



**On 30 September, UNESCO IOS, together with the OECD Internal Audit and Evaluation Office, the French Evaluation Society, and the European Evaluation Society held a joint conference on the subject of *Making Effective Use of Evaluations in an Increasingly Complex World*.** The event was held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France, within the context of the 2015 International Year of Evaluation which aims to promote evaluation and evidence-based policy making at international, regional, national and local levels. The chair of the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), Marco Segone participated in the opening session, bringing with him the evaluation "torch" which has become the symbol for igniting the evaluation flame over a hundred events held throughout the world to celebrate the international year of evaluation.

The conference, which attracted a very high level of interest, was attended by some 200 participants and was unique in that it brought together a wide range of evaluation stakeholders, from evaluation experts and practitioners to policymakers as users of evaluations. In providing a setting in which both the demand and the supply sides of evaluation could meet, the conference aimed to improve understanding of why the growth in effective evaluation use lags behind the development of evaluation institutionalization, and to provide an impetus to bridging the gap between demand and supply in light of the challenges faced by policymakers in an increasingly complex world.

Systemic issues, present on both the demand and supply sides, can be seen as the primary roadblocks in ensuring that evaluations are effectively used. The conference discussed the use of evaluation in this context and its four sessions sought to answer the following questions:

- What is evaluation use?
- What do decision-makers expect from evaluations?
- What is the evaluator's perspective on ensuring the usefulness of evaluations?
- What have we learnt about how the gap between the demand and supply sides of evaluation might be bridged?