Rural Evaluation NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE EUROPEAN EVALUATION HELPDESK FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

🌐 EvaluationWORKS! 2016

In the current programming period 2014-2020, the Evaluation Helpdesk has placed an increased focus on capacity building in the Member States through the launch of EvaluationWORKS!, which serves as an integral platform for all evaluation stakeholders to exchange and learn.

The Evaluation Helpdesk provides the overall methods and material for the EvaluationWORKS! trainings and each event is offered in a multi-module format to be tailored to the specific target group, capacity level and context of each Member State and conducted in the local language.

In 2016, two modules for the yearly capacity building event EvaluationWORKS! 2016 were offered:

1. "Getting prepared for reporting on evaluation in the AIR submitted in 2017"
2. "Evaluation of LEADER/CLLD"[1].

Between **October 2016 and March 2017, 23 trainings in 24 Member States** have been concluded on the first module, "Getting prepared for reporting on evaluation in the AIR submitted in 2017"[2].

The objectives were to:

- Clarify the purpose and requirements of the evaluation at the RDP and EU levels.
- Discuss the issues relating to the assessment of RDP results, calculating primary and secondary contributions and answering the common evaluation questions.
- Inform on the specific evaluation challenges in the situation of low or no RDP uptake or small programmes.
- Facilitate the correct filling of the SFC template for AIRs submitted in 2017 (chapter 7).

The EvaluationWORKS! 2016 trainings have been attended by roughly 530 participants so far. The primary groups of participants were Managing Authorities (50%), followed by evaluators (17%) and representatives from ministries (15%).

Five capacity building events (one joint event, two multi-regional events, and two single RDP events) serve to exemplify the different approaches used to carry out the capacity building events, which chose module one. >

Participants in EvaluationWORKS! 2016

Number of participants by role
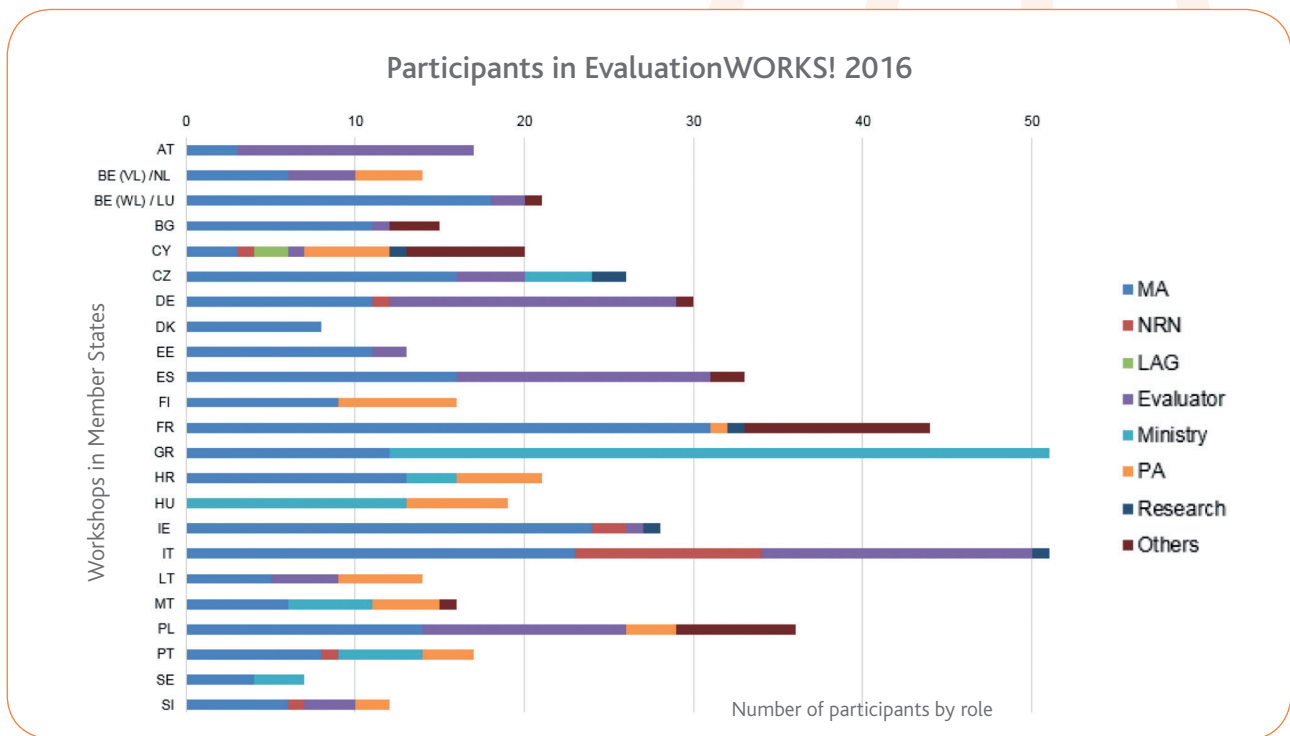
Source: European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development, 2017
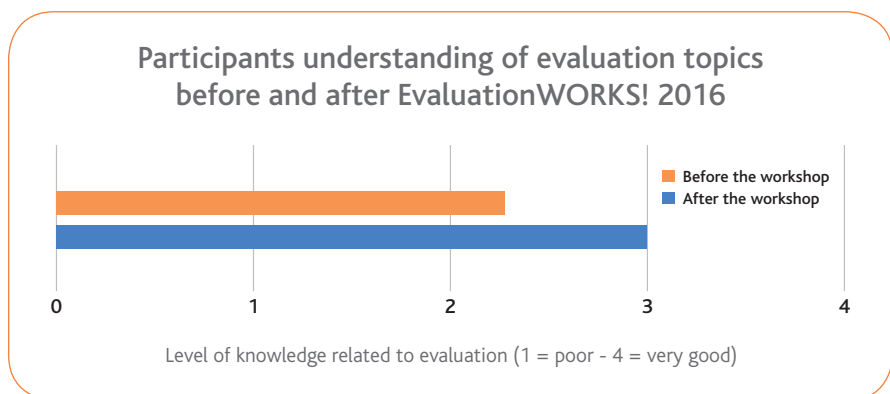
1. The second module, "Evaluation of LEADER/CLLD", will be launched in the beginning of 2017 in Slovakia, Latvia, Romania and the United Kingdom.
2. Belgium-Wallonia/Luxembourg and Belgium-Flanders/Netherlands had opted to organised joint capacity building events.

Participants understanding of evaluation topics before and after EvaluationWORKS! 2016

Level of knowledge related to evaluation (1 = poor - 4 = very good)

Source: European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development, 2017

"To realise a good evaluation, it is necessary to reflect on both the strategy of the programme (action theory) and its monitoring (data and indicators) in order to be able to answer the Evaluation Questions. Everybody must be involved!"

JACQUES CARRILLO (GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT)

The training was conducted in a question and answer format between participants and the geographic expert. Participants stressed the importance of defining the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder (e.g. MA, measure managers, evaluators). Moreover, a clear overview of the work for data collection was highlighted. Participants suggested that increasing networking and sharing of difficulties and good practices between the countries could be beneficial to solve some of these challenges.

86%
10%
4%
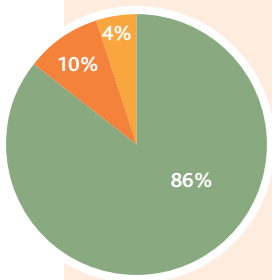
- MA
- EVALUATOR
- OTHERS

What needs to be considered concerning data management for evaluation?

"It is important to have a strategic view on data management. The data management plan should be structured on the links between the: Evaluation Questions – Criteria – Indicators – Sources … This plan must be defined by all stakeholders in order to collect data, to contribute to the analysis and to share results".

"We realised the primary importance of the preparation phase of the evaluation process: To come back to the intervention logic of every supporting measure and to check the coherence with CMES elements. It is crucial to do this exercise with the implementation bodies so that they understand the reasoning of the measure and the utility of the indicators and to make them convinced to take part in the evaluation process".

GRÉGORY HENRARD (MANAGING AUTHORITY, BE-WL)

"The session together with representatives from the Wallonia Managing Authority on preparing the AIR for 2017 was of great interest for all of us. The involved stakeholders were explained first-hand what the profit of monitoring and evaluation is, how it is organised in the CMEF and why it is important to be well prepared in advance for the AIR submitted in 2017. The fact that Managing Authorities of different countries worked together on this occasion increased the value of the experiences exchanged".

JEFF DONDELINGER (MANAGING AUTHORITY, LUXEMBOURG)

EUROPEAN
EVALUATION
HELPDESK
FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT
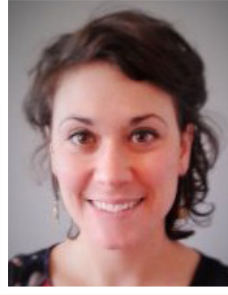
"The exercise focused on the AIR to be submitted in 2017 and was an opportunity for each Managing Authority to define and test their system to answer evaluation questions as well as to collect data on beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries for subsequent evaluation tasks, especially in 2019."

MATHILDE VUKOVIC (GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT)

Participants shared their experiences about their preparation and some of the challenges of the AIR to be submitted in 2017. First, to facilitate the reporting on evaluation in 2017, evaluators have been assigned the task of developing, at the national level, a common system and methodology to answer the evaluation questions 1 to 21 and to compute and monitor the common result indicators of the CMES. This national baseline for evaluation serves as a starting point for all French Managing Authorities (MAs). Many MAs have already begun the tendering process, while others envisage dealing with these evaluations internally by a functionally independent body. However, two major challenges have arisen (1) the uptake of regional programmes is low with, on average, few completed operations (for which payments have been delivered), partly due to the delayed approval and implementation of the programmes (2) information systems gathering data on operations are still being developed, which means that Managing Authorities do not have access to all the relevant data for evaluation and monitoring purposes.
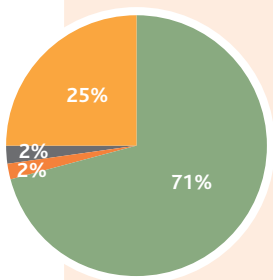
- MA
- PA
- RESEARCH
- OTHERS

To what extent have the two case studies and regional Managing Authorities sharing their experiences in the preparation of the next AIR contributed to the debate?

"The presentations from the two regional Managing Authorities (Bourgogne and Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes) have stressed different possible approaches for the preparation of the next AIR (e.g. contracting evaluators to further develop the system to answer common evaluation questions, or dealing with the evaluation internally, starting from the national baseline developed in mid-2016). The case studies raised several questions and issues, such as the governance of M&E activities, the connection between the CMES and needs for the implementation of RDP evaluations, and implications of research and universities".

"The EvaluationWORKS! event brought together the relevant stakeholders involved in the preparation of the 2017 AIRs (French Managing Authorities, its coordinating authority, evaluators, the European Commission and the Evaluation Helpdesk). It was also an opportunity to have a comprehensive review of the state of the art of evaluation (data, indicators, definition and quantification of secondary effects, etc.)"

MARC LONGHI (MANAGING AUTHORITY, FRANCE)

EUROPEAN
EVALUATION
HELPDESK
FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

"The identification and quantification of secondary contributions entails several challenges such as how and when they should be assessed, what happens if they are foreseen in the programme, but have not materialised or what happens if they are not envisaged at the programming stage, but they appear during implementation."

MARILI PARISSAKI (GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT)

Participants highlighted a number of lessons learnt from the programming period relating to governance, data, and methods used. In terms of governance, participants suggested that it is critical that systems be in place to allow for a smooth transition when there are changes in the management of units or personnel in order to prevent the loss of information and knowledge. Strengthening coordination between evaluators and measure managers, as well as statistical services is important for conducting robust evaluations (e.g. using counterfactuals). In terms of data, participants suggested that data, especially at the regional level, needs updating. Furthermore, data for output indicators was provided a posteriori, which caused problems with the calculation of baselines. Lastly, the importance of data and data expertise was highlighted as important for both quantitative and qualitative methods, as qualitative methods may need quantitative support.

- 49%
- 45%
- 6%

- ● MA
- ● EVALUATOR
- ● OTHERS
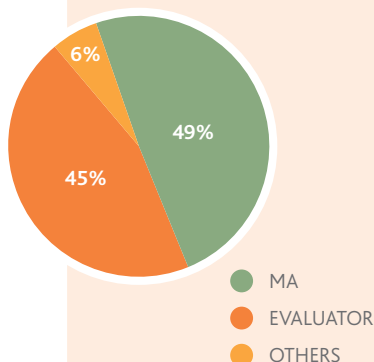
Why was Common Evaluation Question no. 4 chosen to be highlighted in one of the exercises?

"This question was selected because it includes the complementary result indicator no. 2 'Change in agricultural output on supported farms/AWU', which requires one to make a calculation of net values and to use counterfactuals. The calculation of this and other similar indicators is one of the major evaluation challenges identified by participants".

"The EvaluationWORKS! event involved a wide variety of evaluation stakeholders. Different aspects of the event, such as the organisation, the relevance of interactive presentations, practical exercises and the ice breaker, the adaptation to the needs and knowledge of the participants, etc. stimulated the interests and involvement of participants during all the sessions…The session complemented national trainings that have already taken place and also facilitated the coordination between stakeholders involved…In addition, it helped to raise awareness of the need for common definitions of some terms, for example, beneficiaries, specific and additional indicators, etc. as well as the need to clarify the different sections of the proposed fiches provided by the European Commission to answer the Common Evaluation Questions (Annex 11)".

PAULA MARÍA RODRÍGUEZ ANDREU (MANAGING AUTHORITY, SPAIN)

EUROPEAN EVALUATION HELPDESK
FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

"The 2017 AIR represents an important stepping stone on the learning journey from monitoring towards evaluation"

BILL SLEE (GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT)

Participants of this workshop acknowledged that behind the 2017 AIR there is the big picture of trying to lay the foundation for future AIRs to achieve better evaluations. The discussion of how to handle secondary contributions was a major focal point of the discussions. Participants agreed that one solution to this challenge may be by running expert workshops, with evaluators and scientists, which would allow them to work together on the issues and facilitate more robust evaluations (e.g. the use of counterfactuals).

- 86%
- 7%
- 3,5%
- 3,5%
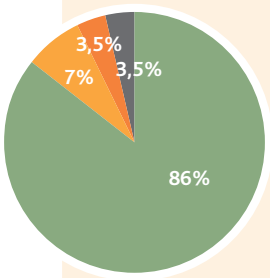
- ● MA
- ● NRN
- ● EVALUATOR
- ● RESEARCH

What is special about the Irish RDP and what are the challenges for evaluation?

"The Beef Data and Genomics Programme is an innovative approach to address the high greenhouse gas emissions from the large Irish beef sector, but it also generates many secondary effects in other focus areas, which also demand the evaluator's attention".

"The key aspect of the training event from the perspective of the Irish MA was to highlight to the implementing divisions the difference between data collection for evaluation rather than for monitoring purposes. In this context, it was particularly useful to illustrate the connectivity between FAs, intervention logic, CEQs and the judgment criteria...The quantification of programme achievements through the assessment of result indicators and CEQs is the focus of the evaluation effort in 2017. However, it was agreed that it can be challenging to establish a definitive causal effect for each intervention. As a result, it is important that the intervention is clear and well defined and that good additional indicator data is collected to assist in evaluation. Given the difficulties in establishing the impact of interventions, at this early stage of implementation, the idea of measuring results rather than impacts is a much more realistic ambition for the 2017 AIR".

MICHAEL GLEESON (MANAGING AUTHORITY, IRELAND)

EUROPEAN EVALUATION HELPDESK
for Rural Development

"One of the main objectives of the training event was to bring stakeholders together – to discuss, identify and address any shortfalls which may inhibit the execution of an effective evaluation" -

**STEPHANIE VELLA (GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT)**

Participants shared the main lessons learnt from the previous programming period, which focused on data collection and management. Participants stressed the need for a common platform for sharing data, accessible to all actors and the necessity for clarity in data ownership. Participants suggested the creation of a steering committee with wide and sufficient representation, to make sure data is collected and distributed in a timely manner. The role of the steering committee would be to ensure communication and coordination between the different stakeholders. In order to achieve these goals, the MA may formulate a data management framework to capture the required data at all stages (application stage, contracting, payment, control, and ex post) and provide the necessary training to ensure competent persons for data interpretation and implementation of measures.
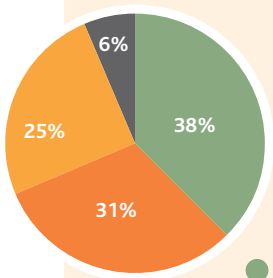
- MA
- MINISTRY
- PA
- OTHERS

What were the main achievements of the training?

"The strengthening of communication channels between stakeholders – This led to the recognition of challenges and more importantly the identification of possible solutions such as the development of an evaluation steering committee, which could bring together the stakeholders at regular intervals".

"The workshop delivered by the Evaluation Helpdesk provided an opportunity for several stakeholders to get together and discuss the evaluation requirements for upcoming evaluation exercises. This workshop was beneficial because:
- Resources are limited and data needs to be collected from several entities, therefore this workshop offered a unique opportunity for stakeholders to identify different methods of collaboration.
- It helped to enrich the understanding of the MA about the monitoring and evaluation requirements".

KENNETH SCICLUNA (MANAGING AUTHORITY, MALTA)

The Evaluation Helpdesk plans to conduct the next round of EvaluationWORKS! trainings in the early Autumn of 2017 and is currently in the process of discussing training topics. The Evaluation Helpdesk welcomes any suggestions regarding future training topics and requests that all submissions be sent to info@ruralevaluation.eu.

EUROPEAN EVALUATION HELPDESK

FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

🌐 PREPARING THE EVALUATION OF INNOVATION IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES 2014-2020

Fostering innovation in Rural Development Policy 2014-2020

Smart growth is one of the EU 2020's priorities and aims to improve the EU's performance in education, research, innovation and the digital society. Smart growth through research and innovation facilitates the creation of new products and services that generate growth, jobs and help to address social challenges. The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) performs a vital role in contributing to smart growth. The delivery of the three CAP objectives requires creating, sharing, and implementing new knowledge, technologies, products, and methods to organise systems. The CAP places an emphasis on nurturing innovation in order to realise these objectives more fully.

Innovation is one of the cross-cutting rural policy objectives to be addressed through the interventions implemented via rural development programmes and to which all rural development priorities must contribute[3].

In addition to these measures, innovation can also be reinforced through the activities of National Rural Networks (NRNs), as well as through other rural development measures, (e.g. basic services and village renewal, investment in physical assets) if RDP beneficiaries decide to do so through their project selection criteria.

Evaluating innovation to support the achievement of EU objectives

Three principal justifications underpin the need for the evaluation of interventions attempting to cultivate innovation: (1) the need for accountability and transparency in policies, (2) for targeting support effectively (3) to provide the means for common learning.

Accountability of rural development interventions requires the presentation of the progress and achievements made towards attaining policy objectives. Accountability is achieved by evaluating if resources expended are used in the most effective and efficient manner. Evaluations can help to contribute to understanding where and when innovative interventions contribute towards meeting the objectives linked to the RDP focus areas and the EU's 2020 thematic objectives. Demonstrating these objectives concerns the assessment of achievements towards the cross-cutting objective of innovation and the objective of Union Priority 1 – "Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas in rural development".

The evaluation of innovation can help stakeholders to target support more effectively and efficiently towards reaching the policy objectives of the programme. The findings generated from evaluation activities (SWOT and needs assessments) serve to facilitate identifying the most relevant programme beneficiaries, territories, activities, costs and budgets. Policy makers can then employ the most suitable and eligible instruments and actions to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of interventions in order to serve these beneficiaries.

Evaluation can cultivate a common learning process between stakeholders in order to achieve innovation. The success or failure of an intervention attempting to provide the impetus for innovation serves as a vital common learning process to benefit all stakeholders in the knowledge exchange process.

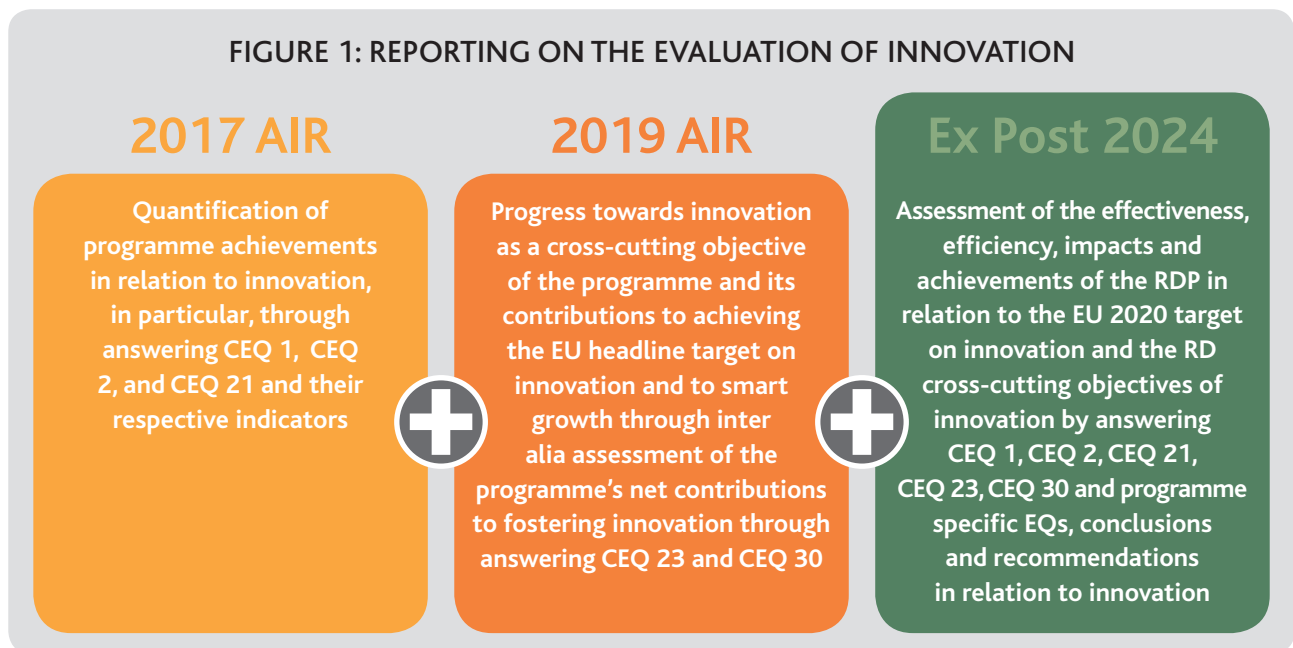## Common evaluation elements for innovation in the legal framework.

The Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (CMEF) includes common evaluation questions (CEQs), judgement criteria and indicators for the evaluation of innovation:

- **Focus Area's objectives:** Innovation is included in two objectives of focus areas 1A and 1B[4] and the objective of Union Priority 1 "Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas". Two CEQs (CEQ 1 and CEQ 2) are linked to these focus areas and capture the contributions of interventions in terms of expected outputs and results.
- **Overall policy objectives:** CEQ (CEQ 21) relates to other aspects of the RDP, by capturing the expected outputs and results achieved by NRNs and their role in fostering innovation[5]. CEQ 30 assesses innovation as a cross-cutting objective at the RDP level and CEQ 23 is related to the achievement of the EU headline target.

The main periods for the reporting on innovation are in the AIR submitted in 2017, 2019 and the ex post evaluation. Each of these evaluations, beginning with the AIR submitted in 2017 builds upon the last and becomes increasingly more comprehensive in terms of scope. This process can be seen in Figure 1, which shows the CEQs needed to be answered during each enhanced AIR and which progressively build throughout the process to feed into the final ex post evaluation.

FIGURE 1: REPORTING ON THE EVALUATION OF INNOVATION

2017 AIR

Quantification of programme achievements in relation to innovation, in particular, through answering CEQ 1, CEQ 2, and CEQ 21 and their respective indicators

+

2019 AIR

Progress towards innovation as a cross-cutting objective of the programme and its contributions to achieving the EU headline target on innovation and to smart growth through inter alia assessment of the programme's net contributions to fostering innovation through answering CEQ 23 and CEQ 30

+

Ex Post 2024

Assessment of the effectiveness, efficiency, impacts and achievements of the RDP in relation to the EU 2020 target on innovation and the RD cross-cutting objectives of innovation by answering CEQ 1, CEQ 2, CEQ 21, CEQ 23, CEQ 30 and programme specific EQs, conclusions and recommendations in relation to innovation

Source: European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development, 2017

Thematic Working Group for the evaluation of innovation launched!

In order to achieve a shared understanding of what is required for the evaluation of innovation and to guide stakeholders in the development of essential information to answer CEQs, the European Evaluation Helpdesk has launched a Thematic Working Group (TWG) "Evaluation of Innovation in RDPs 2014-2020". The principal outcome of this TWG will be a non-binding, user friendly, guidance document, developed in collaboration with evaluation experts from the Member States, members of the Expert Group on Monitoring and Evaluating the CAP, DG AGRI officials, the EIP Service Point and the Evaluation Helpdesk. The guidelines will serve as a valuable knowledge source by providing case studies and practical tools for public officials and the evaluation community in Member States to support them in evaluating innovation.

The guidelines will serve to help:

- Managing Authorities prepare the information needed for evaluations;
- Evaluators to answer the common evaluation questions and the RDP's programme specific evaluation questions and;
- Other stakeholders (Operational Groups, NRNs, and LAGs) who can contribute to evaluation related activities.

The guidelines will be published in the second half of 2017 and reflect the EU's common legal framework, as well as the diverse needs of the stakeholders in Member States in preparing, conducting and reporting on the evaluation of innovation. ■

3. Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013
4. Art 5(1)(a) and (b) of Reg. 1305/2013
5. in terms of objective (d) of Article 54(2) to "foster innovation in agriculture, food production, forestry and rural areas"

GERMAN GUIDELINES FOR LOCAL ACTION GROUP SELF-ASSESSMENT

Anke Wehmeyer from the German National Rural Network (Deutsche Vernetzungsstelle Ländliche Räume) presented the guidelines developed and used in Germany for Local Action Group (LAG) self-assessment at the 10th Expert Group on Monitoring and Evaluating the CAP, which met in Brussels on 18 November 2016 and was attended by representatives of the European Commission and the Member States.

Anke Wehmeyer explained that the German self-assessment guidelines were produced to support LAGs to:
- know their own objectives better,
- communicate their successes and,
- be able to formulate concrete, realistic and ambitious objectives.

The German guidelines contain roughly 19 methods for self-assessment and the presenter suggested that these methods could also conceivably be applicable to other Member States. The German guidelines focus on three areas of self-assessment:
- Content and strategy
- Process and structure
- LAG management tasks

A table is given which lists each method broken down by the area of self-assessment, complexity, and type(s) of support needed in order to allow for LAGs to easily determine which methods are most viable. Anke Wehmeyer pointed out that publishing these guidelines was not sufficient alone, and training LAGs is still essential. Capacity building workshops are held to teach LAGs how to effectively use these guidelines, and to provide a space for the clarification of methods and the presentation of practical case studies. This process is a means to put theory into practice. A survey of 52 LAG representatives concluded that the guidelines have been useful overall for their work, however, others have reported that they have rarely used them, as they have not yet started their evaluation activities.

The presentation concluded that in Germany, linking LAG's self-assessment activities with the evaluation of LEADER/CLLD at the RDP level is still developing. However, despite overall difficulties, through the use of these guidelines LAGs in the future will be in a better position to understand and conduct self-assessments facilitating better evaluations overall.

Learn more about the German guidelines on LAG self-assessment!

🗨 Fourth Good Practice Workshop:
5 - 6 December Bordeaux, France

The fourth Good Practice Workshop, "Targeted data management for evidence-based evaluation of RDPs 2014-2020", was hosted by the Région Nouvelle Aquitaine on 5 - 6 December 2016 in Bordeaux (France).

This workshop served to provide a forum for Managing Authorities, Paying Agencies, LAG-representatives, data providers and evaluators, to:

- **discuss the approaches** for data management in RDPs 2014-2020;
- **exchange on the availability and quality** of the data to be used for the AIR to be submitted in 2017 and beyond;
- **reflect about potential data gaps** and bottlenecks in data management in order to find solutions to overcome them.

Case studies at both the RDP and LAG level were presented from France, Finland, Italy, Austria and Denmark.

The workshop highlighted that **good data availability and data quality** is essential for evidence-based assessments of the programme effects. Adequate data should be collected in order to **apply robust evaluation methods** capable of sufficiently evaluating RDPs' interventions and identifying their net effects.

Moreover, participants agreed that developing their own unique **data management strategy,** which ensures sufficient financial and staff resources and further implements the minimum legal requirements, could enable a more **efficient and cost-effective** means to data management for their RDP.

To this extent, monitoring systems should **capitalise on past experiences** and be **integrated with other databases** in order to be responsive for the purpose of evaluation in a timely fashion. At the same time **cooperation** between data providers (i.e. Paying Agencies, statistical offices, etc.) and data users (Managing Authorities, LAGs and evaluators) needs to be ensured.

A Very timely topic
MA – Lithuania

MA 23
LAG 2
PA 9
NRN 5
EVAL/RESEARCH/CONSULTANT 17
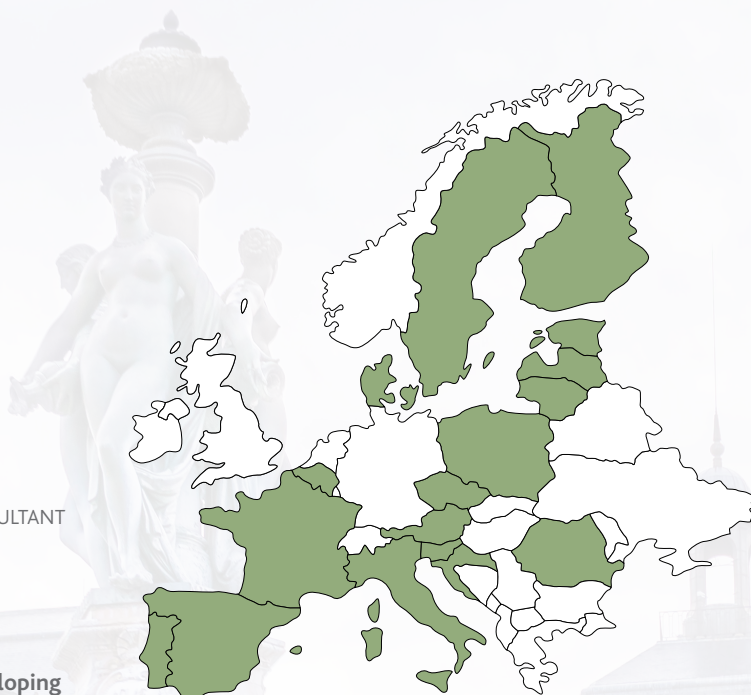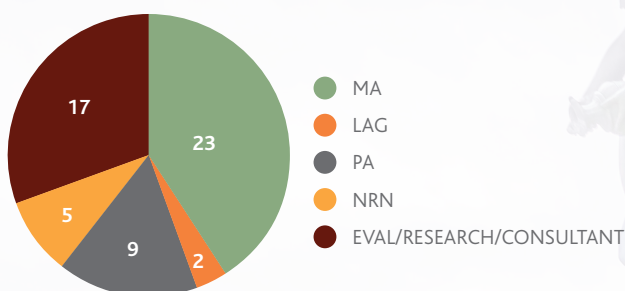
Key Recommendations

- The Evaluation Plan is a good starting point when **developing one's data management strategy**. In order to effectively implement the strategy developed, it is essential to plan sufficient **financial and human** resources throughout the programming period in **order to avoid constraints**. Capitalising on past experiences by **involving all relevant stakeholders** (including the evaluator) is a crucial step in developing cost effective IT solutions (e.g. e-gov).

- The Finnish case reinforced the idea that **agreement and cooperation** among all actors involved in data management is a key factor for the success of the data management system. Establishing a common understanding of definitions and ensuring the commitment of providers to collect data of high quality from beneficiaries, will allow for more robust evaluations. Moreover, as emerged from the working groups, the construction of reliable control groups for a robust counterfactual could be assisted by providing non-monetary benefits to beneficiaries in order to empower their awareness and commitment.

- Although data management systems must be **compliant with the legal requirements**, it is important to define a **tailor made approach**, which supports the proper assessment of the RDP. As highlighted in the case about the PROMIS system (DK), designing a distinct system, with specific indicators, is fundamental for the **evaluation of LEADER/CLLD and its contributions to the programme**.

- Data management systems dealing with **big data** require **trained staff**. These staff members require continuous training in order to make them familiar with new advances in software. Long-term planning is essential in order to make sure sufficient staff is obtained and to allow for cost-effective solutions. The presentations of the Austrian ÖPUL system and the RDP of Tuscany underpinned this crucial aspect.

- In order to ensure an evidence-based evaluation of the RDP, the **integration** of all databases available and guaranteeing of their **public access** through means of **open source, freeware**, and **new technologies** will facilitate the timely delivery of

satisfactory evaluations. The system designed in France takes into consideration those important principles. The suggested integration of different databases may require the adoption by all relevant bodies (MAs, data providers, evaluators, research institutes, etc.) of data privacy rules or technical solutions.

As an evaluator, the workshop was very beneficial for my evaluation practice, because it provided me with several clever tips on how to effectively set up and manage data in a reliable way for evidence based evaluations, particularly with regard to LEADER and LAGs… The main lessons learnt that I will take away from this workshop were seeing how to use counterfactual analysis and how to arrange information using a wise and adaptive approach, even if one does not have the access to robust data and does not have the possibility to gather other data.

Evaluator – Italy

For further outcomes of this workshop and information on data management read the full report from the Good Practice Workshop.

EUROPEAN
EVALUATION
HELPDESK
FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

🔍 Back to Basics: Evaluations at the Local Level

The contributions of the operations implemented via the CLLD strategy not only contributes to the achievements of the CLLD strategy's objectives, but also contributes to the achievements of the objectives of the RDP focus areas.

How is the evaluation of LEADER/CLLD at the LAG level linked to the evaluation at the RDP level?

This activity should be aligned with the RDP evaluation (as specified in the RDP's Evaluation Plan). In this way, it is ensured that the findings from the LAG level evaluation feed into the RDP evaluation activities.

When do LAGs have to carry out self-assessment/evaluation activities?

Simple, by using the same set of Evaluation Questions, judgement criteria and indicators for both exercises.

Ok, but how can LAGs keep the costs for evaluation/self-assessment low?

In principle the LAG is free to choose either between a self-assessment or an independent evaluation of its CLLD strategy or both. However, ultimately the LAG needs to conduct what has been specified in its CLLD strategy under the monitoring and evaluation arrangements.

Do LAGs have to conduct an independent evaluation of their CLLD strategy?
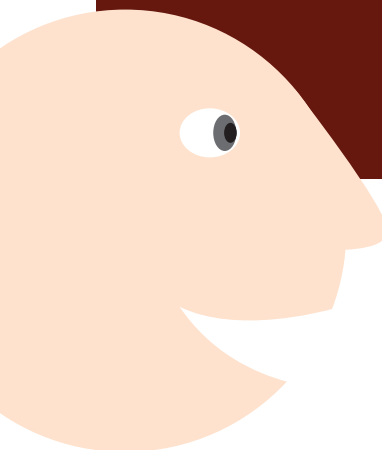
📢 CALENDAR – WHAT'S ON?

Past events:

- **BE – 1 December 2016 – EU's Rural Networks' Assembly**. Read more >>>

- **MT – 2 December 2016 – EvaluationWORKS! 2016:** Helpdesk capacity building event on reporting for the 2017 AIR. Read more >>>

- **IT – 2 December 2016 – EvaluationWORKS! 2016:** Helpdesk capacity building event on reporting for the 2017 AIR. Read more >>>

- **FR – 5-6 December – Good Practice Workshop on Data Management**. Read more >>>

- **BE – 12 December 2016 – Kick-off meeting of the Thematic Working Group "Evaluation of Innovation"**. Read more >>>

- **SE – 6-8 December 2016 – Achieving Results the CLLD Way: Putting the Method to Work**. Read more >>>

- **SE – 14 December 2016 – EvaluationWORKS! 2016:** Helpdesk capacity building event on reporting for the AIR 2017. Read more >>>

- **SI – 15 December 2016 – EvaluationWORKS! 2016:** Helpdesk capacity building event on reporting for the AIR 2017. Read more >>>

- **FR – 16 December 2016 – EvaluationWORKS! 2016:** Helpdesk capacity building event on reporting for the AIR 2017. Read more >>>

- **FI – 19 December 2016 – EvaluationWORKS! 2016:** Helpdesk capacity building event on reporting for the AIR 2017. Read more >>>

- **BG – 22 December 2016 – EvaluationWORKS! 2016:** Helpdesk capacity building event on reporting for the AIR 2017. Read more >>>

- **BE-WL and LU – 10 January 2017 – EvaluationWORKS! 2016:** Helpdesk capacity building event on reporting for the AIR 2017. Read more >>>

- **DE – 17 January 2017 – EvaluationWORKS! 2016:** Helpdesk capacity building event on reporting for the AIR 2017. Read more >>>

- **BE – 18 January 2017:** 2nd meeting of the Thematic Working Group "Evaluation of Innovation"

- **IE – 18 January 2017 – EvaluationWORKS! 2016:** Helpdesk capacity building event on reporting for the AIR 2017. Read more >>>

- **EL – 23 January 2017 – EvaluationWORKS! 2016:** Helpdesk capacity building event on reporting for the AIR 2017. Read more >>>

- **EE – 25 January 2017 – EvaluationWORKS! 2016:** Helpdesk capacity building event on reporting for the AIR 2017. Read more >>>

- **PL – 10 February 2017 – EvaluationWORKS! 2016:** Helpdesk capacity building event on reporting for the AIR 2017. Read more >>>

- **BE – 21 February 2017 – 4th meeting of the Rural Networks' Assembly subgroup on LEADER/CLLD:** The Helpdesk presents on the new Guidelines on the evaluation of LEADER/CLLD. Read more >>>

>

- **SK – 22 February 2017 – EvaluationWORKS! 2016:** Helpdesk capacity building event on Evaluation of LEADER/CLLD. Read more >>>

Upcoming Events:

March 2017:

- **DE – 7-8 March 2017 – Workshop on the ex post Evaluation of RDPs 2007 – 2013: Results and Challenges – MEN-D:** Read more >>>

April 2017:

- **IT – 20 April 2017 – XX Congress of Italia Evaluation Society:** Read more >>>

May 2017:

- **BE – 11 May 2017– 11th Meeting of the Expert Group on Monitoring and Evaluating the Common Agricultural Policy :** The Helpdesk presents its new Guidelines on the evaluation of innovation. Further announcements cover the upcoming Good Practice Workshop on how to report on AIRs, the state of play of the synthesis of 2007 – 2013 ex post evaluations and feedback from a questionnaire sent to the Member States on HNV. Read more >>>

- **UK – 10-11 May 2017 –2017 Annual Evaluation Conference: "The Use and Usability of Evaluation: Demonstrating and improving the usefulness of evaluation" :** The conference will consider the design of outputs, developing strategies and connecting with potential users' needs so that participants will be better able to create and/or use evaluation resources for change, development and accountability. Read more >>>

- **LT – 18-19 May 2017 – 7th Biannual International Evaluation Conference "Evaluation of Innovation and Innovations in Evaluation" :** The conference provides an international platform for sharing best ideas and practices. Read more >>>

Send your questions to:
info@ruralevaluation.eu