


# The use of proxy indicators for the 2014-2020 programming period

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- The complete set of CCI's will be used in the preparation and subsequent evaluation of RDPs of 2014-2020
- DG Agri provides to MAs all the data available in EU data sources on CCI's at RDP level
- Some Data gaps on common indicators are found at Regional level
- MAs are responsible to provide values on those indicators for which the EC has not access to data.
- The use of proxy indicators is identified as an adequate approach to overcome data gaps

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## 2. TENTATIVE DEFINITION OF A PROXY INDICATOR

*"A proxy indicator is a **quantitative** indicator that provides information on a particular territorial contextual aspect (social, environmental, economic). It serves to **assess in RDPs the same contextual aspect** as intended by a given common context indicator but for which data is not available. Compared to a common context indicator, a proxy indicator uses either a **different definition and/or data source**."*

*A proxy indicator shall **comply with the SMART criteria** for indicators and so they should be **specific, measurable, available/achievable** in a cost effective way, **relevant** for the programme, and **available** in a timely manner. Furthermore, a proxy indicator is **applied on a temporary basis** whilst MAs intend to obtain the required value of the common context indicator."*

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## 3. FURTHER CLARIFICATIONS

### When can proxy indicators be used?

- MAs are encouraged to use their own national and regional data if it follows the same definition as the proposed common context indicator.
- Where data for a common context indicator corresponding to the territorial level of the RDP is not available, either from EU or Member State sources, a proxy indicator should be used.

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## 3. FURTHER CLARIFICATIONS

### What is the difference between an estimation, a programme-specific and a proxy indicator?

**An estimation of a common context indicator** is a figure or index that provides a close guess to the real value of the common context indicator and which is calculated using data from the prescribed sources. e.g. Labour productivity in Agriculture: the regional AWU can be estimated by applying the 2010 regional distribution to the national value of 2012.

**Programme-specific indicators** are **additional indicators** employed in RDPs to:


- Better reflect and describe the specificities of the territory and its needs;
- Support and justify particular interventions (e.g. targeting, measure packages, thematic sub-programmes);
- Support the actions proposed which are NOT justified by using common context indicators

**Proxy indicators** aim to provide similar information as a required common context indicator for which data is not available at the RDP level using an alternative definition and/or data source.

**A PROXY INDICATOR IS NOT AN ALTERNATIVE TO A COMMON CONTEXT INDICATOR IN RDPs WHEN DATA IS AVAILABLE FOR THE CCI!!!**

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### 4. Assessing the adequateness of proxy indicators (PIs)



SMART

RELATED TO THE CCI

WIDELY ACCEPTED

TEMPORARY SOLUTION

- The PI provides clear information on a specific contextual aspect of interest for RDPs
- There is sufficient quantity and quality of information available at RDP level
- The PI provides a quantitative measure
- Information collected on the proxy does not imply disproportionate administrative burden or cost
- The PI can be directly linked to a RD priority and focus area
- The PI is sensitive to changes in a particular contextual aspect
- Consistent data series are and will be available in the near future for the proxy


- The PI uses the same or similar units of measurements as the common context indicator
- The PI partially complies with the definition given for a common context indicator
- MAs, evaluators, data providers and technical experts agreed on the adequacy of the PI to assess the same contextual aspect as the CCI.

- The PI was consulted with main RD stakeholders
- The PI is frequently used in the scientific community to describe the trends in rural areas

- Solutions to overcome the lack of data on the common context indicator has been set up
- Actions and activities are planned to obtain data on the common context indicator soon

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### 5. Example of a proxy indicator Azores (PT)



	Common Context indicator	Proxy indicator
<b>Name</b>	GHG emissions from agriculture	CH4 emissions from enteric fermentation
<b>Definition</b>	The indicator GHG emission from the agricultural sector measures emissions from: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. enteric fermentation;</li> <li>ii. manure management;</li> <li>iii. rice cultivation;</li> <li>iv. agricultural soil management;</li> <li>v. prescribed burning of savannahs;</li> <li>vi. field burning of agricultural residues.</li> </ol>	The proxy indicator measures CH4 emissions from enteric fermentation. This emissions are produced mainly from cattle production- <b>Main agricultural activity in the Azores</b>
<b>Source</b>	State of environment report, (National Environmental Agency)	Equations- National low-carbon Roadmap 2050 (National Environmental Agency)
<b>Unit of measurement</b>	1000 tonnes CO2 eq	1000 tonnes CO2 eq

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### 5. Example of a proxy indicator Azores (PT)



The proxy indicator qualifies for all the 4 guiding criteria for adequate proxy indicators

- ✓ **SMART INDICATOR** (Specific, Measurable, Available, Relevant and Timely available)
- ✓ **ALLOW ASSESSMENT OF THE SAME CONTEXTUAL ASPECT AS THE CCI** (GHG emissions from agriculture)
- ✓ **WIDELY ACCEPTED** (used by scientific community and identified by evaluators and MAs)
- ✓ **TEMPORARY SOLUTION**

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## Thank you for your attention!

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