



**XXII NATIONAL CONGRESS
ASSOCIAZIONE ITALIANA DI VALUTAZIONE AIV**

**1-3 April, 2019
IUAV – Università IUAV di Venezia
Palazzo Badoer, San Polo 2468, Venezia**

CALL FOR PAPERS

***CULTURE OF EVALUATION: DISSEMINATION AND LINES OF
DEVELOPMENT***

CULTURE OF EVALUATION: DISSEMINATION AND LINES OF DEVELOPMENT

In 1997, when *Associazione Italiana di Valutazione* was funded by a pioneering group, evaluation played a marginal role in public policies, universities didn't pay much attention to it and it was pretty much absent from the political and public debate.

Because of the active support of its members, AIV has contributed to the dissemination of evaluation promoting opportunities for exchange and contamination: economists, political scientists, sociologists, statisticians, officers, trainers, etc. have found a common ground for discussion and exchange.

Thanks to numerous scholars and practitioner's knowledge of methods and tools, pathways to institutionalization in various sectors, and a significant body of evaluation practices in vast and complex range of objects - evaluation practice has been disseminated widely.

However, this hasn't always created an evaluating culture of evaluation, it hasn't become a source of learning and improvement, and in many fields evaluation is still seen as a formal obligation and a form of control.

Although evaluation is nowadays formally part of the political and administrative system, it has to draw a line once and for all under the old practices of the past (routine acting, undergoing checks, fearing and avoiding controls) to promote a less legalistic-performance-oriented logic, toward a result-based one (thanks also to unexpected methods), and a governance that acknowledge the contribution and co-responsibility of the public, private and third sector, both in designing and implementing their policies, as well as evaluating them.

This requires an open attitude, aimed at seeking improvement and characterized by self-reflection and "trial and error" processes. According to this, there is no fear for mistakes, and evaluation is not identified with the punishment, source of implosion and enemy of innovation.

The recognition of the evaluative action as a practice based on judgment - and therefore charged with added value - contributes to legitimize evaluation and to spread a culture of it. This culture is primarily formed through practices, often independently from the formal processes of the institutionalization of evaluation, and it is enriched when the theoretical reflection is contaminated with experiences in specific fields, and evaluation is perceived for what it is: a cognitive tool for mutual improvement and growth.

If the term evaluation is sometimes misused, the word 'culture' is also weakened to assume a derogatory meaning, such as in the educational field where the 'culture of evaluation' is criticized, when the evaluation is incapable of valuing the real educational and training resources. Even in spatial planning or environmental policies, evaluation can become ancillary to unsustainable strategies, while in risk management assessment can be a victim of partial perceptual theories and models.

Consequently: What is the status of the culture of evaluation in Italy? How is it possible to support the quality of evaluations? How improve their impact on decision-making

processes? How can evaluation improve public policies? Which are the potential lines of development of evaluation?

The XXII AIV National Congress aims to be an opportunity to discuss the current dissemination of evaluation and its prospective of development, starting from the analyses and the debate on planning and evaluating experiences, through the comparison between different topics and professional sectors.

Therefore, AIV aspires to attract the attention of the insiders and of those interested to the multiple developments that evaluation can undertake, in order to intercept the needs and the changes occurring in different areas of public policies.

AIV expects a large contribution on the experiences regarding programs and politics, services and projects, realized or planned, and on the multiple ways of doing evaluation in everyday life.

The Congress will take place from **April 1 to April 3, 2019** at the prestigious site of the University **IUAV in Venice**. The program includes thematic panels, plenary, interview, and poster sessions to foster the contribution of the youngest.

The call welcomes panel proposal that allow to open the debate and the comparison on the actual perspectives and the problems of evaluation practice, using any kind of intellectual and practical tools experience has made us available. Proposals of individual paper will also be taken into account. Particular attention will be given to the contribution of young people.

The following suggested topics for panels can be listed on the policies, contexts and practice of evaluation levels. Other proposal of interest will also be taken into account.

- Climate change mitigation policies and programs
- Teaching and evaluation
- Emergency policies and risk management
- Agricultural multifunctionality and ecosystem services
- Educational policies and digitalization
- Reception and urban safety
- Third sector organizations and social enterprises impact
- Emerging needs and housing policies
- Equal Opportunities
- Market dynamics and social demands
- Inequality, development, democracy
- Circularity and urban metabolism
- Local development, internal areas and participatory design
- Large infrastructure
- Improvement of Public Administration Performance
- University and Scientific Research
- Environmental and territorial conflicts

- Using Open and Big Data for evaluation
- Teaching and evaluation practice
- Public and Private Goods
- School performance, student achievement and evaluation systems
- Relationship between evaluation and planning
- Performance, accountability and improvement
- Users' participation to the organizational performance of the Public Administration

Panel and paper proposals can be submitted either in English or in Italian no later than **January 13, 2019**. Proposals must include a short description (max 500 words), and some info on the proponent (max 50 words).

Acceptance within **January 27, 2019**. Conveners will then send an abstract of the contributions **no later than February 24, 2019**.

Evaluation criteria:

1. Relevance of the contents
2. Clarity of objectives
3. Approach and methodology adequacy
4. Robustness of the results and arguments
5. Originality of contributions.

The most interesting papers that contribute to the scientific debate during the Congress may be submitted for publication on *RIV Rassegna Italiana di Valutazione* - if they meet the scientific standard of the Journal.

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

Proposal for individual papers and posters, and for thematic panel must be sent no later than January 13, 2019 to: segreteria@valutazioneitaliana.it indicating in the email subject: "Panel Congress AIV 2019".

Participation in the Congress is restricted to AIV member up-to-date with 2019 membership.

DEADLINES

- *Call for paper launch*: **November 28, 2018**
- *Abstracts deadline*: **January 13, 2019**
- *Panel and paper acceptance*: **January 27, 2019**
- *Abstracts submission deadline*: **February 24, 2019**
- *Registration deadline*: **March 15, 2019**

AIV DISSERTATION AND THESIS AWARD

As every year, during the Congress the best dissertations and theses on evaluation will be rewarded. Eligible criteria are:

- *Master degree dissertations (old and new order);*
- *Second degree vocational master dissertations and doctorate thesis.*

Dissertations and thesis must:

- *Be expressly related to topics concerning evaluation*
- *Be already defended*
- *Be related to 2014-2015; 2015-2016; 2016-2017; 2017-18 academic years*
- *Be first submission to this award.*

Those who are interested must write **no later than January 13, 2019 to: segreteria@valutazioneitaliana.it** indicating in the email subject: "Thesis Prize" and attaching the dissertation/thesis file. Please also indicate:

- *Author first and surname/family name*
- *Dissertation/Thesis title*
- *Supervisor*
- *Department and University*
- *Academic Year.*

Acceptance by February 24, 2019.

Prize winners may publish a paper taken from the dissertation/thesis if it meets editorial and refereed criteria of the Journal.

'BEST PRACTICE IN THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION' AIV AWARD

This year AIV promotes a new initiative to share the Best Practice in PA. As anticipated during the 2017 Congress, aim of this first edition of the award it is to give prominence to the most meaningful experiences regarding evaluation of performances, with particular respect to the followings topics:

- *Consultation with the users for the purposes of the evaluation of the organizational performance (Article 7 and Article 19-bis of legislative decree N. 150 of October 27, 2009)*
- *Performance evaluation based on benchmarking exercises with other entities*
- *Involvement of the managers and other officers in the performance evaluation system.*

It is possible to propose other topics specifying their relevance for other administrations. Applications should come directly from Public Administration, their branches, or from Independent Assessment Body. Those who are interested must write **no later than February 22, 2019 to: segreteria@valutazioneitaliana.it** indicating in the email subject: "Best Practice in public administration award". Please also indicate:

- *A short description of the experience*
- *A contact name*
- *The reason of candidacy*
- *Photo and documentation to support the request*

Acceptance by March 13, 2019

A section of the Congress will be dedicated to the awarded initiatives. Best initiatives will be mentioned to the Department of Public Administration to be disseminated within the Nation Network for the Evaluation of public administration provided for Art. 14, c.4-bis of legislative decree N. 150 of October 27, 2009.

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ORGANIZATION SECRETARIAT

AIV SECRETARIAT

Tel.: +39 327 59 35 582

segreteria@valutazioneitaliana.it

<http://www.valutazioneitaliana.it>

Social:

