



2018 Partner Evaluation – Executive Summary

The Netspar partners set great store by its activities. Netspar's organization and systems, research, and knowledge exchange all received very positive ratings overall. The way it has implemented the recommendations from the partner evaluation was also highly valued.

The most important new recommendations pertain to safeguarding its independence and the breadth, formation, and execution of its research agenda. Partners would like to see the mission continue and recommend that the organization and activities continue to reflect it in practice.

Preserve Independent Identity: Present a Range of Visions for Consideration

Partners need an overview of the various perspectives in the debate. They believe Netspar can play an important role in presenting different visions together as part of a well-informed discussion so that the partners can weigh the pros and cons. The independent identity of Netspar is a vital part of fulfilling that role. Consideration of a range of relevant visions and the backgrounds of the people presenting them is a crucial part of the potential added value. This requires a variation in disciplines and professions. The partners are aware that it takes creativity to prevent the appearance that Netspar has formed an opinion without threatening the network's visibility.

Study Governing Bodies Procedures and Formation of Research Agenda

The partners desire a greater applicability and acknowledgment of the decisions made regarding research by the different governing bodies. The topics selected could stand to be more concrete and challenging. It would be preferable if content-related discussions (e.g., about expansion and depth) were held where the need existed *along with* the decision-making power. That discussion would also benefit from being more substantial than is now sometimes the case. This will require addressing the need for streamlined, self-critical bodies and reassessing the cycle to collectively produce a research agenda (together with the partners).

Ensure Good Mission Alignment with Compact, Topic-driven Activities

It is important for the partners to see the mission (and the agenda) reflected in the activities. They feel this could be accomplished by working in a more concentrated and topic-driven manner. This would also shift the focus to quality more than quantity.