

Vacancy: 2-3 peer evaluators for the VVSG programme in Benin and Ecuador!

As you might recall, last years' CIB annual meeting saw a discussion on monitoring and evaluation of programmes of CIB members. In that discussion, the idea arose to organize a peer evaluation for one or more of our programmes, in view of the difficult experiences with external evaluations. The Flemish Association of Cities and Municipalities (VVSG) has made it possible to include 2 or 3 peer evaluators from the CIB network, in the mid-term evaluation of two of the country programmes of their subsidy programme (subsidized by DGD, which is the federal government of Belgium). **We are now looking for 2-3 peer evaluators** for both **Benin** (evaluation mission takes place in December 2019) and **Ecuador** (evaluation mission takes place in Spring 2020). Read more below!

Which programme are we peer reviewing?

VVSG's current DGD multi-annual programme started on 1 January 2017 (operational start was in mid-June 2017) and ends on 31 December 2021. This mid-term evaluation therefore takes place halfway through the implementation of the programme. The purpose of the evaluation is both **accountability** (in the first place towards the subsidizing government DGD, but also towards Flemish aldermen and municipal councilors, for example), and **learning**. With this evaluation, the VVSG wants to evaluate a number of content-related programs (both a few city-link programmes and a cooperation programme with a national association of local governments). Is VVSG on track with the implementation of the programmes? What can we adjust in the remaining years? In addition, the VVSG also wants to look forward with its evaluation. The final evaluation of the current subsidy programme (June 2022) will only be delivered after the new multi-annual programme has been submitted (August 2021). Therefore, this evaluation can help VVSG identify answers to: what are practices that we can repeat? Are there problems that can be avoided in the future or that need to be addressed better?

Peer evaluation as a methodology

Given the aim, object and expected use of the evaluation (justification, but above all **a learning aspect**), the VVSG wishes to work with **peer evaluators** for this mid-term evaluation. A (changing) team of 3 to 4 peer evaluators will be put together to evaluate a program on the spot. The team will consist of someone from the VVSG, of Flemish city link coordinators (who evaluate city links other than their own partnership), and also of experts from national/regional associations of local governments, as well as individual cities, which are members of the CIB network. These peer evaluators are responsible for carrying out the peer evaluation (reviewing available documents such as program descriptions and annual reports; interview with the Flemish city link coordinator; an evaluation visit to the field and for the production of individual evaluation reports). Given the learning nature of this evaluation, a focus will be put on participatory, qualitative evaluation techniques. It is desirable that the Most Significant Change technique is part of this.

What's in it for you?

The peer evaluators are not only implementers of the VVSG evaluation. It will also strengthen them in their evaluative capacities and management skills of international programmes and partnerships. Also, the peer evaluation work provides input for advocacy towards national governments or the international donor community, concerning the implementation of evaluations in development cooperation programmes. The latter will be taken on by CIB and UCLG after the evaluation has taken place.

Required skills and experience

- Minimum 2 years of working experience in capacity building programmes within the local government development sector; and with different monitoring and evaluation techniques;

- Knowledge/strong interest in local governance in Western-Africa/Latin-America;
- Excellent French (for Benin) / Spanish (for Ecuador) language skills (oral + written).

Please note: an external consultant will be hired to accompany the process. This external consultant or VVSG will also provide for a 3-hour online preparatory meeting.

Required investment of peer evaluators

Time	
Preparation time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introductory/preparatory training (3 hours) in October - Contact with other peer evaluators - Reading of material on programme 	1,5 working days Benin: between September and December Ecuador: Spring 2020
Evaluation mission in field (incl. writing of first version of report)	Max. 6 working days Benin: End of November - December 2019 (before or after the regional meeting of VVSG in Benin 2-6 December) Ecuador: Spring 2020
Finalization of evaluation report	1 working day Benin: December 2019 Ecuador: Spring 2020

Costs
<p>The Capacity and Institution Building Working Group can sponsor the flight ticket and DSA of two participants from the Global South. Fees for the working days are not available.</p> <p>Participants from the Global North are asked to cover their costs from project budgets (for learning/activities in the region etc.).</p>

Selection process

Interested CIB members are asked to share a short motivation letter and CV by sending an email to Karlien.gorissen@vvsq.be by the 27th of August. The profiles and letters will be shared with an independent steering committee. You will receive news on your application on the 13th of September.