

# Evaluation as Capacity and Social Capital Building

## Evaluation within the EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation

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# Overview

- Introduction to CENI
- Background to the EUSSPPR
- Commissioner of the evaluation: Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust
- CENI's approach to the evaluation
- Implementing the evaluation: theory and reality
- Issues and lessons

# Community Evaluation Northern Ireland

*'to strengthen and improve the voluntary sector through a better understanding and use of evaluation'*

- Information and advice
- Training and support
- External evaluations
- Programme evaluation
- Practice development
- Policy influence

# EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Border Counties of Ireland 1995 - 1999

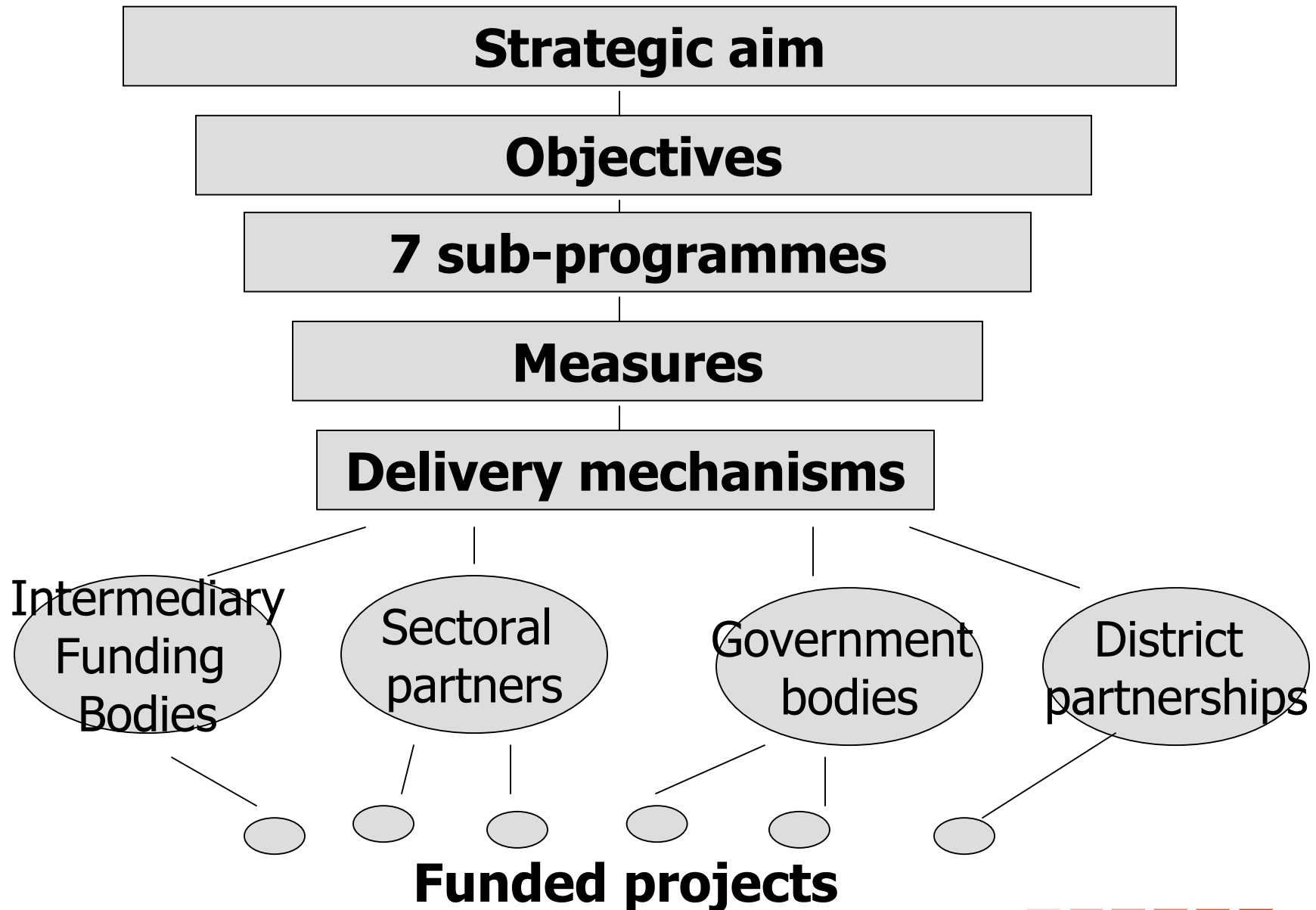
## Aim

'to reinforce progress towards a peaceful society and to promote reconciliation'

## Objectives

- To promote the social inclusion of those who are at the margins of social and economic life
- To exploit the opportunities arising from the peace process in order to boost economic growth and advance social and economic regeneration

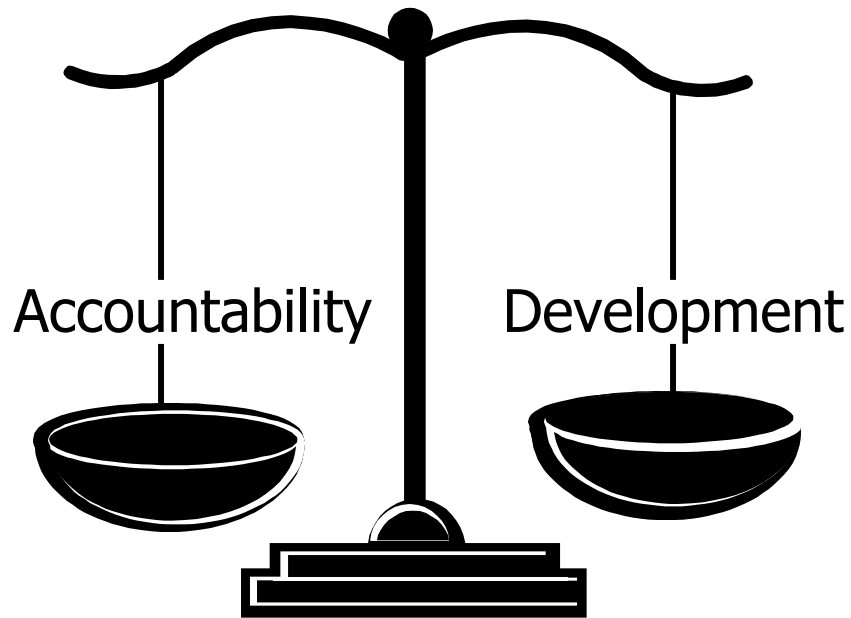
# Structure of the Programme



# Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust as an IFB

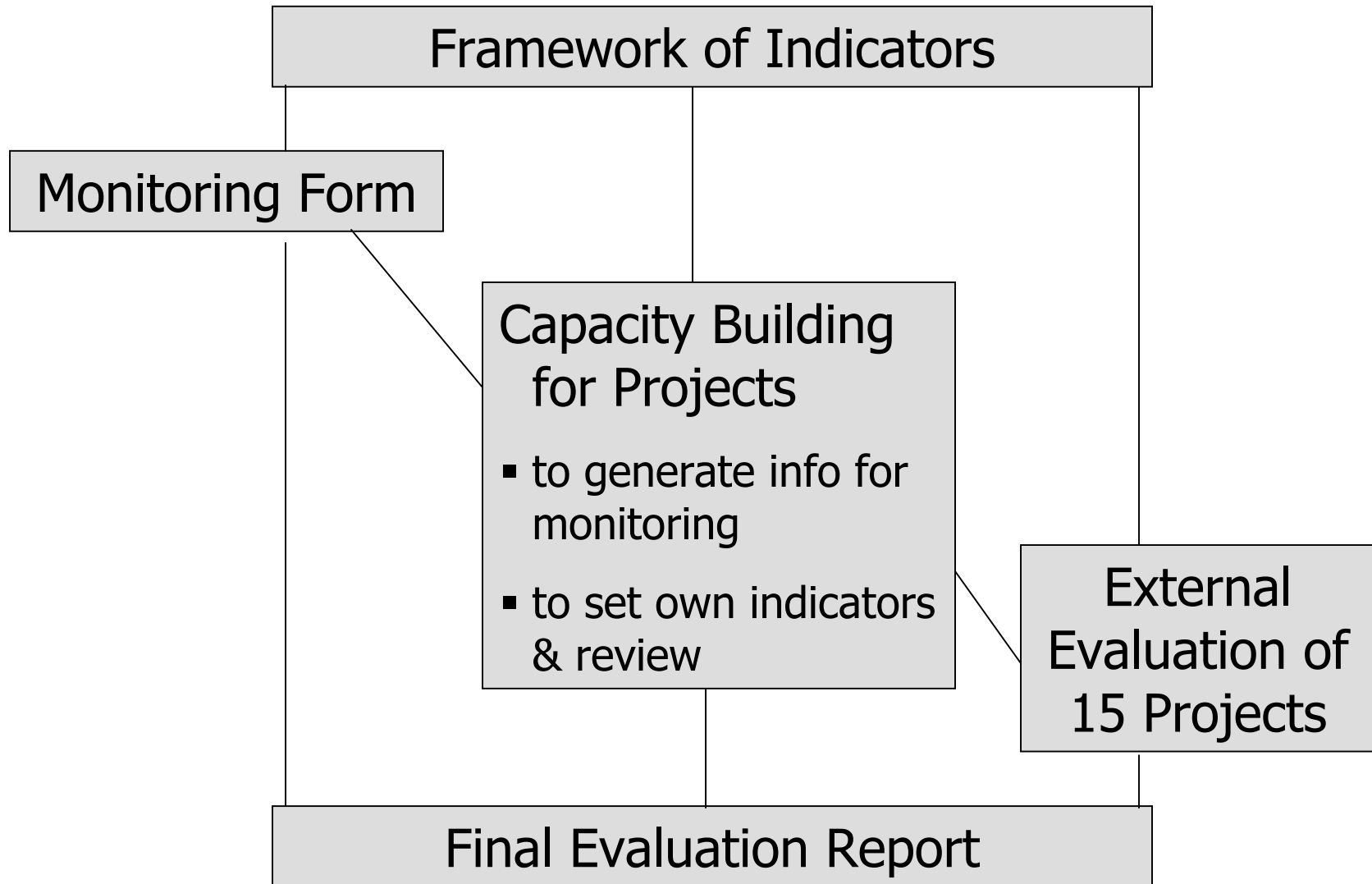
- Long- established community foundation which funds and supports projects
- Responsible for disbursing approx £28m across 4 Programme measures
- Community development approach
- Creating the conditions for peace-building
- Small scale funding to large number of low capacity groups

# NIVT's evaluation needs

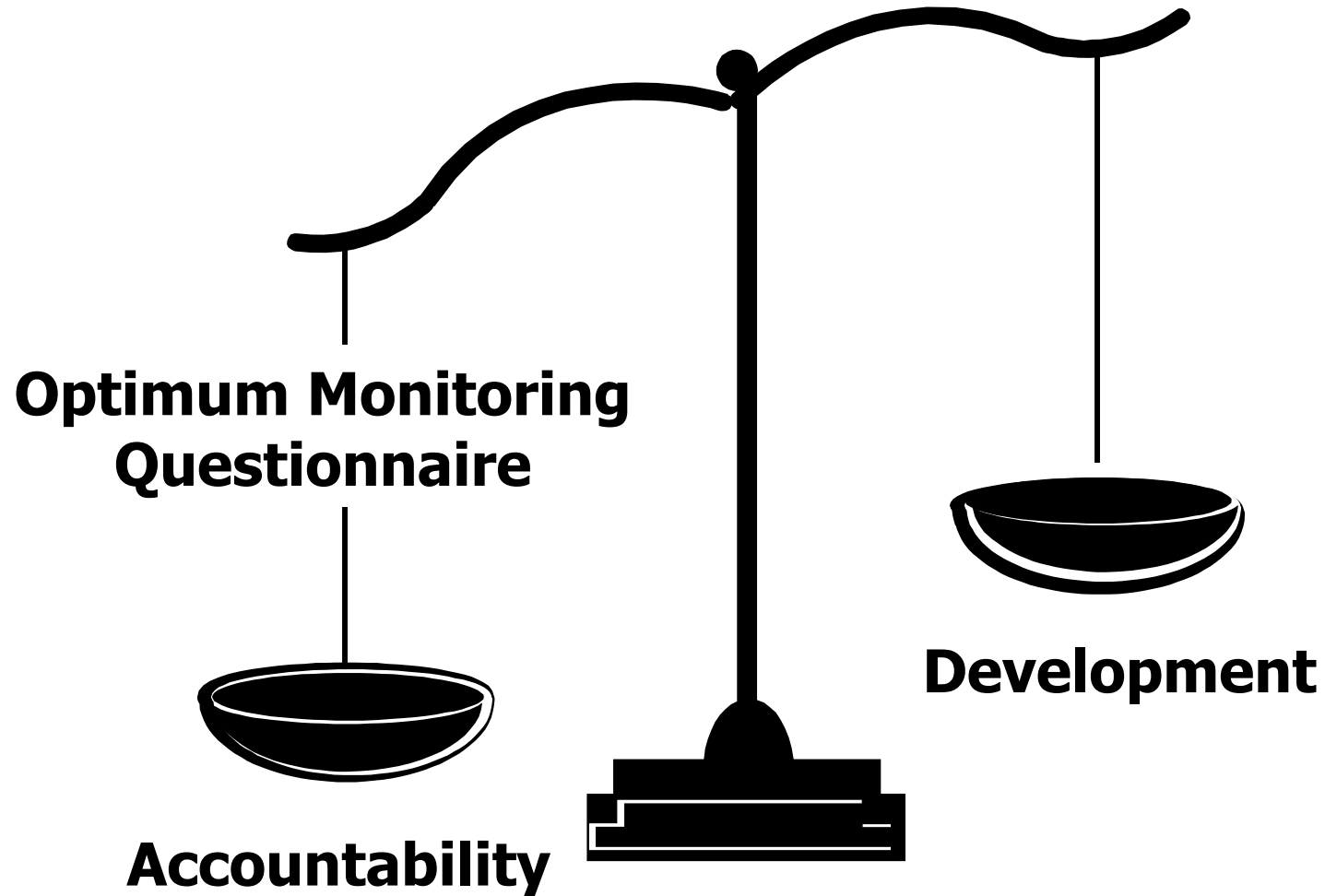


- To meet accountability requirements
- To identify lessons about peace & reconciliation
- To contribute to development & sustainability requirements

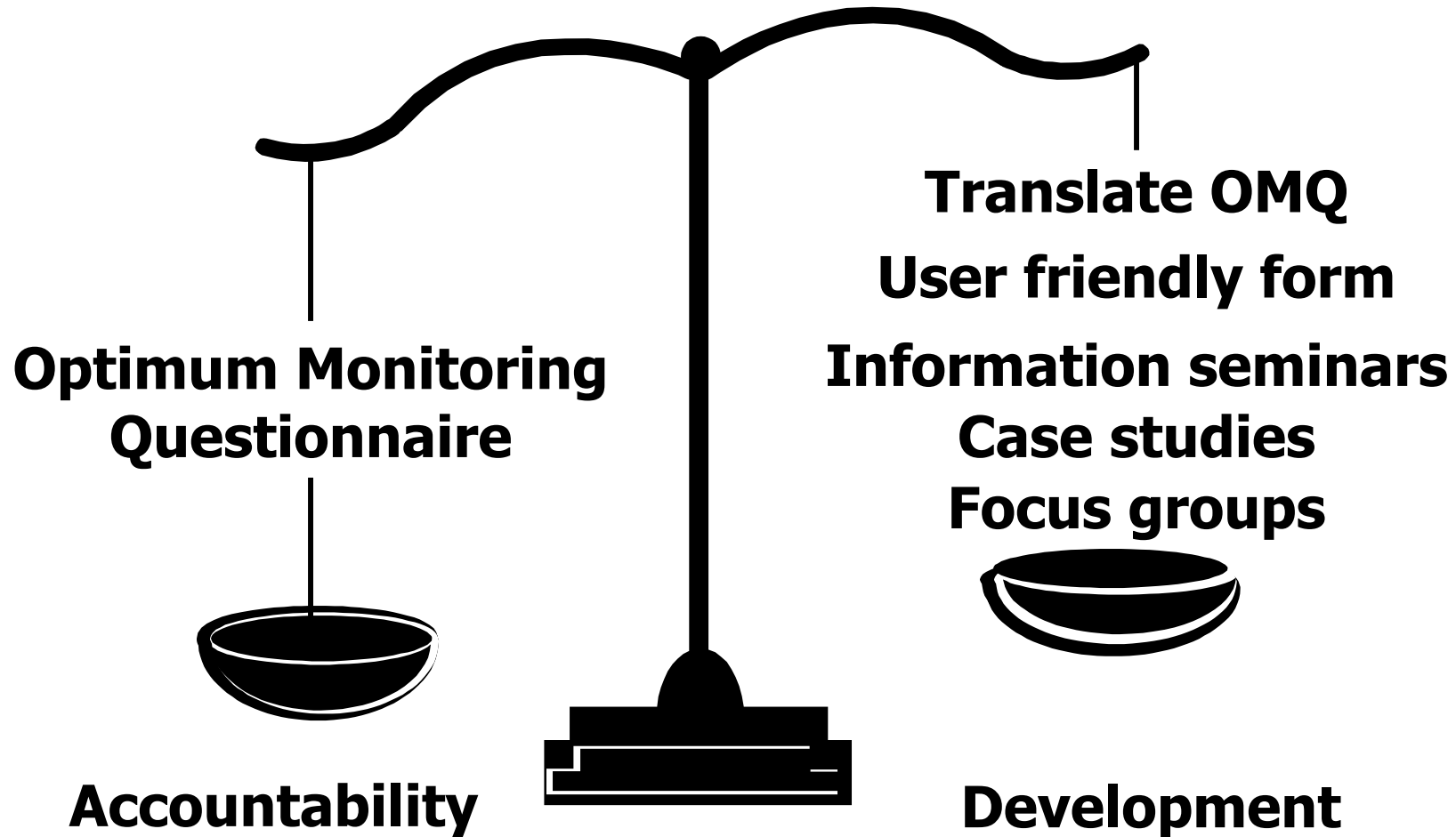
# CENI's approach



# The shifting balance



# Regaining the balance



# Evaluation report has been used to ....

- document allocation and use of NIVT's EUSSPPR funding
- highlight positive benefits of projects' work
- illustrate challenges in addressing issues of peace and reconciliation
- identify projects' future support needs
- help NIVT consider how to monitor and assess impact of future funded work

# Issues

- At programme level:
  - Focus on evaluation for accountability
  - Use of generic framework of indicators
  - Lack of clarity re definitions of peace & reconciliation
  - Focus on quantitative outputs, rather than process and outcomes
- Mismatch between programme, funding administrators and project needs
- Lost opportunity for learning and development

# Moving forward: Evaluation in Peace II

Need for:

- integrated evaluation framework which reflects different evaluation purposes and needs
- appropriate indicators to capture process and outcomes
- capacity building in evaluation