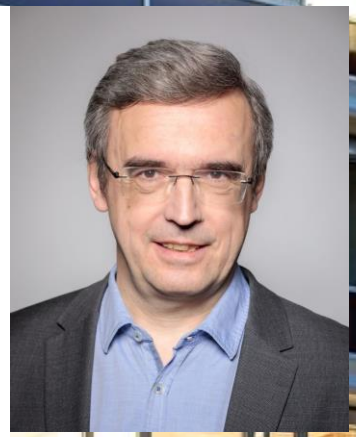
The Role of Data Management in the Evaluation Plan of a CSP



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Good Practice Workshop
Malmö, 8-9 June 2023

Data gaps and how to fill them – the case of the Austrian CSP

- why data are needed
  - qualitative analyses
  - quantitative models
  - causal analyses
- types of data
- identification of data sources and data gaps
  - lessons from Austria's CSP evaluation plan
- looking ahead – next steps

to answer evaluation questions, such as ...

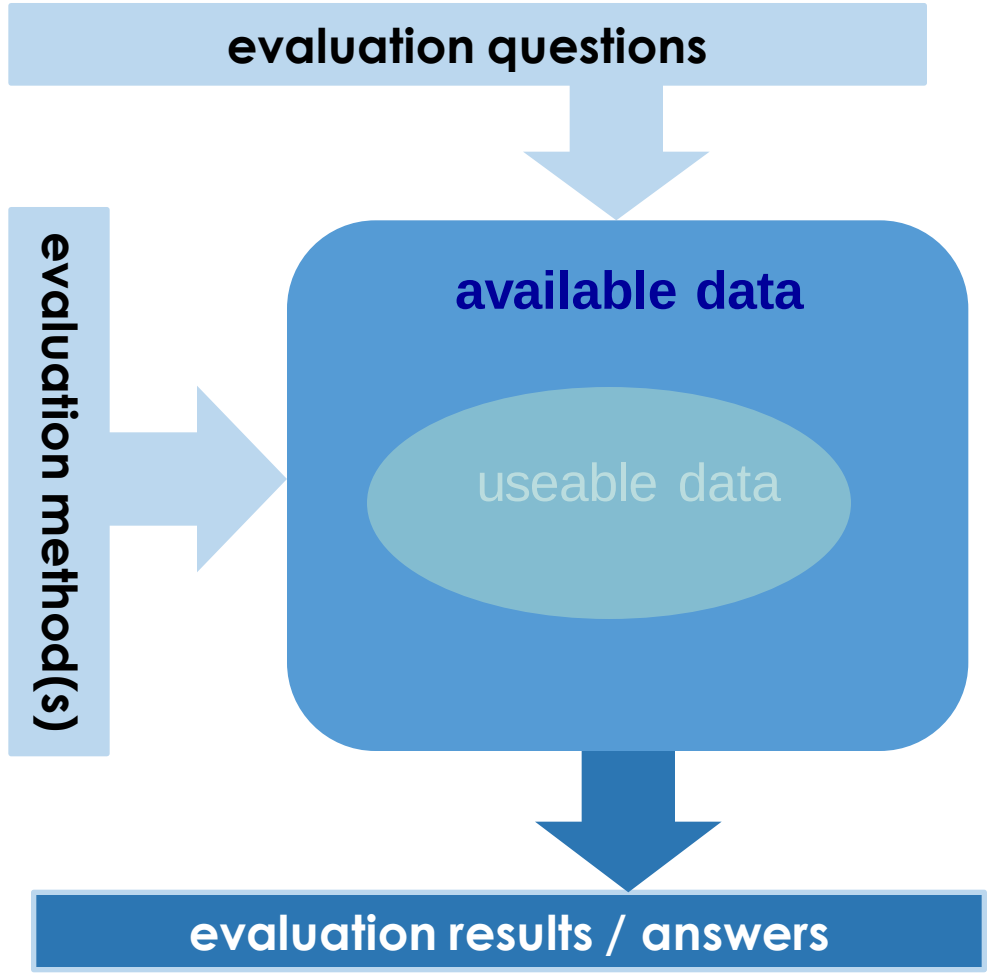
To what extent has the CSP contributed to improving farm and non-farm incomes, reducing farm income volatility and narrowing the income gap, and how are these consequences assessed in terms of **effectiveness**, **efficiency** and **coherence**?

to answer evaluation questions like "efficiency"

- it is necessary to know
  - about the effects of an intervention / the combined effects of interventions
  - the (marginal) costs of attaining a target
  - the (marginal) costs of alternative approaches to attain a target

the need of a data concept

- Why a coherent data concept?
  - Many needs and many interventions
  - requirements for ongoing observations
  - if possible - comparison with previous periods
  - coherent data concept avoids duplication and multiplication of work
- how to measure effectiveness/efficiency
  - not all data suitable for all methods
  - methodologically robust statements must be based on high quality data
  - the availability of data must therefore be planned



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Quality aspects of data – a brief overview

Content

- The content of a variable is determined by the way it is measured and not by what it is intended to measure.

Validity

- The content of a variable (the actual content) should, as far as possible, correspond to the intended content (cf. method description income determination).

Reliability

- The result of the measurement of an item should be stable, i.e. it should deliver the same result when the identical item is measured repeatedly.

Comparability

- If a variable is measured repeatedly over time, the same method should be used.

Coverage

- Ideally, measurements are available for all units under consideration. If this is not the case, the coverage is not complete.

Unbiased selection

- If coverage is not complete, then the observations included in the dataset should be as similar as possible to those that are present in the population (and thus also to those that are not included).

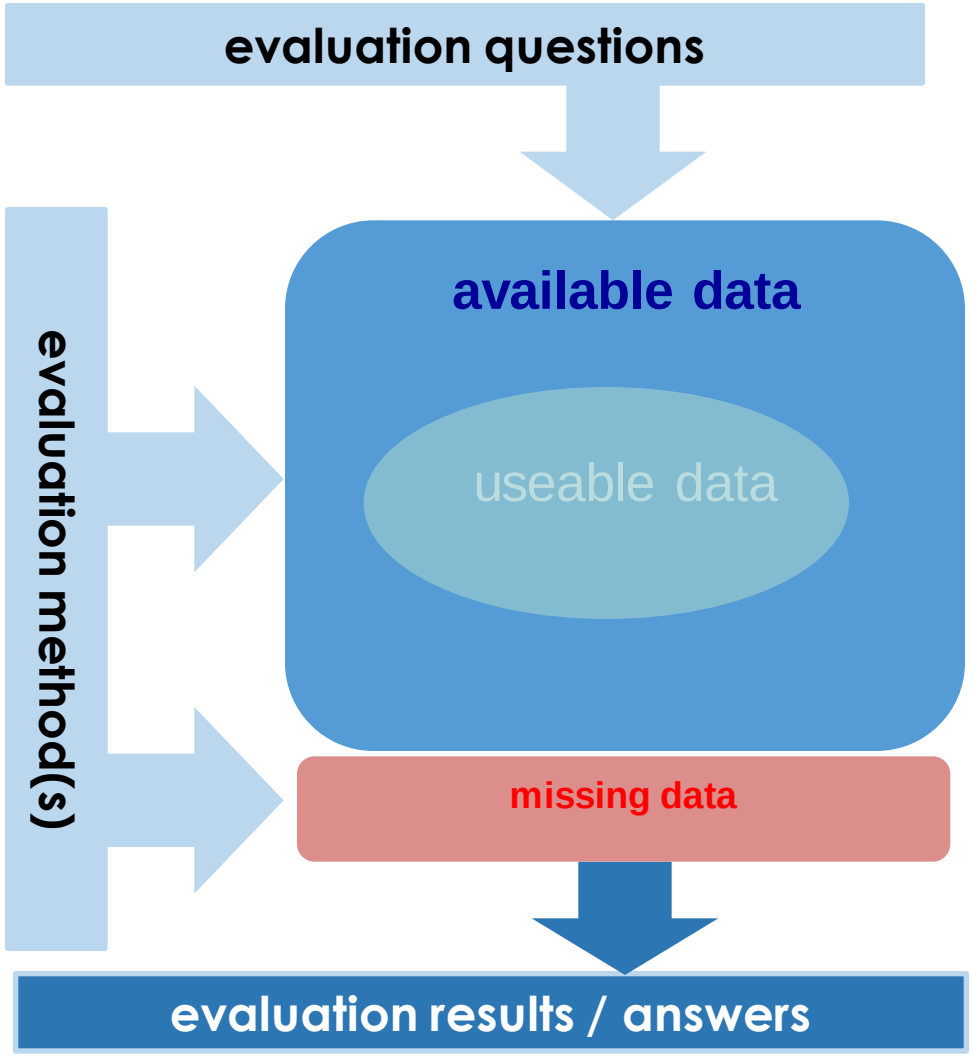
characteristics of data

- Data are stored
  - in structured coherent databases with a programme reference
  - other - various databases
  - in project reports
  - on site at farms
- Structure of the data
  - single observations
  - Cross-sectional data
  - Time series data
  - Panel data (balanced / unbalanced)
- there are no data (yet)
  - in case questions can not be answered: develop concept for data generation
  - in case "nice to have" – wait and see

sources of data

- statistics
- administrative data
- monitoring data
- accounting data of firms/farms
- result data sets from evaluations
- primary data from surveys

data gaps – defined by evaluation questions & evaluation methods



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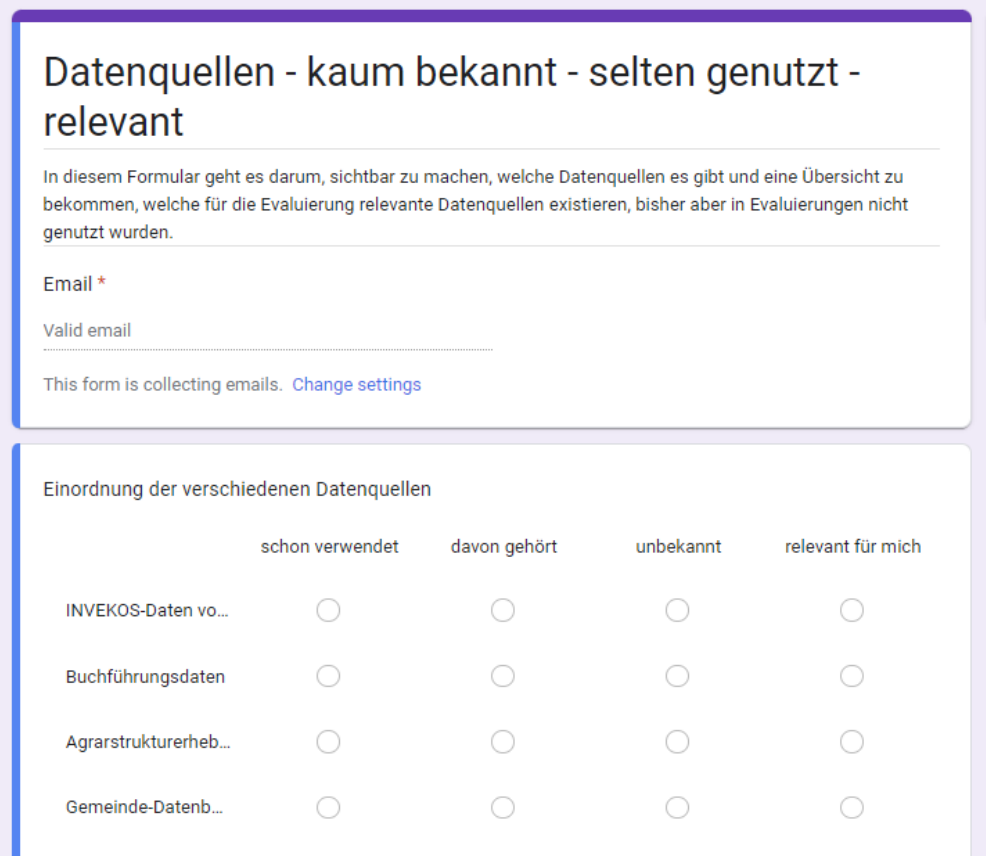
Identification of data gaps and data availability – case of Austria

online-survey among evaluators

persons working in administration



Interaction with ca. 60 persons

- **structured forms**
  - **evaluation questions**
  - **evaluation elements**
- **queries and focus groups**
- **personal communication**
  - **those who collect data**
  - **those who use data for daily work**
  - **those who potentially use data as evaluators**

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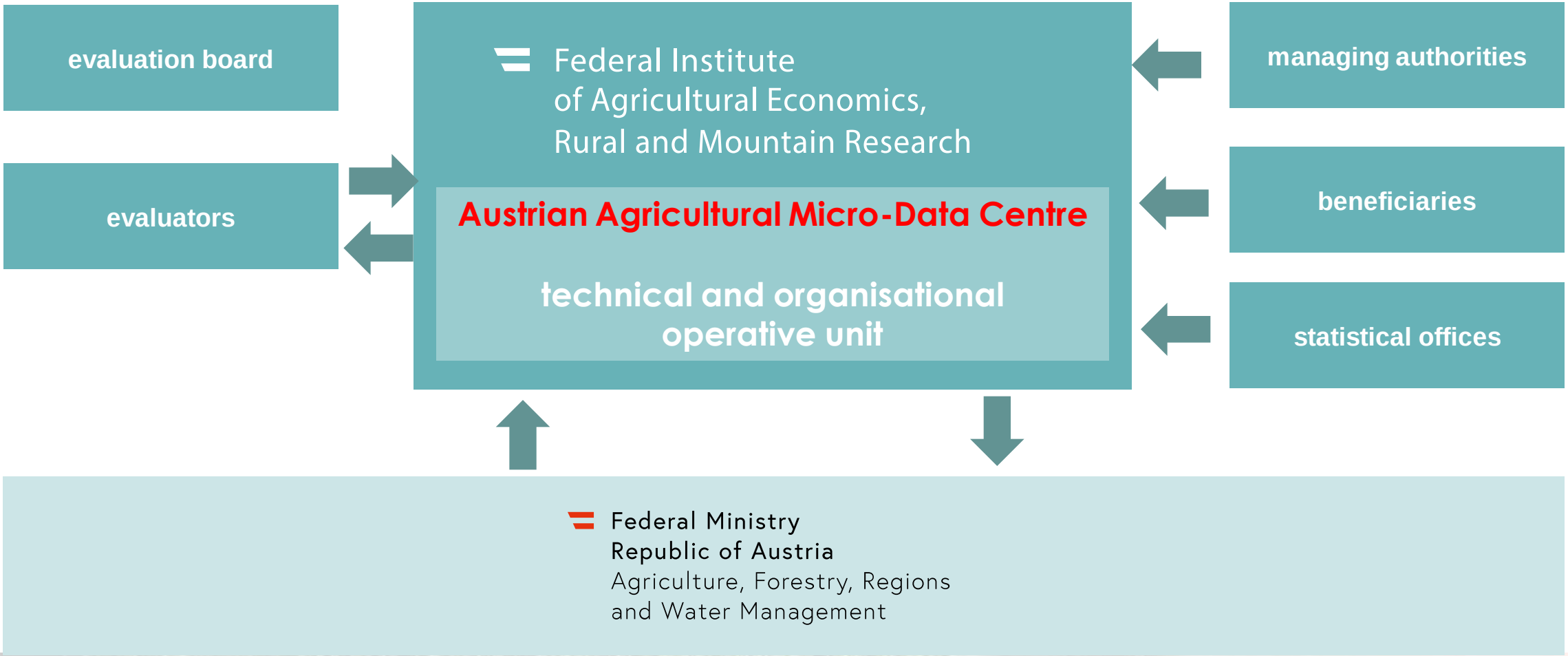
findings of query on how to improve data management

- Development of a **data manual** and register describing **all data sources** to a large extent, with a unique ID for the data sets.
- **Mapping** of projects to specific objectives with corresponding coding: investment and education measures
- Standardised codes of **types** of investment projects and linking it to programme information
- Tracking of projects
  - Record information during application or payment application for each intervention.
  - Collected information after project completion or in the course of final payment.
  - Evaluation data sheet as standardised tables.

operational steps to improve data availability

current situation		planned situation
catalogue of data sets	→	new database of meta-data sets
result data sets from evaluations	→	snow-balling effect for more cost-effective evaluations
decentral data sets, data sets with priviledged access	→	establishment of a central key-tables for linking various data sets
hard to access data sets (e.g. on farm)	→	make them easier accessible
missing data	→	develop data collection concept

Austrian Agricultural Micro-Data Centre



looking ahead and next steps

- the organisational and technical capacities of the micro-data-center needs to be developed
- procedures must be defined to guarantee compliance with data protection requirements
- capacity building both in-house and among evaluators
- persons responsible for interventions need to develop committment

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