluation Capabilities produced in 2013. This process and related documents have evolved in collaboration with the EES who are piloting a similar process. The process does not designate a level of skill and accountability, but promotes independent peer review to stimulate accountability and professional development.

UKES Council formed a working group of three Council members at the end of 2014. They set up an agenda for the work and by the spring of 2015 formed a joint working party with a similar group from EES, guided by a UKES-EES VEPR Joint Steering Committee.

The concept was presented at the 2015 UKES Conference. Following a call for volunteers, twelve people put their names forward and, of these, ten have been able to join the pilot. Working together over the summer of 2015 the joint group developed a set of structures, procedures and documentation to form the basis for a pilot.

Towards the end of the year the EES and UKES groups decided to test the approach separately. The UKES President has taken on the role of VEPR Coordinator for the pilot and one Council Member has volunteered to do a light-touch evaluation of the pilot.

The system documentation was consolidated into a single handbook and distributed to all volunteers. The pilot began at the beginning of 2016 and a report on progress will be made at the 2016 Conference in April. An outline of the purposes of the scheme and process is given below.



The purposes envisaged for the VEPR are to:

- Promote an accountability and professional development practice by evaluation practitioners, for evaluation practitioners.
- Provide a professional endorsement process.
- Enable the discussion of appropriate quality and ethical practice and standards across the evaluation profession.
- Publish a list of evaluators who have successfully participated in a review and encourage other evaluators to participate.
- Provide commissioners with a reference group of evaluators and stimulate a more structured approach to professional development.

The central feature of the approach is that it does not seek to judge candidates' evaluation capabilities or competence, but rather their willingness to submit to a professional review structured around a capabilities framework.

¹ The VEPR concept evolved from a process originally instituted by a professional association in New Zealand and elaborated for evaluation by Pam Oliver, former Convenor of the Aotearoa New Zealand Evaluation Association and current leader of the EES VEPR working group.

UKES RESPONSE TO CONSULTATIONS IN 2015

Improving DFID's contribution to evaluation market development

The Department for International Development (DFID) has considerable influence on the evaluation market not only through its funding of evaluation services but also as a global leader in evaluation capacity development. In September 2015, UKES was invited to provide input into the development of DFID's new Global Evaluation Framework Agreement and an Evaluation Quality Assurance and Learning Service.

The intent of the DFID review was to help improve the impact and value of DFID's development assistance through delivery of more efficient and effective evaluation services combined with mechanisms to incentivise the ethical and professional conduct of evaluation. The Society conducted an online survey addressed to members and non-members. The results were transmitted to DFID. Members of Council then met with DFID's Evaluation Department. A summary of UKES suggestions and DFID responses is available here: <http://ow.ly/4n0WRa>

Establishment of Centre for Complexity

UKES council members have followed with interest, and contributed where appropriate, to the development of a new Centre for the Evaluation of Complexity Across the Nexus (CECAN) which was launched on 1 March 2016. The Centre is based at the University of Surrey and its Director is Professor Nigel Gilbert. The research centre will develop, test, and promote new and innovative ways of evaluating the effectiveness of policies in the energy, water, environment and food spheres (linking into the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Nexus Network). CECAN will focus on policies where complexity means it is difficult to apply standard evaluation approaches; supporting better policy making. The Centre will foster an 'open research' culture of knowledge exchange founded on a growing network of policymakers, practitioners and researchers – whilst at its core will be a strong group of academic and non-academic experts with many years' experience. CECAN is funded by the ESRC and the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) in collaboration with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra); the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC); the Environment Agency (EA); and the Food Standards Agency (FSA). A short presentation on the new Centre will be given on 27 April 2016 at the next UKES conference.

Suppression of Government Research Consultation

UKES made a contribution to the Sense about Science Inquiry into the non-publication of government research in early 2015 led by David Walker, Head of Policy, Academy of Social Sciences.

Policy Evaluations are largely internally led by government and the line between research and evaluation is blurred. The report however recognises the value of UKES as a consultative body for UK practice. Whilst it could not identify deliberate suppression of research there were clearly political factors which could be used to emphasise, side line or ignore uncomfortable findings. For further background see <http://bit.ly/1Sqxy57>

OVERVIEW OF REGIONAL NETWORK EVENTS

THE UKES LONDON AND SOUTH EAST REGIONAL NETWORK has been active and, in 2015, organised and held the following events, all of which were well attended:

- **Making the Best Use of Limited Resources In Development Evaluations** – 22/4/2015 (Presenter: Richard Longhurst, Development Economist and Research Associate, Institute of Development Studies, Sussex University)
- **Centering Evaluation in Culture** – 15/5/2015 (Presenter: Professor Karen E Kirkhart, David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics at Syracuse University, US)
- **Randomising Policy Interventions in Developing Countries** – 25/6/2015 (joint event with Royal Statistical Society) – (Presenter: Dr Tim Powell-Jackson, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Discussant: Anna Henttinen, Head of Profession Evaluation & Evaluation Practice Team Leader, Evaluation Department, UK Department for International Development)
- **Making Sense of Evaluation: Key Principles and Skills** (One Day Evaluation Training Event) – 24/9/2015 (Presenter: Professor Georgie Parry-Crooke, London Metropolitan University)
- **Evaluation 2.0: The Digital Future of Evaluation** – 11/12/2015 (Presenter: Jenny Hughes, Centre for Research and Education Development, Wales)

The Network has also planned a series of events for 2016, including two training sessions, and has extended its planning group to ensure more attention to the voluntary sector.

South West Evaluator Forum

The Forum held its inaugural meeting in September 2014 and has now entered its second year. During this time the forum has developed and agreed core values and objectives, steadily increased its membership and worked together to produce a successful bid to the UK Evaluation Society's EvalYear fund to develop a charter for Patient and Public Involvement in Evaluation.

The forum meets quarterly and provides an opportunity for its members to discuss key topics in evaluation practice and to share knowledge, skills and expertise. The topics for discussion have included the ethics and governance of evaluation; involvement of patients and the public and the development of local strategic initiatives. It is also a chance to provide peer support and advice for individual members around particular evaluation issues. These have included advice around applying validated patient reported outcome measures in practice and how to publish findings from service evaluations. Members consistently give positive feedback on the value of having a space to share – a network for a specific focus on evaluation issues.

Outside of these regular meetings, members use the forum to raise awareness of useful evaluation resources and local evaluation opportunities including training, seminars, job and tender opportunities.

Going forward, the South West Evaluator Forum will continue its work from 2015 to co-design, disseminate and embed a Patient and Public Involvement in Evaluation Charter across the region. It will continue to meet regularly and provide opportunities for peer support, development, dissemination and knowledge mobilisation.

Scotland and North East Network

Following a discussion on regional networks at the July Council meeting, it was decided to establish a new network which would provide regional events for members in Scotland and North East England. An introductory meeting was planned to gauge the level of interest in such a network, and discuss how it might operate. However, due to difficulties in finding a suitable location, that meeting has been delayed. It is now being planned for mid-2016.

EVALUATION TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT – DEVELOPING CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY

THE UKES EVALUATION TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT GROUP was reinstated a year ago to explore what specific evaluation and development training activities the Society could promote to support our members' evaluation practice. This specific training is in addition to the methodological support the society provides through the method sessions and workshops at our annual conference and the methodological-related events hosted by the UKES regional networks. See, for example, the entry from the London and South East UKES Regional Network which details the development events they offered this year on *Culturally Responsive Evaluation*, and the one day training on *Making sense of Evaluation*.

Since its reinstatement, the group, comprising Helen Simons, Colin Jacobs, Derek Poate and Dione Hills, who initially chaired the group, welcomed Emma Gibbard as a new member. Emma has since become the current chair. The group started its work to devise a training and development policy strategy for UKES by reviewing and aiming to build upon the previous evaluation training initiative the Council had considered, developed by the London and South East Regional Network.

The group is now focusing its work on three strands. The first strand is developing a training curriculum to align with the capabilities noted in the UKES Framework for Evaluation Capabilities, which the group think will be helpful to support the VEPR process that was developed this year. The second strand is conducting a scoping exercise to see what other evaluation training opportunities exist and to explore what and how it might be useful to link with any of these. The third is to conduct a consultation with UKES individual and institutional members to ascertain what evaluation training needs they may have, individually or corporately. In all three strands the review will be utilising the UKES Framework for Evaluation Capabilities to guide the development of the UKES policy strategy for Evaluation Training. So watch this space and help us to further the development of this training strategy. We will be actively seeking your views in 2016.

UN INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF EVALUATION (EVALYEAR)

Small Grants for Events competition

The UK Evaluation Society ran a small grants competition to fund events and projects of up to £2,000 to mark EvalYear that met one or more of the following criteria:

- Encourage outreach, raise awareness and use of evaluation findings.
- Identify and address specific methodological issues in evaluation.
- Celebrate significant contributions to evaluation theory and practice made by the UK evaluation community or the work of specific individual(s) who have contributed to evaluation theory whilst working in the United Kingdom. Similarly proposals were welcomed for events that reflected on how a specific study or approach has made a significant difference to policy or practice.
- Develop communities of practice by exploring the contribution and challenges for evaluation in a specific professional or policy area (eg policing, integrated care, criminal justice).
- Address how evaluation might respond to localism and devolution of decision making and other current social and economic trends.

All funded proposals included some form of matched funding or contributions through benefit in kind. Subject to funds being available the Society may run a similar competition again in future years.

Three projects were funded and these are detailed below.

Putting Patient and Public Involvement First: Mapping public and patient involvement in evaluation

The South West Evaluator Forum (SWEF) focus for EvalYear was to promote, support and enhance good practice in patient and public involvement in health and social care evaluation across the region.

Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) in health and social care research has greatly increased in the last ten years and it is widely acknowledged that patients and the public bring an invaluable perspective to research studies². The potential for active patient and public involvement ('with' and 'by') to improve health and social care evaluations is

2. <http://www.nihr.ac.uk/get-involved/Resources-for-researchers.htm>

also now gaining greater recognition. However, despite all the policy and guidance around PPI in research, at present there is little known about the extent of active involvement in evaluation, other than an anecdotal sense that it is limited, or where good practice exists. As such, SWEF decided to undertake a series of activities to try to:

- Gauge the current level of PPI in health and social care evaluation across the region and understand the barriers and facilitators to this involvement.
- Identify and promote examples of good practice of active PPI in Evaluation in the region.
- Co-design a local PPI in evaluation 'charter' that sets out the principles of high quality PPI in Evaluation.

The work was jointly led by a service user researcher and an evaluator with the support of a project team made up of SWEF members and funded by a small grant from UKES.

The work to date has involved an information gathering exercise through a survey and a workshop. This has enabled the team to identify examples of good practice across the region and start to unpick the barriers and facilitators to involvement and support needs required to further facilitate involvement. It also seems to confirm that active involvement of patients and the public in evaluation is in its infancy in the region but that there is a clear desire among those evaluators who participated to enhance the role patients and the public have in their evaluations.

In 2016, the project team will take these findings to inform the development of this 'charter' through a consensus exercise and then work together with its members to test, share and embed the charter across the region.

"Evaluation is quite often considered as an afterthought. PPI is therefore quite often an afterthought of an afterthought."

'Challenges in Evaluation' Seminars at University of Liverpool

UKES funded a 2015/16 series of seminars on Challenges in Evaluation for different professional sectors, hosted by the Centre for Lifelong Learning at the University of Liverpool. The first of these, focusing on health practice, took place on 29 October 2015 and was attended by practitioners, academics and community evaluators.

The organisers were delighted to introduce Dr Justin Jagosh as the seminar lead. Justin is the Director of the Centre for Advancement of Realist Evaluation and Synthesis (CARES). CARES has blazed a trail for Realist Evaluation since its inception in 2013. Specialising principally in evaluations in public health and epidemiology, it has already raised the profile of Realist Evaluation significantly both nationally and internationally. In 2014 CARES organised the first Realist Evaluation international conference, with presentations by both Ray Pawson and Nick Tilley, the pioneers of the approach.

The aims of the seminar were:

- To discuss some of the challenges to the science of evaluation within the health research field;
- To introduce concepts related to Realism that may help address these challenges;
- To practice evaluating complexity using by building program theory and context-mechanism-outcome configurations.

Following the success of the seminar, further seminars will be rolled out for different sectors. Three are currently being planned for: culture and the arts; social regeneration; and higher education. The support of UKES for the series has been crucial; and for that the organisers wish to express their gratitude. One objective of the seminars is to promote the Society and its work, which aims to promote evaluation as a professional field more firmly across different professional sectors. As part of this endeavour, it is also to support the growth of a community-of-practice that can contribute to the development of evaluation as a type of practice with a firmly established and clearly defined professional identity.

Workshop on interface between evaluation and social research

On 25 November 2015, UKES supported an exciting workshop with PERU (Policy and Evaluation Research Unit) at Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU). This explored evaluation in the UK and the interface between evaluation and social research. Speakers from MMU, Professor Tony O'Sullivan and Professor Jon Bannister, joined Professor Helen Simons (UKES). Together it was a fascinating account with Helen providing the theoretical background and early growth of the profession. Tony and Jon then showed how the practice had been applied respectively to the fields of health and social policy in government and to criminology and research. Key issues emerging were the importance of timing in influencing policy change, the critical influence of politics and power in determining what is heard and the danger of reducing narratives to sound bites. In terms of methods there had been a pronounced tendency to commission impact evaluations in the often misguided view that it would provide definitive judgements in complex situations.

OTHER EVALYEAR EVENTS

Dynamics of Evaluation

Dione Hills (UKES) was heavily involved in organising a series of four lunch time *Dynamics of Evaluation* events at the Tavistock Institute of Human Relations to celebrate EvalYear. (This also celebrated 30 years of evaluation practice by the Tavistock and 21 years since the launch of the journal *Evaluation*). These events brought a variety of participants (evaluators, commissioners and organisational development consultants) together to explore topics such as reflective practice, system psychodynamic thinking and complexity, and how evaluation practice –and the communication of findings – can best be undertaken in ways that support learning and change. It is hoped that these dialogues will continue with a further set of events in 2016.

Evaluation Week in Wales 16-21 November 2015: Understanding What Works

The Welsh Government ran a whole week of lunch time evaluation seminars in Cardiff, with video conference links to Llandudno Junction and Aberystwyth, for policymakers and government analysts.

Richard Thurston, a former UKES President, was instrumental in designing the programme which had the aim of promoting evidence-based decision making and evaluation in the Welsh Government.

Each day had a different theme and the themes included: The past, present and future of evaluation in Wales; Trials and Experimentation; Building capacity for evaluation; Understanding What Works; and Evaluation for policy-makers.

George Bramley and Bob Picciotto represented UKES, and the latter gave a presentation in the session on *Understanding What Works*.

The seminars were well attended since in Wales, as elsewhere, the attribution question is increasingly put to evaluators by decision makers tasked with reducing public expenditures in an age of austerity.

Understanding what works is a multi-faceted challenge. What makes the intervention work? For whom does it work? How effective is it? How could it be more effective? The presenters argued that these questions are best answered through mixed methods. Indeed, methodological diversity is a sine qua non of evaluation quality. This is because, beyond the assessment of merit, evaluation is vitally concerned with worth and value. Questions other than attribution are also of interest to commissioners and the wider public.

Wilton Park Event: 20-22 July 2015

Over the past 15 years there have been dramatic changes in the ways social interventions have been designed and implemented. In particular market-oriented approaches promoted by coalitions of public, private and voluntary sector organizations have become prominent. Evaluation practice, often shaped by a public sector orientation, has not kept pace. Against this background, Bob Picciotto, UKES Council member, helped to organise an EvalYear event at Wilton Park on 20-22 June 2015. The conference provided an opportunity to identify good impact evaluation practices related to public-private partnerships, ethical investing, social and environmental impact funding and other market-based instruments such as insurance products, social bonds and prizes and challenges. See: <http://bit.ly/22WvNiX>

SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

The Evaluator

UKES PRODUCED TWO EDITIONS of the Evaluator in 2015. Given the EvalYear goal of strengthening the demand for and use of policies that are equity focused and gender-responsive, it seemed a good time to take stock of the relevance of evaluation to those who are the intended beneficiaries of an intervention and the extent to which their interests and views are central. The spring 2015 edition therefore revisited democratic and inclusive evaluation methods. Helen Simons outlined the evolution and experience of democratic evaluation and its relevance today, while Bob Picciotto contributed a think piece on the same topic; Mark O'Brien discussed the challenges of embedded evaluation and Alice Martin analysed inclusive evaluation in the context of assessing local currencies; while Daniel Clay and Emily Fu showed how the British Market Research Bureau (BMRB) had used new technologies to enable evaluation subjects to become, in essence, co-researchers.

The lively and well-attended 2015 conference produced rather a bumper crop of articles for the 2015 Conference Edition, including reports on the progress of the VEPR, a summary of Siobhan Campbell and Karen Kirkhart's keynote speeches on innovation in evaluating complex interventions and culturally responsive evaluation respectively. A strong theme throughout the conference was impact, and new and innovative techniques for robustly evaluating it and so there were a number of articles on experiences of using experimental and quasi-experimental techniques, mixed design, statistical analysis, process tracing and participatory evaluation and Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) to evaluate a wide variety of interventions. This was in addition to some excellent case studies on the evaluation of the Renewable Heat Initiative and the Green Deal, and a thought-provoking piece on the dynamics of evaluation and the benefits of reflective practice.

SPECIAL EDITION OF EVALUATION JOURNAL

THE JOURNAL *Evaluation* continued its contribution to the field of evaluation in 2015 and to the celebration of 20 years since the UKES was established, with a special issue in April, entitled: 'UK Evaluation Society at 20: A community of policy and practice'. This brought together key note presentations and papers from the 2014 UKES conference together with commentaries from some key thinkers in the world of evaluation.

The 2014 Conference and the subsequent contributions to the Journal published in April 2015 showcased the long tradition of democratic evaluation in the UK. It also included policy contributions from the UK Behavioural Insights team and highlighted the unique UK situation where there is an Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI) which scrutinises the UK's official ODA and reports directly to Parliament. The range of contributions demonstrated the added value of UKES as a thought leader and convener of a wide range of evaluators across government, civil society and business.

COMMUNICATIONS

Website

A NEW WEBSITE WAS LAUNCHED at the end of 2015, designed to allow easier access and greater flexibility in posting information. Future developments to the website will include a members' only area aimed at further enhancing the benefits of membership.

Two particularly useful publications which are available on the website are:

Guidelines for good practice in evaluation

<http://ow.ly/4n0QtH>

UKES Evaluation Capabilities Framework for the conduct of quality evaluation

<http://ow.ly/4n0QD1>

E-bulletin

Monthly e-bulletins were circulated to members throughout the year, comprising a lead article by a Council member on a topical issue, information on current consultations, latest news on activities relating to the 2015 International Year of Evaluation, updates on the annual conference and network events and notifications of tender opportunities.

Members are encouraged to submit contributions for inclusion in both the website and the e-bulletin.

AFFILIATIONS

The Society is a member of the Academy of Social Sciences and International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation.

Academy of Social Sciences: The National Academy of Academics, Learned Societies and Practitioners in the Social Sciences

The Academy is a major voice for social science in the UK through making links with Government, responding to official consultations, producing policy responses on specific issues in the social sciences and organising events on social science. In 2015 its membership comprised 1000 individual fellows and 43 professional societies, of which UKES is one.

Through its *Campaign for Social Science*, which was launched in 2011, the Academy aspires to influence public policy with social science evidence through direct lobbying, a regular presence in the media, professional briefings and publications such as the series *Making the Case for the Social Sciences* to highlight the benefits of social science research and practice to society. UKES have contributed to the campaign and David Walker, who was head of policy at the Academy in 2015, presented the results of the campaign at that time to the UKES 2015 conference.

The campaign has given evidence to the House of Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology including on the restoration of the post of Chief Social Science Adviser to government, the need for social science education to increasingly equip the next generation of researchers with quantitative techniques, and for longitudinal and key data sets to be protected. Over the past few years the Academy has also been prominent in developing a generic set of research ethics led by the Academy's Ethics Group. A series of seminars focusing respectively on principles, values, standards, was held in 2013. The following January, a conference explored common ground for research ethics, which subsequently led to the development of generic ethical principles. Helen Simons, a Fellow of the Academy and UKES Council member, represented the UKES at these events and subsequently was part of a small group from several societies refining the five generic ethical principles which were formally adopted by the Academy in March 2015. These, after consultation with UKES members, may well form part of the review of our own UKES *Guidelines for Good Practice in Evaluation*.

International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation (IOCE)

IOCE is an international partnership of national and regional evaluation associations that provides leadership in evaluation worldwide. It encourages demand for evaluation and supports evaluation capacity development through evaluation societies. It is a co-founder of Eval-Partners, a Global Movement to Strengthen National Evaluation Capacities which was set up in 2012. The IOCE/Eval-Partners' decision to declare 2015 as the International Year of Evaluation (EvalYear) helped to spearhead the passing of a UN Resolution committing member nations to building their national evaluation capacities. Support for a Parliamentarians' Initiative mobilised a large number of actors in support of democratic evaluation.

IOCE manages the Innovation Challenge and Peer-to-Peer grants to encourage professionalisation and innovation by evaluation societies. UKES benefited from a small grant that funded a workshop co-sponsored by the European Evaluation Society where it was agreed that the Voluntary Evaluator Peer Review process should be piloted. In sum, the modest subscription fee is a fully justified contribution by UKES to an organisation that provides a convenient platform for evaluation cooperation across borders and promotes high professional standards worldwide.

REPRESENTATION AT INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

IDEAS Global Assembly, Bangkok 28-30 October 2015

THE THEME OF THE CONFERENCE WAS *Evaluating Sustainable Development* following the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015.

Given that the SDGs had only recently been agreed, there was little that could be said definitely as plans had yet to be made, but there was obvious enthusiasm for the task ahead as a big difference between these new goals and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which preceded them is the inclusion of the need to evaluate. This in turn requires much more investment in national evaluation capacity building if countries themselves are to do the evaluation.

Another big difference between the SDGs and the MDGs is that the former apply to all countries, whereas the latter were aimed at developing countries only. So evaluation capacity building may be required across the globe and not just in specific geographic areas. From a UKES perspective, this means we need to follow up with the UK Government what, if anything, they are planning to do in connection with the SDGs and consider how we can play our part in the evaluation work required.

One session at the conference that was particularly relevant to UKES was that on professionalisation. This was a very well attended session and there were presentations from the Director General of the World Bank's Independent Evaluation Group office, the Canadian Evaluation Society (CES), IDEAS and UKES. The Canadians have a formal credentialing system which has been operational for a few years now and is currently being evaluated. It requires candidates to demonstrate a given level of knowledge and experience based on the CES competency framework. The UKES representative spoke about our Voluntary Evaluator Peer Review (VEPR) scheme which focuses on reflective practice with reference to the UKES Framework for Evaluation Capabilities rather than meeting a particular standard. IDEAS are looking at a number of models to assess which will work best in terms of equity, costs and conflict of interest. There was a good Q&A session after the presentations and one issue that emerged was the lack of a career path for professional evaluators which resonated with a number of people present.

2nd Evaluation Global Forum Kathmandu, 23-25 November 2015

The main purposes of this Forum were to launch the 2016-2020 Global Evaluation Agenda and to commemorate EvalYear, which was celebrated at the Parliament of Nepal. Several other key initiatives were launched as part of the international gathering:

- **The Global Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation** (GPFE) which aims to advocate for evaluation among parliamentarians in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the principle of *No one left behind*.
- **EvalGender+** which is a global partnership for equity-focused and gender-responsive evaluations;
- **EvalYouth** the Global Partnership for young evaluators;
- **EvalSDG** a network of interested and skilled policy makers, institutions and practitioners who advocate for the evaluability of the performance indicators of the new SDGs and support processes to integrate evaluation into national and global review systems.

The Global Forum was very well attended by leaders of Voluntary Organisations for Professional Evaluation (VOPE), international organisations, UN Agencies, parliamentarians, government representatives, and donors. UKES will keep on engaging with the different networks launched in Nepal and it has representatives collaborating on a more regular basis with EvalSDG.

ANNEX 1: LIST OF 2015 COUNCIL MEMBERS

OFFICERS

President

Elizabeth Robin

Vice President

Mark O'Brien

University of Liverpool Lifelong Learning Centre

Immediate Past President

Colin Jacobs

The British Council

Secretary

Kelly Beaver

Ipsos MORI

Treasurer

George Bramley

University of Birmingham

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Bev Bishop

Health and Safety Executive

Stefano D'Errico

International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)

Emma Gibbard

Avon Primary Care Research Collaborative

Kari Hadjivassiliou

The Institute for Employment Studies

Dione Hills

The Tavistock Institute

Ulrike Hotopp

Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Jennifer Leith

Independent Consultant

Robert Picciotto

King's College London

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Donna Buxton

British Heart Foundation

Derek Poate

*Independent Consultant
UKES Past President*

Helen Simons

*University of Southampton
UKES Past President*

Thanks to **Jennifer Leith** and **Donna Buxton**, who stood down from Council during the year.

Policy on Council Membership

The UKES constitution does not provide specific guidance on the criteria for Council membership or what the role entails, and so Council members decided to produce a policy document outlining what is required. The new policy was finalised in late 2015 and used in the Council elections at the end of the year.

The policy states that in future, nominations for places on Council will open at conference each year and applications will be accepted until the end of October. This will allow members sufficient time to consider their application, secure a proposer and seconder, and submit the required documentation. Applications will be reviewed to ensure that they meet the criteria for membership, and if more applications are received than there are vacancies, an election will be held.

A copy of the policy can be found here: <http://ow.ly/4n0QGU>

ANNEX 2: LIST OF INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

Australian Council for Educational Research
Bank of England
Big Lottery Fund
Bond
CAG Consultants
Comic Relief
Department of Energy and Climate Change
Department for International Development
Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Ecorys UK
Health and Safety Executive
Heritage Lottery Fund
ICF International
International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)
Ipsos MORI
ITAD Ltd
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
M-E-L Research Ltd
Mott MacDonald Ltd
Oxfam GB
Oxford Policy Management
Plan UK
Scottish Enterprise
Sport Wales
SQW
The British Council
The Tavistock Institute
Technopolis Ltd
University of Essex
Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO)
Westminster City Council
WRAP
WYG International

ANNEX 3: ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2014

The Society's financial year runs from 1st January to 31st December. The Society operates as a limited company with the Society Officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Past President) registered as its company directors. The Society is required to submit its annual accounts to Company House before October the following year.

Presented below is a copy of the Abbreviated Accounts which show a loss for the year.

DETAILED TRADING PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT AND EXPENSES SCHEDULE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

	2014		2013	
	£	£	£	£
Sales				
Conference & Training		33,096		89,267
Membership income		17,223		24,387
Bursary Receipt		5,000		5,000
		<u>55,319</u>		<u>118,654</u>
Administrative expenses				
Administration	12,856		16,016	
Insurance	780		769	
Postage	973		566	
Printing	6,284		4,608	
Computer costs	790		2,284	
Conference & events	54,703		67,555	
Council expenses	2,594		1,025	
Accountancy	1,200		1,200	
Bank charges	100		136	
		<u>80,280</u>		<u>94,159</u>
Operating (loss)/profit	45%	(24,961)	21%	24,495
Other income and expenses				
Interest receivable				
Bank deposit interest	-		39	
		<u>-</u>	<u>39</u>	
Net (loss)/profit for the year		<u>(24,961)</u>		<u>24,534</u>

RESERVES AT 31 DECEMBER 2014

Profit and loss account	<u>54,616</u>	<u>74,670</u>
--------------------------------	---------------	---------------

Lincoln Brown & Co. Ltd
Chartered Certified Accountants & Business Advisors
Grenville House
4 Grenville Avenue
Broxbourne
Herts EN10 7DH



UK Evaluation Society
1 St Mary's Courtyard
Church Street
Ware
Hertfordshire SG12 9EF
Telephone: 01920 462411
Email: ukes@profbriefings.co.uk
Website: www.evaluation.org.uk
Company Limited by Guarantee
Registered in England No 04056956



UK Evaluation Society
1 St Mary's Courtyard
Church Street
Ware
Hertfordshire SG12 9EF
Telephone: 01920 462411
Email: ukes@profbriefings.co.uk
Website: www.evaluation.org.uk
Company Limited by Guarantee
Registered in England No 04056956

