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**Implementing a National Evaluation System to institutionalise evidence - findings from an evaluation of South Africa’s National Evaluation System**

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**Objectives/aims**

Evaluation of the South African National Evaluation System

**Methods**

Qualitative assessment of case studies and views of stakeholders, international benchmarking, survey of stakeholders

**Main findings**

Overall the evaluation found that since the inception of the National Evaluation Policy Framework in 2011, great strides have been made in developing the system in the first five years of what is a 20-year project. Since the establishment of the NES, 69 evaluations were included in National Evaluation Plans (NEPs), of which eight were cancelled. In addition to NEPs, eight provinces, through their Offices of the Premier (OTPs), have developed Provincial Evaluation Plans (PEPs), and 68 departments have developed Departmental Evaluation Plans (DEPs). Evaluation has however not been consistently undertaken across the public sector, and work needs to be done on institutionalising evaluation and streamlining it into planning, budgeting and management. There are encouraging signs of evaluation use in the system. However, improvement plans need to tracked more systematically to better understand use.