



BRC Think Tank Rating: Final Results and What's Next

Presentation plan

1. Importance of evaluation

2. Rating as M&E Plan

3. Value and results of Pilot Rating

4. Next steps

Evaluation Matters

“If civil society is to remain a key player in the rapidly changing development field, then it is essential we are able to show we are making a difference” (INTRAC).

Evaluation matters – but to whom?

Increasingly active debate on how to evaluate impact triggered by:

1. Increasing volume of aid
2. Growing no. of actors; cross-sectoral, complex interventions
3. Rise of technology
4. Turn to policy influence and advocacy (pure service delivery cannot solve complex societal problems)

Evaluation matters – but to whom?

- Not a “tick-box approach” to donor accountability but a way to build capacity and trust, a tool for growth.
- Robust, well-thought and planned M&E systems can serve as a tool to challenge donors’ unrealistic expectations.

Quick question

How many of you have institutionalized M&E systems to assess the impact of your work?

BRC Rating as a M&E plan

M&E is not easy. It is expensive.

⇒ BRC aims to assist those Belarusian think tanks who want to know more than just what happened: those of you who want to go further to understand what caused the observed outcomes and impacts, which of your strategies and tactics work.

⇒ Participation in the increasingly global debate on why evaluate and how.

BRC Rating as a M&E plan

Beside being a tool to increase society's awareness about the Belarusian research sector and attract investment into it, BRC Rating is a M&E plan that can be adapted by participating organizations wishing to track their impact and growth.

The Value of the Pilot Rating

- ⇒ Meaningful debate within the research sector
- ⇒ Elaboration of a draft M&E plan with indicators measuring effectiveness of a TT
- ⇒ Active participation and valuable feedback
- ⇒ Important lessons learnt: importance of strict deadlines and data evidence; clarity of notions and indicators; acknowledgement of differences among institutions.

The Value of the Pilot Rating

“Спасибо, было очень полезно - теперь понятно, какую информацию об ИЦ надо постоянно актуализировать”.

(Director of a Think Tank Participating in BRC Rating)

BRC Rating: Try and Evolve

“We should not be daunted by methodological challenges of evaluating campaigns. We have to push ahead; we have to try some new things. We have to put data collection strategies into the field even if they are imperfect, try them and work on their development”. (Henry, 2002)

BRC Rating: Try and Evolve

Организационная способность	20	Членство в международных ассоциациях	5
		Наличие совета/правления	5
		Количество задействованных аналитиков	10
Коммуникативная политика	40	Наличие корпоративного сайта	10
		Web-трафик (уникальные посетители)	10
		Число последователей в социальных медиа	10
		Общий тираж печатных публикаций	5
		Количество контактов в списке рассылки	5
Аналитика и исследования	40	Количество аналитических материалов	20
		Число научно-исследовательских материалов	20

BRC Rating: Try and Evolve

Several indicators were dropped:

Age;

Number of associated analysts with PhDs ;

Annual budget allocated to research;

Amount of funds received from private sources;

Number of Google references;

Number of contacts through published publications;

Corporate research communication policy;

Mechanism to ensure quality materials;

Number of state policies impacted by the think tank's research;

Number of government officials' contacts in the listserv.

BRC Rating: Try and Evolve

To compensate the reduced number of qualitative indicators, the working group suggested the inclusion of the following:

1. Stakeholders' survey (decision makers, journalists)
2. Existence of the communication strategy;
3. No. of events with decision makers (No. of contacts receiving invitations, no. of decision makers present)
4. Media citation, or index of citation (from BRC mtg)

Feedback from last BRC mtg

✓ Clarify the meaning of ‘analytics’ and ‘research; and draw a clear line between the two.

Analytics is systematic computational analysis of data or statistics.

⇒ Detailed study or examination of **something** in order to understand more about it (it produces new knowledge but does not produce/collect new data).

Yet collection of new data (e.g. statistics, survey) in itself does not constitute **Research**.

⇒ **Research** is systematic investigation of sources in order to reach new conclusions.

Feedback from last BRC mtg

- ✓ Reconsider the differences between institutions invited to the rating
 - ⇒ The effort is to rank THINK TANKS: producing policy-relevant research and analytics.
- ✓ Publicly rank only top 10 think tanks and leave the rest unranked.
- ✓ Rank in a separate 'league' those who don't provide evidence for submitted data.

Feedback from last BRC mtg

- ✓ Not to drop the budget indicator: establish budget categories instead
- ✓ Think of other indicators to measure online presence
 - ⇒ Negotiations on data provision under way
- ✓ More detailed description of indicators
- ✓ Pay extra attention to verification

Additional verification: Final Results

	Анали- тики	Web- трафик	Подписчики в соцсетях	Рассылка	Печатные материалы	Аналит. материалы	Исследо- вания
MAXIMUM	8	93,072	2,303	6,280	2,000	201	22

Communication

ИЦ	Балл за коммуникацию	Место
CTS (BY Digest)	30,97	1
Liberal Club	26,93	2
Nashe Mnenie	21,39	3
Lawtrend	20,37	4
BISS	19,96	5
Satio	18,63	6
Security Blog	15,43	7
BIPART	14,64	8
Strat. Mysl	14,09	9
OEEC	14	10
IPM RC	13,46	11
IISEPS	13,24	12
ABC	13,23	13
CES	12,94	14
BEROC	12,7	15
CSFPS (Сивицкий)	11,49	16
Novak	10,19	17
CPE (Ляхович)	0,33	18

Analytics and Research

ИЦ	Балл за аналитику и исследования	Место
Nashe Mnenie	33,64	1
BISS	23,98	2
CTS (BY Digest)	20,55	3
Liberal Club	9,71	4
Security Blog	9,49	5
IISEPS	6,32	6
Strat. mysl	4,82	7
IPM RC	3,7	8
CES	3,41	9
BEROC	3,13	10
CPE (Ляхович)	1,9	11
Satio	1,82	12
Lawtrend	1,8	13
CSFPS (Сивицкий)	1	14
ABC	1	15
BIPART	1	16
OEEC	0,91	17
Novak	0,00	18

Total

ИЦ	Общий балл	Общее место в рейтинге
Nashe Mnenie	63,78	1
BISS	61,44	2
CTS (BY Digest)	52,77	3
Liberal Club	42,88	4
IPM RC	37,16	5
Lawtrend	33,43	6
Security Blog	29,92	7
Strat. Mysl	28,91	8
BIPART	28,14	9
BEROC	27,08	10
Satio	26,7	11
IISEPS	25,81	12
CSFPS (Сивицкий)	24,99	13
ABC	22,97	14
CES	21,35	15
Novak	18,94	16
ОЕЕС	14,91	17
СРЕ (Ляхович)	3,48	18

Additional verification

- Correction of the maximum value of two indicators that slightly affected the final position of TT on the 7, 8, 9 positions
- Lesson learnt: cooperation matters, so do clarity and unification of indicators

Next steps

- Tasks: determine how methodological corrections affect ranking formula + verification
- BRC Think Tank Rating 2015: invitations to all actors producing research/analytics
- Presentation during the next BRC meeting
- Public communication of results: targeted press releases, articles, emails