

Regional Evaluation Consultation in Latin America and the Caribbean

SYSTEMATIZATION REPORT

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List of Acronyms

CEI	Caribbean Evaluators International
EY	EvalYouth
EYLAC	EvalYouth Latin America and the Caribbean
Focelac	Evaluation Capacity Development Project in Latin America
ICT	Information and communication technology
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MIDEPLAN	Ministry of Planning of Costa Rica
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
Ove-IDB	Office of Evaluation and Oversight - Interamerican Development Bank
RBME	Brazilian Network of Monitoring and Evaluation
ReLAC	Latin American and Caribbean Monitoring, Evaluation and Systematization Network
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNFPA-LACRO	Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Population Fund
VOPE	Voluntary Organization of Professional Evaluators
YEE	Young and Emerging Evaluators

1. Introduction¹

In 2020, the campaign "Decade of Evaluation for Action", also known as the Eval4Action campaign, emerged alongside the "Decade of Action" call of the United Nations for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).² The Eval4Action campaign seeks to promote widespread recognition on evaluation being critical to, and a key accelerator for achieving the Global Goals. It has and will continue to mobilize commitments by different stakeholders—parliaments, governments, evaluation associations—to invest in stronger evaluation systems to inform public policies, ensuring no one is left behind.³

One of the key actions in this campaign has been the implementation of regional consultations to draw joint regional agendas for influential evaluation. These consultations have been organized by the co-leaders of the campaign: the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the EvalYouth Global Network and the Global Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation, along with the participation of Voluntary Organizations of Evaluation Professionals (VOPEs), EvalYouth regional chapters, parliamentarians and other actors in the evaluation ecosystem at the regional level.

The aims of these regional consultations have been providing a platform for national and regional evaluators and other stakeholders to: a) strengthen dialogue and partnerships to generate an influential evaluation towards achieving the SDGs, and b) identify commitments and concrete actions at the national and regional levels, to strengthen national evaluation systems and capacities to accelerate progress towards the SDGs.

The first consultation took place in the Asia-Pacific region on the 25th of June 2020, the second took place in the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA) on the 10th of July, 2020, and the third was held in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) on October 1st 2020, which is the subject of the present systematization report.

With this background, the organizing team of the regional consultation in the Latin America and the Caribbean has committed to analyzing and disseminating the results of the Consultation, as an input to chart a roadmap that articulates the evaluation agendas of the various participant organizations.

This document is the Systematization of the Regional Evaluation Consultation of Latin America and the Caribbean, organized within the framework of the Eval4Action campaign. The document contains the following sections: background, methodology, and the systematization of the Consultation, (the process of its

¹ See the Eval4Action campaign website for more information: <https://www.eval4action.org/>

² See: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/decade-of-action/>

³ See: <https://www.eval4action.org/about>

planning and its results). Conclusions and annexes are offered at the end of the document.

2. Methodology

The LAC Regional Consultation´ systematization drew on the systematization methodology of Oscar Jara, who frames systematization as "critical interpretation of an experience, which, from its planning and reconstruction, explains the logic used of the process experienced, the factors that have intervened, how they have been related to each other and why they have done it that way"⁴ Thus, a systematization is a process of knowledge generation from a lived practice from which learning can be extracted, that contributes to enriching and improving an intervention. In this sense, it is interesting not only to know what events happened, but to know why they happened in a certain way and how it was perceived and felt by the different actors who participated on it.

Hence, the content of the discussion held at the Consultation was organized and explained, but also key aspects of the organization of the event were recovered, in order to extract shared lessons for the long term process.

For data analysis, primary sources were reviewed, particularly, participant registration forms, the video recording of the Consultation, and the notes from the subgroup´s discussions. For the analysis of the registration forms, a debug was made to eliminate duplicated values, and consolidated descriptive statistical analyses were conducted to determine the characteristics of participants who registered in the Spanish, English and Portuguese registration forms.

For the analysis of the content of the discussions in the subgroups, the content was coded and topics were proposed to aggregate similar content. Then, the author proceeded to analyze the frequency of mentions to these topics to determine which ones were most referenced in the discussions.

Four semi-structured individual interviews were conducted with persons from the Consultation´s organizing group: Silvia Salinas, coordinator of Latin American and Caribbean Monitoring, Evaluation and Systematization Network (ReLAC), Claudia Olavarría, co-coordinator of EvalYouth Latin America and the Caribbean (EYLAC), Laura González, coordinator of evaluation at the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA-LACRO), and Dirk Hoffmann from Latin America Evaluation Capacity Development Project

⁴ Jara, Oscar (2018) *La sistematización de experiencias: práctica y teoría para otros mundos políticos*. Bogotá. Centro Internacional de Educación y Desarrollo Humano. The translation by the author.

(Focelac). Also, a questionnaire was administered to representatives of the Brazilian Network of Monitoring and Evaluation (RBME) and the Caribbean Association of Evaluation and Research (ACEI), to determine the degree of satisfaction with the inclusion of non-Spanish-speaking actors.

3. Systematization of the Consultation

The **Regional Consultation on Evaluation in Latin America and the Caribbean**, was held on October 1st 2020, and represented the **3rd Regional Consultation of the Eval4Action Campaign**. The Consultation was organized jointly by representatives of **EYLAC, ReLAC, the UNFPA-LACRO, and Focelac** and was implemented by the German Institute for Development Evaluation (DEval) and the Ministry of Planning and Economic Policy of Costa Rica (MIDEPLAN) with support from the Campaign's coordinating team at the global level. The Consultation was carried out through the Zoom platform, from 9 am (EST) to 10:30 am, and had **10 presenters, 22 facilitators and about 150 attendees**.

In this consultation, discussions were held in subgroups around questions about the **challenges facing the region to ensure that the evaluation contributes significantly to achieving the SDGs and the actions proposed to address these challenges**. The discussion provided important inputs to understand current challenges faced by the evaluation ecosystem in the region, and the actions needed to overcome these.

The Consultation also marked the launch of the **Eval4Action Campaign** in Latin America and the Caribbean. As a result of the Consultation, it is expected that the participants will join a collaborative process to articulate a common evaluation agenda for the achievement of the SDGs in the region.

3.1 The Consultation planning process

After the implementation of the first consultation in the Asia Pacific region, on June 25th 2020, and the second in the MENA region, on the 10th of July 2020, representatives of EYLAC and ReLAC contacted the coordination group of the Eval4Action Campaign and expressed their interest in organizing a consultation in Latin America and the Caribbean. The coordination group immediately expressed its support to the regional representatives, who then formed **the organizing group for the Consultation in the LAC region** and began planning for the consultation.

Initially, the organizing group from LAC was composed by members of EvalYouth LAC and ReLAC. Members from UNFPA-LACRO and Focelac joined shortly

thereafter. Members on the organizing group reported that the Consultation was viewed an activity aligned with their respective partner organizations' strategic goals. For EYLAC and UNFPA-LACRO, this activity represented a commitment to organizing the Consultation in the region as co-coordinators of the Eval4Action Campaign. For ReLAC and Focelac, the Consultation aligned with their aims of convening and strengthening entities in the evaluation environment in the region.

From that moment, a joint work dynamic was established within the organizing group through periodic virtual meetings. In these meetings, logistical aspects—such as the date of the Consultation, agenda, work dynamics and the roles during the Consultation, follow-up, etc.—were discussed. Also, thematic content of the Consultation was discussed such as the rationale and justification, the vision and expected outputs, and the diversity of actors invited. **A series of internal planning meetings** of the regional organizing group were held **between July and August**, as well as a series of meetings with the production team of the global Consultations.⁵ A meeting with the latter group on **August 24th** was important since **the final date of the Consultation was determined**, and the importance of extending the call to key stakeholders in the region with whom "we have not usually worked with but whom we have intended to do so"⁶ including: parliamentarians, decision makers from the public sector, and actors in the region for whom the language is a barrier to work with, such as evaluator networks from **Brazil** and the **Caribbean**.

According to interviewees, including diverse actors as participants, "beyond those whom we usually collaborate was a wise move", and in line with their organization's strategy and values. As will be seen below, the members of the coordinating group agreed that the outcome of the call for these actors was satisfactory.

In the weeks after this planning meeting, actors with important roles in the Consultation were invited as **facilitators** and **speakers from various evaluation networks**. The organizing group considered that the response from these actors was satisfactory.

On **September 3th, 2020**, the dissemination campaign of the Consultation **began**. The dissemination consisted of circulating posters and banners through social networks, and invitations sent by email to individuals and key evaluation organizations in the region.

Finally, in the days before the Consultation, **on September 28th, 2020**, a **training and orientation session on the implementation of the Consultation was held**.

⁵ The group coming from the US consultancy Encompass was informally called the production team. This team has volunteered in the production of all the regional consultations thus far. This team provides thematic and logistical orientation to the regional organizing groups, ranging from orientation on the principles of the consultations to support with moderation, logistics and technical support.

⁶ Interview with a member of the organizing group.

facilitated by the production team for the organizing group and facilitators. This session mainly discussed the agenda of the Consultation, its logistics, the use of the Zoom platform and its breakout sessions. One day later, the last planning meeting was held, between the organizing group and the moderators, to refine the final details of the Consultation.

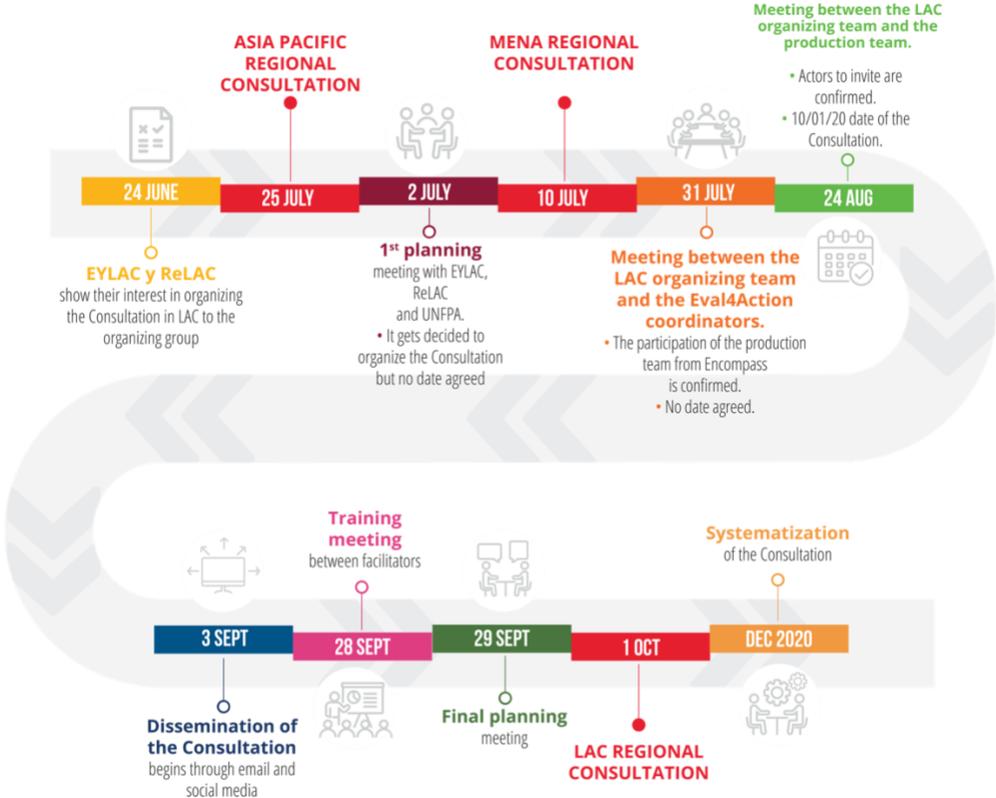


Figure 1. Regional LAC Consultation timeline

3.1.1 Characteristics of registered persons⁷

The Consultation had three registration forms in three languages: Spanish, English and Portuguese. The Spanish registration was the most numerous with 249 entries, followed by the English, with 60, and the Portuguese with 38. Combined, the three registrations equaled to **347 registrants**. In addition, **22 moderators and 10 presenters participated**. 66 percent of the registered people identified as female, compared to 33 who identified as male and 1 percent who preferred not to identify.

⁷ The following data corresponds to the combined registration forms in the three languages of the Consultation and not to the actual attendance on the day of the Consultation. There is no record of the latter.

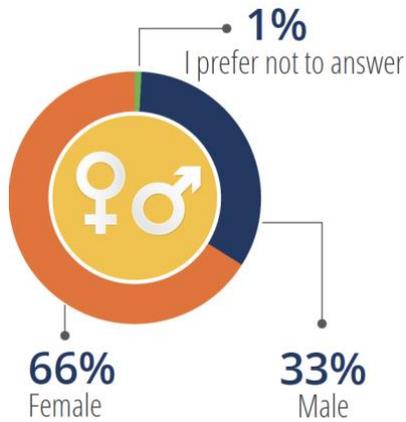


Figure 2. Registrant gender

Most of the registrants were young people under 35 years old (34 percent), and only 13 percent were 56 or more years old as shown in Figure 3.

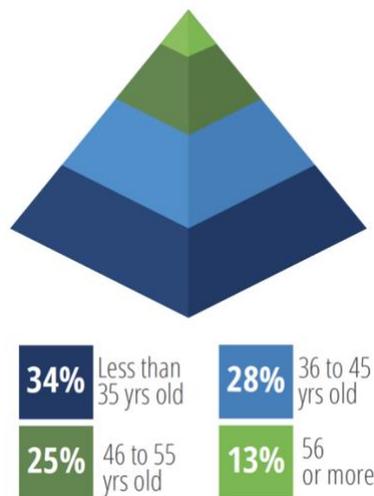


Figure 3. Registrant age

There were registered people from 41 different nationalities: 25 of them from the Latin American and Caribbean region. Mexico had the largest representation with 69 registrants, followed by Brazil (39), Peru (33) and Bolivia (32); Most of the nationalities were located in Latin America and the Caribbean, although there were registrations from the United States, followed by five registrations from Europe, Africa and Asia combined.



Figure 4. Registrant nationality

The majority of people indicated that they live in the capital city of their country of residence (60 percent), followed by a city that is not the capital (36 percent) and only four percent indicated they live outside a city.

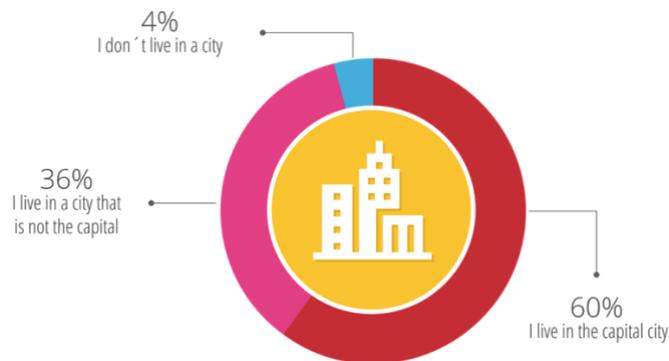


Figure 5. Registrant residence

16 percent of the registrants identified as belonging to an **ethnic or socio-cultural minority**, all of which also identified as women. Some identities represented among these women minorities were **LGBTIQ +, migrant, Latino, Indigenous, and African descent**.

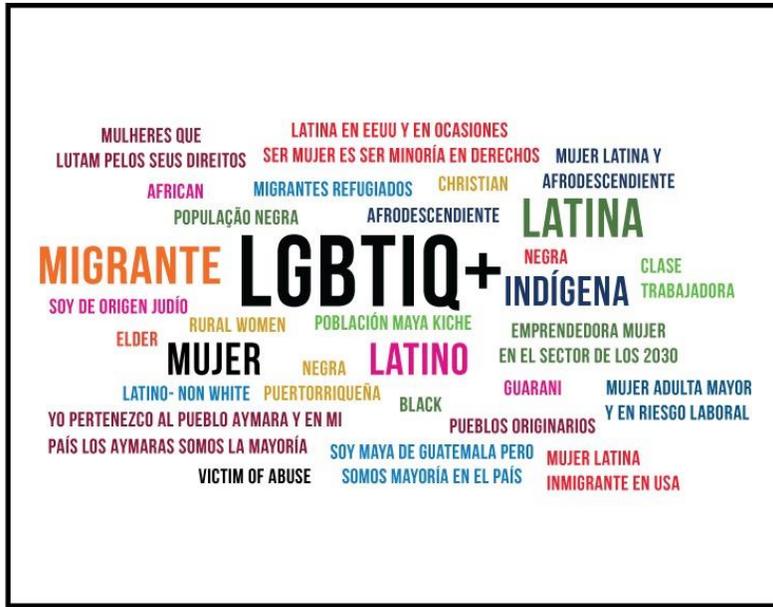


Figure 6. Represented minorities among registrants

Most of the people came from third sector organizations (62), followed by academia (59), government (57) and the private sector (53). Mostly, registrants indicated that they had five years or less of experience in evaluation (53 percent), followed by 6 to 10 years (26 percent), and 11 to 15 years (9 percent). Evaluators with 26 years or more of experience accounted for only 2 percent of registrants.

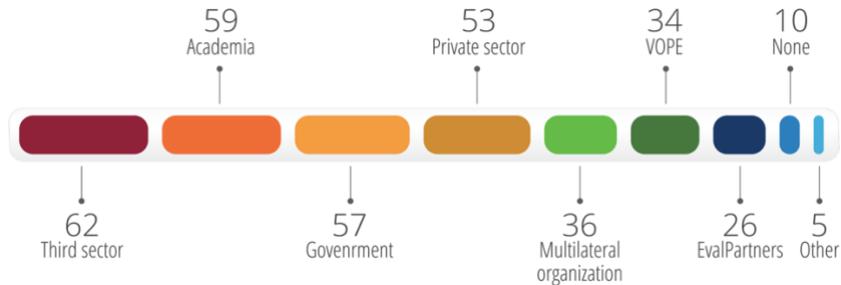


Figure 7. Represented organizations among registrants

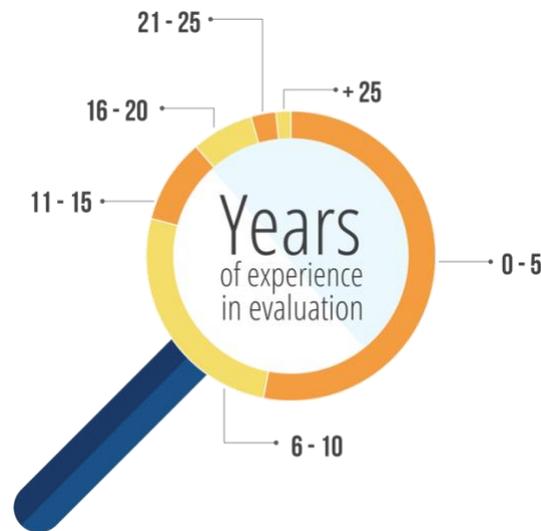


Figure 8. Years of experience in evaluation among registrants

3.1.2 The process of the Consultation

Logistically, the consultations of the Eval4Action campaign are virtual events consisting in three stages: **1) initial presentations of organizations and key stakeholders; 2) discussion between participants in working sub-groups, and; 3) presentation of the results of the discussion in a plenary session.** In the first stage, in addition to the welcome and institutional messages from the organizations and key actors, a symbolic event is held consisting of a “passing of the torch”—an homage to the Olympic Games—between representatives of the organizing groups of the previous and present regional consultations, accompanied by salutations.

In the second stage, small group discussions are facilitated in Zoom break-out groups, naturally given the limitation of not being able to hold face-to-face meetings due to the Covid-19 pandemic.⁸ These discussions revolve around a pre-established set of questions that spark conversation about the challenges and priorities specific to the region for making evaluations more influential.

The third stage consists of small group representatives presenting what was discussed in the previous stage after the participants come back from the subgroups to the “plenary session” to listen to the results of the discussion presented by the facilitators.

⁸ Actually, this consultation format has been described as an innovative contribution to generate dialogue in the face of the health crisis of Covid19 by all the people consulted for the elaboration of this systematization. This modality of group discussion is conducted through the “breakout rooms” functionality of the Zoom application.

LAC regional Consultation stuck to this model, and consisted on the following activities:

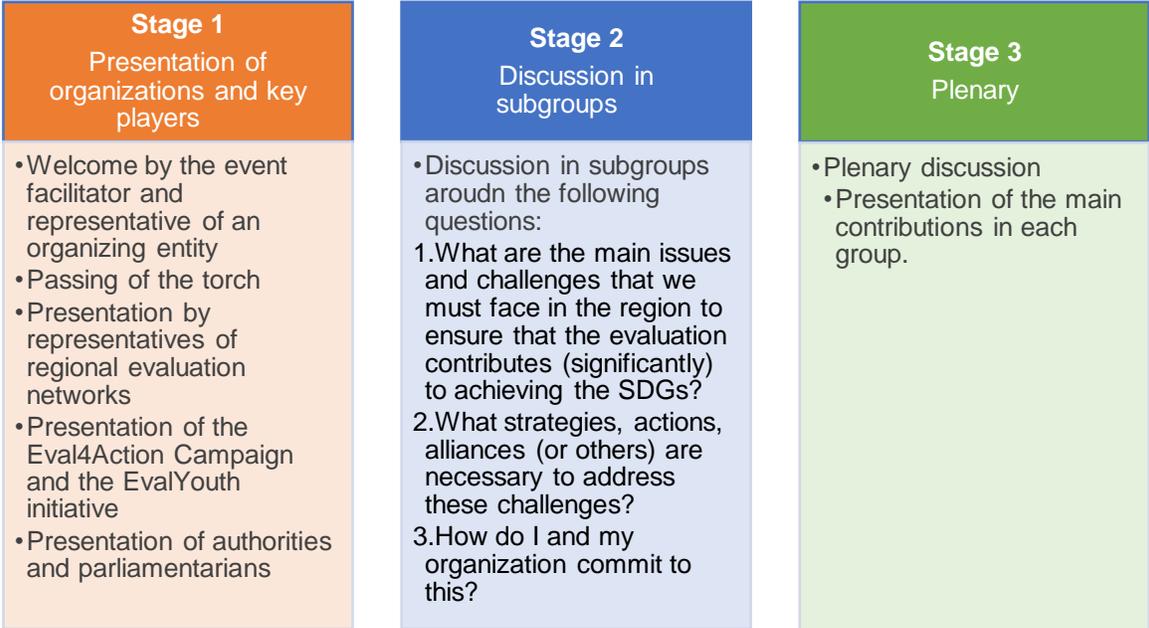


Figure 9. Stages of the Consultation

The regional evaluation networks present in the Consultation were the Brazilian Network of Monitoring and Evaluation (RBME), the Caribbean Association of Evaluation and Research (ACEI), the Caribbean Evaluators International (CEI), EvalYouth LAC, and the Latin American and Caribbean Monitoring, Evaluation and Systematization Network (ReLAC). The presence of these networks enabled key and diverse evaluation actors in the region to convene, and providing an exclusive space to address the issues was strategic to develop a commitment for collaboration in the future.

The Consultation also had speakers on behalf of key evaluation agencies as UNFPA-LACRO and Ove-IDB, as well as governments as the Legislature and the Ministry of Planning of Costa Rica. Likewise, the presence of these institutions contributed with the aim of convening diverse actors of evaluation at regional level.

Finally, the Consultation also had 22 break-out group facilitators from 12 different countries, mainly from Mexico (5) and Brazil (5), Ecuador (2), Colombia (2), Chile (2) and Bolivia (2). They were mostly female (71%) and mainly under 35 (38%). The facilitators also came from VOPES (9), EvalYouth (6), and private (3) and public (2) sectors.

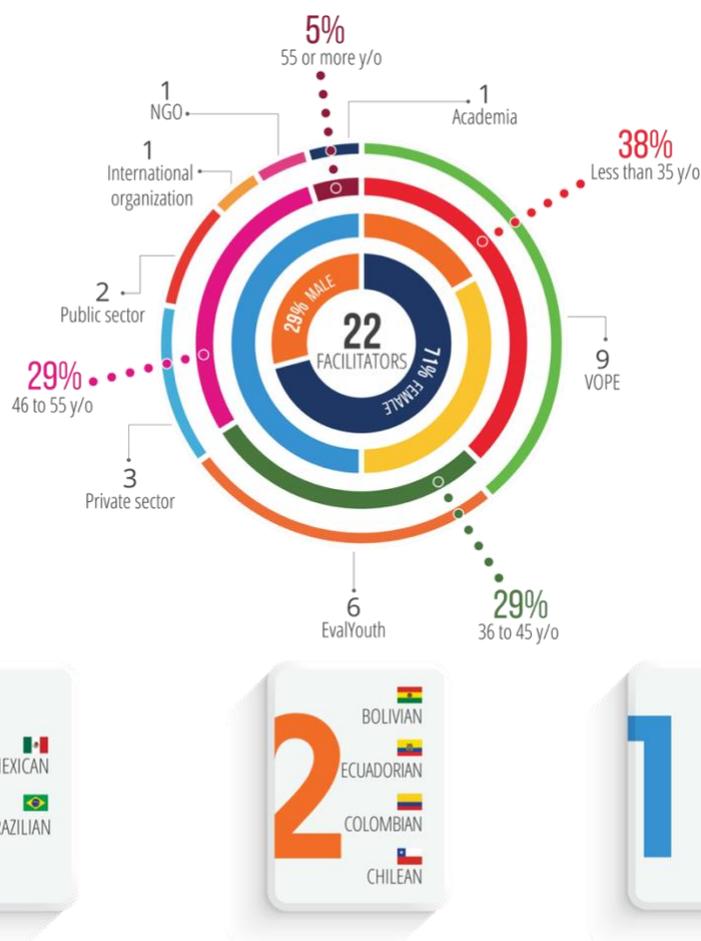


Figure 10. Profile of the facilitators

3.2 Results of the Consultation

In this section, the results of the Consultation are presented. These consist of the content from the initial presentations (the first stage) and the topics discussed by the attendees during the second stage.

3.2.1 Contents of the first stage. Welcome messages and key stakeholder presentations

Welcome messages were presented by representatives from ReLAC and EvalYouth LAC as co-organizers, as well as RBME, ACEI and CEI.

Silvia Salinas, ReLAC coordinator, presented the principles of the Consultation, highlighting its collaborative and binding nature, and the aim of “starting to build the future; a sustainable future of diversity with equal rights and opportunities; a future that leaves no one behind.” In addition, Mrs. Salinas explained the expectations of the meeting: “We meet today to identify priorities, to reassure wills, close ties and,

above all, to begin to delineate routes for joint action to enhance the contribution of evaluation in the region towards achieving the sustainable development goals."

Gerardo Sánchez, co-chair of EvalYouth LAC, listed the main social challenges in the region and how the young population can use evaluation to reverse these: "In our region we are sailing towards 2030 with the heavy burden of inequality, poverty, corruption, violence, precariousness and environmental deterioration. However, we also face this horizon with the largest number of young people in our history, who are and will be an important engine of social change. To do this, the young people must play a crucial role in monitoring and evaluation of actions that will impact their life in the future in order to transform their reality."

Marcia Joppert, director of the **RBME**, emphasized the challenges of evaluation in Brazil and her expectations to advance an agenda evaluation promotion in the country. Also, **Valerie Gordon**, president of **CEI**, highlighted the particular problems of the Caribbean region: "The growing challenges of climate change and the ongoing pandemic in small island states, such as those of the Caribbean, force us to be innovative and ensure that accountability and learning are integral components of the development process." Finally, **Neyibeth Santiago** from **ACEI**, urged the participants "to work together to strengthen evaluation capacities to have a greater effect towards sustainable development in our communities."

Then, two presenters delivered a message: **Marco Segone** as global coordinator of the **Eval4Action**, and **Claudia Olavarría**, co-coordinator of **EYLAC**, in its role of co-organizer of the Campaign. In his speech, Mr. Segone presented the objectives of the Eval4Action Campaign and a brief review of the main challenges the global evaluation community faces in moving toward the 2030 Agenda. Segone mentioned that the "UN's Decade of Action also means that progress towards the SDGs should be accelerated with the evidence provided by evaluation globally." Finally, Segone presented the next steps of the Campaign in 2020 and further.

Later, **Claudia Olavarría**, in line with the welcoming message of the first presenter of this stage, outlined the expectations of the Consultation, and highlighted the call for the community to "articulate efforts for evaluation to be a catalyst agent of the transformations required to advance towards the horizon of a sustainable development." Mrs. Olavarría later described the main characteristics of participants, noting their diversity aligned with the challenge of not leaving anyone behind. "The invitation today is to talk, to listen to each other and to raise together the main challenges we face in the region. We invite you to commit to action."

In the third and final block of the first welcoming stage, it was the turn of representatives of multilateral agencies and the public sector: **Florbela Fernández**, deputy regional director of **UNFPA-LACRO**, **Ivory Yong Prozel**, director of the **Office of Evaluation and Supervision of the OVE-IDB**, **Nielsen Pérez**,

parliamentarian of the **Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica**, and **Florita Azofeifa**, director of the **Assessment and Monitoring Area of the Ministry of Planning and National Economic Policy of Costa Rica**.

In the first talk, **Florbela Fernández** emphasized the importance of having inclusive evaluation approaches to understand the problems of the region: “we must [as evaluators] to improve how to address existing gaps and inequalities in a more effective and innovative way; and for that, we need to know who these populations are, where they are, and how we can reach them through public policies and international cooperation.” Mrs. Fernández also made a call to generate alliances at the global, regional and national levels, to build a culture of evaluation through systematic practice and the use of results, knowledge management and, above all, the use of disaggregated data to contribute to achieve the SDGs: "Leaving no one behind", in our region means involving especially women, youth adolescents, and indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, migrant population and people with disabilities."

Ivory Yong Prozel expressed her expectations of the results of the Consultation as a representative of Ove-IDB: “We believe that this space for regional and diverse dialogue, will allow us to have a joint perspective regarding the regional challenges that persist regarding evaluation capacities, and will help us to outline the necessary strategies to overcome these challenges.”

Finally, both **Nielsen Pérez** and **Florita Azofeifa**, both from Costa Rica and belonging to the public sector of that country, expressed their perspective from this sector and underscored challenges in the violation of access to rights in the country and the region, and the urgent need to implement public policies based on evidence in achieving the SDGs at the country level. Mrs. Pérez issued a call to so-called developed countries and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), regarding their responsibility in the governance of development aid. In addition, Pérez highlighted the commitments of the Paris Agreement and international declarations on the effectiveness, harmonization, results-based management, and urgent funding for international development cooperation, as a driving force that contributes to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

As a prelude to the discussion stage, **Silvia Salinas** and **Marco Segone** addressed calls to action as a follow-up to the Consultation, summarized in the following points:

Silvia Salinas

- To connect and collaborate to evaluate and transform what is identified with the sight and heart, and to having energy put in not leaving anyone behind.

- To establish concrete agreements between the networks.
- To bridge gaps within key players in the decision making of the SDGs, and promoting evaluation as accelerator towards the SDGs.
- To socialize our actions.

“The goal is also to generate a regional agenda for a transformative evaluation; to draw a roadmap of the different agendas and complement our actions to enhance them.” (Silvia Salinas, ReLAC)

Marco Segone

- To transform systems, that is why we need the commitment of organizations and people.
- To include all citizens to demand quality evaluations; that the recommendations are implemented and that public policies are made with evidence.
- To reach a shared agenda with the priorities that emerged in this Consultation.
- Covid19 could be an opportunity for a new start, in order to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs through evaluation.

3.2.2 Analysis of the topics addressed in the discussion stage

In this section, the content analysis of the discussions that took place in the 13 sub-groups in the Consultation is presented. The discussions revolved around the following questions:

- 1. What are the main issues and challenges that we must face in the region to ensure that the evaluation contributes (significantly) to achieving the SDGs?**
- 2. What strategies, actions, alliances (or others) are necessary to address these challenges?**
- 3. How do I and my organization commit to this?**

It should be mentioned that, due to time constraints, the discussion was prioritized with a predominant focus on the first question, partially the second, and practically no information was obtained on the third question, which was optional.

Figure 11 compares the different themes discussed in the sub-groups ranked from the highest to the lowest occurrence as mentioned by participants.

Question 1. What are the main issues and challenges that we must face in the region to ensure that the evaluation contributes (significantly) to achieving the SDGs?

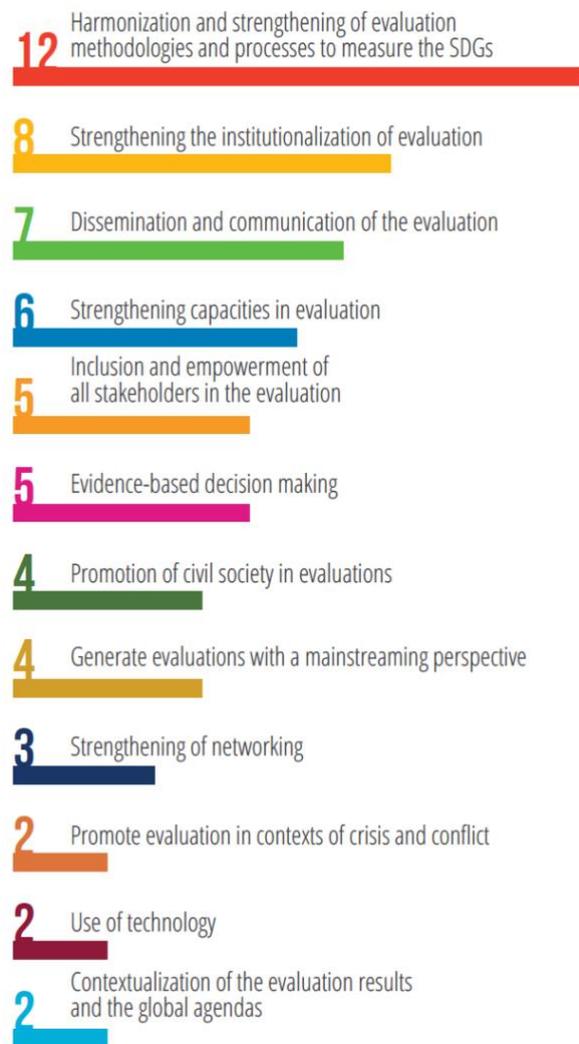


Figure 11. Frequency of mentions of topics related to challenges

From this question that focused on the issues and **challenges** of evaluation in the region, 12 themes were identified that summarize the focus of the discussion in the sub-groups. The theme with the highest number of mentions was: **harmonization and strengthening of evaluation methodologies and processes to measure the SDGs**, with the identification of challenges such as:

- Find adequate evaluation frameworks to evaluate the SDGs
- Have harmonized methods at various levels to assess the SDGs
- Strengthen the quality of data available for evaluations of the SDGs
- Strengthen the monitoring systems of the SDGs

- Understand evaluation in a systemic way, inserted in the program cycle

Then, the challenge of **strengthening the institutionalization of evaluation** was discussed, where the challenges mentioned were as follows:

- Strengthen the capacities of governments to evaluate with an SDG perspective
- Professionalize the evaluation
- Institutionalize evaluation in government structures
- Allocate sufficient resources to the evaluation
- Encourage the use of evaluations
- Increasing demand for the evaluation

The next challenge discussed was the **dissemination and communication of evaluations**, where ideas about needs to expand the scope of people reached by evaluation results were discussed:

- Evaluation is unknown to many people; more education about evaluation is needed
- Communicate evaluation results in a simple and accessible way
- Communicate how evaluation can trigger change

The next challenge identified was **strengthening evaluation capacities**, where the challenge of installing evaluation capacities at different levels needing to have a common language, was discussed.

With an equal number of occurrences, the challenges of **inclusion and empowerment of all stakeholders in evaluations** and the **promotion of decision-making based on evidence**, were identified:

- Make the evaluation accessible. To make that right holders do appropriate evaluation.
- Give more voice to the protagonists of the projects evaluated
- Evaluation must attend vulnerable populations
- Bring light into development gaps in groups affected by economic, social and security issues, and also the COVID 19
- Advance towards evidence -based public policy

With the same frequency of mentions were the challenges of generating **evaluations with a mainstreaming perspective** and **promoting the participation of civil society in the evaluation of the SDGs**, highlighting, on the one hand, the need for generating inclusive evaluation frameworks that allow a better understanding of the differentiated situations in the which different persons live, and on the other, promoting inclusion of civil society as agents involved in the evaluation.

Less frequently mentioned, but no less important, were the challenges related to **the contextualization of evaluation results in global agendas**; **the use of technology (ICT) in the evaluation**; and **promoting approaches to evaluation in contexts of crisis and conflict**.

Question 2. What strategies, actions, alliances (or others) are necessary to address these challenges?

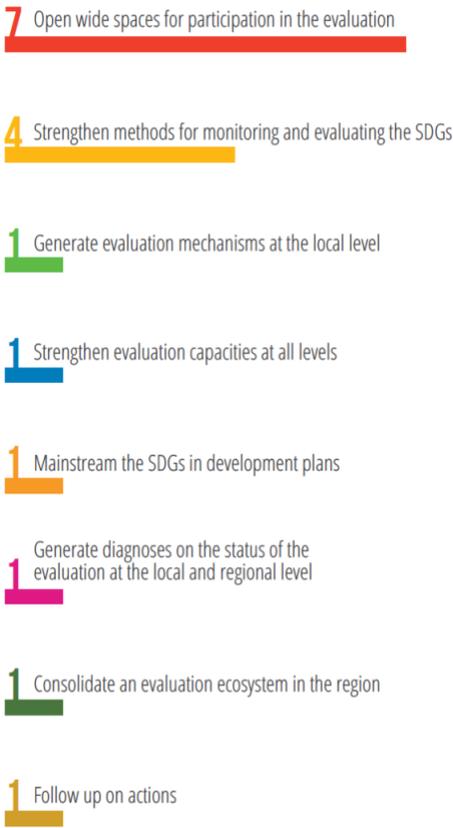


Figure 12. Frequency of mentions of topics related to strategies

The second question, related to the **actions** discussed in the first question, resulted in eight action-oriented themes. The theme or action with the highest number of

mentions was **opening wide spaces for participation in the evaluation**; build spaces for multilevel and multiple actor collaboration to promote evaluation as an accelerator of the SDGs:

- Greater collaboration between countries to achieve the SDGs
- Generate open, intergenerational, multicultural spaces for participation
- Involving more players in the evaluation ecosystem
- Promoting systematic and organized exchange between networks and institutions
- Reach more population with evaluation

The second most discussed action was **strengthening the methods for monitoring and evaluation the SDGs**, which is aligned with one of the main challenges set forth above; aimed at strengthen evaluative frameworks and methods to unify criteria for evaluating the SDGs.

- Develop unified methods and databases of SDG indicators
- Give transparency to the progress of the countries towards the SDGs through a National Observatory of the SDGs
- Promote simple and compatible evaluation systems
- Promote diverse perspectives in evaluation

The following actions, though mentioned less, should not be overlooked when generating the next steps of this Consultation: **generate evaluation mechanisms at the local level; develop capacity building at all levels; mainstreaming the SDGs in development plans; generate diagnoses on the status of the evaluation at the local and regional level; consolidate an evaluation ecosystem in the region; and follow up on actions.**

4. Conclusions

All members of the organizing group agreed that the Consultation met, and even exceeded, their expectations in terms of attendance, turn out, and the coordination with key evaluation networks in the region. The people consulted from the Anglo and Portuguese-speaking networks who attended the Consultation, indicated that they felt highly motivated to continue working with the organizers of the Consultation in the future.

The organizing team has determined that the first objective of convening the evaluation actors of the region and beginning to work as a community towards an evaluation roadmap, with an authentic regional character within the framework of the Eval4Action Campaign, has been fulfilled. In an ever-growing field of evaluation, it is important to boost cooperation to identify common challenges and formulate actions.

Regarding the results of the discussions, the messages of the presenters at the beginning of the Consultation pointed at the importance of generating a joint vision, with a broad call, towards the articulation of a regional evaluation roadmap for the acceleration of the SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean. Attendees identified the main social challenges facing the region, such as inequality, poverty, corruption, migration and climate change as critical contextual factors in advocating for influential evaluation practice, many of which are associated with SDGs within the 2030 Agenda. In this stage, actors, alliances, key strategies and evaluative tools and approaches that would be necessary to make these calls more effective were also identified.

Regarding the results of the discussions in the second stage, the first question about the main challenges faced in the region to ensure that evaluation significantly contributes to achieving the SDGs identified the following topics: 1) harmonizing and strengthening of evaluation methodologies and processes to measure the SDGs; 2) Strengthening the institutionalization of evaluation; 3) Dissemination and communication of the evaluation; 4) strengthening evaluation capacity; 5) inclusion and empowerment of all stakeholders in the evaluation; 6) evidence-based decision making; 7) Promotion of civil society in evaluations; 8) Generate evaluations with a mainstreaming perspective; 9) strengthening networking; 10) promote evaluation in contexts of crisis and conflict; 11) use of technology; and 12) contextualization of the evaluation results and the global agendas.

Regarding the second question, in relation to the actions needed to address the challenges posed, the following themes were discussed: 1) to create wide spaces for participation in the evaluation; 2) strengthen methods for monitoring and evaluating the SDGs; 3) generate evaluation mechanisms at the local level; 4) strengthen capacities at all levels; 5) mainstreaming the SDGs in development plans;

- 6) generate diagnoses on the status of the evaluation at the local and regional level;
- 7) consolidate an evaluation ecosystem in the region;
- 8) follow up on actions.

The predominant presence of young and emerging evaluators (under 35 years of age and with less than five years of experience in the evaluation field) stands out in the consultation. This segment has increased its participation in events and initiatives of evaluation since the creation of the EvalYouth initiative and its regional chapter in Latin America and the Caribbean. Likewise, the considerable participation of women—in particular, of women identified with a minority or a destitute group—points to the importance of the participation of these groups in discussions to contribute to plan for transformative agendas that contribute to reversing injustices and inequalities through evaluation. It also stands out that the type of organization most represented in the Consultation are non-governmental organizations (third sector), followed by academia. However, important challenges remain to continue promoting the participation of other social sectors, such as local and state authorities, legislative branches and citizen networks to contribute to the objective of the Eval4Action campaign of promoting an influential evaluation that reaches out to broad actors in society.

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The Consultation has been deemed successful by the organizing team in identifying important challenges evaluators face in Latin America and the Caribbean, setting the stage for future, in-depth discussion of the specific actions needed to address these challenges. The elements discussed at the Consultation can certainly outline a critical path to generate an evaluation roadmap with various regional actors. Given these results, the Consultation was an effective response from the Latin American and Caribbean region to the global call by the Eval4Action campaign, to pursue actions to realize the full potential of evaluation as an accelerator of the

accomplishment of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda, and leave no one behind.

Annex

Learned lessons

This section presents the main lessons learned from the organization of the Consultation. Although the people interviewed belonging to the organizing group of the Consultation indicated that, in general, the results of the Consultation were satisfactory, they also identified some areas of opportunity, especially in logistical aspects that would be worth considering in subsequent exercises of this type. Some of these are listed below:

- Allocate more time for event planning and consider hiring one part-time individual to help with the various workloads that the Consultation preparation generated.
- Have a communication consultant to optimize the dissemination and scope of the Consultation and provide follow-up information to the participants.
- Although the dissemination via social networks was efficient and effective, there could have been a more focused dissemination towards the target audience.
- Effective coordination between the organizing team and the facilitators, is essential to establish trust in the organization process.
- The duration and number of speakers for the first stage of the Consultation was excessive and, although it is understood the importance of giving space to these actors to support the Consultation, this may have led to fatigue among the attendees and limited time for break-out discussions.
- The discussion stage could be longer in time, to give an opportunity to discuss all the topics thoroughly.
- We determined an exit instrument should have been applied to probe the opinion of the participants.
- Some Anglo- and Portuguese-speaking participants indicated the need of having simultaneous translation in subsequent exercises.