



The monitoring and *ongoing* evaluation system in Italy

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Outline of the presentation

- Context (Rural development policy in Italy)
- Monitoring & Evaluation Network (specific activity of National Rural Network). Main objectives and activities
- Monitoring & Evaluation of RDPs. State of art
 - implementing the CMEF
 - the monitoring system (cooperation between MA and Paying Agencies)
 - the selection of independent evaluators (time and budget) and ongoing activities
 - organisational aspects (specific MA unit on M&E, Steering group,)
- On going evaluation at regional level (Piemonte and Emilia Romagna)
- Looking forward





Rural development policy in Italy



1 National Strategic Plan (NSP)

21 Rural development programs (RDP)

1 National Program «Rural Network »

Drafted under the responsibility of
Ministry of Agricultural, Food and
Forestry Policies



Rural development policy in Italy

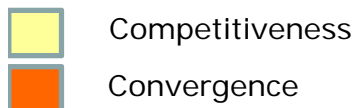


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Regions are the Managing Authorities
and responsible for the on going
evaluation



Rural development policy in Italy



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↓
"Agricultural Policy" Ministry is the
Managing Authority

80 million of euros for "EU compulsory"
and "national" measures

Network organisation in task forces

3 general objectives:

- improve the governance
- improve the "planning capability"
- exchange best practice





The Monitoring and Evaluation Network (NEN)

- NSP foresees the start up of the NEN
- No direct RDP evaluation through the NEN
- The NEN is set up by and financed under the Rural National Network
- The objectives of the NEN are:
 - coordination with the European Evaluation Network
 - enhancing the governance of the evaluations
 - improving the regional evaluations
 - improving the coordination with the evaluation of “cohesion” policy”
 - enhancing research and innovation on evaluation methodologies
 - realize thematic evaluations
 - exchanging good practices (in terms of organisation and methodologies)

How to achieve these objectives?





... the **activities**...

- Supporting the strategic monitoring of the NSP
- Drawing up national guidelines on M&E, e.g.:
 - for integrated projects, LEADER and cooperation (type of information, actors, indicators)
 - organisation of on going evaluation
- Implementing tools, e.g.:
 - data base of territorial indicators (datawarehouse)
 - monitoring system
- Steering methodologies, e.g.:
 - FADN, ad hoc sample and counterfactual analysis
 - macro-economics models for impact analysis of RD policy
- Supporting evaluation capacity and ownership and dissemination of information (Training, Seminar, Workshop, web page, participation in regional steering groups)





.... and **networking** through:

- Involving different actors to stimulate discussion on methods, results and utilisation:
 - Managing Authorities (MA)
 - evaluators
 - experts from the university
 - other stakeholders
- Promoting dialogue with the European Evaluation Network
- Promoting dialogue with the National evaluation system of cohesion policy
- Exchanging good practices





Implementing the CMEF

- Specific activities implemented at national and regional level to lead to a homogeneous set of common baseline and target
- Difficulties in the aggregation of indicators (different unit of measurement, different methodologies)
- Additional monitoring system for Leader, integrated projects and cooperation
- Common indicators and relationship with the monitoring system
- The role of paying agencies



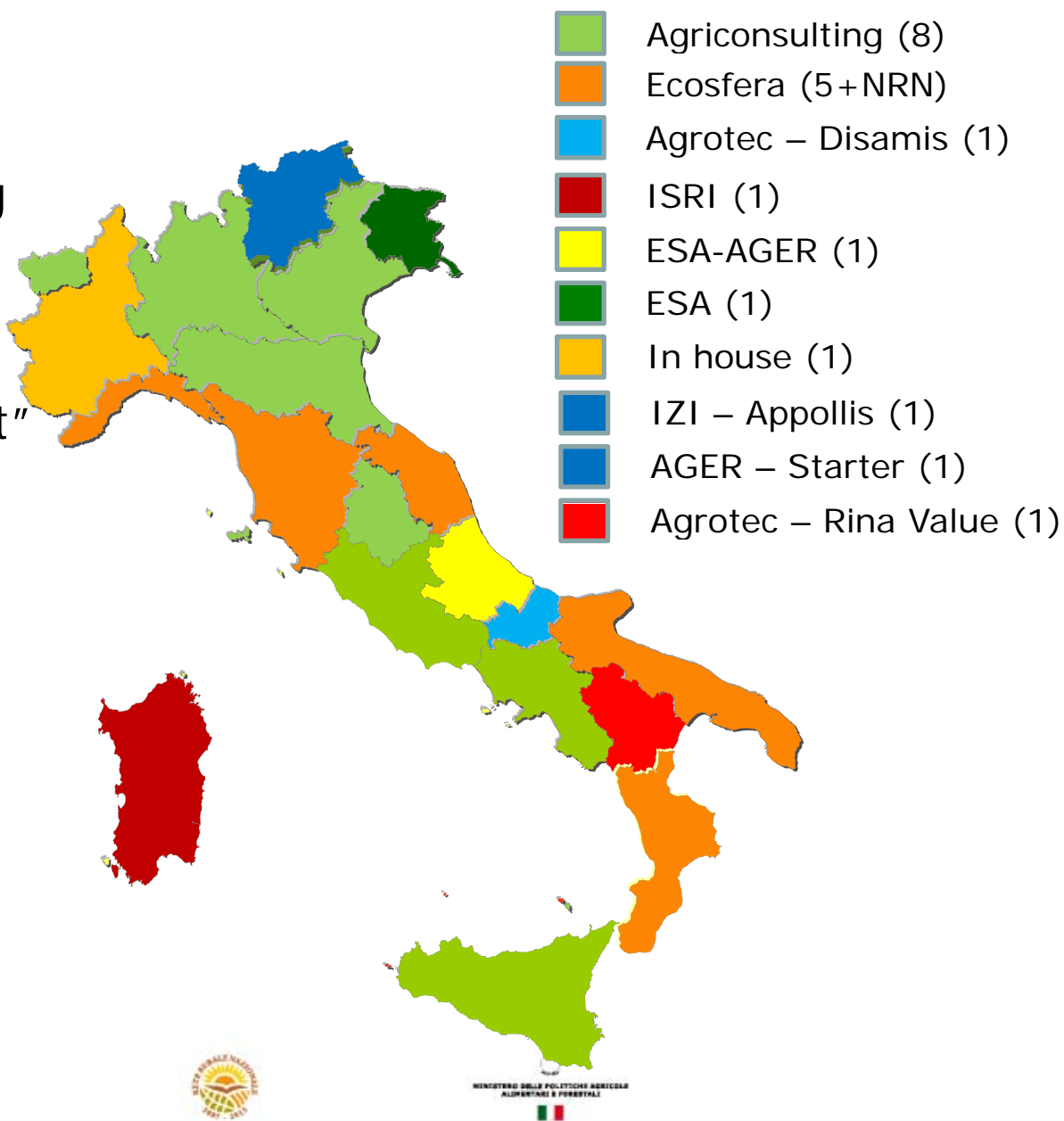
On going evaluation

❖ selection time: too long

❖ new evaluation “market”

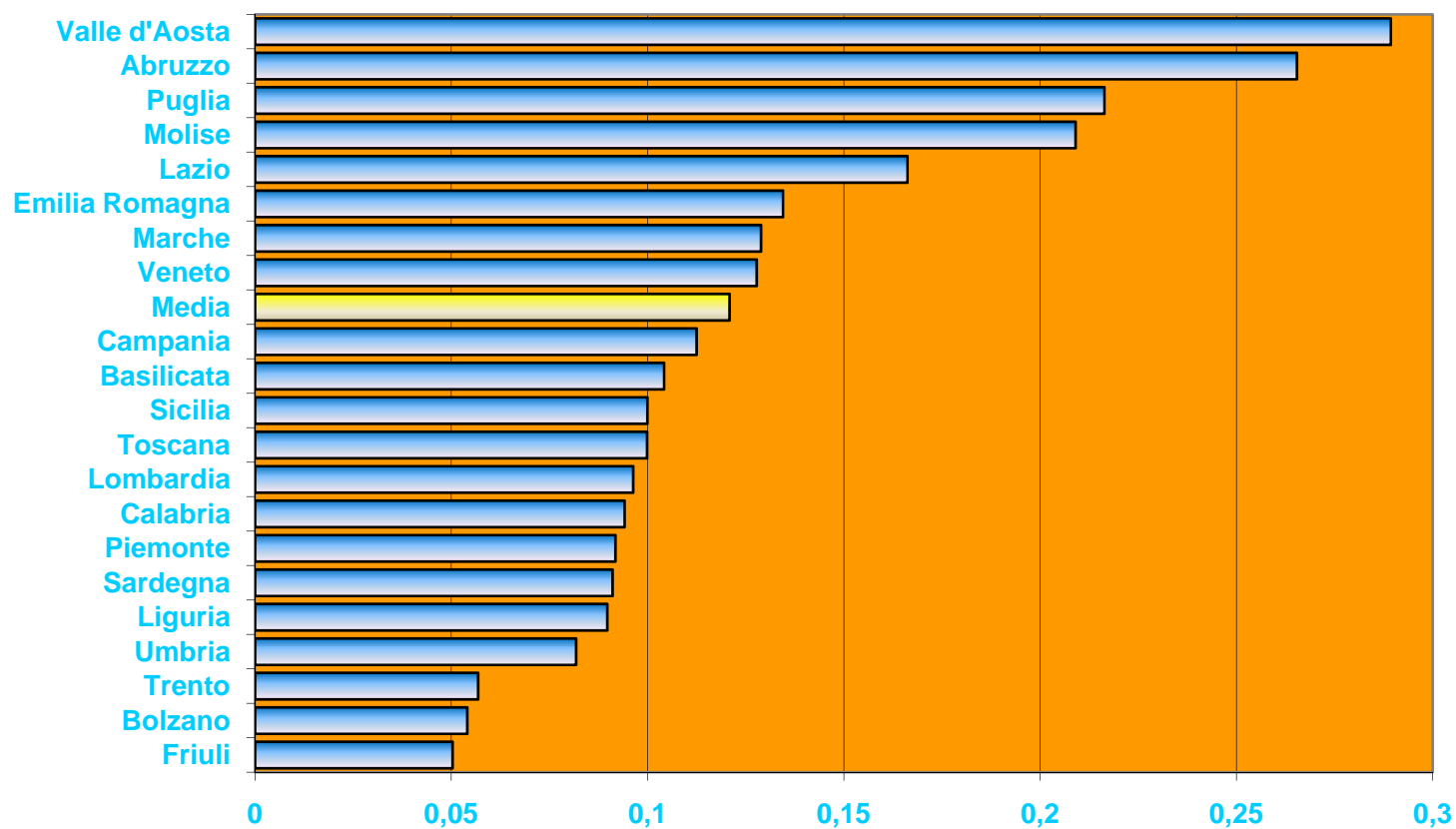
❖ independent evaluators involved in mid term evaluation

❖ different budget for evaluation





Evaluation Financial budget (%)



Ongoing evaluation. Piemonte experience



► Organisation

- In house independent evaluator
- Several institutions involved with specific competence
- Steering group with external expert and stakeholders to define demand evaluation, methodologies and share results
- evaluation regional unit



► Mid term evaluation activities

- Procedural aspects are important (not only desk analysis, but interviews to several actors)
- Evaluation of agri-environmental themes based on primary data
- Analysis of the beneficiaries and benchmarking





► Utilisation of evaluation results

- Discussion in Monitoring Committee
- Evaluation results and Communication Plan
- Testing methodology on “Social Balance” to improve exchange on evaluation results with stakeholders





► Organisation

- Public tender for the selection of the independent evaluator
- Evaluator's staff with several competence
- Regional coordination Unit for M&E
- Steering group with external expert to improve data collection and methodologies
- Evaluation demand and results



Ongoing evaluation. Emilia Romagna experience



➡ Mid term evaluation activities

- Telephone survey on measures relating to human capital (training and advisory service)
- Field analysis on agri-environmental measures (Reducing use of chemical input)
- Economic analysis on effect of set up of young farmers
- Evaluation of innovative procedures implemented by RDP (interviews with local actors)
- *Impact analysis on measures related to investments will be developed in the following report (annual report + update of intermediate evaluation)*





► Utilisation of evaluation results

- First discussion in Monitoring Committee
- Focus on good practices
- Communication plan and thematic seminars to share results with stakeholders
- Key role of independent evaluator in the communication activities
- Continuous use of evaluation results in the programming cycle





Looking forward – some messages

- Promote the increase of the “**quality**” of the evaluation, in terms of organisation, process and results
- **Ownership** of the evaluation is a requirement for the quality and independence of the evaluator as well
- Evaluation as “**accountability**” vs. “**learning process**”
- Invest in innovative and **common methodologies**
- Increase **territorial and sectoral approach** of the evaluation
- Key role of the National and European Networks





Thank for your attention

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