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FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT



REPORT

HOW TO DEMONSTRATE RDP ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACTS: LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE EVALUATIONS REPORTED IN THE AIRs 2019

GOOD PRACTICE WORKSHOP
SEVILLA, 11-12 DECEMBER 2019

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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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LIST OF ACRONYMS

CAP: Common Agricultural Policy

CEQ: Common Evaluation Question

CIS: Community Innovation Survey

DG AGRI: Directorate General Agriculture and Rural Development

DiD: Difference in Difference

EC: European Commission

ENRD: European Network for Rural Development

EU: European Union

FADN: Farm Accountancy Data Network

FBI: Farmland Bird Index

GHG: Greenhouse gas

GIS: Geographic Information System

IO: Input Output

ISPRA: Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale (Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research)

JRC: Joint Research Institute

LEADER: Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale (original acronym)

LDS: Local development strategy

LUCAS: Land Use and Coverage Area frame Survey

MA: Managing Authority

RDP: Rural Development Programme

PA: Paying Agency

PMEF: Programme Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 12th Good Practice Workshop 'How to demonstrate RDP achievements and impacts: lessons from the evaluations reported in the AIR 2019' took place in Sevilla (Spain) on 11 and 12 December 2019. It had the overarching objective to reflect on the 2019 evaluation experience with a view to preparing the ex post evaluation of RDPs 2014-2020.

The workshop brought together 56 participants from 22 different EU Member States and focused specifically on the practical approaches (methods, indicators, data) used for the evaluations and reporting in the AIR 2019, the lessons learned and recommendations for the future ex post evaluations.

The workshop offered insight into the approaches and methodologies used to assess indicators and answer the common evaluation questions from several Member States, notably through case studies from Estonia, Slovenia, Sweden, Greece and the Czech Republic in the field of environment, from Latvia and Poland in the field of competitiveness and in the field of balanced territorial development, Finland covered accessibility and ICTs while Spain and Austria covered employment, poverty and GDP. The Helpdesk offered further insights on the approaches used to evaluate the contribution of RDPs to fostering innovation. The case studies and discussions that followed identified a number of key lessons for the evaluation stakeholders:

- **For environmental indicators, there are useful lessons in terms of the overall approach, methodologies and data.** Given the difficulties in calculating some indicators (e.g. for biodiversity), the overall approach could include additional judgment criteria and simple or alternative indicators, while relying more on beneficiary surveys for the collection of data, carrying out sample monitoring or environmental monitoring missions to analyse the effects of specific interventions or ad-hoc thematic evaluations. More elaborate methodologies such as DiD, counterfactual and statistical analysis have also been used successfully and should be fine-tuned and used where possible, with caution about interpreting the results, bearing in mind that different indicators may give different results while high values may not always imply positive results.
- **In relation to competitiveness, the inconsistencies of FADN data have been highlighted,** e.g. the representativeness of the data when it covers only a certain number or size of farms and the timing in the availability of FADN datasets. Suggested options to overcome these issues include the use of methods for extrapolating FADN data to the national level or the use of sectoral models, provided there are sufficient resources (time, funds, experts). It was also stressed that evaluation approaches should adopt a longer term perspective by considering upcoming and new needs emerging from the 2030 Sustainable Rural Development, Agriculture and Fisheries Strategy, while also considering the macro level multiplier effects, especially for investment measures.
- **In the field of accessibility and ICTs, the use of accurate spatial data and GIS (population grid) analysis has proved useful** for showing local differences and for better coordination of interventions in the future. This can be complemented with panel regression models and matching methods as well as scenario analysis to assess the impacts more concretely. The use of such approaches can help shape and support telecommunication policies and their reach in rural areas.
- **Measuring causal effects is difficult, especially for measuring poverty and employment, in the field of balanced territorial development.** RDPs are generally not designed to have a major focus on these issues, while often such effects are indirect, depend on many factors and take time to become evident. For these reasons, it is important to broaden the scope of analytical tools and use a small number of simple indicators, while also enhance the methodology with complementary approaches, use the expertise from other past and current programmes and combine quantitative models with empirical analysis to obtain a more complete picture.

1 SETTING THE FRAME

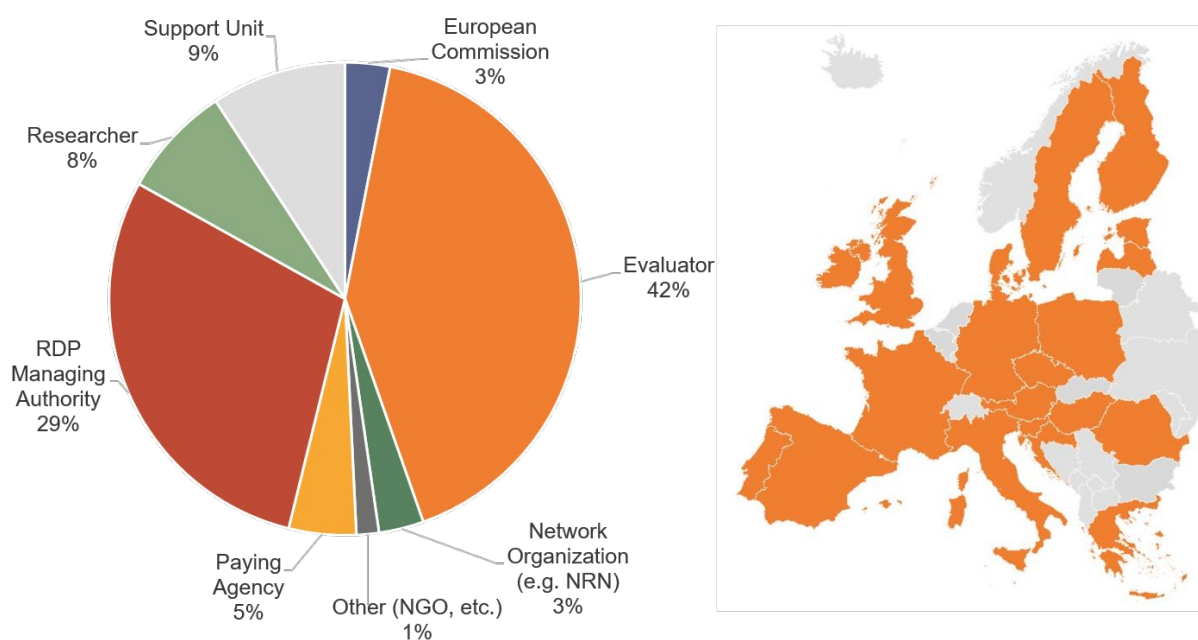
Member States have recently completed their evaluations and the results which have been included in the enhanced Annual Implementation Reports submitted in June 2019 (hereafter AIR 2019). They reported as already in 2017 on RDP achievements by answering the Common Evaluation Questions (CEQs) 1-21 and, for the first time, the contributions of RDPs to the EU’s strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, as well as the biodiversity strategy (headline targets), and CAP objectives (impacts) by answering CEQs 22-30.

The challenge that lies ahead is drawing the lessons from the evaluation exercise in 2019 and preparing for the ex post evaluation in 2024 as foreseen in Article 78 of the Rural Development Regulation¹. In this context, it is also important to note, that Evaluation Helpdesk will launch in early 2020 a thematic working group (TWG) on "the ex post evaluation of RDPs 2014-2020: learning from practice", which will bring together the lessons learned from the AIRs and the good practice workshop.

This Good Practice Workshop aimed to share good practices from the evaluations and reporting in the AIR 2019 and the practical approaches (methods, indicators, data) used. It also identified challenges and needs for further guidance for MAs and evaluators in preparing the ex post evaluations.

56 participants from 22 different EU Member States attended the event, including RDP Managing Authorities, evaluators, EU level representatives (e.g. European Commission, ENRD Evaluation Helpdesk), Researchers, National Rural Networks, and other actors.

Figure 1. Participants of the Good Practice Workshop by role and Member State



Source: Helpdesk data

Ms Mar Herrera-Menchen (Andalucian Institute of Public Administration) opened the event by stressing the importance of an evaluation system for the ex post but also for the future. Andalucía is currently working on the preparation of the CAP Strategic Plan and trying to ensure there is an evaluation system in place for the future. To this end, they also have a group of evaluators who tries to build the evaluation capacity in the Andalusian Region.

¹ Regulation (EU) 1305/2013

Ms Zélie Pepiette (DG AGRI, Advisor) thanked the actors involved in the evaluation of the AIRs, including the evaluators, managing authorities, paying agency. The Commission appreciated the higher level and detail of information contained in the AIRs 2019, especially if compared to the enhanced AIRs in 2017. She explained how the AIRs are used in DG AGRI to feed into and inform the policy progress. She described how certain policy areas are progressing, notably in Priority 1 (knowledge and advice) the progress in implementation is slow, which is disappointing since it usually has a lot of impact in the achievement of the other priorities, Priority 2 is progressing well, except forestry which is lagging behind and shows very little uptake, in Priority 3 (food chain and risk management) an open question is whether the money invested is improving farming if most of the support goes to processing, in Priority 4 (environment/eco-systems) progress is good except for forestry, in Priority 5 (resource efficiency/climate) targets are being achieved with less resources than expected, but it is hard to find data on the amount of energy, while not enough is done on climate change and in Priority 6 LEADER coverage is good, but there is a lack of reporting on the wider achievements of LEADER.



Mr Hannes Wimmer (ENRD Evaluation Helpdesk) presented an overview of the AIR 2019 screening and the lessons learned from the synthesis of AIRs 2019. They described the level of reporting of common evaluation questions and indicators, stressing that the assessment of net contributions was overall limited.

Mr Eduardo Serrano-Padial (DG AGRI, Unit C.4 Monitoring and Evaluation) highlighted the lessons for the future from the 2019 AIRs and the specific areas for improvement as well as the milestones of the future timeline. He explained that the experience with the AIRs is a good opportunity to start preparing and improving the system for the future PMEF, by considering also the new delivery model, the indicators, the requirements. The new delivery model will require building a different culture of evaluation, in terms of interactions between the Member States and cooperative approaches between Member States, evaluators and the EC.



After the introductory interventions, participants posed the following questions to the presenters:



How should we evaluate the contributions of LEADER?

Ms Peppiette stressed that "LEADER is a 'special animal' in the RDP". There are two targets linked to LEADER: area coverage and job creation. One of the challenges of the evaluation for LEADER is that it is difficult to foresee the achievements and impacts of LEADER before the LDS have been approved. When projects are implemented by the LEADER group, these should be assessed in the same way as how other measures contribute to other Focus Areas. This is different from setting the targets and measuring the progress in the achievements. The Commission encourages the assessment of how LEADER contributes to all Focus Areas. In the current legal proposal, for LEADER evaluation, the MA will establish some specific targets once the LDS are approved.

How should we measure the impact of RDPs by separating from the impact of other policies?

Mr Serrano-Padial reminded that there are guidelines available. A key point is the consistency of the data. The counterfactual analysis allows one to compare effects of the policy from what other policies achieve. Even if the impact you are going to assess is imperfect, it will give you some helpful information.

2 SHARING EXPERIENCES

2.1 Evaluation of RDP contributions to sustainable management of natural resources

Mr Hannes Wimmer (ENRD Evaluation Helpdesk) moderated a series of joint presentations from several Member States on topics related to the sustainable management of natural resources, notably, biodiversity, water, soil and energy efficiency, renewable energies and GHG emissions.

Biodiversity

Ms Eneli Viik (evaluator) from Estonia and Mr Gregor Skender (evaluator) from Slovenia highlighted the approach used in their respective RDPs, in terms of judgment criteria, indicators and methods used, in order to answer CEQ8 in relation to biodiversity. Estonia in particular also offered insights into the additional indicators used, while they both stressed the main limitations of their approaches and recommendations for the ex-post evaluation.

Water and Soil

Mr Dimitris Lianos (evaluator) from Greece and Mr Lukáš Maláč (evaluator) from the Czech Republic presented the contribution of RDPs to water and soil management, notably through calculating indicators I.10 (water abstraction), I.11 (water quality), I.12 (soil organic matter in arable land) and I.13 (soil erosion by water) and answering CEQ28. He explained the approach used in terms of methods and data used as well as the limitations of their approaches and recommendations for the RDP ex-post evaluation in 2023.



Energy and Emissions

Eric Markus (evaluator) presented the approach used in Sweden to assess energy efficiency (CEQ12), renewable energy production (CEQ13), GHG and ammonia emissions (CEQ14). Gregor Skender (evaluator) presented the approach used in Slovenia to assess GHG and ammonia emissions (CEQ14). Both speakers highlighted the limitations of the approaches used and recommended improvements for the future ex-post evaluation.

Links to the PPTs:

[Evaluation of RDP effects on biodiversity in Estonia](#) (Eneli Viik)

[Evaluation of RDP effects on biodiversity and emissions in Slovenia](#) (Gregor Skender)

[Evaluation of the RDP contribution to the sustainable management of natural resources and climate action in Greece](#) (Dimitris Lianos)

[Evaluation of RDP environmental impacts in the Czech Republic](#) (Lukáš Maláč)

[The evaluation of RDP effects on energy and emissions from agriculture in Sweden](#) (Eric Markus)

After the presentations, participants posed the following questions to the presenters:

Biodiversity

How did you calculate the FBI?, We have 60 transects. Ornithologists are collecting data on a voluntary basis. Moreover, the collection of data does not happen in areas where agricultural activities are taking place. How can you connect farming information to bird data if the data is not being collected in those very places?

Ms Viik clarified that they did not use the data which is used to calculate the FBI for Estonia as the methodology and location of data collection was not appropriate to evaluate RDP agri-environment measures. Instead, they used a specific study which is carried out every year on 66 monitoring farms where also bumblebee monitoring is carried out.



How many variables were matching in the 15 transects?

Mr Skender explained that 7 covariates were used (e.g. % of land, of forest) to find matching transects, taking into account the diversity of the landscape (e.g. Mediterranean, Alps, ...). The transects were compared using DiD. It is quite difficult to get a comparison across very diversified areas. For this reason, specific, narrow areas were analysed in order to establish how the population of species developed over time in response to RDP measures.



The assessment of environmental impacts depends on the local characteristics (e.g. distance from forests and river). Did you take them into account?

Mr Skender stressed they focused on Natura 2000 areas and looked at the species on these areas, the measures implemented and see how species behaved during implementation of measures in these areas.

Water and soil

One of the key differences is that in the Czech Republic you have good model and a lot of data on soil, whereas in Greece, the model is good but the sampling data is lacking. What can you do when data is missing for applying a robust model?

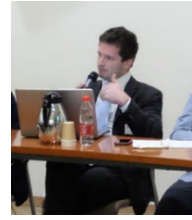
Mr Maláč explained they did not apply a strong counterfactual on 'with' and 'without' support. They applied a model comparing soil erosion by water in conventional vs non-conventional farms.

Mr Lianos also explained that the ex post evaluation raised the need for preparing a good monitoring system and the evaluation findings reported in the AIRs 2019 are the result of very long work, which they will try to further improve in the future.



What kind of matching have you used for 27 variables used in the Czech Republic? Exact matching?

Mr Maláč clarified that based on 4 variables, they obtained 27 categories (e.g. high, medium, low level). Out of these variables, they compared different farms with and without support.



Energy and emissions

Did you collect data from non-beneficiaries, e.g. non successful applicants?

Mr Markus replied that in Sweden, they did not collect data from non-beneficiaries, but they are using beneficiaries from M04 Investments in modernisation as comparison group. The non-successful applicants is certainly a good idea for creating a control group, but it is not easy in terms of administrative procedures.



What do you mean about data requirements? It seems that in Slovenia, the data demand was high because of the scheme whereas for Sweden, the data demand was high because of the evaluation.

Mr Markus explained that In Sweden, they did not make an had hoc survey, but data was collected in the application form and final report of the beneficiaries. There are challenges in terms of data management, data quality check, data revision, etc.

Do you have any suggestions on how to collect data from farmers benefitting from interventions which can be linked to energy?

Mr Markus stressed that it is important to recognise that data for energy savings and energy efficiency (i.e. kWh/standard output) are very different. Collecting data for energy efficiency may hide an expansion of energy use or associated emissions due to an expansion of production. Energy savings data are important to show the actual amount of energy saved.



2.2 Evaluation of RDP contribution to competitiveness in agriculture and balanced territorial development

Ms Marili Parissaki (ENRD Evaluation Helpdesk) moderated a series of joint presentations from several Member States on topics related to competitiveness and balanced territorial development.

Farm competitiveness

Mr Juris Hāznars (evaluator) from Latvia and Ms Monika Sochaczewska (evaluator) from Poland presented their respective approaches in terms of judgment criteria, indicators, methods and data used to answer questions related to competitiveness in agriculture. They both covered CEQ27, while Mr Hāznars also covered CEQ 4. As both countries used PSM-DiD to calculate the indicators and answer CEQ27, it was enriching for participants to see the comparative assessment of the limitations and recommendations for the future.

Balanced territorial development

Mr Olli Lehtonen (researcher) from Finland presented the approach used to answer CEQ18 in relation to accessibility and ICTs in sparsely populated areas in Finland. The added value of the presentation was the combination of methods used, notably GIS spatial analysis and DiD.

Ms Beatriz Sánchez (evaluator) from Spain and Mr Franz Sinabell (researcher) from Austria closed the round of presentations by presenting the approach used for calculating indicators related to employment, poverty and rural GDP. The presentation was comprehensive by covering methods such as Input-Output analysis and beneficiary surveys in Spain and econometric modelling in Austria. They concluded with a description of their respective limitations and recommendations for the future.



After the presentations, Ms Zélie Peppiette from DG AGRI pointed out that the presentations revealed that some things have not worked as planned. Member States were involved in the choice of indicators and should be thinking of not what is perfect, but what is possible. How many evaluators actually went back to beneficiaries to ask for more information? The EC had envisaged that the evaluators need to go to beneficiaries to collect certain information on economic effects to see what has actually happened.

Links to the PPTs:

[Evaluation of RDP effects on farms competitiveness in Latvia](#) (Juris Hāznars)

[Evaluation of the RDP contribution to fostering competitiveness in agriculture in Poland](#) (Monika Sochaczewska)

[Population grid based evaluation of support for the expansion of broadband in sparsely populated areas - experiences from Finland](#) (Olli Lehtonen)

[Evaluation of RDP achievements and impacts on balanced territorial development in Spanish regions: Andalucía, La Rioja and Castilla-La Mancha](#) (Beatriz Sánchez)

[Evaluation of RDP contributions to employment and GDP growth in Austrian rural regions](#) (Franz Sinabell)

After the presentation, participants made the following questions and comments to the presenters:

Competitiveness

Did you use PSM for calculating secondary impacts as well?

Mr Hāzners explained that the numbers for making treatment groups is too small for calculating PSM for the evaluation of secondary impacts.

Evaluators can ask for additional samples in FADN, so it would be a solution to calculate PSM (this how it is used in Italy: many MAs use the results of RDP measure 20 to complement the FADN database, to get more beneficiaries). Also, in Italy, M 5.1 was used to complement the FADN database.

Mr Hāzners stressed we should not forget that we need time series.



ICT and accessibility

Did you have data about the effective use of broadband, as so far it seems it is built on the construction of broadband? Will you be able to see where broadband will be effectively used?

Mr Lehtonen explained that if you have availability for broadband, then the users are there. They did some estimates based on population structure. They were able to do estimations but no statistics.

(1) When you perform a GIS spatial analysis, you reach a point where the units are comparable to each other. Do you use matching to make them comparable, and if so, how and how many?

In relation to (1) Mr Lehtonen explained that once they created the GIS database, they were not able to analyse one single population grid, so they created unofficial statistical areas and used those for modelling purposes.



(2) What can be other variables that have not been included that can impact the model? You may get biased results from the regression.

Construction of these areas was related to broadband construction areas.

In relation to (2), Mr Lehtonen said this is just a way to show that this kind of intervention can help rural communities to develop, but we are not taking it further.

Can this approach be used for other areas?
Can it be improved and included in the guidelines?

You should create larger units and understand that you have regional statistics (e.g. on NUTS 5 level). You should use many other control variables to have a similar population (level of urbanisation, distance to cities, structure of industries...). It is not sufficient to use dummies for treated and non-treated.

Mr Lehtonen clarified that one should first match and then use DID regression. There are regional statistics in Finland but the reason why they use population grids is that they have very accurate definition of rural areas.

Employment, poverty and GDP

In Italy we need data from a different NUTs level that is available to really assess the particularities of each rural area. At that level we have less data but more ability to recognize rural entities.

Mr Sinabell explained that this is the reason why in the next period the impacts will be calculated at the EU level because you have spill over effects. If your Ministry was interested in spill over effects of the whole of Italy could you do it?



Programme effects are not so clear, for instance investments in agriculture make it more efficient but they decrease the workforce. How does your model cover these effects?

Mr Sinabell clarified that indeed investments in agriculture may result in a reduction of employment. They used another model to look at the labour-saving effects of investments. The model presented looked at identifying spill over effects to other sectors. One result was that investments are made by farmers in rural areas, but value added and jobs are generated in regions where the investment goods are produced. When combining different indicators, it was found that, at least in Austria, the RDP is one element of the growth of rural areas.

Which IO tables were used in Spain?

Ms Sánchez clarified that IO tables were provided by the Statistical Services of the Ministry and the regions.



2.3 Evaluation of RDP contribution to fostering innovation in rural areas

Mr Matteo Metta (ENRD Evaluation Helpdesk) gave a short overview of the lessons learned from the AIR 2019 regarding the evaluation of the contribution of RDPs to fostering innovation. The approaches were predominantly qualitative, but there were good examples of more robust qualitative assessments based on multi-criteria analysis for instance in Italy. Low awareness, conceptual problems, data availability and the limited implementation timeframe were the main limitations in evaluating the contribution of RDPs to fostering innovation.

Links to the PPT: [Evaluation of RDP contribution to fostering innovation in rural areas](#) (Matteo Metta)

The following comment was made to the presentation:



A key question in Austria is why do we use models when we have data? We had data but it finishes in 2016, so we used an ex-ante method to analyse the current situation. Our client is interested in one effect that cannot be measured with empirical effects. Why should city people support the rural population? Once answer we can provide with this model, if you spend public money in a good and wise manner, then also the cities will benefit (all regions are linked through trade, employment, etc.). Urbanised areas benefit most from the money that is sent to remote areas.

After these sessions, participants worked together on identifying what worked well and what are areas for improvement for the calculation of indicators. Participants were divided according the topics of the workshop (environment, competitiveness, balanced territorial development, innovation). The outcomes of the group work were shared in plenary and are summarised in the annex to this document.

3 CONCLUDING REMARKS

The outcomes of the case studies, discussions and group work brought together the issues and challenges that Member States faced when evaluating RDPs for reporting in the AIR 2019 and culminated into a rich set of practical suggestions for addressing these issues, summarised below. The overall message is that despite the long list of suggested improvements, there are many approaches that worked well and that be used in the future.

How to improve data provision and collection

- The use of case studies or special thematic studies has proved to be a useful approach when data is missing or then it is difficult to calculate an existing common indicator.
- Additional data is however required and could be obtained through larger samples, beneficiary surveys, other stakeholders such as advisory services or where relevant geographic/spatial analysis. Data from non-beneficiaries is also useful in specific situations (regions, areas).
- For the assessment of soil related indicators, the LUCAS survey is confirmed to be the best source of data so far. However, its use can further improve by extending coverage and by combining it with FADN data.
- Linked to the above, the harmonisation of all relevant data sources, including inter alia Eurostat, FADN, LUCAS (for soil) and other national and regional databases would contribute to simplification and efficiency in data collection.

How to optimise methodological approaches

- Input-Output analysis, although not a panacea, has been useful in more than one sector, notably for water and also for socio-economic indicators.
- PSM-DiD are confirmed to be robust methods and most recommended but they can further benefit from data provided through GIS for certain indicators (especially environmental ones). Such data can offer information on local characteristics and farms and facilitate the creation of control groups.
- In relation to control groups, it is recognised that for certain indicators, almost the whole population is a beneficiary. In such cases, thematic studies and alternative methods may be more relevant.

How to enhance methodological guidance

- It is evident that guidance should be updated/revised based on the experiences from the evaluations for reporting in the AIR 2019. This may include the provision/revision of definitions for certain concepts such as biodiversity, HNV or innovation. Revised guidance may also include suggestions on how to combine different approaches of data collection and also more specific approaches for instance on standardised emission tables.
- A summary of evaluation methods from the evaluation plans across Europe can bring together information that is currently unavailable as every evaluation plan is written in the national language. NRNs can also play a key role in sharing examples of evaluation models.
- More guidance is needed in the field of innovation which is a new area for all evaluators. This may include clarifications on terminologies and on the concept of innovation in different priority areas, the identification of more specific/detailed information needed to assess innovation and the identification of all the variables required to assess the contribution of RDPs to fostering innovation, including the delivery mechanism for instance.
- Further specific guidance is needed on how to assess net effects, the impacts of external effects or how to quantify secondary contributions, enriched with practical examples.

ANNEX

Table 1. What worked well and what are areas for improvement for the calculation of ENVIRONMENTAL indicators

Indicators	What worked well	Areas for improvement / further needs
Biodiversity		
FBI / SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The decision to replace the FBI with a special study on farmland birds, when faced with difficulties to calculate the FBI ✓ The use of time series ✓ Elaborating case studies or area studies 	<p>Data related</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the sample to get extra data • Geo-referenced data • RDP adjusted monitoring (TA) + habitat charting <p>Definitions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear definition of biodiversity and RDP objectives (what exactly to preserve) • HNV definition (or not using HNV) • A definition of what exactly is meant by biodiversity <p>Knowledge/skills/guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for knowledge on how to evaluate the impact • Skills on how to assess the net effects of RDPs • How to measure the impacts of external effects • How to choose a thematic evaluation • A common repository of practices • How to quantify secondary contributions (guidelines)
Bumblebees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ability to identify different impacts than just for birds 	
Soil		
I.12 Soil organic matter in arable land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ INES (National Inventory of Soil Erosion) at 10 cm. It also measures soil carbon in the whole country. Already completing second round (Spain) ✓ National mapping has been done already for some time: trends exist (Italy) ✓ Linked to GIS for RDP measure ✓ ISPRA (LUCAS survey) soil sampling 	<p>Data and measurements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend the measurement to 20 cm • Extend the coverage of LUCAS across the EU • All countries should use the LUCAS survey if they don't have their own • Cover all kinds of soils <p>Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract the evaluators in good time

<p>I.13 Soil erosion by water</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Overlapping of RDP distribution of measures and different degrees of soil erosion (JRC maps) ✓ Additional questions were added in the FADN to collect data on environmental indicators (Italy) ✓ Additional samples in FADN (Italy) 	<p>Data / database</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use LUCAS if we don't have anything better • Link FADN to LUCAS to help identify contribution of RDP to soil (besides other environmental parameters) • Consider water and also wind erosion of soil
<p>Water</p>		
<p>I.10 Water abstraction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Good collaboration between MA, evaluators and PA ✓ Building up of a long-term modelling for quantitative analysis (Greece, Italy) 	<p>Data systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for harmonisation of data between different sources of data and Eurostat • Build a permanent system of data collection <p>Knowledge sharing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of NRNs in sharing examples of models
<p>R.13 Increase in efficiency of water use in agriculture</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of GIS tools • Use of hydrologic models 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only related to water savings instead of efficient using standard output
<p>I.11 Water quality</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input-output analysis based on Eurostat – Nutrient Budget Methodology & Handbook • Use of GIS tools 	<p>Databases / data collection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for elimination of the major differences between the Eurostat data and National Data (provision of detailed methodology and the data used for the calculation from EUROSTAT) • Better data collection regarding water saving from public interventions / beneficiaries <p>Methodological guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on the experience of Greece and Cyprus, the methodology and handbooks needs to be revised
<p>Energy</p>		
<p>R14 Increase in efficiency of energy use in agriculture and food processing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application forms • Follow-up surveys 	<p>Data collection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strongly recommend the use of additional data sources (e.g. electric companies, QC) • Ex post survey • Identification of control groups • Data linkages: secondary contribution (competitiveness)

<p>R15 Renewable energy production from supported projects</p> <p>(FADN) litres</p> <p>EUR fuel</p> <p>Weighted by output</p> <p><u>Monitoring</u></p> <p>Implementation data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Money, EUR - No of projects - No of beneficiaries - Savings 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers of uptake and response rates <p>Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time frames • Multiplicity of funding
<p>Emissions</p>		
<p>GHG emissions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Partly collected directly from beneficiaries via emission calculations (RDP-Latvia) ✓ Collecting from non-beneficiaries ✓ Macro-data (beneficiaries) ✓ Herd / livestock share & structure 	<p>Data provision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non beneficiaries can be encouraged to provide data in specific situations (regions, areas) • Standardized emission tables from advisory services
<p>I.07 Emissions from agriculture</p> <p>Ammonia emissions (livestock and crops)</p> <p>Fertilisers</p>		<p>Methodologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSM-DID and GIS data: to provide specific info on local features of supported areas • GIS data (Corina, satellite data, distance to forest, roads, rivers etc.) can provide information on local characteristics and farms to create a control group <p>Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helpdesk: specificities included in standardised emission tables (factors), (manure practices) from advisory service, academia • Helpdesk and Rural Network: can offer guidance by combining different approaches of data collection

Table 2. What worked well and what are areas for improvement for the calculation of COMPETITIVENESS related indicators

Indicators	What worked well	Areas for improvement / further needs
I.01 Agricultural entrepreneurial income	✓ If FADN data is available, there are no problems (Latvia)	<p>Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If there is insufficient data, better to use simplified indicators • Use GVA of agricultural output (agricultural income) • Only half of the index <p>Control groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problems with controls: almost everybody is an RDP beneficiary
I.02 Agricultural factor income	✓ Long data series	
I.03 Total factor productivity in agriculture	✓ Integration with business plan data to fix the farm baseline (information from applicants forecasting) 2-3 years	<p>Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GVA is a better indicator than productivity • Additional simple indicators (Investments – gross) (GVA) <p>Data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accumulated investments by the end of year (FADN variable) and regional statistics for triangulation <p>Definitions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I.03 needs clarification for calculations <p>Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the Guidelines with examples (simplify approach) • Offer a summary of methods used (in English) from the Evaluation Plan to share
R.2 Change in agricultural output on supported farms/ AWU (I.01, I.02)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Alternative database (regional) limited to some regions ✓ Surveys 	<p>Databases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for real data in alternative database from beneficiaries • System to enhance data provision with Assessment Services (private) • Greece: need to link RDP and FADN (currently no information)

Table 3. What worked well and what are areas for improvement for the calculation of BALANCED TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT related indicators

Indicators	What worked well	Areas for improvement / further needs
<p>Population development</p> <p>Median income of towns</p> <p>Living in rural/working in rural</p> <p>Quality of life</p> <p>Employment</p> <p>Economically active population</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Common matrix for LEADER groups (Andalucía) ✓ Use of mapping / GIS ✓ Linking with other data sets / targets (e.g. satisfaction surveys) ✓ Primary data collection 	<p>How to assess RDP effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RDP is not a key lever, so how do we assess the contribution against other funds, e.g. ERDF? • No easy way to identify comparison groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Micro – ok (firm level) • Recognising developments measured at local level: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Not always the same <p>Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location independent / neutral jobs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How to pick this up • Some things are difficult to quantify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A distance measured tool may be useful <p>Timeframe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing of the evaluation (low implementation)
<p>I.14 Rural employment rate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Focussing evaluation efforts on areas where the RDP is expected to have a measurable impact 	<p>Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need also to look at the level of employment not only the rate. This is more relevant to RDPs. • In the ex ante, identify which impact indicators are most relevant for the Policy Approach and then focus on the identification of the net contribution on the indicators (including those where impact is negative).
<p>I.15 Degree of poverty:</p> <p>Trends and opportunity cost (not the same)</p>		<p>Judgment criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of appropriate (if needed) additional criteria to define rural areas • Capture well-being, not just economic level

Table 4. What worked well and what are areas for improvement for the calculation of INNOVATION indicators

Indicators	What worked well	Areas for improvement / further needs
Innovation potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Analysis of innovation potential (contribution of each measure to innovation) ✓ Increase awareness on the innovation potential 	<p>Stakeholder involvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enlarge the analysis to other stakeholders involved (e.g. farmers) <p>Data collection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow up of innovation projects to collect data on the effectiveness and impact of dissemination activities
Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Extend FADN with other variables interesting for MAs 	
Delivery mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Promotion done by MAs 	<p>Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include the delivery mechanism in the focus of evaluation of innovation • Define innovation (e.g. cross-cutting sectors) • Clarify the difference between Priority 1 and 2 in the innovation Guidelines
Indicators on farm level Innovation scoreboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Use of FADN survey to collect info on farm level (Measure 4) - Separated ✓ Community Innovation Survey (CIS) for the baseline (Eurostat) for the agricultural sector and RDP beneficiaries ✓ Early / continuous / on-going relation with evaluators ✓ Assessment of the effectiveness of setting-up phase (IT-Veneto) ✓ Tool-kit for MAs and operational groups (NRN) 	<p>Data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baselines and on-going data (micro, sectorial) – reinforced of FADN • Add CIS with Agricultural sector <p>Functioning of operational groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyse the setting-up of OGs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To what extent did it work? ○ Enhanced the partnership? ○ Enabled a better project planning? <p>Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early identification of the information needed to assess the innovation effects • Assess the effects of innovation at farm level

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