



Greetings from the European Evaluation Society

It is a great pleasure to have been asked to make some introductory remarks in the first issue of this important new journal.

Over recent years the German speaking evaluation community – including Switzerland and Austria as well as Germany itself – has become increasingly important from a European perspective. Indeed in many domains such as policy analysis, social welfare reform and science and technology, German scholars and practitioners are regarded as leaders in the field. It is noteworthy however (and I write here as the editor of the journal *Evaluation*) that publication of German evaluation material is less frequent than might be expected. As is often the case, the greatest and most immediate interest in evaluation thinking is to be found within national and regional contexts. It is therefore important that an active evaluation community, such as yours, has its own channels of communication and dissemination. At the same time this should not preclude publication in other European and international journals – rather, it could be a useful step in encouraging German evaluation thinkers to publish more widely. We would certainly welcome more material from the German evaluation community in the journal *Evaluation* and look forward to the opportunity of directing our own readers' attention to this important new source of evaluation ideas and studies.

Over the last few years we have seen an upsurge in the professionalisation and the institutionalisation of evaluation in many European countries. When the European Evaluation Society was established in 1995 there was only one other society in Europe – today there are twelve. The European Evaluation Society is keen to work closely with national networks and societies across Europe to develop shared understandings and exchanges of experience. I would therefore hope that the free flowing exchange of published material will be one additional means of strengthening these European networks. We already have good links with the German Evaluation Society (DeGEval) many of whose members have also been active in launching this new journal.

Congratulations on this important new enterprise. I am sure it will be a great success.

Elliot Stern
President,
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