



# **Evaluator's Code of Ethics**

Final version approved by Congress of the Czech Evaluation Society

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Czech Evaluation Society

## What is Evaluator's Code of Ethics?

Evaluator's Code of Ethics aims are:

- to improve the prestige of evaluation
- increase its professional standards and ethics

Evaluator's Code of Ethics has resulted from several months of discussions among evaluators and other stakeholders interested in evaluation within the Czech Evaluation Society. The draft of the Code was prepared by a working group and it was consulted during June to October 2011. Evaluator's Code of Ethics was approved by Congress of the Czech Evaluation Society on 9th December 2011.

A masculine gender is used in this text, just for simplification and substitute the masculine and feminine gender.

**Code's purpose is to claim allegiance to values that strengthen credibility and transparency of evaluations and evaluators in the Czech Republic and that are honored by evaluators in their professional practice. It is the task for every single evaluator to fulfil these values. Code of Ethics provides general framework for evaluation standards and other specific provisions.**

### Preamble

- Evaluator's Code of Ethics expresses the will of us, the members of Czech Evaluation Society, to adopt binding moral rules for evaluation practice.
- We are convinced that, even after two decades of democracy in the Czech Republic, it is necessary to continue pointing-out that there are specific values and attitudes in human activities that need to be protected and promoted.
- We are convinced that, by defining evaluator's ethical rules, we help the present and future generations of evaluators to think creatively, freely and impartially.
- We are convinced that scope and quality of evaluation standards reflect the ethical values of society in which these standards originate.

## **1. Expertise**

- 1.1** Evaluator shall conduct an evaluation objectively, independently and impartially. Evaluator shall act in a way which does not decrease the trust of clients, target groups and the general public in independence and impartiality of evaluation.
- 1.2** Evaluator shall use procedures which are legitimated and respected in terms of methodology and shall take into account evaluation standards and other professional recommendations.
- 1.3** Evaluator shall distinguish in written documents and verbal presentations the conclusions based on empirical data and their analysis from interpretations derived from past experience and practice.
- 1.4** Evaluator shall enhance the expertise and develop the knowledge and skills by taking part in training courses, conferences, through cooperation with other evaluators and by self-study.
- 1.5** Evaluator shall respect and honor the right of users and colleagues to express a different opinion. Evaluator shall respect the right of stakeholders to comment the evaluation findings and conclusions.
- 1.6** Evaluator shall inform the client about the limits of an evaluation concerning its scope, price and proposed procedures.

## **2. Integrity**

- 2.1** Evaluator shall inform the client about the possible conflict of interests and when conducted evaluation might therefore be accused of prejudiced.
- 2.2** Evaluator shall strive for maximum transparency of evaluation. He shall reject partial or misleading interpretations of evaluation findings.
- 2.3** Evaluator shall be aware and respect the different cultural and social environments. Evaluator shall be sensitive to different cultures, their traditions and values.
- 2.4** Evaluator shall pay special attention to issues of discrimination and equal opportunities in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the UN.
- 2.5** Evaluator shall not disclose the respondents' personal data and when working with these data, shall preserve their confidentiality.
- 2.6** Evaluator shall be aware that evaluation does not aim at evaluating performance of the given individuals.
- 2.7** Evaluator shall neither require nor accept gifts, services or other benefits that could influence the results of evaluation or its credibility.

### **3. Responsibility**

- 3.1** Evaluator shall be responsible for his/her behavior when conducting the evaluation.
- 3.2** Evaluator shall comply with legal regulations in the Czech Republic as well as in abroad.
- 3.3** Evaluator shall provide tentative interpretations of findings and preliminary conclusions to the client and other evaluation users.
- 3.4** Evaluator shall support interest in evaluation among professional and general public; evaluator shall pay special attention to young generation.
- 3.5** Evaluator shall encourage the client to make evaluation report public and to strengthen its utilization.
- 3.6** Evaluator shall share the experience and knowledge with the other evaluators.
- 3.7** Evaluator shall fulfil a fair pricing policy; evaluator does not prefer economic interest to the high quality of an evaluation.
- 3.8** Evaluator shall inform relevant authorities in an appropriate way whenever the illegal behavior is observed.

December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Prague