



# OECD-DAC EVALUATION NORMS AND STANDARDS

Presentation at Council of Europe, 9 November 2018

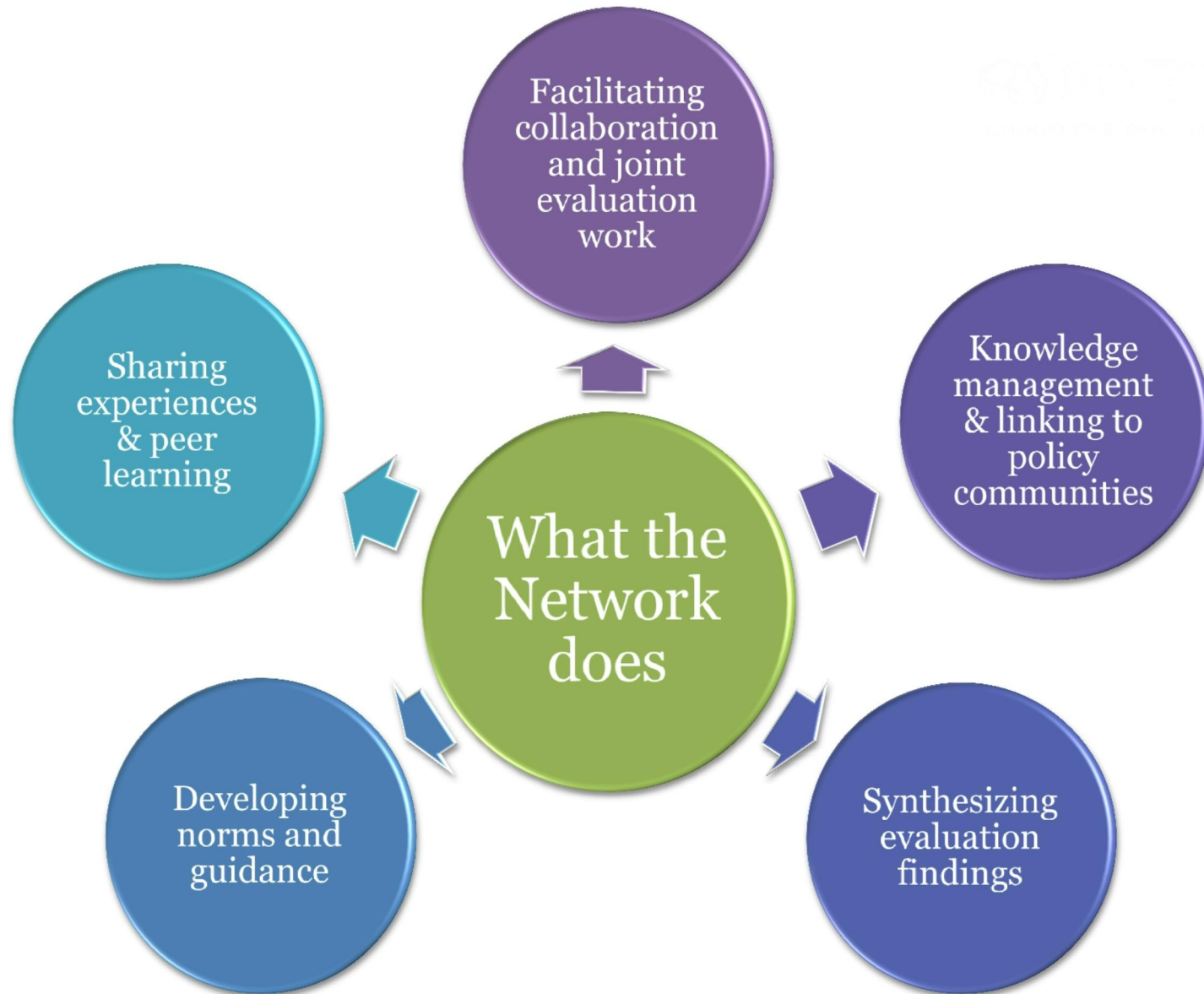
Hans E. Lundgren, Manager, DAC Evaluation Network



# The DAC Evaluation Network

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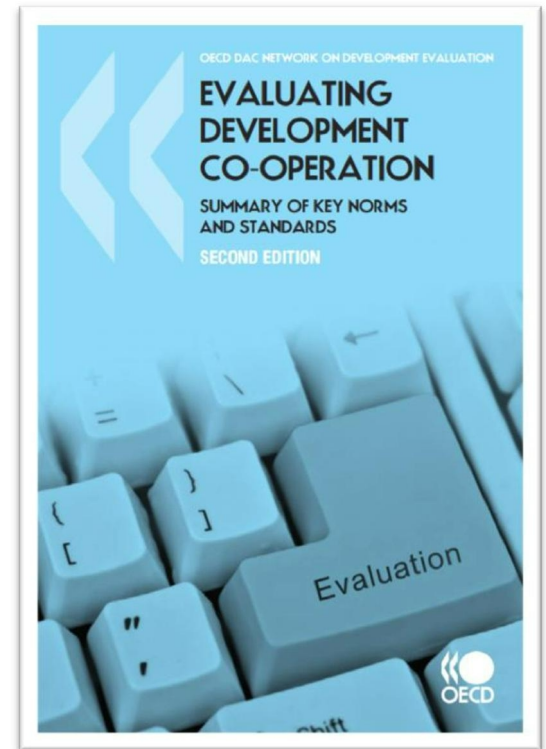
- Network in the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC)
- Brings together evaluation heads and managers of Ministries of Foreign Affairs as well as development agencies, and major multilateral development funders. Elected Chair and Vice-Chairs.
- Providing a forum for dialogue, exchange and knowledge sharing, with meetings approximately every 8 months, and task team meetings in between





# Work on development evaluation norms

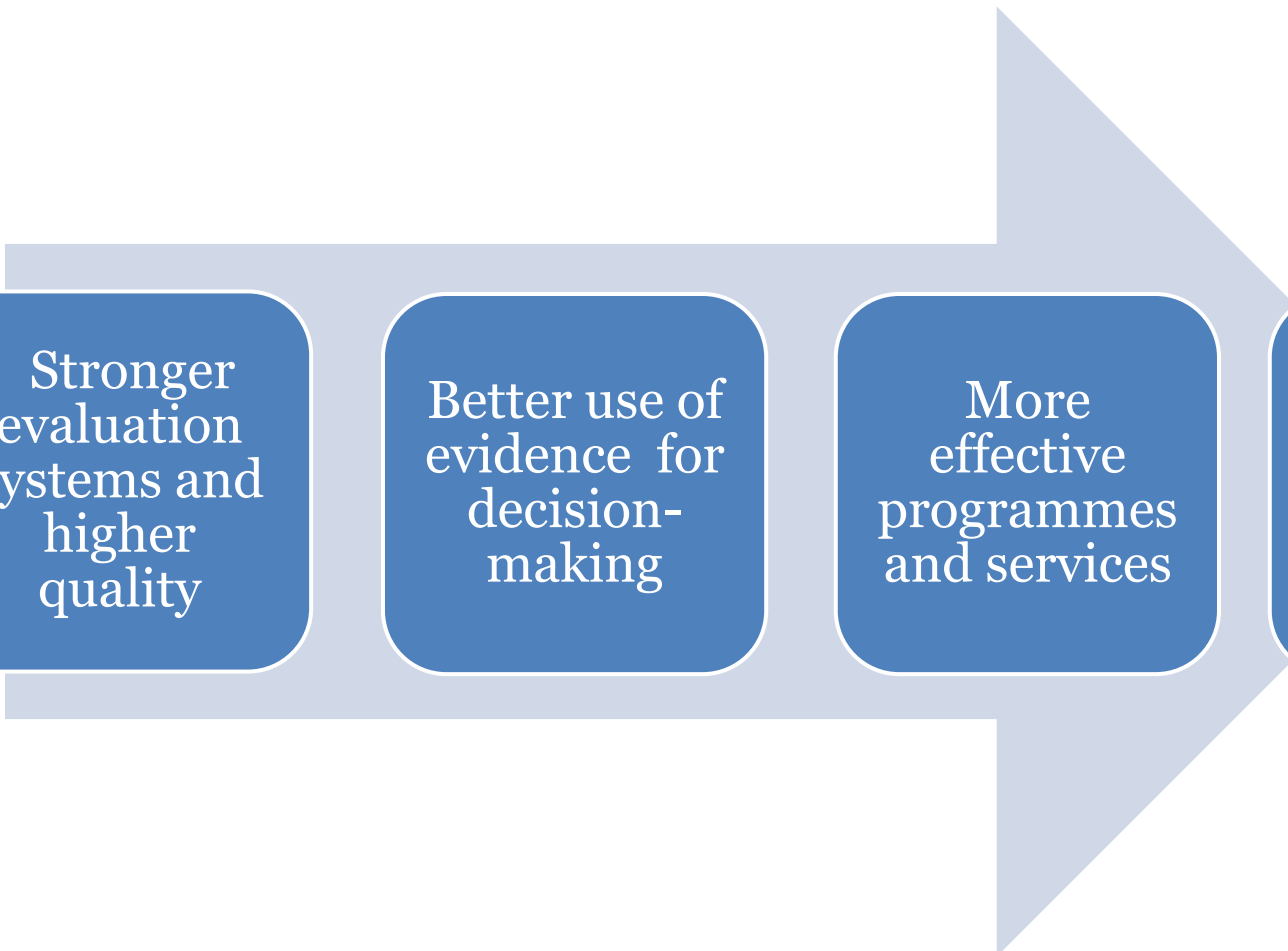
- **The development of key norms and standards** for development evaluation - used by many actors around the world.
- Normative work: **principles for evaluation**, a **glossary** translated into 15 languages, **quality standards** and **evaluation criteria**.
- **Specific guidance on evaluating:** humanitarian aid, conflict prevention & peacebuilding and managing joint evaluations.





# Why is this important?

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Stronger  
evaluation  
systems and  
higher  
quality

Better use of  
evidence for  
decision-  
making

More  
effective  
programmes  
and services

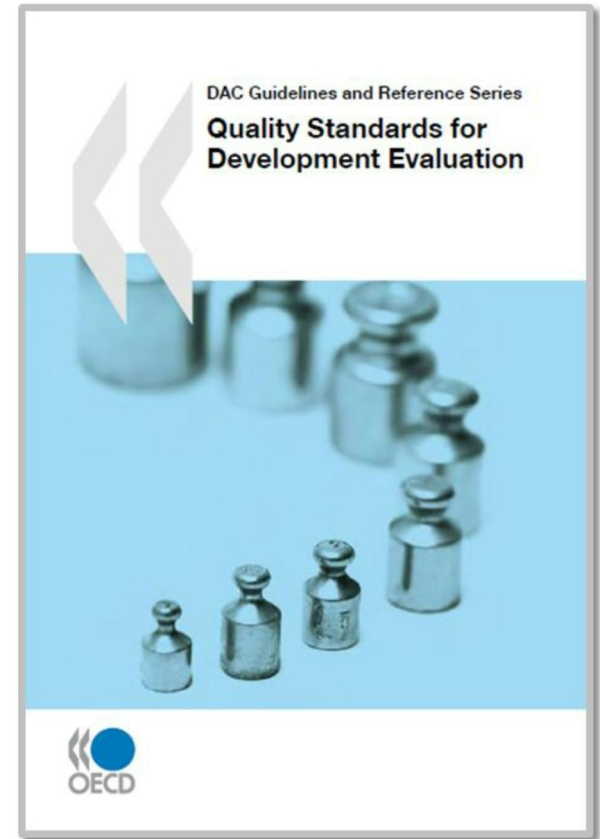
Better lives,  
sustainable  
development



# Strengthening evaluation quality

DAC Quality Standards for Evaluation are intended to:

- Improve the quality of development evaluation processes and products
- Facilitate the comparison of evaluations across countries
- Support partnerships, collaboration and joint evaluation
- Increase development partners' use of each others' evaluation findings





## Principles - example: The importance of credibility and impartiality for a good evaluation system

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- The evaluation process should be impartial and independent from the process concerned with policy-making and the delivery
- Impartiality contributes to credibility and legitimacy and reduces the potential for conflict of interest which could arise if policy makers and managers were solely responsible for evaluating their own activities
- Ways to strengthen impartiality and independence:
  - In multilateral development banks and international organisations → independent evaluation units reporting to boards
  - In Governments → ensure independence through policy, evaluation guidance and institutional structure, e.g. separation of functions, reporting to senior management or through evaluation committees
  - Ensure transparency of the evaluation process and its results



# The role of evaluation criteria

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- Assessing the merit, worth and value of a development activity, project or programme.
- Supports the development of the evaluation framework or terms of reference
- Relevance, Efficiency, Effectiveness, Impact and Sustainability – the so called “big five”





# Evaluation Criteria

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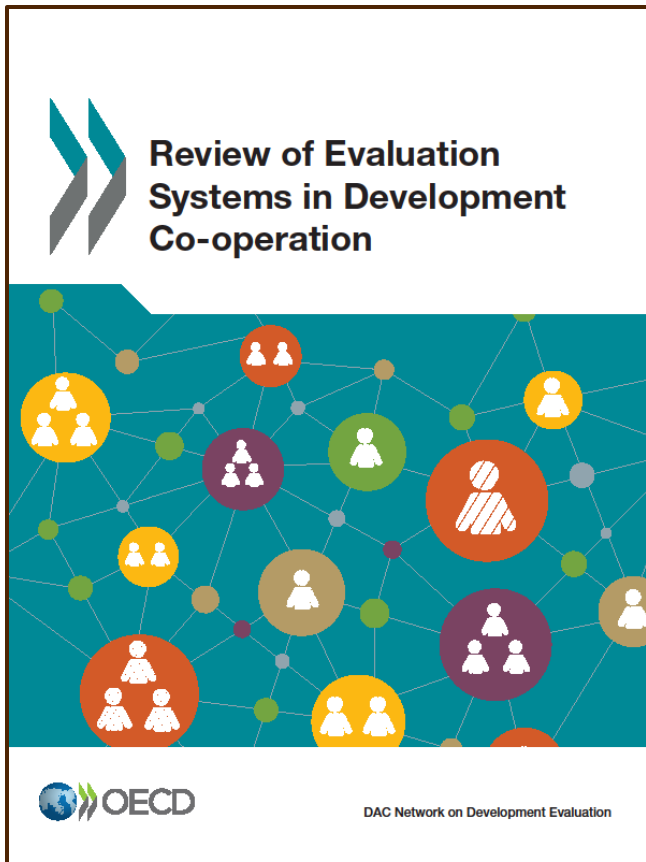
## Ongoing work and next steps

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- High Level Meeting “encouragement to explore the adaptation”
- Workshops, online consultations and survey
- International events (Africa, Asia, Europe)
- Analysis of results and development of a draft adapted set and user guidance
- Draft for consideration at the February 2019 EvalNet meeting



# Evaluation Systems review



## Review of Evaluation Systems in Development Co-operation:

- A review of Evaluation Network members - 37 evaluation entities - and 8 multilaterals
- Contains information on institutional set ups and governance, policies, resources, quality assurance processes and communication
- Profiles of each member



# Norms and standards

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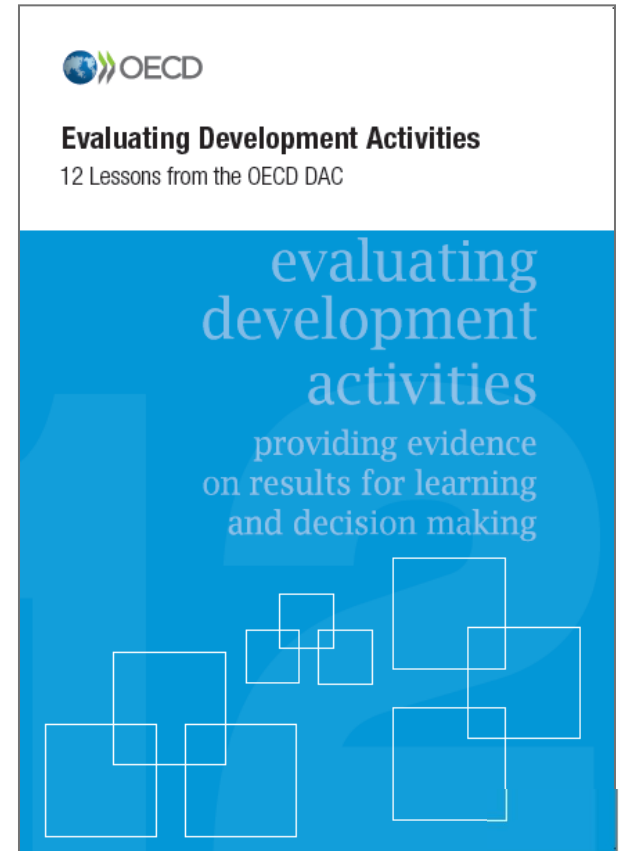
- National and regional evaluation associations have developed standards covering many dimensions, e.g. France, Germany, U.K.
- UNEG norms and standards
- Good practice standards for MDBs
- Evaluating humanitarian action – ALNAP
- Protocols for systematic reviews, e.g. Campbell, Cochrane



# Strengthen the evaluation culture

12 lessons:

- The strategic framework for learning and accountability
- Delivering evaluations effectively
- Strengthening the culture of learning





# Strengthen the evaluation culture

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## 12 lessons:

1. Base development policy decisions on evidence
2. Make learning part of the culture of development co-operation
3. Define a clear role for evaluation
4. Match ambitions with adequate resources
5. Strengthen programme design and management systems
6. Ask the right questions and be realistic about expected results
7. Choose the right evaluation tools
8. Work together
9. Help strengthen partner country capacities and use them
10. Act on evaluation findings
11. Communicate evaluation results effectively
12. Evaluate the evaluators



## Conclusion and Summary

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- A set of international evaluation norms and guidance are available – can be used and adapted to fit to local circumstances
- It is important for users that evaluations have credibility and meet quality standards
- An enabling environment and leadership support is needed for evaluation to realise its potential



# What is DEReC?

## The DAC Evaluation Resource Centre

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- An online resource containing over 3000 evaluation reports
- An easy to search database of members' evaluations

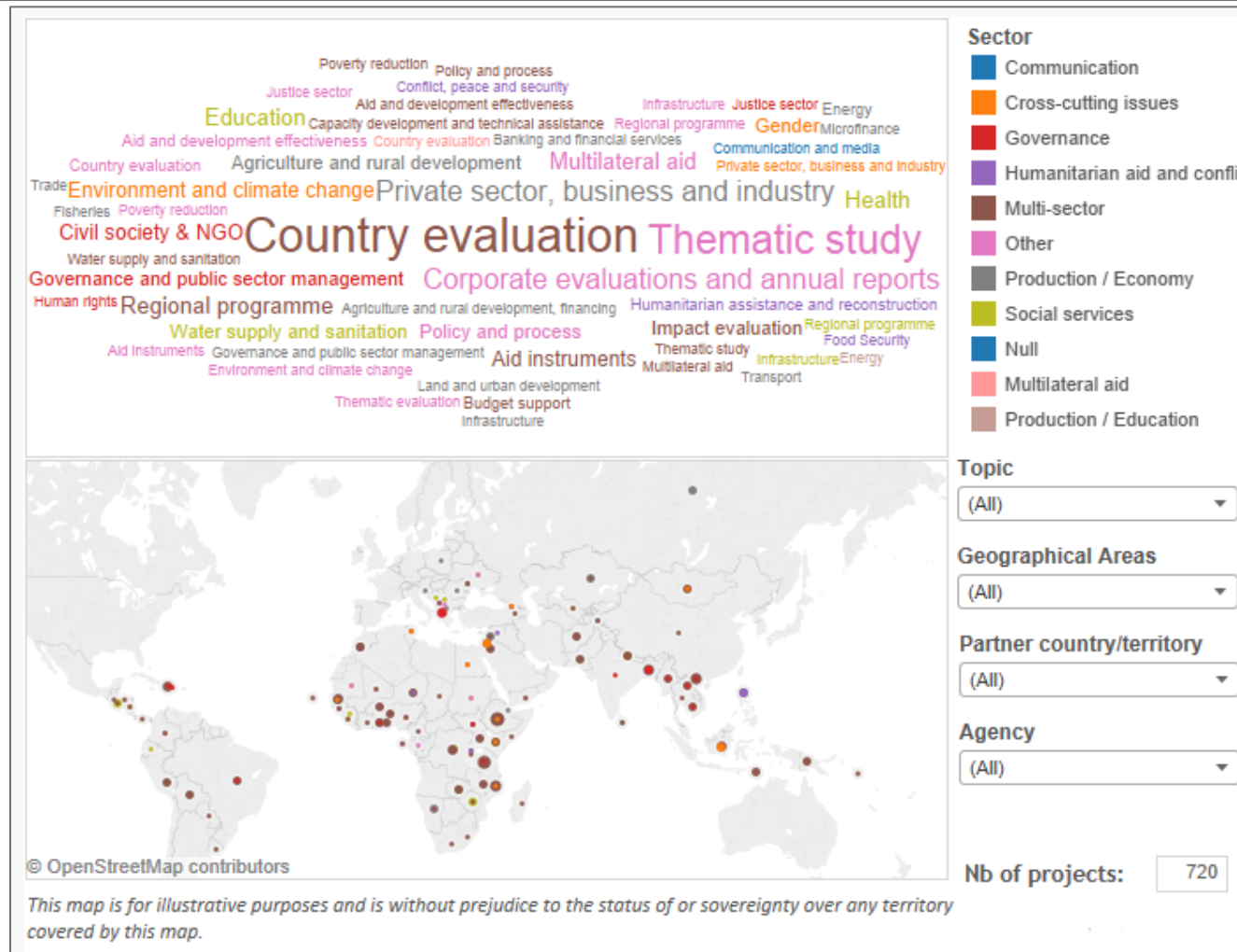


[www.oecd.org/derec/](http://www.oecd.org/derec/)





# Sharing evaluation plans of members



<https://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/evaluation-plan-inventory.htm>



# Thank you!

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