

EUROPEAN
EVALUATION
HELPDESK
FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT



SUMMARY REPORT

ASSESSMENT OF THE PROGRESS IN
IMPLEMENTING THE EVALUATION PLANS OF
RDPs 2014-2020. CHAPTER 2 OF THE
AIRs SUBMITTED IN 2021

DECEMBER 2021

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The Evaluation Helpdesk is responsible for the evaluation function within the European Network for Rural Development (ENRD) by providing guidance on the evaluation of RDPs and policies falling under the remit and guidance of DG AGRI's Unit C.4 'Monitoring and Evaluation' of the European Commission (EC). In order to improve the evaluation of EU rural development policy the Evaluation Helpdesk supports all evaluation stakeholders, in particular DG AGRI, national authorities, RDP managing authorities and evaluators, through the development and dissemination of appropriate methodologies and tools; the collection and exchange of good practices; capacity building and communicating with network members on evaluation related topics.

Additional information about the activities of European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development is available on the Internet through the Europa server (<http://enrd.ec.europa.eu>).

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ABBREVIATIONS

AIR	Annual implementation Report
CAP SP	CAP Strategic Plan
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CLLD	Community Led Local Development
CMEF	Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
EIP	European Innovation Partnership
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ESF	European Social Fund
EU	European Union
IACS	Integrated Management and Control System
LAG	Local Action Group
MA	Managing Authority
NRN	National Rural Network
PA	Paying Agency
RDP	Rural Development Programme
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats

European Union (EU) Country codes

Belgium	(BE)	Greece	(EL)	Lithuania	(LT)	Portugal	(PT)
Bulgaria	(BG)	Spain	(ES)	Luxembourg	(LU)	Romania	(RO)
Czech Republic	(CZ)	France	(FR)	Hungary	(HU)	Slovenia	(SI)
Denmark	(DK)	Croatia	(HR)	Malta	(MT)	Slovakia	(SK)
Germany	(DE)	Italy	(IT)	Netherlands	(NL)	Finland	(FI)
Estonia	(EE)	Cyprus	(CY)	Austria	(AT)	Sweden	(SE)
Ireland	(IE)	Latvia	(LV)	Poland	(PL)	United Kingdom	(UK)

1 INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

Starting in June 2016, Managing Authorities (MAs) submit to the European Commission (EC) an Annual Implementation Report (AIR) on the implementation of their Rural Development Programme (RDP). The AIRs submitted in June 2021 (hereafter 'AIRs 2021') cover the calendar year 2020. Chapter 2 of the AIR provides information about the progress concerning the implementation of the RDP evaluation plan.

The summary report is based on the analysis of chapter 2 of the AIRs in 2021. The design of the methodology and tools, as well as the overall analysis were conducted by the European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development. The screening and extraction of the information reported in chapter 2 was carried out by an EU-wide team of 20 geographic experts in RDP evaluation.

Section 2 of this summary report lays out the information on the progress made by the MAs in implementing the RDPs' evaluation plans. The structure follows the seven sub-sections of chapter 2¹ of the AIRs submitted in 2021, namely:

- a) description of any modifications made to the evaluation plan in the RDP during the year, with their justification;
- b) description of the evaluation activities undertaken during the year;
- c) description of activities undertaken in relation to the provision and management of data;
- d) list of completed evaluations, including references to where they have been published on-line;
- e) summary of completed evaluations, focusing on evaluation findings;
- f) description of communication activities undertaken in relation to publicising evaluation findings;
- g) description of the follow-up given to evaluation results.

Section 3 of this report presents an overall assessment of the progress in implementing the evaluation plan, as well as specific areas and recommendation for better reporting.

Finally, the annex displays a selected list of completed evaluations reported by the RDPs, including also the hyperlinks where the evaluations have been published online, if available.

¹ [see Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) No 808/2014](#), Annex VII

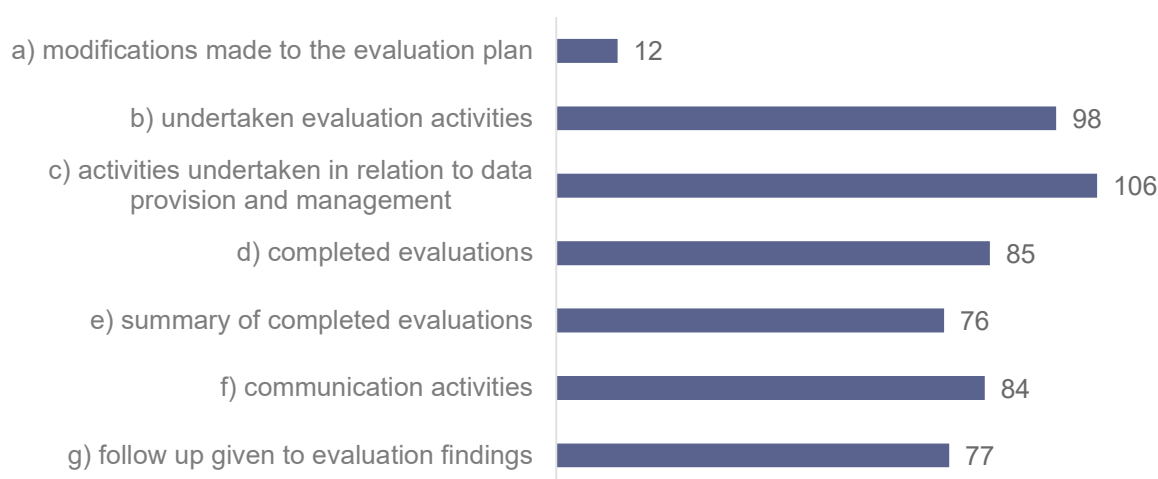
2 OVERVIEW ON THE PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE EVALUATION PLANS

2.1 Completeness of chapter 2 of the AIRs submitted in 2021

The level of completeness of the information on the progress in implementing the evaluation plans (i.e. AIR chapter 2) is still very high although it has slightly decreased within the 115 Annual Implementation Reports (AIRs) analysed in 2021. This slight decrease concerns all subsections except the one on reported modifications made to the evaluation plan. This trend can be explained by the timing of the reporting at the end of the programming period after the major evaluation milestones have been concluded.

Figure 1 shows that all subsections - except for modifications to the evaluation plan - were filled with content by more than 77% of the AIRs in 2021. The number of AIRs reporting on completed evaluations is 85 compared to 94 last year, and the number of AIRs reporting on activities undertaken in relation to data provision and management are 106, only one less than last year. AIRs reported most frequently on data-management followed by evaluation activities.

Figure 1. Number of AIRs reporting activities relevant to sub-sections of chapter 2



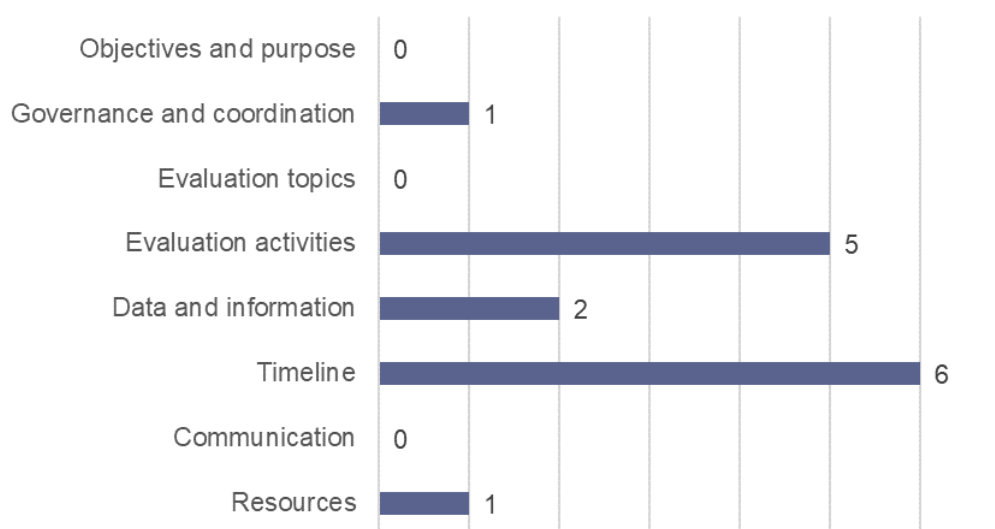
Source: European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development (2021)

2.2 Sub-section a): description of any modifications made to the evaluation plan in the RDP during the year, with their justifications

Modifications to the RDP evaluation plans decreased significantly by 42% in the AIRs submitted in 2021 compared to 2020. Overall, 15 modifications were reported by 12 AIRs. The modifications mainly concerned the update of the planned evaluation timeline and of the evaluation activities.

The RDP evaluation plan is composed of eight different sections, which potentially can be modified and adapted along the programming period. Figure 2 illustrates that the modifications reported in 2021 concerned only five out of the eight possible sections of the RDP evaluation plan.

Figure 2. Modifications in the RDP evaluation plan



Source: European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development (2021)

More in detail, the reported modifications on the RDP evaluation plan concerned;

- **timeline (6 modifications)**: e.g. update of the timeline of evaluations due to the Covid-19 pandemic, postponement of the ex-post evaluation to the end of 2026;
- **evaluation activities (5)**: e.g. pooling of ERDF, ESF and EAFRD evaluations, planning of an additional mid-term/interim evaluation including the outlook on the continuation in 2021-2022;
- **data and information (2)**: e.g. inventory of indicators, changes in the methods for collecting data and definition of roles of involved authorities;
- **governance and coordination (1)**: e.g. the Managing Authority has changed and a new department was incorporated in the programme in order to manage operations;
- **resources (1)**: e.g. the review of the Technical Assistance budget for evaluation.

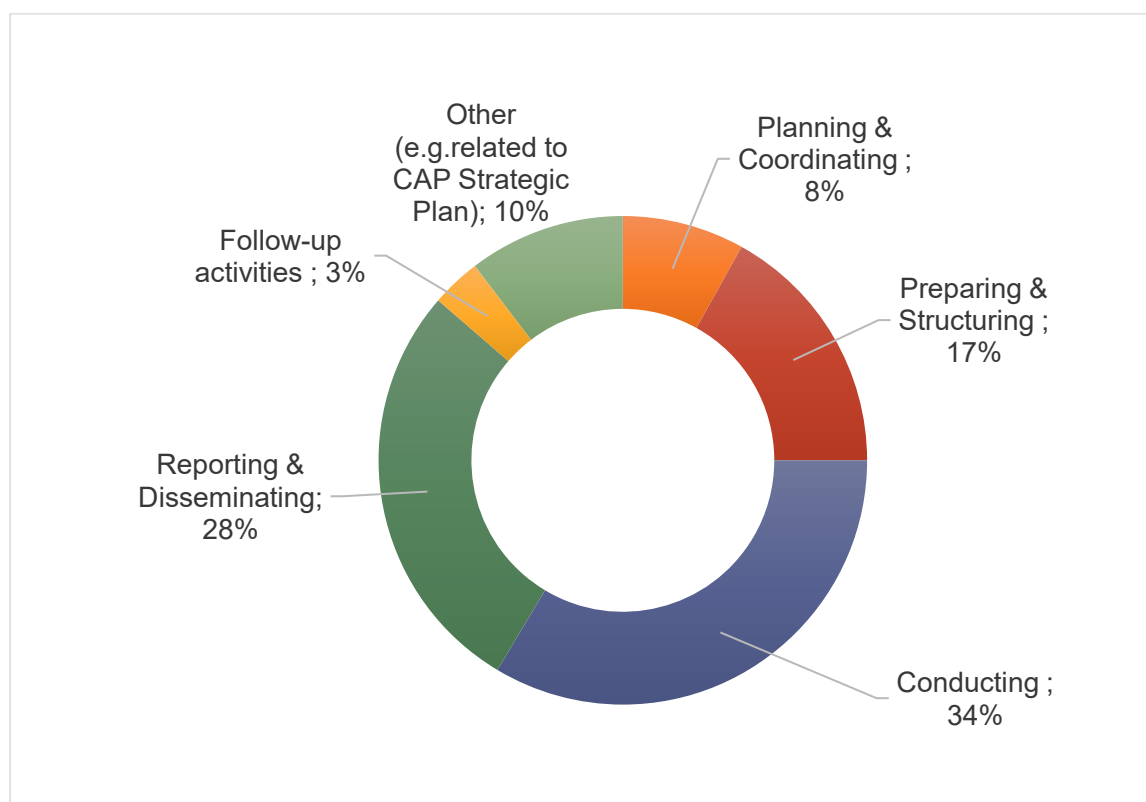
2.3 Sub-section b): description of the evaluation activities undertaken during the year

The number of evaluation activities (396 reported by 98 AIRs) decreased by 21% compared to the previous year (499 activities). The evaluation activities had a peak during the years with evaluation milestones (2017 and 2019) and decreased since then in line with the evaluation cycle. It can be expected that the evaluation activities will increase again when preparing for the ex-post evaluations in 2026. New evaluation activities are reported in relation to the preparation of the new programming period (e.g. the ex-ante evaluation for the CAP strategic plan).

Overall, the evaluation activities show a good progress and concern a wide variety of topics (including also the Covid-19 pandemic). Activities on the assessment of RDP Priority 4 (restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry), CLLD/LEADER and Local Action Groups (LAGs) are - besides many multi-thematic activities - the most common topics concerned. The remaining RD priorities 1, 3, 5, 6 are also addressed by some activities.

Figure 3 shows the distribution of evaluation activities across the different phases of the evaluation cycle. Compared to the AIRs in the previous years, in the AIRs in 2021 the number of all reported evaluation activities decreased markedly as many evaluations were finalised and published in previous reporting years.

Figure 3. Distribution of reported evaluation activities (N=396) in AIRs submitted in 2021



Source: European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development (2021)

In the following section, the evaluation activities are presented first briefly by main phases in the evaluation cycle and then by main topics.

Activities by main topics

The largest part - around 50% - of the reported evaluation activities are **multi-thematic** (covering multiple RDP priorities or CAP objectives). This includes evaluation activities related to the preparation of annual evaluation reports, operational planning, coordination and dissemination activities, data collection and processing activities, and the participation in capacity building events. In addition, the preparation of the ex-post evaluation and activities related to the new CAP Strategic Plan (e.g. ex-ante evaluation, SEA) or to the transition period are subsumed under multi-thematic activities.

Around 14% of evaluation activities refer to **RDP Priority 4: Ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry** (addressed in UK, CZ, IT, CY, EE, LT, LU, AT, DE, HR, SI, BE, RO, ES, FI, FR, GR, IE, MT, e.g. evaluation of AECM through case studies in UK-Scotland or environmental report on efficiency of AEC measures in IT-Campania).

Around 8% of evaluation activities have a specific focus on **CLLD/LEADER/LAGs** (in DE, IT, FR, ES, HR, UK, MT, GR, RO, e.g. methodological support for LAGs in FR or the analysis of data provided by the LAG annual reports in DE-Sachsen-Anhalt).

Around 6% of evaluation activities refer to **RDP Priority 2: Farm viability and competitiveness** (in UK, IT, DE, FR, MT, ES, HU, LT, EE, RO, SI, e.g. counterfactual evaluation of farm business grants in UK or assessment of the RDP impact on the competitiveness of agricultural holdings in FR - Haute-Normandie).

Around 4% of evaluation activities refer to **RDP Priority 6: Social inclusion, poverty reduction, economic development** (AT, DE, ES, FR, GR, IE, LT, SK, e.g. the analysis of context information is deepened, specifically linked to general socio-economic development in ES - Castilla- Leon).

Other topics, each accounting for 1% to 3% of the activities, are the following:

- RDP Priority 1: Knowledge transfer and innovation, EIP-AGRI (in UK, DE, NL, ES, IT, e.g. evaluation of the farm advisory services in UK or a survey on advisory providers was conducted as part of measure “Utilisation of advisory services” in DE-Nordrhein-Westfalen or case study on an innovation project in ES-Murcia).
- RDP Priority 3: Food chain organisation, animal welfare, risk management (in DE, ES, e.g. ad hoc study on promoting investments in the processing and marketing of regional products in regional value chains in DE-Rheinland-Pfalz).
- RDP Priority 5: Resource efficiency, low carbon and climate resilient economy (in DE, ES, RO, IT, e.g. specific study on investments and climate change in ES-Murcia).
- RDP governance and delivery mechanism (in IT, DE, ES, RO, BE, FR, e.g. evaluation of the administrative capacity in the implementation of the RDP IT - Friuli Venezia Giulia).
- Evaluation of National Rural Networks (in DE, IT, UK, e.g. an external evaluator carried out in 2020 the ongoing evaluation of the NRN for 2019 in DE).
- Equal opportunities / promotion of women in agriculture and diversification (in DE, IT, ES, e.g. thematic report on women entrepreneurship in IT - Abruzzo).
- Effects of the Covid-19 pandemic (e.g. analysis of Covid effects on farms' turnover in IT).

Overall, the evaluation activities cover very broad thematic fields in rural development policy.

The focus of activities on RDP Priority 4 (Ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry) is plausible, as there is a need to mitigate the damage to ecosystems caused by intensive agriculture.

Effective local development work through CLLD/LEADER is particularly important to improve the quality of life for the rural population and to open up new opportunities.

2.4 Sub-section c): description of activities undertaken in relation to the provision and management of data

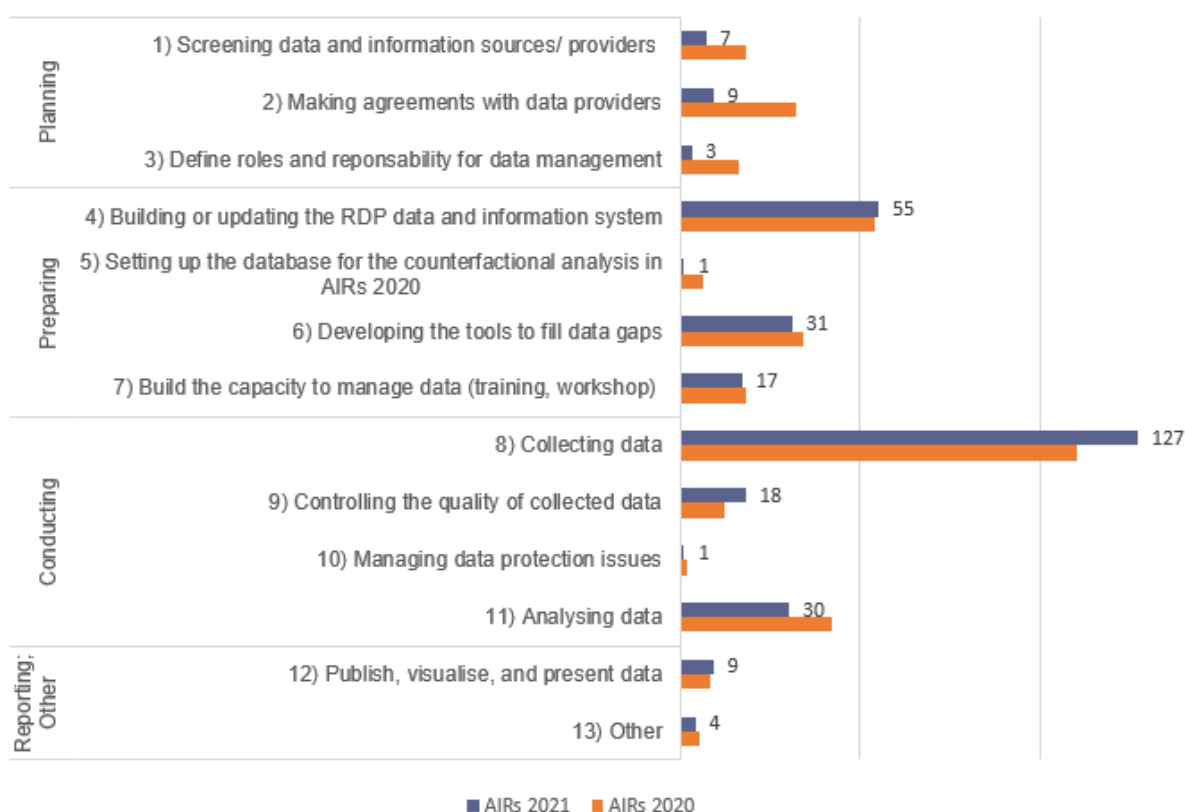
Data-related activities have been reported to a lesser extent in 2021. In total, 312 evaluation activities were reported by 106 AIRs in 2021, which represents a decrease of 13% compared to the AIRs in 2020 (357). Planning activities in relation to data-management are evidently less important at the end of the programme period. Still, RDPs report on the analysis of data sources to identify data gaps and to find solutions to overcome them (e.g. make/renew agreements with data providers).

Preparatory activities (e.g. building or updating the RDP data and information systems) increased in view of the ex-post evaluation and of fulfilling the requirements on performance monitoring in the next programming period 2023-2027.

Data collection activities are most frequently reported and have even increased compared to the previous year. In order to increase quality control and to uncover and correct errors the data provided via the operations database and IACS were critically examined.

Reporting activities increased and concern the use of the data collected for ongoing reporting and for the creation of monitoring dashboards.

Figure 4. Distribution of activities across different data management phases (numbers refer to AIRs in 2021)



Source: European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development (2021)

The data management phases and the corresponding types of activities (in bold) are illustrated in the following section:

Planning data management (in total 19 activities reported by 15 AIRs)

This group of activities accounts for 6% of the total reported data management activities and has decreased by 71% compared to the previous year.

Activities related to the **screening of data and information sources/ providers** (7) have decreased significantly compared to the AIR in 2020 (e.g. FR, ES, MT, IT, UK report on the analysis of data sources to identify gaps and to study alternative solutions to address data gaps. The screening of CMES indicators involved IT administrators, the MA and evaluators.

In some cases, it was necessary **to make/renew agreements with data providers to ensure data provision** (9): e.g.. the renewal of the cooperation agreement on data exchange with the Paying Agency (EE); discussing access to micro level FADN data for external evaluators (LV)..

In some cases, it was also necessary to **define or redefine roles and responsibility for data coordination and management** (3). For example, it had to be clarified whether the Paying agency should be given the legal right to correct the data provided by the beneficiaries in their monitoring forms (BG).

Preparing data management (in total 104 activities reported by 58 AIRs)

This group of activities accounts for 33% of the total reported data management activities and has in sum decreased by 7% compared to the previous year, although building the information system is overall gaining in importance.

The majority of preparatory activities consisted **in building or updating the RDP data and information system** (55), e.g. improving the IT information system in view of the new requirements of performance monitoring in the next programming period and to comply with eGovernment objectives.

- New functionalities for the electronic application process are developed (paperless application procedure) in DE-Rheinland-Pfalz.
- Improving functionalities of the electronic operations database for the collection of data and information for evaluation (DE, PL, UK, HR, IT, ES, MT).
- Use of new technologies to collect area-related information in order to verify beneficiaries' claims, e.g. the use of satellite data from the SENTINEL satellite, or reception of high definition aerial photographs by drones (CY).

Activities to **fill data gaps** (31) include for example surveys on beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries to obtain the missing data for counterfactual analysis (LV).

In relation to **building the capacity** (17) to manage data, the preparation of training plans for actors involved in data management are reported (ES-MADRID). Also activities to improve the procedures for data collection and data management, e.g. by the introduction of "procedure sheets" took place (FR).

Conducting data management (in total 176 activities reported by 79 AIRs)

This large group of activities accounts for 56% of the total reported data management activities and has increased by 6% compared to the previous year.

Most of the data management activities relate to **data collection activities** (127) for monitoring and evaluation, such as:

- Data on monitoring indicators (financial, output, results) is collected mainly from applications and approved operations through the Electronic Information System of the PA. This database makes it possible to provide a great deal of primary data on projects (data extracted from the project file, payment data, responses to selection criteria, opinions of functional administrations, etc.). The data is usually provided by different subsystems for different types of interventions (ES, BE, IT).
- Data on the area-related support measures of the EAFRD are collected via the Integrated Management and Control System (IACS) which is continuously improved, e.g. through newly developed application modules or a newly introduced geo surface map (FR).
- Collection of additional information from measure managers of the RDP, providing the Managing Authority with data on the implementation of their actions (ES).
- Collection of supplementary information on the funded projects in CLLD/LEADER; for instance 120 - 200 indicators (depending on the thematic priorities of the LDS) are recorded at the end of each year. With the support of the evaluators, the monitoring body ensures data collection for the monitoring and evaluation of the LEADER/CLLD measure in the form of the "LAG annual reports" (DE, FR, LV, SI).
- Regular surveys on agricultural holdings collect detailed information on agricultural land use and ownership, arable and horticultural cropping activities, livestock populations and the agricultural workforce (UK, SI, DE).

With respect to **quality control of collected data (18)**, an important study on data quality was conducted (DE-Sachsen) which concerns the review of monitoring indicators for 610 sub-projects: The main findings of the study are: incorrect or implausible values for mandatory indicators were recorded for a large number of projects, sometimes due to different data sources or incorrect information provided by the applicants.

Managing data protection issues (1) were reported only in one case that concerns agreements with data providers and necessary arrangements/legal steps to include the identified providers' data in the operations databases (UK-Wales).

With regard to the **analysis of data (30)**, activities undertaken by the MA or evaluators are reported in order to extract, process and analyse data from the various databases, such as the suitability of HIT data (e.g. data on mortality and length of life of cattle) for the ex post evaluation (DE).

Reporting (9 activities by 7 AIRs) and other (4 activities by 4 AIRs)

This small group of activities accounts for 3% of the total reported data management activities and has increased by 13% compared to the previous year.

The analysed data are used for ongoing reporting and for the creation of monitoring dashboards. For instance, the Paying Agency prepares weekly reports on applications and amounts paid. Quarterly reports are prepared on the implementation of focus areas and the progress of performance plan (LT). A dashboard is developed to present the progress in RDP implementation (IT-Piemonte).

Other activities are mainly related to the definition of the data to be collected and the specification of the collection methods for the indicators in the current and in the new programming period, e.g. preliminary work based on the indicators of the period 2023-2027 and the availability of data (EL).

2.5 Sub-section d): list of completed evaluations, including references to where they have been published online

The annex in chapter 4 presents the list of completed evaluations across topics, including hyperlinks².

The number of completed evaluations decreased by 24% compared to the number reported by the AIRs in 2020 (217 completed evaluations by 85). 70 % of the evaluations are available on the internet.

As in the previous year, the majority of evaluation relate to multiple RDP priorities and objectives as well as to the CAP objective 2 (Ensuring sustainable management of natural resources and climate action). In addition to these two major themes, evaluations cover a broad range of relevant aspects in rural development such as territorial balance, viable food production, knowledge transfer and innovation, RDP governance and delivery mechanism, Technical Assistance and NRN, gender equality, and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The main types of evaluations reported in 2021 were evaluations of achievements (36%) followed by impact evaluations (18%), out of which the number of evaluations with a clear counterfactual approach was rather modest (3% of the total) in this reporting year, which was not related to any major evaluation milestone. Furthermore, process evaluations of the implementation system (7%) and research studies other than evaluations (e.g. monitoring studies) are reported (11%). Various reported evaluations are related to the ex-ante evaluations of the CAP strategic plans.

Main topics

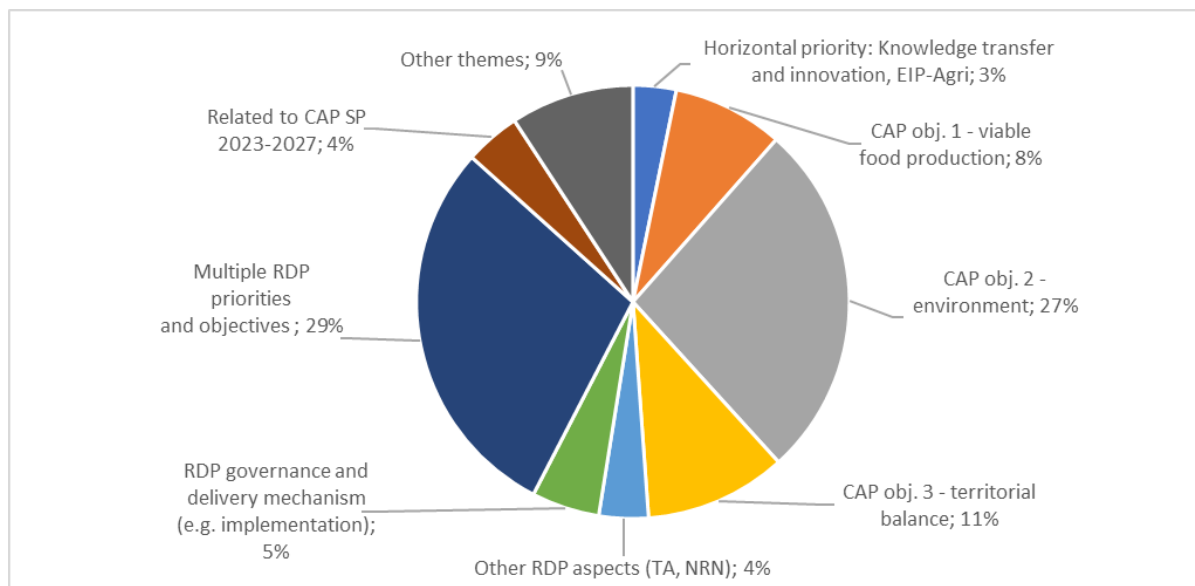
The evaluations mainly cover the current programme period 2014-2022 but also the new programme period 2023-2027. The reported evaluations address all relevant RDP topics, but to a differing extent.

- Most of the evaluations mentioned (29%) address multiple RDP priorities and objectives (in ES, IT, IE, UK, FR, DE, LT, EE, PT, FI, GR, LV). For example, when evaluating effectiveness and efficiency of the overall RDP.
- An equal proportion of evaluations (27%) concern CAP objective 2 - Ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources and climate actions. This mainly includes evaluations of RDP Priority 4 (Ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry) (in IE, IT, UK, BE, LT, EE, DE, HU, SE, SI, GR, ES). A smaller number of evaluations addresses RDP Priority 5 (Resource efficiency, low carbon and climate resilient economy) (in DE, HU, SE, ES, FR, IT).
- Around 11% of the evaluations address CAP objective 3 - Achieving a balanced territorial development (in IT, UK, EE, HU, FR, AT, SE, PT, DE). This includes RDP Priority 6 (Social inclusion, poverty reduction, economic development) and CLLD/LEADER/LAGs.
- About 8% of the evaluations concern CAP objective 1 - Fostering the competitiveness of agriculture, which includes RDP Priority 2 (Farm viability and competitiveness) (in DE, IT, EE, HU, SE, ES) and RDP Priority 3 (Food chain organisation, animal welfare, risk management) (in DE, HU, IT, ES).
- About 5% of the evaluations deal with RDP governance and delivery mechanism (in IT, RO, DE, SE).
- Another 4% of the evaluations concern other RDP aspects such as TA and NRN (in IE, BE, DE, FR, IT).
- About 3% of the evaluations concern the horizontal priority: knowledge transfer and innovation, EIP-Agri (ES, DE, NL).
- Other themes account for 9% of the evaluations and include a diverse list of topics addressed by evaluations, e.g. financial instruments (FR), gender equality (DE, ES), women entrepreneurship (IT), effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on agri-food system (IT), Ex post evaluation 2007-2013 (ES), labour market inclusion of women in rural areas (ES), synergies of Rural development with other programmes and plans (ES), good practice collection (ES, IT).

² The list excludes completed evaluations already submitted in previous reporting periods (e.g. ex post evaluations of RDPs 2007-2013, ex ante evaluation of RDPs 2014 – 2020, AIRs 2017 and 2018)

- Evaluations for the new programme period, which account for about 4%, deal with the SWOT-analysis & needs assessment related to CAP SP (2023-2027) (in PT, SI, GR) and development of interventions for the CAP SP (2023-2027) (in EE, DE, ES) as well as Strategic Environmental Assessment Reports (in PT, IT).

Figure 5. Completed evaluations across main topics (N=217) reported in AIRs in 2021



Source: European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development (2021)

Availability of the evaluations on the internet

For around 70% of the documents, the AIRs 2021 indicate functioning links that lead to the corresponding document. Since this is not the case for around 30%, there is clear potential for improvement in order to increase the transparency of the results.

Main types of evaluation

In order to categorise the type of evaluation, the definitions outlined in the following text box were used.

Text box: Definition of type of evaluation

- **Impact evaluation** capturing effects against a baseline situation **with counterfactual approach** (comparing a supported and non-supported target group; before-and-after and with-and-without approach)
- **Impact evaluation** capturing effects against a baseline situation with **no counterfactual approach** (e.g. by Theory of change based approach, before-and-after approach)
- **Evaluation of achievements** (e.g. financial implementation, implementation of planned tasks, achievement of target values, achieved results for the beneficiaries but not capturing effects against a baseline situation)
- **Process evaluation** of the implementation system (governance, delivery system, communication, NRN)
- **Research study** other than evaluation (e.g., monitoring studies)
- **Other than evaluation** (e.g., brochures, factsheets)
- **Ex-ante evaluation** of the CAP Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Source: Evaluation Helpdesk

The most common type of reported evaluations are evaluations of achievements, which account for 36% of all reported evaluations.

This is followed by impact evaluations with / or without counterfactual approach (18%). Impact evaluations with counterfactual approach concern only 3% of the total. This type of rigorous evaluation plays a marginal role in the overall evaluation process (also due to the lack of counterfactual data). Counterfactual evaluations were conducted in IE, UK, BE, and DE and addresses mainly RDP Priority 4: Ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry (see examples in Box 1).

Process evaluation of the implementation system has a share of 7% of the completed evaluations reported in 2021.

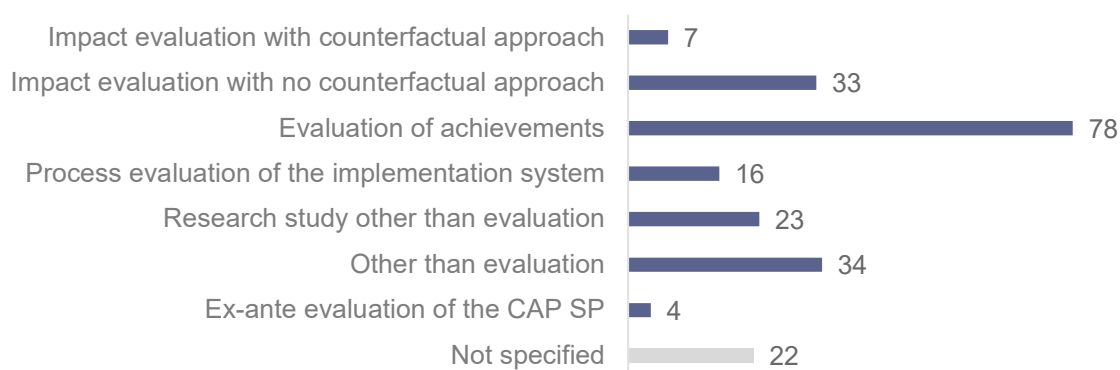
Around 2% of the evaluations relate to the new programme period 2023 to 2027, e.g. ex-ante evaluation of the CAP Strategic Plan.

Studies that are reported, but are not evaluations in the strict sense, account for about 27% (categories 'other than evaluation' and 'research study other than evaluation'). These are studies on an RD topic which are not examining the RDP contribution as such e.g. studies on context indicators such as the farmland bird index, publications with good practice examples.

According to this picture, around 160 evaluations in the narrower sense (out of 217 in total or 74%) assess the effects, achievements and processes of RDPs.

In about 10% of the evaluations, the available information does not allow to specify the type.

Figure 6. Type of evaluations reported (in absolute numbers)



Source: European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development (2021)

Examples

In the following box some examples of completed evaluations are shown. Well documented evaluations were completed in the reporting year, especially in DE, but also in RO, UK, BE, HU and SE.

Box 1. Examples of completed evaluations reported in the AIR submitted in 2021

RD Priority 1

Evaluation of the implementation of the European Innovation Partnerships in the context of the first call (M16, priority 2) (evaluation of achievements) (DE - Lower Saxony and Bremen)

After the 14 projects of the first call have been completed, their final reports were systematically evaluated with a view to achieving the project goals, the added value of the cooperation, the dissemination of results and the further cooperation. The projects have a broad content orientation in the fields of process, organizational and product innovation and are strictly geared to the challenges of the agricultural and food sector in Lower Saxony and Bremen. All projects contribute to solving problems in the sector and are therefore suitable for contributing to further economic

development. However, the innovation contribution is not yet based on marketable, completed innovations, but in many cases in generated research and market impulses.

RD Priority 2:

Evaluation study - "Small farm and the development of associative forms" (evaluation of achievements) (RO)

The evaluation study assessed the achievements of the RDP sub-measures: 6.3 (development of small farms) and 6.3 ITI (development of small farms in ITI area Danube Delta), 4.1 (investment in agricultural holdings), 4.1 ITI (investment in agricultural holdings in the Danube Delta ITI area), 4.1a (investment in fruit holdings), 4.1a ITI (investment in fruit holdings in the Danube Delta ITI area), 9.1 (setting up of producer groups in the agricultural sector), 9.1a (setting up of producer groups in the fruit sector), 16.4 and 16.4 a (support for horizontal and vertical cooperation between actors in the supply chain in the agricultural and fruit sectors).

Evaluation of the Agricultural Investment Promotion Programme (AFP - TM 4.1) - results of the survey of the beneficiaries (Impact evaluation with no counterfactual approach) (DE-Schleswig-Holstein)

The report first gives an overview of the challenges in Schleswig-Holstein's agriculture and the relevance of agricultural investment funding (AFP) for tackling them. In order to obtain up-to-date information on the funded projects and their effects with regard to the main funding objectives, a written survey among the grant recipients was carried out in 2018 for the grant years 2015 and 2016. Together with the approval data and the investment concepts, it was possible to carry out before-and-after comparisons. The results obtained allow some conclusions and recommendations.

RD Priority 3:

Evaluation of the funding of investments in the processing and marketing of agricultural products - NRW RDP 2014 to 2020 (Impact evaluation with no counterfactual) (Germany - Rural Development Programme North Rhine-Westphalia)

The report first provides an overview of the problems and strengths in the agricultural and food sector in North Rhine-Westphalia. Based on this, the relevance of processing and marketing promotion for solving problems and achieving the politically defined goals is discussed. In order to obtain up-to-date information on the funded projects and their effects with regard to the main funding objectives, telephone interviews were conducted with the beneficiaries of the 2014 to 2017 funding years at the beginning of 2019. Together with the approval data and the survey forms, before-and-after comparisons were carried out and the effects of the funded investments and the V&V (processing and marketing) funding were assessed. The results obtained yield some conclusions and recommendations.

RD Priority 4

In 2020, five impact evaluations with counterfactual approach were conducted by 4 RDPs related to priority 4 topics.

United Kingdom - Rural Development Programme (Regional) – England:

- Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund - Evaluation of Phase 2 Facilitation Fund groups (using the methodologies developed under related project LM0473 from 2017/18) – LM0479
- Agri-environment schemes and climate change mitigation – LM0470

Belgium - Rural Development Programme (Regional) - Flanders

- Food situation for the Montagu's harrier and the effect of management measures in the eastern loam area in 2017-2020

Germany - Rural Development Programme (Regional) - Berlin + Brandenburg

- Evaluation report - M13 "Compensatory allowance for areas disadvantaged for significant nature-related reasons"

Germany - Rural Development Programme (Regional) - North Rhine-Westphalia

- Effects on water and climate protection - An analysis of operational nutrient comparisons for selected area measures in the NRW RDP 2014 to 2020

RD Priority 5:

Studies of the Field Consulting Services on energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions (impact evaluation with no counterfactual approach, operational evaluation of achievements) (Hungarian RDP 2014 – 2020)

In Hungary, two evaluation studies were conducted in 2020, which addressed the topics:

- Increasing energy efficiency in agriculture and the food processing industry
- Examining interventions to address environmental problems and the effects of climate change, as well as the effectiveness of risk prevention and management measures

RD Priority 6:

Studies of the Swedish Board of Agriculture with specific focus on CLLD/LEADER/LAGs (Process evaluation of the implementation system, evaluation of achievements) (Sweden - Rural Development Programme National)

In Sweden, three evaluation studies were conducted in 2020 with the following thematic focus:

- The spread of the projects between focus areas within locally led development
- Environmental projects in locally led development
- Sustainable leader effects in theory and practice: Interim report 2 (this report analyses the effects that remain after the end of the leader projects. The evaluators also examine the success factors that led to these effects)

Evaluations of other RDP aspects (Technical Assistance, NRN):

Ongoing evaluation 2019 of the "National Network Germany for the period 2015-2024" (evaluation of achievements) (Germany - Rural Network Programme)

The ongoing evaluation 2019 of the programme "National Network for Rural Areas Germany" evaluates the results, their relevance and the implementation of the objectives of the programme in the period from 01.01.2019 to 31.12.2019. The evaluation and a more detailed summary can be found on the DVS (German Networking Centre for Rural Areas) website.

2.6 Sub-section e): summary of completed evaluations, focusing on evaluation findings

76 AIRs reported in total 198 evaluation findings in sub-section e). In terms of thematic orientation, the evaluation findings are distributed in a similar way as the completed evaluations: the number of findings in relation to CAP objective 2 (Ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources, and climate action) prevail with 38%, followed by findings covering multiple RDP priorities and objectives (15%), CAP objective 1 - Fostering the competitiveness of agriculture (13%) and CAP objective 3 - Achieving a balanced territorial development of rural economies and communities (8%). Other aspects (CAP strategic plan, governance, monitoring and evaluation system, technical assistance and NRNs) are covered to a lower extent by the reported evaluation findings.

The evidence basis of the findings shows that nearly 60% are derived from the assessment of impacts and results, whereas 13% are mainly based on the analysis of inputs and outputs, which is considered a less robust approach. A significant share of the findings (10%) is based on an analysis of contextual trends at the macro level (i.e. no impact of the RDP was assessed) and an analysis of other issues (e.g. administrative obstacles). Hence, the reported findings are not only based on RDP results and impacts, but also relate to a much broader range of evaluation and research outcomes.

44% of evaluation findings show a positive direction of effects, e.g. a significant increase in the number of employees and increased productivity.

Differentiated by main topic, the highest share of positive results are reported for the horizontal priority (fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry, and rural areas) with 75% and for CAP objective 1 with around 70%.

Lower shares of positive findings are reported for CAP objective 2 with 53% and for CAP objective 3 with 44%.

Thematic orientation of findings

In terms of thematic orientation, the evaluation findings are distributed more or less the same way as the completed evaluations reported in sub-section d). In both cases, the topics CAP objective 2 - Ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources and climate actions - and multiple RDP priorities and objectives dominate.

Evidence bases of findings

In order to categorise the evidence of findings, the definitions outlined in the following box were used.

Text box: Definition of the evidence bases of evaluation findings

Findings based on assessment of

- Contextual trend: Observation of external factors that are not directly related to a specific policy instrument but are influenced by a wide range of factors
- Impact (net): Change beyond immediate effects against a baseline situation with counterfactual approach (comparing a supported and non-supported target group; before-and-after and with-and-without approach)
- Impact (gross): Change beyond immediate effects against a baseline situation with no counterfactual approach, e.g. before-and-after comparison
- Result (net): Achieved direct and immediate effects for direct beneficiaries in comparison to a control group
- Result (gross): Achieved direct and immediate effects for direct beneficiaries
- Monitoring (input, output): Performance of activities directly realised through the programme measured in physical or monetary units.

Source: Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development (2021)

Resulting from the most common evidence (evaluations of achievements, see section d), findings most often concern gross results which account for a share of 30%. In addition, at the result level, 3% of the findings concern net results (e.g. netting out the complementary result indicators in priority 5).

Findings that are based on the assessment of impacts have a share of 24% which corresponds almost to the share of conducted impact evaluations. Rigorous evaluation in terms of net-impacts is less common due to data constraints.

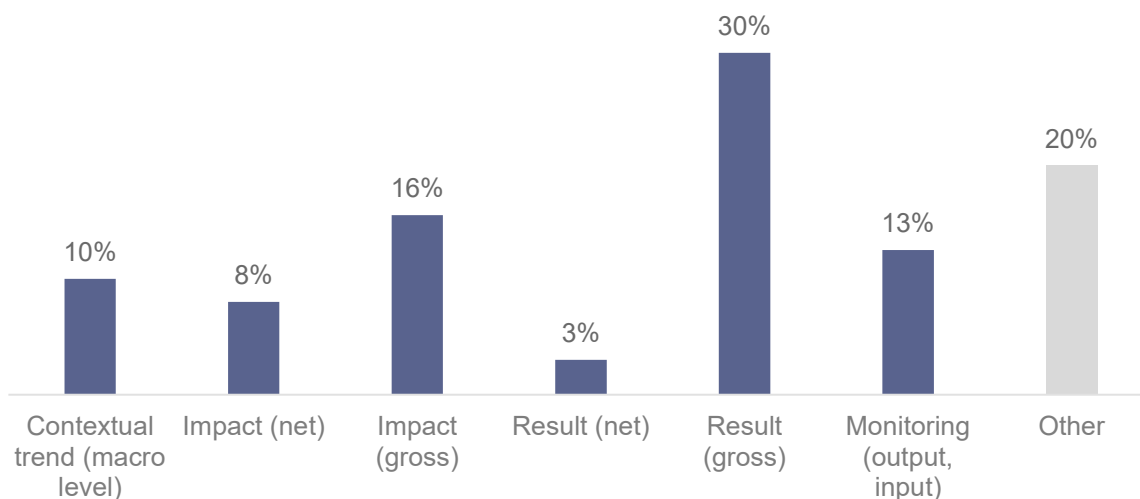
In summary, almost 60% of the reported findings are derived from impacts and results, which is generally considered a robust approach.

Around 10% of the findings are based on an analysis of contextual trends at the macro level (i.e. no impact of the RDP was assessed)

13% of the evaluation findings are based only on the analysis of inputs and outputs, which is considered less robust.

For more than 20% of the findings, the evidence basis is not clearly identifiable.

Figure 7. Evidence basis of evaluation findings reported in the AIRs in 2021



Source: European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development (2021)

Direction of effects

Regarding the direction of the programme effects, mainly positive effects and mixed effects are reported.

45% of the findings show a positive direction of effects, e.g. an RDP intervention demonstrates positive and significant results in terms of an increase in the number of employees and increased productivity.

Looking at the programmes (and not the findings), 50% of RDPs (39) reported clear positive evaluation findings (39 did not).

Differentiated by main topic, the share of positive findings is high in Priority 1 (Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry, and rural areas) with 75% and in Priority 2 (Farm viability and competitiveness) with 62%.

The percentage of positive findings is lower for CAP objective 2 (Ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources and climate actions, PA 4 and PA 5) with 53% and for Priority 6 (Social inclusion, poverty reduction, economic development) with 44%.

Mixed effects are reported in 21% of the findings; e.g. organic farming was found to have a wide range of benefits over conventional farming but the benefits are not so certain or are absent when analysis is carried out using per unit-production.

Negative and zero effects were reported in 7% of the cases. Negative effects mainly relate to the development of environmental contextual trends that are not directly related to RDP implementation.

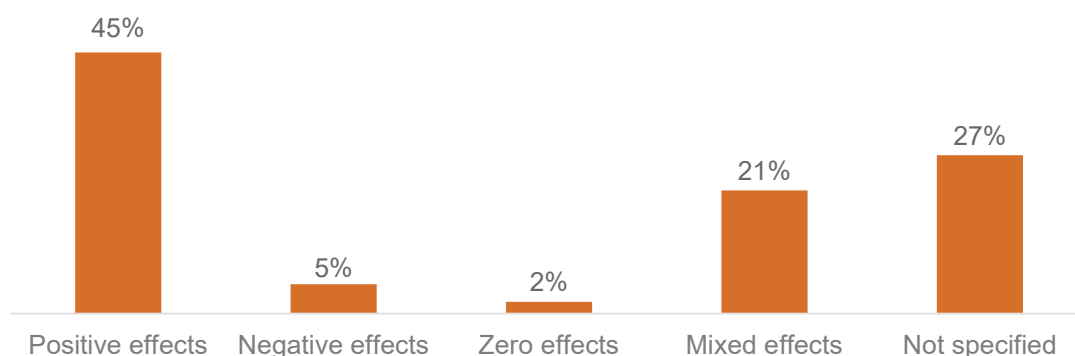
In one case, deficiencies in the implementation of AEC-measures M10 and M11 are reported, resulting in a reduction of area commitments, which is a negative effect directly related to the RDP.

In another case, RDP implementation problems have led to a further increase in livestock density, which causes significant problems and can be classified as a negative effect.

Zero effects refer to the performance of RDP interventions, e.g. when significantly fewer advisory services were carried out than planned.

The direction of effects cannot be specified for a high share of findings (27%). This is the case when effects were either not examined or when the direction of the effect is not clearly comprehensible. The latter indicates that evaluations at this stage fail to communicate clear findings on achievements in terms of results or impacts, which shows however potentials for improvement in view of the ex-post evaluation.

Figure 8. Direction of effects of reported evaluation findings (in total 198 findings)



Source: European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development (2021)

Categorisation of findings by main topic and direction of effects

In the following tables (1 to 5), the evaluation findings are broken down by two dimensions (main topic and direction of findings). A colour-code is used to indicate the direction of effects.

As main topics, the horizontal priority (Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry, and rural areas), the three CAP-objectives, and finally, the NRNs are addressed.

Findings that concern multiple RDP priorities or without reference to any specific topic were not included in this analysis.

CAP Objective 1 - Fostering the competitiveness of agriculture

In this thematic area, 17 RDPs report 26 findings of which 62% are positive, while also mixed (15%), unspecified (19%) and zero effects (4%) are presented. .

With regard to **farm viability and competitiveness** (RDP Priority 2) mainly positive (gross) results are reported (in ES, CZ, HU, DE, IT) which are due to investments in agricultural holdings (e.g. to optimize

cultivation techniques and machinery). Also, with regard to **CAP sector related impacts on the competitiveness in agriculture**, there are positive findings at the sector level, e.g. improved participation of producers in the food chain, more added value in each food sub-sector etc.

Mixed effects are also reported, i.e. parts of the intervention deliver insufficient results: an evaluation shows that the surveyed beneficiaries assess the subsidised investments through the agricultural investment support mostly positive and claim that they would carry them out again in the same way. On the other hand, the promotion of young farmers is not effective and efficient. In the view of the interviewees, it hardly leads to any changes in behaviour and therefore has no significant effect on the subsidised investment or on the takeover of the farm (DE – HESSEN).

With regard to **CAP sector related impacts on the competitiveness in agriculture**, there are positive findings at the sector level, e.g. the investment measure 6.3 under priority 2 represents one of the main motivations to stay or become a farmer and to stay in rural areas. The investments contributed to reduce land abandonment, especially in mountainous and marginal areas. In addition, it created income and job opportunities for the population to remain in rural areas (RO).

Table 1. Evaluation findings related to CAP Objective 1

Number of evaluation findings per main topic and direction of effects	Mixed effects	Negative effects	Not specified	Positive effects	Zero effects	Total
RDP Priority 2: Farm viability and competitiveness	3		2	11		16
CAP sector related impacts: competitiveness in agriculture			1	2		3
RDP Priority 3: Food chain organisation, animal welfare, risk management	1		2	3	1	7
Total	4		5	16	1	26

Source: European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development (2021)

Regarding **food chain organisation, animal welfare, risk management (RDP Priority 3)**, positive but also mixed and zero effects are reported.

Positive results were achieved through the support for short supply chains, e.g. the RDP investment on short supply chains is as a positive intervention, which points to the importance and recognition of this topic. In this measure, the origin, quality, identity of the producer, local character and environmental sustainability of the product represent a benefit, and farmers can earn a fair income. The supported projects aimed at a wide range of products and various forms of marketing channels (markets, online sales, shopping communities). Market organizers and producers with high-level professional references have appeared (HU).

Two evaluations relating to the promotion of processing and marketing (in DE) show positive effects, but these are limited by high deadweight losses (zero effects) since especially large investments would have been carried out even without RDP support.

CAP Objective 2 - Ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources and climate actions

Of the 75 evaluation findings from 29 RDPs reporting on this objective, 53% are positive, followed by unspecified (19%), mixed (16%), negative (9%) as well as zero effects (3%).

Negative effects are reported mainly in the area of ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry (RDP Priority 4). Around 40% of the findings are positive, however, the majority of findings are mixed effects, zero effects or even negative effects which mainly concern contextual trends.

In resource efficiency, low carbon and climate resilient economy (RDP Priority 5), the effects achieved are clearly more positive.

With regard to the cross-cutting objective “Environment and climate change” there are mainly positive effects, but these are partly limited or not yet fully verifiable.

Table 2. Evaluation findings related to CAP Objective 2

Number of evaluation findings per main topic and direction of effects	Mixed effects	Negative effects	Not specified	Positive effects	Zero effects	Total
RDP Priority 4: Ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry (including CAP environmental impacts: sustainable management of natural resources)	7	6	11	22	2	45
RDP Priority 5: Resource efficiency, low carbon and climate resilient economy	3		3	12		18
RDP cross cutting objective: Environment and climate change	2	1		6		9
Total	12	7	14	40	2	75

Source: European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development (2021)

With regard to **ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry (RDP Priority 4)** positive effects reported (in DE, CZ, ES, GR, HU, SE, UK) relate to results and impacts of the RDPs, e.g. through the use of field experiments, agreement monitoring, modelling, and reviewing previously published research it was found that the effectiveness of Agri-Environment Schemes (AES) can provide additional benefits to a range of ecosystem services (positive impact) (UK – ENGLAND). RDPs also report positive effects in relation to contextual trends at the macro level that are not directly influenced by the RDPs (e.g. the findings refers to monitoring of species and not to evaluation).

Mixed effects, zero effects or even negative effects are also reported (in EE, CZ, LT, ES, SI, UK). These mainly concern contextual trends, e.g. the Slovenian farmland bird index in the period 2008–2020 has a moderate negative trend, but the trend over the last five years is slightly positive. However, some species have an unfavourable conservation status (mixed contextual trend) (SI). In another example, the status of bird populations on agricultural land in 2014–2020 deteriorated. The extent of bird population decline has accelerated significantly over the past 7 years compared to the 21-year period (negative contextual trend) (LT).

With regard to resource efficiency, low carbon and climate resilient economy (RDP Priority 5) and the cross cutting objective environment and climate change, the evaluation findings are predominantly positive (in CZ, DE, FR, HU, SE, UK), e.g. it was found that the countryside stewardship reduced GHG by reducing the overall emissions of greenhouse gases and protecting carbon stores and increasing its sequestration in soils and vegetation (UK – ENGLAND).

However, there are also reports (DE, IT, FR) of less well-targeted interventions that produce mixed effects, e.g. the focus of the processing & marketing promotion in the area of energy efficiency (FA 5B) is not consistent with the identified problems and opportunities. Growth and improvement of competitiveness are the main objectives of most of the supported projects but not energy efficiency (DE - NIEDERSACHSEN/BREMEN).

The RDP cross cutting objective environment and climate shows positive effects (ES, IE, PT), but these are sometimes of limited extent or not yet fully verifiable. A negative effect is also reported (IT). A study of the impact of RDP actions across biodiversity, climate change and water quality was conducted. Impacts on water quality and climate are difficult to measure directly but assessed through a proprietary modelling approach. The modelling suggests that the RDP delivers moderate nitrate, phosphorus, nitrous oxide and methane reductions. It was found that overall contribution to reduction in pollutant loads and climate change mitigation is modest at a national scale and higher impacts would require a greater proportion of intensive farmers to enter the scheme and take up relevant actions (IE). In single cases a negative effect of an RDP action is noted: The concentration of buffalo herds in vulnerable areas is a significant problem. Despite the dissemination and information actions implemented by the Campania region, even among the most attentive farmers, there is a lack of knowledge of the obligations to which these farmers will be subjected. As a result, the density of buffaloes cannot be reduced or is even increasing (IT – CAMPANIA).

CAP Objective 3 - Achieving a balanced territorial development

In this thematic area, 14 RDPs report 16 findings of which 44% are positive, but there are also mixed (12%) and unspecified effects (44%). Most of the findings relate to CLLD/LEADER/LAGs and less to other priority 6 topics such as diversification, job creation, ICT in rural areas.

Table 3. Evaluation findings related to CAP Objective 3

Number of evaluation findings per main topic and direction of effects	Mixed effects	Negative effects	Not specified	Positive effects	Zero effects	Total
RDP Priority 6: Social inclusion, poverty reduction, economic development	1		2	3		6
Specific focus on CLLD/LEADER/LAGs	1		5	4		10
Total	2		7	7		16

Source: European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development (2021)

For **social inclusion, poverty reduction, economic development (RDP Priority 6)**, only a few findings are reported. 50% show a positive direction (HU, SE), e.g. in many small settlements, RDP priority 6 subsidies are the only source of development, which has contributed often indirectly to the reduction of rural deprivation, though not sufficiently to achieve a meaningful compensatory effect (positive but limited impact) (HU). Another finding points out, that there are consistently positive competitive effects of investment support under priority 6, in particular in the terms of productivity and turnover. The overall average effect of the aid is statistically significant and positive in terms of the whole period analysed (2007-2016) (positive gross impact) (SE).

An evaluation study on diversification activities (funded under priority 6) indicates mixed effects: the results show that diversification contributes significantly to the income of the farms, whereby a wide range of economic viability is evident: there are economically very successful farmers, but also less successful farmers in diversification. It can be deduced that a large proportion of the farms still have potential for improvement in diversification (mixed results) (AT).

With regard to **CLLD/LEADER/LAGs** at least 10 findings are available, 40% of which show a positive direction (ES, PT, SE, UK), e.g. CLLD projects create clearly more added value than structural changes. The added value is mainly physical and social, but also in the form of plans. Structural changes include population development, increase in visitors, increased entrepreneurship, more jobs and the maintenance or increase of services and welfare (positive but limited impact) (SE).

The remaining findings are not specified in terms of achievements or show mixed effects (IT, PT). Mixed effects are exemplified by two cases: The implementation of similar interventions by different organizations (in this case the region and the LAG) risks producing uncoordinated, overlapping if not contradictory outcomes (mixed effects) (IT – PIEMONTE). Moreover, it was found that the governance model of LEADER/CLLD has neither ensured the bottom-up approach, nor ensured an effective management capacity and use of the funds (mixed effects) (PT Mainland).

In some cases, evaluation findings were not specified in terms of the direction of effects (ES, IT), e.g. the analysis refers to the evolution of the territories in which the LAGs act, between 2013 and 2020. Contextual trends were observed but no impact of LEADER (ES - CASTILLA- LEON). Or the delivery of LEADER was assessed without showing a direction of effects (IT).

Overall, effective implementation of CLLD/LEADER seems to be a major challenge.

Horizontal priority: Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry, and rural areas

In this thematic area, 8 RDPs reported 8 evaluation findings of which 75% are positive effects at all levels (input/output, results and impacts). Positive effects relate in particular to EIP-Agri and innovation support but less to knowledge transfer. The predominantly positive results (such as improved interaction between companies and agents of the agri-food value chain, better cooperation, increased knowledge etc.) might not be representative for the total population of RDPs due the small number of reported findings. 13% of the findings show zero effects and 12% are unspecified.

Table 4. Evaluation findings related to the horizontal priority

Number of evaluation findings per theme and direction	Mixed effects	Negative effects	Not specified	Positive effects	Zero effects	Total
RDP Priority 1: Knowledge transfer and innovation			1	3	1	5
Specific focus on EIP-AGRI				2		2
RDP cross cutting objective: Innovation				1		1
Total			1	6	1	8

Source: European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development (2021)

With regard to fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry, and rural areas (**RDP Priority 1**), 5 findings are reported of which 60% are positive (LT, ES, NL). In one case (DE) more or less zero effects were identified stemming from a lack of implementation.

In relation to **EIP-Agri**, only positive findings are reported, e.g. a case study concluded, the operational group supported has achieved the objectives of the project satisfactorily (ES – MURCIA).

With regard to the **cross cutting objective innovation**, in one case a positive achievement is reported (LV).

National Rural Networks (Other RDPs aspects)

In this thematic area, 5 RDPs report 7 findings of which around 57% are positive (e.g. identifying good practices, stakeholder participation, consolidation of thematic networks), but there are also mixed (14%) and unspecified effects (29%), e.g. limited effectiveness in engaging with other RDP schemes.

Table 5. Evaluation findings related to NRN

Number of evaluation findings per main topic and direction of effects	Mixed effects	Negative effects	Not specified	Positive effects	Zero effects	Total
Other RDPs aspects: National Rural Networks	1		2	4		7

Source: European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development (2021)

Positive effects of National Rural Networks (NRN) were reported from two MS (DE, IT); e.g. the evaluator has highlighted the benefit of the NRN programme by identifying good practices related to the participation of stakeholders. The participation of stakeholders has been enhanced by NRN activities. Thematic Networks (e.g. youth) have been consolidated (positive result) (IT - IT Rural Network).

Mixed effects were reported in one case: the NRN has contributed to stakeholder engagement through the development of events, communications, and social media. However, the contribution of the NRN to the delivery of LEADER was perceived as limited reflecting both structural and organisational factors (mixed effects) (UK-Scotland).

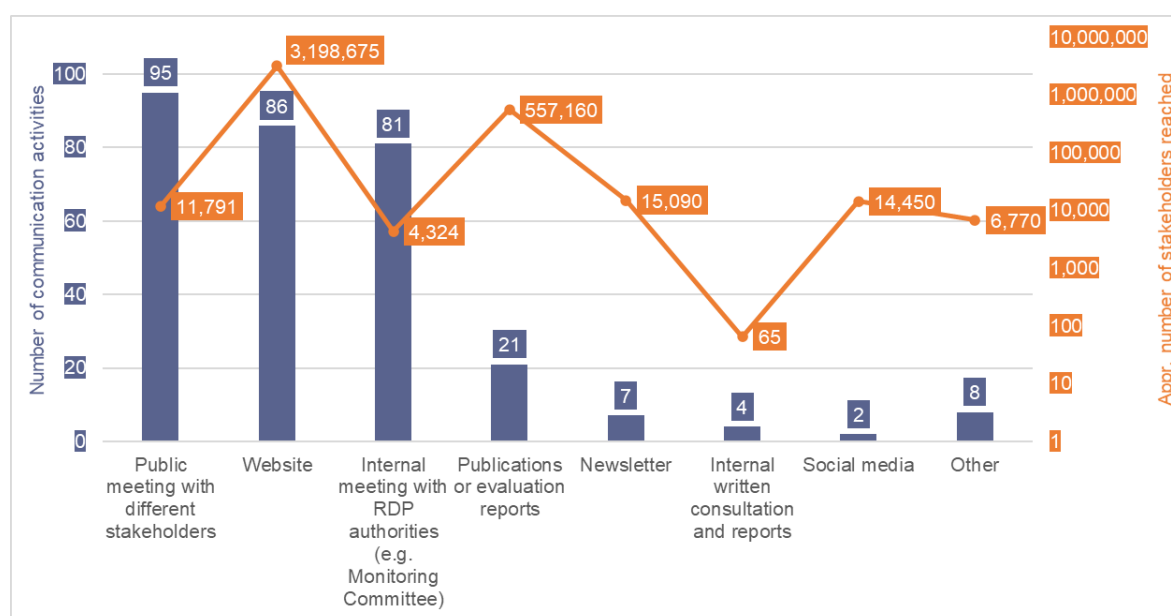
2.7 Sub-section f): description of communication activities undertaken in relation to publicising evaluation findings

A substantial number of communication activities (303) in relation to publicising evaluation findings was reported in 2021, which is however 68 activities less than in 2020. Altogether 3.8 million stakeholders were reached, which is lower than the number reported in 2020 (5 million).³

The large majority of stakeholder were reached through websites (3.2 million or 84%), followed by external publications or evaluations reports (0.6 million; 15%). A smaller share of stakeholders was reached through a combination of various communication channels, i.e. newsletters, social media and internal or external meetings, i.e. workshops, seminars, etc.

When it comes to target groups, about half of the communication activities were targeted either to the general audience (31%) or the RDP monitoring committee (21%). Other targets groups include researchers and thematic experts, Local Action Groups, National/Regional authorities, evaluators, RDP beneficiaries and National Rural Networks.

Figure 9. Number of communication activities by type and stakeholders reached



Source: European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development (2021)

Internal meetings with programme authorities (e.g. Monitoring Committee) mostly concerned the presentation of recent evaluation results or progress of the programme, e.g. in DE Lower Saxony and Bremen the programme impact on biodiversity was presented, while in Italy the results of the evaluation of the NRN were presented and discussed. Another example is related to LEADER, as several AIRs submitted in 2021 of German RDPs reported internal meeting in relation to exchange on the implementation of LEADER/CLLD. In ES La Rioja, the results of the evaluation of the influence of the RDP 2014-2020 on the labour market inclusion of rural women in La Rioja were presented to the national and regional authorities and stakeholders.

Activities targeting the general public include the organisation of a thematic day on Agrobiodiversity in Estonia organised by the MA. Another example is the publication of an info graphic in UK Scotland for the Citizen summary of the AIR2021. In some regions/countries (e.g. in ES-Castilla and León)

³ It needs to be noted, that the largest share of the stakeholders reached are those reached through websites, which is traditionally very difficult to estimate. As no unique counting method has been defined, the variations in the reported numbers are frequent across the reporting years and must be interpreted with caution.

newspaper articles were published to explain the main advances that the programme has had in the region.

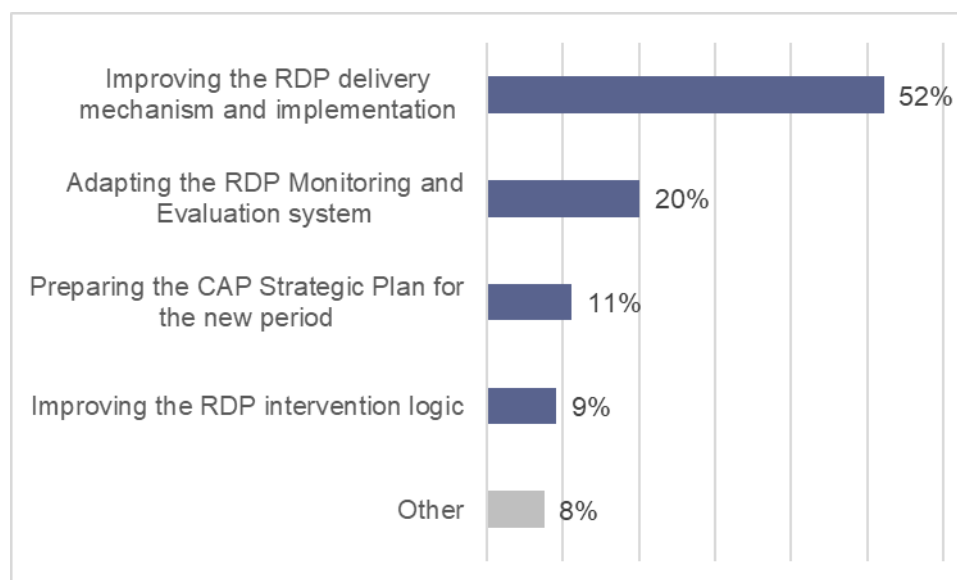
Some communication activities reported in the AIRs submitted in 2021 already included an outlook on the new programming period 2021 to 2027, e.g. by informing the RDP Monitoring Committee on the preparation of the new funding period (DE Saxony-Anhalt), a workshop to finalise the scoping in the ministry for agriculture in Austria, and the online publication of the report “Prioritization of the needs of the Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan for the period 2021-2027” in Slovenia.

2.8 Sub-section g): description of the follow-up given to evaluation results

Follow-ups given to evaluation results have been reported to a much lesser extent than in 2020 where exceptionally high numbers were observed. Evidently, the lower number of completed evaluations and the absence of a major evaluation milestone can explain this trend. The topic of the follow-ups concerned, in more than half of the cases, the improvement of the RDP delivery mechanism and implementation. In a fifth of the cases the follow up was targeted at the adaptation of the RDP monitoring and evaluation system.

In the AIRs submitted in 2021, 439 follow ups were reported on the basis of evaluation results. As illustrated in the figure below, more than half of the follow-ups reported are related to improving the RDP delivery mechanism (52%), followed by adaptation of the Monitoring and Evaluation system (20%). To a lesser degree, follow-ups were reported in relation to the preparation of the CAP strategic plan for the new period (11%) and to improving the RDP intervention logic (9%).

Figure 10. Reported follow-up activities given to evaluation results



Source: European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development (2021)

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3 OVERALL ASSESSMENT

3.1 Summary assessment on progress in implementing the evaluation plans and conclusions

Overall, the evaluation activities reported in the year 2021, which are in preparation or already completed, show a good progress in implementing the Evaluation Plans and cover a wide variety of relevant RD topics (including the Covid-19 pandemic). Specifically, the synthesis of the information reported in the AIRs submitted in 2021 allows to draw the following conclusions:

To what extent have Member States progressed in the implementation of their evaluation and data-management activities?

There is a stable level of evaluation activities on highly relevant RD topics, even if the activities have decreased compared to the peak-years. In particular, the number of reported planning and coordinating activities have continued to decrease. Evidently, at the end of the programming period, there is less need for planning (apart from the ex-post evaluation). Moreover, also the activities on conducting, reporting and disseminating the evaluations and follow-up activities have generally decreased. This can be explained with the fact that all types of reported evaluation activities had a peak during the years with evaluation milestones (2017 and 2019) and decreased since then in line with the evaluation cycle. Nevertheless, there is still a good level of activity in evaluations. The share of RDPs reporting no evaluation activities is relatively small and it can be expected that evaluation activities will increase again in preparation of the ex-post evaluation in 2026. Preparatory evaluation activities related to the new programming period (ex-ante evaluation of CAP Strategic Plan) clearly increased.

Activities undertaken in relation to the provision and management of data have slightly decreased and also changed focus. Activities to improve the IT system are still very important in view of the enhanced requirements on performance monitoring in the next programming period 2023-2027. Also, the increase in data collection activities is a positive in view of the ex-post evaluation.

RDP evaluation plans remained stable in the reporting period with smaller adaptations of the evaluation timelines and activities (e.g. related to COVID-19 Pandemic). Modifications of the Evaluation Plan were reported only by 12 RDPs.

To what extent were Member States able to report evaluation findings stemming from the assessment of RDP results and impacts?

While the number of completed evaluations decreased (217), Member States were still able to report a substantial number of evaluation findings (198). There has been a major focus of findings (38%) on CAP objective 2 - Ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources, and climate action.

Generally, the evaluation findings are based on a broad range of evaluation and research outcomes, of which the majority is considered robust. Nearly 60% of the reported findings are derived from the assessment of impacts and results, whereas 13% of the evaluation findings are mainly based on the analysis of inputs and outputs, which is considered a less robust approach. A significant share of the findings also concern contextual trends at the macro level (i.e. no impact of the RDP was assessed) (10%) and other issues (e.g. administrative obstacles) (20%).

In terms of the direction of effects, the highest share of positive results are reported for the horizontal priority (Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry, and

rural areas) and for CAP objective 1. Lower shares of positive findings are reported for CAP objective 2 and for CAP objective 3.

However, in relation to the horizontal priority (Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry, and rural areas) it needs to be highlighted that only a small number of RDPs report evaluation findings. Positive effects relate in particular to EIP-Agri and innovation support but less to knowledge transfer.

For CAP Objective 1 (Fostering the competitiveness of agriculture) a higher number of RDPs report findings of which still around 70% are positive, but there are also mixed, unspecified and zero effects (positive effects, but limited by high deadweight losses).

For CAP Objective 2 (Ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources and climate actions) the highest number of findings are reported of which more than half are positive. Furthermore, mixed effects and also negative effects of the RDP measures are present. Negative effects are reported mainly in relation to Priority 4 (Ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry). In Priority 5 (Resource efficiency, low carbon and climate resilient economy), the effects achieved are clearly more positive.

Related to CAP Objective 3 (Achieving a balanced territorial development) a small number of RDPs report findings of which 44% are positive, but there are also mixed and unspecified effects. Most of the findings relate to CLLD/LEADER/LAGs and less to other priority 6 topics. There are only few assessments of LEADER effects, 40% of which show a positive direction. **Effective implementation of CLLD/LEADER seems to be a major challenge.** According to preparatory activities, some CLLD/LEADER evaluations are under preparation. These will provide insights into the success of LEADER in the near future.

For almost 80 % of the findings, the direction of effects could be determined, however the remaining one fifth indicates that evaluations still often fail to communicate clear findings on achievements in terms of results or impacts. This is expected to further improve in view of the ex-post evaluation.

To what extent have Member States disseminated and used evaluation findings and for what purpose?

The level of reporting on evaluations in the AIRs submitted in 2021 is still high. A number of 76 to 106 AIRs filled at least six out of the seven sub-sections of chapter 2) and the relevant sub-sections presented information on RDP achievements and impacts.

The targeted dissemination of RDP evaluations findings to the evaluation stakeholders has decreased in numbers but is also still substantial. Some communication activities refer already to the new programming period.

The use of evaluation results has decreased compared to the last peak year which is however in line with the lower number of completed evaluations and evaluation findings. Still, the follow-up activities indicate substantial efforts are made for a further improvement of the RDP implementation as well as for the preparation of the CAP Strategic Plans post-2020. Most follow-up activities concerned the improvement of the RDP delivery mechanism (52%) and a considerable share (11%) were related to preparing the CAP Strategic Plan for the post-2020 period. The adaptation of the RDP monitoring and evaluation system is addressed by 20% of the reported follow-up activities and has in many cases implications for both the current, as well as for the future programming period.

3.2 Recommendations on better reporting

Specifically, the following recommendation can be given:

Table 6. Recommendations on better reporting

Topic / subsection	Recommendations
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report only the information corresponding to the previous calendar year (i.e. some AIR included the progress made in 2020, which should be reported in the AIRs to be submitted in 2021). Don't forget to report also about problems encountered and solutions adopted in the sections where this is relevant.
Ad a) description of any modifications made to the evaluation plan in the RDP during the year, with their justification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report on Evaluation Plans updates and pay particular attention to changes due to COVID-19 or the transition period (e.g. change in evaluation timeline, evaluation topics, preparation of ex-post etc.). Report only on the modifications of the RDP evaluation plan (rather than on modifications of the RDP itself).
Ad b) description of the evaluation activities undertaken during the year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on preparatory evaluation activities for the ex post evaluation (e.g. drawing lessons from previous evaluation activities, planning and preparing the tendering of the ex-post etc). Report on ongoing evaluation activities, if any.
Ad c) description of activities undertaken in relation to the provision and management of data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report data-related activities in relation to preparing for the ex-post evaluation (e.g. review of data needs and data sources, strategies to cover data gaps, adapting data systems, activities to enable counterfactual evaluation).
Ad d) list of completed evaluations, including references to where they have been published on-line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report on completed evaluations rather than various information (like brochures or publications linked to implementation). Make sure to include for each completed evaluation also a brief and informative abstract (rather than referring to where such an abstract can be found). Ensure that the included hyperlink leads directly to the completed evaluation (rather than to a general ministry website). Fill one row for each completed evaluation, rather than grouping various evaluations within one row.
Ad e) summary of completed evaluations, focusing on evaluation findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show relevant evaluation findings from evaluations completed in the reporting year, present them systematically in relation to the RD priorities and CAP objectives. Ensure consistency between evaluations reported in d) and evaluation findings in e) Make sure to describe the actual evaluation findings (rather than recommendations or the evaluation process itself). Communicate clearly the direction of achievements in terms of results or impacts (e.g. positive, negative, zero, mixed). Focus on reporting on the achieved positive or negative results/impacts following from the findings and show the supporting evidence. Add concise information on interesting evaluation findings and not only a hyperlink where those can be found.

<p>Ad f) description of communication activities undertaken in relation to publicising evaluation findings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover all communication activities in relation to the different target groups, such as RDP Monitoring Committees, Local Action Groups, National/Regional authorities, researchers and thematic experts, evaluators, National Rural Networks, rural networks and associations as well as wider public.
<p>Ad g) description of the follow-up given to evaluation results</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on follow-up actions undertaken, rather than listing the recommendations or intended action points. • Show how you are making use of evaluation results to improve the implementation of the current policy and/or to improve the design of the future policy.

4 ANNEX: COMPLETED EVALUATIONS REPORTED IN SUB-SECTION D)

The following tables shows a selection of 193 evaluations (out of 217 reported evaluations/studies) sorted by main topics. Reported publications that were not directly related to the evaluation of RDPs in the 2014 to 2020 period or to preparing the CAP Strategic Plan for the 2023 to 2027 period (e.g. leaflet on the introduction of personnel cost rates, ex-post evaluation 2007-2013) have been excluded, as well as publications mentioned several times (by different RDPs in a regionalized MS) .

Table 1. Completed evaluations related to fostering the competitiveness of agriculture

RDP	Publisher	Title	Year	Language	Reference
Estonia	Agricultural Research Centre	Study on young farmers starting in agriculture	2020	EE	https://pmk.agri.ee/sites/default/files/2020-10/Noorte_pmt_uuring_lopparuanne_2020.pdf
Estonia	Agricultural Research Centre	Number of jobs created with the projects supported by the RDP 2014–2020 in 2019	2020	EE	https://pmk.agri.ee/sites/default/files/inline-files/T%C3%B6%C3%B6kohad_2019_30.04.20.pdf
Germany - Hesse	Thünen Institute for Business Administration	Evaluation of the Agricultural Investment Promotion Program	2020	DE	https://www.eler-evaluierung.de/fileadmin/eler2/Publikationen/Projektberichte/5-Laender-Bewertung/2020/11_2020_-_HE_EPLR_AFP.pdf
Germany - Hesse	Thünen Institute for Business Administration	Evaluation of the promotion of investments for diversification	2020	DE	https://www.eler-evaluierung.de/fileadmin/eler2/Publikationen/Projektberichte/5-Laender-Bewertung/2020/10_2020_-_HE_EPLR_FID.pdf
Germany - Lower Saxony + Bremen	Thünen Institute for Rural Areas	The cost-effect analysis in land consolidation	2020	DE	https://www.eler-evaluierung.de/fileadmin/eler2/Publikationen/Projektberichte/5-Laender-Bewertung/2020/NI_KW_Analyse_Flurbereinigung_Endfassung_05_06_2020_MS_mb_MS.pdf

RDP	Publisher	Title	Year	Language	Reference
Germany - Schleswig-Holstein	Thünen Institute for Business Administration	Evaluation of the Agricultural Investment Promotion Program - results of the survey of the beneficiaries	2020	DE	https://www.eler-evaluierung.de/fileadmin/eler2/Publikationen/Projektberichte/5-Laender-Bewertung/2020/7_2020-SH_AFP_Ergebnisse_der_Befragung.pdf
Hungary	Field Consulting Services Zrt.; Collectivo Kft.	Development impact of food processing on the involvement of producers in the food chain	2020	HU	www.palyazat.gov.hu
Hungary	Field Consulting Services Zrt.; Collectivo Kft.	Effectiveness of the Young Farmer Sub-program	2020	HU	www.palyazat.gov.hu
Hungary	Field Consulting Services Zrt.; Collectivo Kft.	Employment impact assessment	2020	HU	www.palyazat.gov.hu
Italy - Bolzano	RTI IZI - Apollis	Changes and continuity in the cow's milk production sector in South Tyrol - Annual evaluation report in progress 2020	2020	IT	https://www.provinz.bz.it/land-forstwirtschaft/landwirtschaft/entwicklungsprogramm-elr/entwicklungsprogramm-laendlicher-Raum-2014-2020-detail.asp
Italy - Sicilia	RTI ISRI-AGT	Survey on labour needs generated by bonus measures	2020	IT	https://www.psr Sicilia.it/monitoraggio-e-valutazione/
Italy - Trento	THIS Spa - Rome	Thematic study "Survey on the production costs of bovine milk in the Province of Trento"	2020	IT	http://www.psr.provincia.tn.it/Sviluppo-Rurale-2014-2020/Gestione-e-Controllo/Valutazione
Romania	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Evaluation study - "Small farm and the development of associative forms"	2020	RO/EN	https://www.madr.ro/pndr-2014-2020/implementare-pndr-2014-2020/evaluare-pndr-2014-2020/studii-rapoarte-de-evaluare.html

RDP	Publisher	Title	Year	Language	Reference
Spain - Castilla-La Mancha	General Directorate of Rural Development of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development	Results Evaluation Report 2020. Incorporation of young farmers	2020	ES	https://pdr.castillalamancha.es/sites/pdr.castillalamancha.es/files/documentos/pdf/20210524/evaluacion_jovenes_2020.pdf
Sweden	The Swedish Board of Agriculture	Who gets start-up support?	2020	SE	https://webbutiken.jordbruksverket.se/sv/artiklar/upp204.html

Table 2. Completed evaluations related to ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources and climate actions

RDP	Publisher	RDP	Title	Language	Publisher
Austria	Birdlife Austria	Calculation of the Farm Bird Index (FBI) in 2019 and 2020	2020	DE	https://www.bmlrt.gv.at/land/eu-agrarpolitik-foerderungen/laendl_entwicklung/programmbegleitung/evaluierung/Evaluierungsstudien/Biodiversit%C3%A4t-Boden-Wasser-Klima.html
Austria	Federal Environment Agency	Impact indicator I.19; Farming in Natura 2000 areas	n.a.	DE	not yet published
Belgium - Flanders	Knowledge Centre Field Birds and Working Group Gray Bunting on behalf of the Agency for	Food situation for the Montagu's harrier and the effect of management measures in the eastern loam area in 2017-2020	2020	NL	https://ecopedia.s3.eu-central-1.amazonaws.com/pdfs/ANB%20Rapportage%20SBP%20Grauwe%20Kiekendief%202017-2020%20GKA%20WGG.pdf

RDP	Publisher	RDP	Title	Language	Publisher
	Nature and Forests				
Estonia	Agricultural Research Centre	Evaluation report of the Estonian Rural Development Plan 2014-2020 Priority 4 and 5 measures and Priority 3 animal welfare measure for 2020	2021	EE	https://pmk.agri.ee/sites/default/files/2021-04/Aruanne_meetmed_2021.pdf
Estonia	Agricultural Research Centre	Report of the surveys conducted in 2020 to evaluate the 4th and 5th priorities of the Estonian Rural Development Plan 2014-2020	n.a.	EE	https://pmk.agri.ee/sites/default/files/inline-files/Uringute_aruane_2020.pdf
France - Risks management and technical assistance	Ministry of Agriculture and Food, CCR and Decid&Risk	Summary on risk management - Mid-term evaluation - Summary on crop insurance	2019	FR	https://agriculture.gouv.fr/la-gestion-des-risques-en-agriculture
France - Pays de la Loire	Pays de la Loire region	The impact assessment of the ERDF and EAFRD programs on the protection and preservation of the environment	2021	FR	https://www.paysdelaloire.fr/sites/default/files/2021-03/livvable-ndeg6-synthese-de-levaluation.pdf
Germany - Berlin + Brandenburg	Ministry of Rural Development, Environment and Agriculture	Evaluation report - M13 "Compensatory allowance for areas disadvantaged for significant nature-related reasons"	2021	DE	https://eler.brandenburg.de/sixcms/media.php/9/Evaluati on_AGZ_Endfassung_02_2021.pdf
Germany - Berlin + Brandenburg	Ministry of Rural Development, Environment and Agriculture	Evaluation of biodiversity effects of ecological priority areas in Brandenburg	2018	DE	https://eler.brandenburg.de/eler/de/veroeffentlichungen/monitoring-evaluierung/evaluierung/
Germany - Berlin + Brandenburg	Ministry of Rural Development, Environment and Agriculture	Assessment and case study report - M02 "Advisory, management and representative services (Article 15)" and M08 "Investing in the development of forest areas and improving the viability of forests (forest conversion and forest fire protection)"	2020	DE	https://eler.brandenburg.de/sixcms/media.php/9/Eval_Forstf%C3%B6rderung_Brandenburg.3889398.pdf
Germany - Lower	Thünen Institute for Rural Areas	Implementation status and first effects of the funding measure "Development of Lakes"	2020	DE	https://www.eler-evaluierung.de/fileadmin/eler2/Publikationen/Projektberic

RDP	Publisher	RDP	Title	Language	Publisher
Saxony + Bremen					hte/5-Laender-Bewertung/2020/13_2020_-_NI_Fallstudie_SEE.pdf
Germany - Lower Saxony + Bremen	Thünen Institute for Business Administration	Evaluation of the program to promote investments in the processing and marketing of agricultural products	2020	DE	https://www.eler-evaluierung.de/fileadmin/eler2/Publikationen/Projektberic/hte/5-Laender-Bewertung/2020/12_2020_NI-HB_VV-EPLR.pdf
Germany - North Rhine-Westphalia	Thünen Institute	Reduction of greenhouse gas and ammonia emissions - funding effects in the focus area 5d NRW RDP 2014 to 2020	2020	DE	https://www.eler-evaluierung.de/fileadmin/eler2/Publikationen/Projektberic/hte/5-Laender-Bewertung/2020/15_2020_NRW_SPB5D_Verringerung_Treibhausgas-und_Ammoniakemissionen.pdf
Germany - North Rhine-Westphalia	Thünen Institute	Effects on water and climate protection - An analysis of operational nutrient comparisons for selected area measures in the NRW RDP 2014 to 2020	2020	DE	https://literatur.thuenen.de/digbib_extern/dn062814.pdf
Germany - Saxony	AUKM / ÖBL Bavarian State Agency for Agriculture	Promotion of flower visiting insects through adapted usage dates in clover grass cultivation	2020	DE	https://www.lfi.bayern.de/mam/cms07/ipz/dateien/aggf_workshop_2020_-_digitaler_tagungsband.pdf
Germany - Schleswig-Holstein	Thünen Institute for Rural Areas	Implementation of water protection advice in the context of the groundwater body in a poor chemical condition in accordance with the EU WFD and selected lake catchment areas	2020	DE	https://www.eler-evaluierung.de/fileadmin/eler2/Publikationen/Projektberic/hte/5-Laender-Bewertung/2020/8_2020_-_Gewaesserschutzberatung-SH.pdf
Ireland	DAFM	Evaluation of the GLAS Scheme		EN	https://assets.gov.ie/98469/3ea1d456-49dd-4a21-9eca-2c57e9465d16.pdf
Italy - Campania	Lattanzio KIBS	Environment Monothematic Report: the effectiveness of agri-environmental measures in relation to the territorial intervention priorities defined by the RDP	2020	IT	http://www.agricoltura.regione.campania.it/psr_2014_2020/pdf/rapporto_monotematico_ambiente.pdf
Italy - Friuli-Venezia Giulia	Friuli Venezia Giulia Region	IV Thematic evaluation report "Environmental sustainability PSR EAFRD"	2020	IT	http://www.regione.fvg.it/rafv/export/sites/default/RAFVG/GEN/programmazione/FOGLIA23/allegati/210413_RT_SOST_AMB_2020_V1_2.pdf
Italy - Liguria	Lattanzio Monitoring	Analysis of measure M.10.1.A - Adherence to the principles of integrated agriculture	2020	IT	http://www.agriligurianet.it/it/impresa/sostegno-economico/programma-di-sviluppo-rurale-psr-liguria/psr-2014-2020/valutazione-psr-2014-2020/approfondimenti-tematici.html
Italy - Piemonte	IRES Piedmont	Landscape-territorial outcomes of the CAP in Piedmont. Effects, efficiency, effectiveness	2020	IT	http://www.piemonterurale.it/valutazione/185-valutazione-paesaggio-pac

RDP	Publisher	RDP	Title	Language	Publisher
Italy - Sardegna	RTI ISRI-PwC-Interforum-Primaidea	Thematic report on the implementation and effectiveness of soil protection measures	2021	IT	https://drive.google.com/file/d/11XXFDSqZSRlvzdp7YYJ5fYluyEdiYya/view?usp=sharing
Italy - Umbria	Lattanzio KIBS	Ex Ante / SEA report for the period 2021-2027: the analysis of environmental monitoring indicators	2020	IT	https://www.va.regione.umbria.it/documents/3852172/4381826/analisi+indicatori+di+monitoraggio+ambientale+d+cembre+2020/4ac24bc0-818b-4d22-b570-431ec007058b
Lithuania	Ministry of Agriculture	Determination of the Biodiversity Impact Indicator "Bird Population on Agricultural Land" in 2020–2022 and Assessment of Biodiversity Change	2020	LT	https://zum.lrv.lt/uploads/zum/documents/files/LT_versija/Veiklos_sritys/Kaimo_pletra/Lietuvos_kaimo_pletros_2014%E2%80%932020%20m._programa/Steb%C4%97se_na%20ir%20vertinimas/Tyrimai%20ir%20vertinimai/2020/KPPI%20%20I%20tarpine%20ataskaita_20201214.pdf
Hungary	Field Consulting Services Zrt.; Collectivo Kft.	Increasing energy efficiency in agriculture and the food processing industry	2020	HU	www.palyazat.gov.hu
Hungary	Field Consulting Services Zrt.; Collectivo Kft.	Assessing the size of areas that successfully contribute to the protection of soil quality and the prevention of soil erosion	2020	HU	www.palyazat.gov.hu
Hungary	Field Consulting Services Zrt.; Collectivo Kft.	Rural development study of the effects of measures on the payment of compensation for areas with natural handicaps, agri-environmental management and organic farming	2020	HU	www.palyazat.gov.hu
Hungary	Field Consulting Services Zrt.; Collectivo Kft.	Investigation of areas specifically contributing to the protection of biodiversity	2020	HU	www.palyazat.gov.hu
Hungary	Field Consulting Services Zrt.; Collectivo Kft.	Effectiveness and efficiency of water management interventions	2020	HU	www.palyazat.gov.hu
Hungary	Field Consulting Services Zrt.; Collectivo Kft.	Effectiveness and efficiency of the "Areas with Natural Disadvantages" form of support	2020	HU	www.palyazat.gov.hu

RDP	Publisher	RDP	Title	Language	Publisher
Hungary	Field Consulting Services Zrt.; Collectivo Kft.	Examining interventions to address environmental problems and the effects of climate change, as well as the effectiveness of risk prevention and management measures	2020	HU	www.palyazat.gov.hu
Slovenia	DOPPS-Birdlife Slovenia	Monitoring of common bird species for the determination of Slovenian farmland bird index - final report for 2020	2020	SI	https://program-podezelja.si/sl/knjiznica/481-sipkk-2020-porocilo/file
Slovenia	DOPPS-Birdlife Slovenia	Monitoring of selected qualifying bird species in Natura 2000 sites in 2020 and synthesis of monitoring 2019-2020	2020	SI	https://program-podezelja.si/sl/knjiznica/478-monitoring-populacij-izbranih-ciljnih-vrst-ptic-na-obmocjih-natura-2000-v-letu-2020-in-sinteza-monitoringa-2019-2020/file
Slovenia	Centre for Cartography of Fauna and Flora	Monitoring of selected target butterfly species in 2020	2020	SI	https://program-podezelja.si/sl/knjiznica/479-monitoring-metulji-2020/file
Romania	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Evaluation study - "Environmental and climate measures from RDP 2014-2020"	2020	RO/EN	https://www.madr.ro/pndr-2014-2020/implementare-pndr-2014-2020/evaluare-pndr-2014-2020/studii-rapoarte-de-evaluare.html
Croatia	Ministry of Agriculture	Field data collection service on common bird species on agricultural habitats with the calculation of the common agri-environmental indicator number 35 "Population index of common bird species on agricultural land" for 2019 and 2020	2020	HR	https://ruralnirazvoj.hr/files/Indeks-cestih-vrsta-ptica-na-poljoprivrednim-stanistima-za-2020.-godinu.pdf
Slovenia	University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty	Targeted research project - Analytical support for greater efficiency and targeting of agricultural policy towards the environment and nature in Slovenia	n.a.,	n.a.	https://www.researchgate.net/project/Analitice-podpore-za-vecjo-ucinkovitost-in-ciljnost-kmetijske-politike-dokolja-in-narave-v-Sloveniji-Analytical-support-for-higher-efficiency-and-targeting-of-agri-environmental-policy-in-Sloveni
Spain - Comunidad Foral de Navarra	Department of Rural Development and Environment	Preparation of the agri-environmental indicators of the environmental monitoring program of the Rural Development Program of the Navarra Community 2014-2020 annuity 2020 (data updated to 2019)	2020	ES	https://www.navarra.es/appsext/DescargarFichero/default.aspx?CodigoCompleto=Portal@@@DRMAyAL/Informe-delPlandeVigilanciaAmbientaIPDR14-20-anualidad2019.pdf
Spain - Comunidad Valenciana	Valencian Agency for Agricultural Promotion	Environmental Monitoring Report	n.a.	ES	https://avfga.gva.es/documents/162830041/162830178/ISA/528d8d5c-dc14-40f6-b75d-52b27d01284e

RDP	Publisher	RDP	Title	Language	Publisher
	and Guarantee				
Spain - Islas Baleares	RDP Management Authority	Thematic evaluation: soil conservation in the Balearic Islands	2020	ES	http://www.caib.es/govern/sac/fitxa.do?codi=4421530&cduo=3229&lang=ca
Spain - La Rioja	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural World, Territory and Population of the Government of La Rioja	Evaluation of the impacts associated with land consolidation processes supported by the RDP 2014-2020 of La Rioja	2020	ES	https://www.larioja.org/larioja-client/cm/agricultura/images?idMmedia=1301089
Spain - La Rioja	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural World, Territory and Population of the Government of La Rioja	Methodological study to improve the calculation of the RDP indicators of La Rioja	2020	ES	https://www.larioja.org/larioja-client/cm/agricultura/images?idMmedia=1301090
Sweden	The Swedish Board of Agriculture	Restoration and one-time clearing of pastures and hay meadows	2020	SE	https://webbutiken.jordbruksverket.se/sv/artiklar/upp202.html
Sweden	The Swedish Board of Agriculture	Evaluation of investment support for energy and climate: The rural development program's support for a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy	2019	SE	https://webbutiken.jordbruksverket.se/sv/artiklar/utv1910.html
Sweden	The Swedish Board of Agriculture	Compensation for organic production and corporate finances	2020	SE	https://webbutiken.jordbruksverket.se/sv/artiklar/utv205.html
Sweden	The Swedish Board of Agriculture	Farmers' attitudes to environmental compensation and interest in environmental advice	2020	SE	https://webbutiken.jordbruksverket.se/sv/artiklar/upp207.html
United Kingdom - England	Defra	Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund - Evaluation of Phase 2 Facilitation Fund groups	2020	EN	http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=20130&FromSea

RDP	Publisher	RDP	Title	Language	Publisher
					rch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=LM0479&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10#Description
United Kingdom - England	Defra	A Social Science analysis of challenges, opportunities, benefits and disbenefits of the provision of self-monitoring and evidence by farmer. Land managers within Agri-Environment Schemes	2020	EN	http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=20357&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=%20LM0493&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10#Description
United Kingdom - England	Defra	Evaluating the social impacts affecting Agri-Environment Schemes delivery	2019	EN	http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=20129&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=LM0478&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10#Description
United Kingdom - England	Defra	Environmental effectiveness of organic management options – scoping study	2020	EN	http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=20021&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=LM0474&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10#Description
United Kingdom - England	Defra	Evaluation of organic scheme options	n.a.	n.a.	http://randd.defra.gov.uk/
United Kingdom - England	Natural England	Agri-Environment Evidence Annual Report 2018/19	2020	EN	http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5628589790986240
United Kingdom - England	Defra	Impact of Agri-Environment Schemes on Sites of Special Scientific Interest	2020	EN	http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=20132&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=%20LM0481&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10#Description
United Kingdom - England	Defra	Natural Capital provision through Agri-Environment Schemes	2020	EN	http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=20131&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=LM0480&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10
United Kingdom - England	Defra	Re-survey of Agri-Environment Schemes woodland improvement for woodland birds	2020	EN	http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=20138&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=LM0487&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10#Description
Greece	Contracting Authority: MA RDP 2014-2020	Study for the Evaluation of the RDP contribution to the management and efficiency of water use	2019	GR	https://ead.gr/information/evaluation/evaluation-studies/

RDP	Publisher	RDP	Title	Language	Publisher
Greece	Contracting Authority: MA RDP 2014-2020	Study for the Determination of Areas of High Natural Value in the framework of Measure 20 of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020	2019	GR	https://ead.gr/information/evaluation/evaluation-studies/
Greece	Contracting Authority: MA RDP 2014-2020	Study for the Evaluation of the RDP contribution to the prevention and improvement of soil management	2019	GR	https://ead.gr/information/evaluation/evaluation-studies/
Greece	Contracting Authority: MA RDP 2014-2020	National Agriculture Bird Index Monitoring Program for the 2014-2020 Programme Period	2019	GR	https://ead.gr/information/evaluation/evaluation-studies/

Table 3. Completed evaluations related to achieving a balanced territorial development

RDP	Publisher	Title	Year	Language	Reference
Austria	University of Agricultural and Environmental Education; Agricultural accounting company (LBG) and Chamber of Agriculture Upper Austria	Evaluation project on the profitability of diversification in Austria	2020	DE	https://www.bmlrt.gv.at/land/eu-agrarpolitik-foerderungen/laendl_entwicklung/programmbegleitung/evaluierung/Evaluierungsstudien/Wirtschaftlichkeit-der-Diversifizierung-in-%C3%96sterreich.html
France - Bretagne	Webcast	Evaluation of the integrated territorial approaches developed for the 2014-2020 programming	2020	FR	https://www.europe.bzh/jcms/prod_476082/fr/document-de-synthese-evaluation-ati-2014-2020-vdef

RDP	Publisher	Title	Year	Language	Reference
Germany - Bavaria	StMELF (Bavarian State Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry)	Women as entrepreneurs in rural areas - relevance, decision-making behaviour, participation in funding programs	2020	DE	https://www.stmelf.bayern.de/mam/cms01/agrarpolitik/da-teien/frauen_als_unternehmerinnen_endbericht.pdf
Germany - Hesse	Thünen Institute for Rural Areas	Case studies in support of rural infrastructures sub-measure 7.2, investment in the creation, improvement or expansion of all types of small infrastructures	2020	DE	https://www.eler-evaluierung.de/fileadmin/eler2/Publikationen/Projektberichte/5-Laender-Bewertung/2020/3_2020-HE-Berichte-aus-der-Evaluation-Wegebau-2.pdf
Italy - Abruzzo	ISRI	Thematic in-depth report "Women's agricultural enterprise in Abruzzo and RDP support"	2020	IT	https://www.regione.abruzzo.it/content/monitoraggio-e-valutazione
Hungary	Field Consulting Services Zrt .; Collectivo Kft.	Investigation of territorial balancing effect	2020	HU	www.palyazat.gov.hu
Spain - La Rioja	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural World, Territory and Population of the Government of La Rioja	Evaluation of the influence of the RDP 2014-2020 on the employment of rural women in La Rioja	2020	ES	https://www.larioja.org/larioja-client/cm/agricultura/images?idMmedia=1301091
Spain - Región de Murcia	Program management authority	Rural women in the RDP of the region of Murcia 2014-2020	2020	ES	https://pdr.carm.es/documents/6218363/21027797/Informe_Genero.pdf/b8f433e0-95a0-4d79-8791-b9e3f695e570

RDP	Publisher	Title	Year	Language	Reference
Sweden	The Swedish Board of Agriculture	Perceived effects of investment support	2025	SE	https://webbutiken.jordbruksverket.se/sv/artiklar/utv199.html
Sweden	The Swedish Board of Agriculture	Expected effects of investment support within the rural development program	2027	SE	https://webbutiken.jordbruksverket.se/sv/artiklar/utv203.html
United Kingdom - Wales	Welsh Government	Refugees Employment and Skills Support Study	2020	EN	https://gov.wales/refugees-employment-and-skills-support-study

Table 4. Completed evaluations related to fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry, and rural areas

RDP	Publisher	Title	Year	Language	Reference
France - Bretagne	Edition web	Regional Research and Innovation Strategy S3 - Smart Specialization Strategy - 2021-2027	2021	FR	https://www.europe.bzh/jcms/prod_481300/fr/fesi-s3-bretagne-21-27-v-02-2021
Germany - North Rhine-Westphalia	Thünen Institute	Evaluation of the individual company advice (M2.1) for the advice period 2017 to 2020 - NRW RDP 2014 to 2020	2021	DE	https://www.eler-evaluierung.de/fileadmin/eler2/Publikationen/Projektberichte/5-Laender-Bewertung/2021/2-2021_NRW_EB_Bericht_AUSWERTUNG_MS_fin.pdf
Latvia	AREI (Institute of Agricultural Resources and Economics)	Impact of the Rural Development Program 2014-2020 on innovation	2020	LV	https://www.arei.lv/sites/arei/files/files/lapas/Atskaite_inov%C4%81cijas.pdf

RDP	Publisher	Title	Year	Language	Reference
The Netherlands	Bureau Bartels (external evaluator)	Substantive evaluation of the RDP3 knowledge dissemination measure	2020	NL	https://www.netwerkplatteland.nl/documenten/publicaties/2020/09/09/inhoudelijke-evaluatie-van-de-pop3-maatregel-%E2%80%99kennisverspreiding%E2%80%99

Table 5. Completed evaluations related to multiple RDP Priorities

RDP	Publisher	Language	Title	Year	Reference
Estonia	Market Research Limited Liability Company	Residents' awareness regarding the Estonian Rural Development Plan and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund	2020	EE	https://www.agri.ee/sites/default/files/content/uuringud/uuring-2020-mak-emkf-teadlikkus.pdf
Finland - Åland	Regional Government of Åland Islands / Nordregio / Statistics and Research Åland	The evaluators' annual report for 2019	2020	SE	https://www.regeringen.ax/sites/www.regeringen.ax/files/attachments/page/utvardering_aland_lbu_2020_180520_20.pdf
Germany - Rhineland-Palatinate	Ministry of Economy, Transport, Agriculture and Viticulture	2020 evaluation report accompanying the RDP implementation report for 2019	2020	DE	https://www.eler-eulle.rlp.de/Eler-EULLE/Veroeffentlichungen/Berichte/Bewertungsbericht2020zumDurchfuehrungsberichtEPLREULLE2019
Ireland	DAFM	Evaluation of The Burren Programme	2020	EN	https://assets.gov.ie/98196/f13c1130-66d6-4da2-af34-378c92ccb571.pdf
Italy - National	Lattanzio Monitoring	Annual evaluation report to 2019	2020	IT	https://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/11903
Italy - National	Lattanzio Monitoring	Annual evaluation report to 2020	2020	IT	https://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/11903

RDP	Publisher	Language	Title	Year	Reference	
Italy - Abruzzo	ISRI		2020 Annual Assessment Report	2020	IT	https://www.regione.abruzzo.it/content/monitoraggio-e-valutazione
Italy - Basilicata	Regional Nucleus of Evaluation and Verification of Public Investments		Evaluation Report 2020	2020	IT	http://europa.basilicata.it/feasr/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Rapporto-di-Valutazione-2020.pdf
Italy - Calabria	RTI ISRI-Sinapsys		Annual Assessment Report 2020	2020	IT	http://www.calabriapsr.it/misure/1303-rapporti-di-valutazione-del-psr-2014-2020
Italy - Campania	Lattanzio KIBS		RVA 2020 year 2019	2020	IT	http://www.agricoltura.regione.campania.it/psr_2014_2020/pdf/RVA_2020.pdf
Italy - Emilia-Romagna	Agriconsulting		Annual Evaluation Report 2017 and Interim Evaluation Report 2014-2016	2018	IT	http://agricoltura.regione.emilia-romagna.it/psr-2014-2020/doc/monitoraggio-e-valutazione/la-valutazione
Italy - Emilia-Romagna	Agriconsulting		The 2019 Annual Report	2020	IT	http://agricoltura.regione.emilia-romagna.it/psr-2014-2020/doc/monitoraggio-e-valutazione/la-valutazione
Italy - Emilia-Romagna	Agriconsulting		Non-technical summary	2020	IT	http://agricoltura.regione.emilia-romagna.it/psr-2014-2020/doc/monitoraggio-e-valutazione/la-valutazione
Italy - Emilia-Romagna	Agriconsulting		Interim Evaluation Report 2014-2018	2019	IT	http://agricoltura.regione.emilia-romagna.it/psr-2014-2020/doc/monitoraggio-e-valutazione/la-valutazione
Italy - Emilia-Romagna	Agriconsulting		Annual Report 2020	2020	IT	https://agricoltura.regione.emilia-romagna.it/psr-2014-2020/doc/monitoraggio-e-valutazione/documenti-monitoraggio-e-valutazione
Italy - Lazio	Cogea independent evaluator		Annual Evaluation Report for the year 2019	2020	IT	www.lazioeuropa.it
Italy - Lazio	Cogea independent evaluator		Information Dashboard	2020	IT	www.lazioeuropa.it
Italy - Liguria	Lattanzio Monitoring		Analysis of the selection criteria	2020	IT	http://www.agriligurianet.it/it/impresa/sostegno-economico/programma-di-sviluppo-rurale-psr-liguria/psr-2014-2020/valutazione-psr-2014-2020/approfondimenti-tematici.html

RDP	Publisher	Language	Title	Year	Reference
Italy Liguria	- Lattanzio Monitoring	Catalogue of good practices	2020	IT	http://www.agriligurianet.it/it/impresa/sostegno-economico/programma-di-sviluppo-rurale-psr-liguria/psr-2014-2020/valutazione-psr-2014-2020/approfondimenti-tematici.html
Italy Lombardia	- Agriconsulting SpA	2019 Annual Evaluation Report	2020	IT	http://www.psr.regione.lombardia.it/wps/portal/PROUE/FEASR/monitoraggio--valutazione/rapporti-di-valutazione/
Italy Marche	- Lattanzio KIBS SpA	Annual Evaluation Report 2020	2020	IT	https://bit.ly/2TTGbjy
Italy Puglia	- Lattanzio KIBS	Annual evaluation report 2020	2020	IT	https://psr.regione.puglia.it/valutazione-
Italy Sardegna	- RTI ISRI-PwC-Interforum-Primaidea	Annual Assessment Report 2020	2020	IT	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qOZUR4VqpFR4KHBfyYok_aLZ9TG3qfb/view?usp=sharing
Italy Sicilia	- Sicilian region	Annual Implementation Report (Period 01/01/2019 - 31/12/2019)	2020	IT	https://www.psr Sicilia.it/monitoraggio-e-valutazione/
Italy Sicilia	- RTI ISRI-AGT	Annual Evaluation Report 2020	2020	IT	https://www.psr Sicilia.it/monitoraggio-e-valutazione/
Italy Sicilia	- RTI ISRI-AGT	Report on the conditions of assessment and assessment design	2020	IT	https://www.psr Sicilia.it/monitoraggio-e-valutazione/
Italy Umbria	- Lattanzio KIBS	Update of the 2020 Evaluation Program	n.a.	IT	https://www.regione.umbria.it/agricoltura/sorveglianza-e-valutazione2014
Italy Umbria	- Lattanzio KIBS	Annual Evaluation Report 2020	2020	IT	https://www.regione.umbria.it/documents/18/24634209/RAV+PSR+Umbria+2020+luglio+2020.pdf/ab79bcff-22cd-45e8-95a1-680137c2b11d
Latvia	AREI (Institute of Agricultural Resources and Economics)	Calculation of output of organic farming sector	2020	LV	https://www.arei.lv/sites/arei/files/files/lapas/Atskaite_BLS_produkcija_aprekinu.pdf
Lithuania	Ministry of Agriculture	Evaluation of Lithuanian Rural Development Program 2014–2020 implementation/ progress achieved in 2014–2019	2020	LT	https://zum.lrv.lt/uploads/zum/documents/files/LT_versija/Veiklos_sritys/Kaimo_pletra/Lietuvos_kaimo_pletras_2014%E2%80%932020%20m._programa/Steb%C4%97sen%C4%80%20ir%20vertinimas/Tyrimai%20ir%20vertinimai/KPP_2014-2020%20igyvendinimas%202014-2019_ESTEP_2020.pdf

RDP	Publisher	Language	Title	Year	Reference
Portugal - Madeira	PRODERAM 2020	2017 Evaluation Report	2017	PT (and Executive Summary in EN)	https://proderam2020.madeira.gov.pt/proderam2020/avaliacoes/category/66-avaliacao-2017-do-proderam-2020-relatorio-final.html
Portugal - Madeira	PRODERAM 2020	2019 Evaluation Report	2019	PT (and Executive Summary in EN)	https://proderam2020.madeira.gov.pt/proderam2020/avaliacoes/category/93-avaliacao-2019-do-proderam-2020.html
Czech Republic	Mze	RDP Interim Evaluation Report - September 2020	n.a.	n.a.	http://eaagri.cz/public/web/mze/dotace/program-rozvoje-venkova-na-obdobi-2014/hodnoceni-a-monitoring/hodnoceni/prubezna-zprava-o-hodnoceni-prvzari-3.html
Czech Republic	Mze	Annual Implementation Report 2019	n.a.	n.a.	http://eaagri.cz/public/web/mze/dotace/program-rozvoje-venkova-na-obdobi-2014/hodnoceni-a-monitoring/vyrocnizpravy/vyrocnizprava-za-rok-2019-soubor.html
Portugal - Mainland	RDP2020 (PT Mainland) Managing Authority)	III. 2019 Evaluation of RDP 2020	2019	PT (and Executive Summary in EN)	http://www.pdr-2020.pt/Centro-de-informacao/Relatorio-de-Avaliacao
Portugal - Mainland	RDP2020 (PT Mainland) Managing Authority)	II. 2017 Evaluation of RDP 2020	2017	PT (and Executive Summary in EN)	http://www.pdr-2020.pt/Centro-de-informacao/Relatorio-de-Avaliacao
Portugal - Açores	Regional Directorate for Rural Development	2017 Evaluation of the Rural Development Program of the Autonomous Region of the Azores	2017	PT and Executive summary in EM	http://proruralmais.azores.gov.pt/proruralmais/Avalia%C3%A7%C3%B5es
Portugal - Açores	Regional Directorate for Rural Development	2019 Evaluation of the Rural Development Program of the Autonomous Region of the Azores	2019	PT and Executive summary in EM	http://proruralmais.azores.gov.pt/proruralmais/Avalia%C3%A7%C3%B5es
Germany - Saarland	EAFRD Managing Authority	Ongoing evaluation of the development program for the rural area of Saarland 2014-2020, calendar year 2020	2021	DE	https://www.saarland.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/muv/landwirtschaft/dl_ELER_Laufende_Bewertung_2020.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=1

RDP	Publisher	Language	Title	Year	Reference
Spain - National	Managing Authority National RDP	Annual Implementation Report 2020	2021	ES	https://www.mapa.gob.es/es/desarrollo-rural/temas/programas-ue/periodo-2014-2020/programas-de-desarrollo-rural/programa-nacional/subhome.aspx
Spain - Andalucía	Evaluation Unit of the General Directorate of European Funds and technical assistance	Evaluation of the results of the Rural Program of Andalusia (2014-2020). (Annuity 2018)	2019	ES	https://juntadeandalucia.es/export/drupaljda/Informe%20Evaluacion_2.pdf
Spain - Andalucía	Evaluation Unit of the General Directorate of European Funds and technical assistance	Ex ante evaluation for the implementation of Financial Instruments in the agri-food sector of Andalusia in the programming period for 2014-2020.	2020	ES	https://juntadeandalucia.es/export/drupaljda/Evaluacin%20ex%20ante%20IF%20PDR-A1420.pdf
Spain - Andalucía	Evaluation Unit of the General Directorate of European Funds and technical assistance	Evaluation report of the Rural Development Program 2014-2020 (Annuity 2016)	2017	ES	https://juntadeandalucia.es/export/drupaljda/Informe%20Evaluaci%C3%B3n%20PDRA%202014-2020_v3%20def.pdf
Spain - Aragón	General Directorate of Rural Development. Department of Rural Development and Sustainability	Ongoing Evaluation Report. Annuity 2020	2020	ES	https://www.aragon.es/documents/20127/2759733/Informe+de+Evaluaci%C3%B3n+Continua.+Anualidad+2020.pdf/bfdd3321-fc4e-528f-8988-ef322b3139cd?t=1605529556412

RDP	Publisher	Language	Title	Year	Reference
Spain - Castilla y León	Program Management Authority	Evaluation report of the AIR year 2020	2020	ES	https://agriculturaganaderia.jcyl.es/web/es/desarrollo-rural/seguimiento-evaluacion-programa.html
Spain - Principado de Asturias	Tecnologías y Servicios Agrarios, SA (Tragsatec)	Evaluation year 2017	2017	ES	https://www.asturias.es/detalle/-/categories/556528?prp_categoryId=556528&com_liferay_asset_categories_navigation_web_portlet_AssetCategoriesNavigationPortlet_articleId=2528701&articleId=2528701&title=Programa%20de%20Desarrollo%20Rural%20FEADER%202014-
Spain - Principado de Asturias	Tecnologías y Servicios Agrarios, SA (Tragsatec)	Evaluation 2019	n.a.	ES	https://www.asturias.es/detalle/-/categories/556528?prp_categoryId=556528&com_liferay_asset_categories_navigation_web_portlet_AssetCategoriesNavigationPortlet_articleId=2528701&articleId=2528701&title=Programa%20de%20Desarrollo%20Rural%20FEADER%202014-
Sweden	The Swedish Board of Agriculture	Farmers' future assessments and belief in the future	2020	SE	https://webbutiken.jordbruksverket.se/sv/artiklar/upp206.html
United Kingdom - England	Defra	Agri-environment schemes and climate change mitigation	2020	EN	http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=20017&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=LM0470&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10#Description
United Kingdom - Wales	Welsh Government	An evaluation of the Knowledge Transfer, Innovation and Advisory Services Scheme	2020	EN	https://gov.wales/evaluation-knowledge-transfer-innovation-and-advisory-services-programme#:~:text=Evaluation of the knowledge transfer, innovation and advisory,sector as part of the Farming Connect Service.
Greece	Contracting Authority: MA RDP 2014-2020	Annual Implementation Report 2017 of the RDP 2014-2020, Chapter 7 - Evaluation of the Information and the progress for the achievement of the objectives of the Programme	2017	GR	https://ead.gr/information/evaluation/annual-reports/
Greece	Contracting Authority: MA RDP 2014-2020	Evaluator of the Annual Implementation Report 2019 of the RDP	2019	GR	https://ead.gr/information/evaluation/annual-reports/

Table 6. Completed evaluations related to RDP governance, delivery, monitoring and evaluation

RDP	Publisher	Title	Year	Language	Reference
Germany - Hesse	Thünen Institute for Rural Areas	The view of the Hessian economic and social partners: inside on the funding period 2023 to 2027	2020	DE	https://www.eleer-evaluierung.de/fileadmin/eler2/Publikationen/Projektberichte/5-Laender-Bewertung/2020/19_2020_HE_WiSo_Befragung.pdf
Italy - Basilicata	Regional Nucleus of Evaluation and Verification of Public Investments	Analysis of the selection criteria of the Basilicata EAFRD 2014/2020 Rural Development Program	n.a.	IT	http://europa.basilicata.it/feasr/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Analisi-dei-criteri-di-selezione-del-PSR-Basilicata-2014_2020.pdf
Italy - Friuli-Venezia Giulia	Friuli Venezia Giulia Region	III Thematic evaluation report "Administrative capacity"	2020	IT	http://www.regione.fvg.it/rafv/export/sites/default/RAFG/GEN/programmazione/FOGLIA23/allegati/02102020_Rapporto_capacita_operativa_FVG.pdf
Italy - Rural Development Programme (Regional) - Molise	Managing Director RDP 2014/2020 of Molise Region	Measure 4.1, Measure 4.2 Measure 6.1 - Evaluations regarding the service provided, in terms of satisfaction and perceived quality	n.a.	IT	https://psr.regione.molise.it/monitoraggio
Romania	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Evaluation study - "Administrative capacity in implementing the RDP"	2020	RO/EN	https://www.madr.ro/pndr-2014-2020/implementare-pndr-2014-2020/evaluare-pndr-2014-2020/studii-rapoarte-de-evaluare.html

RDP	Publisher	Title	Year	Language	Reference
Croatia	Ministry of Agriculture	Evaluation of the Rural Development Program of the Republic of Croatia for the period 2014-2020, evaluation of the system and preparation of analysis for reporting to the European Commission in 2019 - Evaluation of the existing management, control and implementation system of the Rural Development Program and existing IT systems	2019	HR	https://ruralnirazvoji.hr/files/Zavr%C5%A1no-izvje%C5%A1%C4%87e-o-vrednovanju-mjera-PRR-a-za-potrebe-GIP-a-u-2019..pdf
Sweden	The Swedish Board of Agriculture	The selection criteria governing the distribution of aid	2020	SE	https://webbutiken.jordbruksverket.se/sv/artiklar/upp208.html
Sweden	The Swedish Board of Agriculture	Functionality and alternatives for decision-making rounds	2020	SE	https://webbutiken.jordbruksverket.se/sv/artiklar/upp205.html
Italy - Toscana	Lattanzio KIBS	First Thematic Evaluation Report (C1.1) - Structuring and Observation "The effectiveness of communication in the Tuscan PSR"	2020	IT	https://www.regione.toscana.it/psr-2014-2020/gestione-e-sorveglianza/monitoraggio-e-valutazione1
Italy - Toscana	Lattanzio KIBS	First Thematic Evaluation Report (C1.2) - Analysis and Judgment "The effectiveness of communication in the Tuscan PSR "		IT	https://www.regione.toscana.it/psr-2014-2020/gestione-e-sorveglianza/monitoraggio-e-valutazione1

Table 7. Completed evaluations related to National Rural Networks and technical assistance

RDP	Publisher	Title	Year	Language	Reference
Belgium - Flanders	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries	Flemish Rural Network. Internal evaluation. Working year 2020	2020	NL	https://ruraalnetwerk.be/sites/default/files/pagina_files/Evaluatie%20werkjaar%202020_website.pdf

RDP	Publisher	Title	Year	Language	Reference
France - National Rural Network	National Rural Network	NRN annual implementation report, contribution to evaluation questions	2019	FR	https://www.reseaurural.fr/sites/default/files/documents/fichiers/2019-10/2019_rrf_rapport_evaluation_PSRRN_teriteo.pdf
Germany – National Rural Network	Private Institute for Regional and Business Development (PRU)	Ongoing evaluation 2019 programme "National Network Germany for the period 2015-2024"	2021	DE	https://www.netzwerk-laendlicher-raum.de/fileadmin/Redaktion/Seiten/Service/Ueber_uns/Berichte/2021-05-20_Bewertung_NLR-2020.pdf
Ireland	National Rural Network (NRN)	NRN	n.a.	EN	https://www.nationalruralnetwork.ie/
Italy – National Rural Network	Lattanzio Monitoring	Annual Evaluation Report 2019	2020	IT	https://www.reterurale.it/RAV
Italy - National Rural Network	Lattanzio Monitoring	Disclosure Catalogue “Good Practices of NRN 2014-2020” Second Volume - Priority 2 and Priority 3	2020	IT	https://www.reterurale.it/RAV
Italy - National Rural Network	Lattanzio Monitoring	Title Annual Thematic Report 2020-Strategic Priority 2	2020	IT	https://www.reterurale.it/RAV
United Kingdom - Scotland	Scottish Government	Evaluation of the Scottish Rural Network	2020	EN	https://www.gov.scot/publications/evaluation-scottish-rural-network/

Table 8. Completed evaluations specifically related to LEADER/CLLD

RDP	Publisher	Title	Year	Language	Reference
France - PACA	Provence Alpes Cote d'Azur Region	Mid-Term Evaluation of the Leader Programme 2014-2020 In the South Provence Alpes Cote D'azur Region	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Germany - Hesse	Thünen Institute for Rural Areas	Priority Area 6B - Promoting Local Development in Rural Areas	2019	DE	https://www.eler-evaluierung.de/fileadmin/eler2/Publikationen/Projektberichte/5-Laender-Bewertung/2019/16_2019_HE_6b_Bericht_TI_end_mit_Anhaengen.pdf
Italy - Liguria	Lattanzio Monitoring	Annual evaluation report - 2020	2020	IT	http://www.agriligurianet.it/it/impresa/sostegno-economico/programma-di-sviluppo-rurale-psr-liguria/psr-2014-2020/valutazione-psr-2014-2020/rapporti-annuali.html
Italy - Piemonte	IRES Piedmont	Rural businesses and health emergency - A survey on LAG areas in Piedmont	2020	IT	http://www.piemonterurale.it/images/documenti/CR_2020-302_Indagine_Covid_Aree_Rurali_2020_IRES.pdf
Italy - Piemonte	IRES Piedmont	Local development strategies for tourism. Spatial analysis on the degree of integration of the 2014-2020 RDP interventions	2020	IT	http://www.piemonterurale.it/images/documenti/CR_296-2020_SviluppoLocaleGAL_ok.pdf
Italy - Sardegna	RTI ISRI-PwC-Interforum-Primaidea	Thematic report on LAG mid-term self-assessment	2020	IT	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1apH-if7OMjPic4BxMGxr-if45YZj_7wP/view?usp=sharing
Italy - Veneto	Veneto Region	Support for the self-assessment of the Veneto LAGs	2020	IT	https://www.regione.veneto.it/web/agricoltura-e-foreste/autovalutazione-gal-del-veneto
Portugal - Madeira	LAG ACAPORAM A	Local Development Strategy - Midterm Evaluation	2019	PT	https://acaporama.org/upload/6d47b0492a2a3f98233198c109ffd0cd.pdf

RDP	Publisher	Title	Year	Language	Reference
Portugal - Madeira	LAG ADRAMA	Evaluation of the Development Strategy of LAG ADRAMA in 2019	2019	PT	n.a.
Portugal - Mainland	National Rural Network, Minha Terra	IV. Mid-term Evaluation of Local Development Strategies (CLLD)	2019	PT	https://www.rederural.gov.pt/centro-de-recursos/send/12-leader/1892-relatorio-analise-prospectiva-dos-resultados-da-avaliacao-intercalar-das-estrategias-de-desenvolvimento-local-contributo-para-o-processo-de-definicao-da-estrategia-portugal-2030 ; https://www.minhaterra.pt/wst/files/l13604-RELATXXRIOXRESULTADOSXAVALIACAOXINTERCALARXEDLXGALXFINAL.PDF
Spain - Castilla-La Mancha	General Directorate of Rural Development of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development	Synthesis report of the results of the Leader approach evaluation	2020	ES	https://pdr.castillalamancha.es/sites/pdr.castillalamancha.es/files/documentos/paginas/archivos/evaluacion_leader_2020_grupos.pdf
Sweden	The Swedish Board of Agriculture	The spread of the projects between focus areas within locally led development	2020	SE	https://webbutiken.jordbruksverket.se/sv/artiklar/upp201.html
Sweden	The Swedish Board of Agriculture	Environmental projects in locally led development	2020	SE	https://webbutiken.jordbruksverket.se/sv/artiklar/upp203.html
Sweden	The Swedish Board of Agriculture	Sustainable LEADER effects in theory and practice: Interim report 2	2020	SE	https://webbutiken.jordbruksverket.se/sv/artiklar/utv201.html

RDP	Publisher	Title	Year	Language	Reference
United Kingdom - Scotland	Rural Policy Centre, Scotland's Rural College	The role of the LEADER approach post-Brexit	2020	EN	https://pure.sruc.ac.uk/en/publications/the-role-of-the-leader-approach-post-brexit
Italy - Toscana	Lattanzio KIBS	The First LEADER Report (E1.1) - Structuring and Observation of the LEADER self-assessment	2020	IT	https://www.regione.toscana.it/psr-2014-2020/gestione-e-sorveglianza/monitoraggio-e-valutazione1

Table 9. Completed evaluations related to the CAP Strategic Plans

RDP	Publisher	Title	Year	Language	Reference
Cyprus	Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment	Assessment / analysis of the current situation of the agricultural sector	2020	GR	http://www.paa.gov.cy/moa/paa/paa.nsf/page74_gr/page74_gr?OpenDocument
Estonia	Agricultural Research Center	Study on the identification of factors influencing the construction of land improvement systems	2020	EE	https://pmk.agri.ee/sites/default/files/2020-12/Maaparandus_uuringu_I%C3%B5pparuanne_2020.pdf
Germany - Berlin + Brandenburg	Monitoring and evaluation network Germany	Measure-specific lessons learned using the example of Brandenburg	2020	DE	http://www.men-d.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Praktik_52_2020_MEND.pdf
Slovenia	University of Ljubljana, Faculty of	Targeted research project - Design of information solutions to support the implementation of the Common	2020	SI	https://www.fdv.uni-lj.si/raziskovanje/institut-za-druzbene-vede/nacionalni-projekti/V5-1810

RDP	Publisher	Title	Year	Language	Reference
	Social Sciences	Agricultural Policy of the European Union on the basis of data			
Slovenia	Deloitte d.o.o.	Prioritization of the needs of the Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan for the period 2021-2027	2021	SI	https://program-podezelja.si/sl/knjiznica/494-prioritizacija-potreb-strateskega-nacrta-skupne-kmetijske-politike-za-obdobje-2021-2027/file
Slovenia	Deloitte d.o.o.	Ex-ante evaluation of the Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan for the period 2021-2027	Not published yet	SO	https://program-podezelja.si/sl/kaj-je-program-razvoja-podezelja-2014-2020/spremljanje-in-vrednotenje/vrednotenje
Spain - Comunidad Foral de Navarra	Department of Rural Development and Environment	Proposals for agri-environmental aid that can be implemented in Navarra under the next CAP Strategic Plan for the period 2021-2027	2020	ES	https://www.navarra.es/appsext/DescargarFichero/default.aspx?CodigoCompleto=Portal@@@DRMAYAL/PAC/Nuevas-Plan-Estrategico-PAC-2021-2027.pdf

Table 10. Completed evaluations related to food chain organisation and animal welfare

RDP	Publisher	Title	Year	Language	Reference
Germany - Hesse	Thünen Institute for Business Administration	Evaluation of the animal welfare effects of the agricultural investment promotion program	2021	DE	https://www.elever-evaluierung.de/fileadmin/eler2/Publikationen/Projektberichte/5-Laender-Bewertung/2021/01_2021-HE-Tierwohl-Wirkungen_AFP.pdf
Germany - North Rhine-Westphalia	Thünen Institute	Evaluation of the funding of investments in the processing and marketing of agricultural products - NRW RDP 2014 to 2020	2020	DE	https://www.elever-evaluierung.de/fileadmin/eler2/Publikationen/Projektberichte/5-Laender-Bewertung/2020/18-2020_NRW_VV.pdf

RDP	Publisher	Title	Year	Language	Reference
Germany - Schleswig-Holstein	Thünen Institute for Business Administration	Evaluation of the promotion of investments in the processing and marketing of agricultural products	2020	DE	https://www.eler-evaluierung.de/fileadmin/eler2/Publikationen/Projektberichte/5-Laender-Bewertung/2020/4_2020_-_SH_VV-Foerderung-SH-final_MS.pdf
Hungary	Field Consulting Services Zrt.; Collectivo Kft.	Evaluation of the Short Supply Chain thematic sub-program	2020	HU	www.palyazat.gov.hu
Spain - La Rioja	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural World, Territory and Population of the Government of La Rioja	Regulatory analysis of short marketing circuits of agricultural products	2020	ES	https://www.larioja.org/larioja-client/cm/agricultura/images?idMmedia=1301088

Table 11. Completed evaluations related to contextual trends and other funds

RDP	Publisher	Title	Year	Language	Reference
Italy - Piemonte	IRES Piedmont	The COVID-19 emergency scenario. Analysis for the agri-food sector and agritourism in Piedmont	2020	IT	http://www.piemonterurale.it/images/documenti/2020-09-01_covid_analisi_ires_aggiornamento.pdf
Italy - Piemonte	IRES Piedmont	Rural Piedmont 2020	2020	IT	http://www.piemonterurale.it/images/documenti/PiemonteRurale2020.pdf
Spain - La Rioja	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural World, Territory and Population of the Government of La Rioja	Complementarities report between the Strategic Subsidy Plan and the Rural Development Program 2014-2020 of La Rioja	2020	ES	https://www.larioja.org/larioja-client/cm/agricultura/images?idMmedia=1301092

Table 12. Completed evaluations specifically related to EIP-AGRI

RDP	Publisher	Title	Year	Language	Reference
Germany - Lower Saxony + Bremen	Thünen Institute for Rural Areas	Implementation of the European Innovation Partnerships in the context of the first call - report 2 (M16, priority 2)	2020	DE	https://www.eler-evaluierung.de/fileadmin/eler2/Publikationen/Projektberichte/5-Laender-Bewertung/2020/9_2020_-_NI_EIP_Bericht_2.pdf
Spain - País Vasco	University of the Basque Country	Evaluation Report on Cooperation Measure 16. RDP Euskadi 2015-2020	2021	ES	https://www.euskadi.eus/contenidos/informacion/osoa_dokumentazioa/es_def/adjuntos/Informe_de_evaluacion_2020.pdf



RDP	Publisher	Title	Year	Language	Reference
Spain - Región de Murcia	Program management authority	Case study Evapo-Control Operating Group: Anti-loss system by evaporation in irrigation reservoirs	2020	ES	https://pdr.carm.es/

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