Slovenia
Directorate for Multilateral Affairs, Development Cooperation and International Law / Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Evaluation Mandate

Slovenia became a donor country in 2004 and has been putting the legal and strategic frameworks in place since then. The country adopted the International Development Cooperation of the Republic of Slovenia Act in 2006, which was followed by the Resolution on International Development Co-operation in 2008. The Resolution set out various goals in development cooperation for the country to achieve by 2015. The Resolution is to be updated in order to further guide Slovenian development cooperation. A Special Review of the Slovenian development cooperation programme and systems was conducted in 2012, after which the country was accepted as the 29th member of the OECD-DAC. The Evaluation Policy and the Evaluation Guidelines were prepared in 2014 and 2015, and a Peer Review by other DAC members is envisaged after 2015.

The Evaluation Policy provides a legal framework of the country’s evaluation. The Policy mandates the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) to function as the National Coordinator of evaluation of development cooperation. Within the MFA, the Directorate for Multilateral Affairs, Development Cooperation and International Law is in charge of evaluation work and implements extensive, strategically important programme and theme-specific evaluations. The mandate covers the evaluation of all Slovenian official development assistance funds.

Responsibility and scope of activities

The duties of the Directorate include:
- annual planning of evaluation activities for the coming two years;
- programming, formulating and managing evaluations of development cooperation funded or co-funded by Slovenia;
- contributing to the learning process within the MFA, including embassies, other ministries, and partner countries, by providing feedback about relevance, impact and operational performance of the development activities;
- informing the Inter-ministerial Working Body for International Development Co-operation, as the key vehicle for ensuring that key findings are incorporated into the appropriate policy, strategy and planning;
- participating in international cooperation on evaluation;
- managing a database of reports and recommendations (MFA 2014).

Since the evaluations are not to be carried out by the evaluation unit, but by external evaluators, the tasks of the evaluation unit in the Directorate are to manage the tender process, select the evaluators, and approve reports. Responsibility for the content of an evaluation report rests with the evaluators, whilst responsibility for minor editorial rights and copyright ultimately rests with the MFA (MFA 2014). Although Slovenia does not yet hold the internal capacity to carry out evaluations, the first centralised evaluation is planned in 2016.
The Evaluation Unit is embedded within the Directorate for Multilateral Affairs, Development Cooperation and International Law and it provides evaluation services for the MFA. The Evaluation Unit directly reports to the Director General who subsequently reports to the State Secretary responsible for development cooperation. The Directorate is responsible for programming Slovenian development cooperation. The Department for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance is the only unit dealing with the implementation under the Directorate.

Currently Slovenia is drafting the first evaluation work plan. The evaluation unit will prepare a draft and it will be discussed with the Director General and the State Secretary, acting as the Minister for Development Cooperation. The draft is subsequently approved by the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

**Types of Evaluation**

- **Country evaluation**

  Evaluation is conducted by applying the development evaluation criteria and standards of the OECD-DAC and the EU. In 2016, one evaluation is to be carried out for the first time, although a couple of self-evaluations of projects have been conducted before.

**Resources**

The Evaluation Unit is staffed by one evaluation expert who is responsible for evaluation-related tasks, but not on a full-time basis.

Slovenia has a separate budget line for evaluation. Financial resources for evaluations are provided in the financial plan of the MFA. The Special Review (OECD 2012) advises that the financial resources should be allocated to the areas in which Slovenia can exhibit its comparative advantage.
Principles of Evaluation

Independence
Although there is the Department for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance responsible for implementation of development cooperation under the Directorate and no structural independence of the evaluation unit, the evaluation function is operationally independent. The independent external experts / consultants for the evaluations are selected through a competitive tender process.

Competence and capacity building
The Special Review has concluded that the evaluation function should not be expanded significantly and instead should focus its internal capacity on contracting and quality assurance.

Transparency and participation
The Evaluation Policy specifies the measures to ensure transparency. Evaluation reports have to be presented in clear and accessible formats for dissemination to all stakeholders. The reports are made available on the official website of the MFA. Press releases and public presentations are also to be arranged and an invitation sent to target groups. The Policy also defines that a management response should be prepared for every evaluation and the responsibility lies in the evaluation function of the MFA.

Knowledge management
On the website, the Evaluation Guidelines and the Evaluation Policy are made publicly available. The Guidelines serve as a reference document that informs evaluators and those managing evaluations about the evaluation processes and methods. Evaluation results are disseminated to the ministries’ management and staff, the National Assembly, partner countries, other donors and other interested parties.

Coordination with donors and country recipients
Slovenia has not yet carried out any joint evaluation with other donors.

Quality assurance
The contracted external evaluators are currently responsible for quality assurance of their own evaluation report.

Contact Details
Name: Natasa Adlesic Barba, Evaluation Unit, the Directorate for Multilateral Affairs, Development Cooperation and International Law
Email: Natasa.Adlesic@gov.si
Tel: +386 01 478 2015