



THE STUDY

“THE EVALUATION OF THE IMPACT OF OVERREGULATION ON
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NRDP 2014-2020”

Evaluation Unit
Romanian Managing Authority



MINISTERUL AGRICULTURII
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OBJECTIVES

- Assessing the impact of over-regulation on the implementation of the National Rural Development Program (NRDP) 2014-2020 in Romania
- Proposing simplification measures
- Assessing the impact of the actions proposed in the 2014-2020 NRDP in order to reduce the administrative burden



EVALUATION PROCESS

- The study was implemented by ACZ Consulting, selected based on public procurement procedure
- The contract was signed in August 2018 and the final version of the study was provided on 19 January 2019
- Period of implementation → 5 months

FACT SHEET

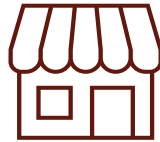
OVERREGULATION MAY AFFECT PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM STRATEGY

1



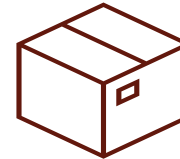
Can generate incoherence in the implementation of the Rural Development Program

2



May increase the administrative burden and costs both among the authorities and among the beneficiaries of the NRDP

3



Affect the degree of attractiveness of the various sub-measures



OUTLINE

- Identification of mandatory requirements under European and national legislation for each NRDP sub-measure
- Identification of additional requirements not derived from European and national legislation —→ GOLD PLATING
- Assessment of the impact of additional requirements
- Assessment of the impact of the proposed actions to reduce administrative burdens
- Answers to evaluation questions
- Conclusions and recommendations to reduce administrative burdens

THE METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

A MIX OF QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE METHODS:

- The review of the specialised literature
- The collection and analysis of the secondary data
- The survey based on questionnaires
- Semi-structured interviews
- Focus groups
- Case studies
- Benchmark analysis



MIRRORING

ANALYSIS MATRICES

Developed for each sub-measure analysed in the study to facilitate a comparative approach - mirroring the requirements included in the applicant's guides and the applicable provisions established under national law.

PROCEDURAL ANALYSIS MATRICES

Comparative analyse and identification of possible overregulation elements in the documents related to the sub-measures that are not found in the European and national normative framework.

ANALYSIS MATRICES

ANALYSIS MATRICES

PROCEDURAL ANALYSIS MATRICES

GOLD PLATING

Completing the application form on paper and submitting them in a physical form.

Providing of original documents (signed/stamped).

Submitting tax attestation certificate prior to contracting to attest to the absence of outstanding tax and social debts.

National schemes are not notified and it's very difficult for farmers to apply for European schemes without a clear framework for notification of national quality schemes.

Additional tasks for the authorities involved who need to view and verify recordings.

THE SURVEY

QUESTIONNAIRE

- Based on online questionnaire;
- Beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, representatives of the Managing Authority, Paying Agencies, other institutions involved in the implementation of the program, representatives of the consulting sector;
- Applied for each launched sub-measure;
- Opinions and perceptions on the impact of overregulation;
- Included both closed and open questions;
- Closed questions were both dichotomous (yes/no type) questions and multiple pre-coded answers questions that provide a progressive scale of answers.

THE SURVEY

INTERPRETATION OF DATA & QUESTIONS

4 STAGES & EXAMPLE ”?”

- **Submission stage**
 - ✓ Have you encountered any difficulties in demonstrating the eligibility criteria for the sub-measure?
 - ✓ Do you consider it necessary for all the documents requested to be submitted at the time of application?
- **Selection stage**
 - ✓ Do you find that the selection process has been hampered by the clarification requests sent by the financing authority?
 - ✓ Do you find that the self-assessment / pre-scoring requirements for certain sub-measures streamline the selection process or represent an additional effort for the beneficiaries?
 - ✓ Do you find it necessary for all the documents requested to be submitted when signing financing contract/commitment agreement?
- **Monitoring and implementation stages**
 - ✓ In the process of monitoring, did you find requirement that could be simplified or eliminated?
 - ✓ Do you find that simplification measures are necessary?

BENCHMARKING ANALYSIS

PURPOSE

- To explore how other Member States and regions implemented their Rural Development Programs in order to identify approaches that can be replicated at national level to streamline the implementation of the 2014-2020 NRDP;
- Identification of qualitative and quantitative standards comparing overregulation in similar programs.

PROCESS

- The development stages of the programme, the different measures/sub-measures, and any relevant features of the context must be taken into account;
- It is useful as a quantitative technique for drawing conclusions and recommendations in the evaluation study.

BENCHMARKING ANALYSIS

STARTING FROM 4 REFERENCES CASES

- The Republic of Ireland
- Veneto Region (Italy)
- Toscana Region (Italy)
- Aragon Region (Spain)

CONCLUSIONS OF THE STUDY

- The analysis **did not identify important aspects of overregulation** which will affect the implementation of the NRDP 2014-2020 as a whole.
- The NDRP procedures applicable to several sub-measures were generally grounded in EU or national legislation (or reflect aspects decided at the programming stage) or are, in any case, justified by the principles of transparency, regularity, and sound financial management.
- A cross-cutting aspect at the level of beneficiaries: the large number of documents (e.g. certifications, opinions, expert opinions) from different public administration institutions that applicants/beneficiaries need to obtain and to provide them in the submission/pre-contracting or implementation phases.

SIMPLIFICATION

- Reducing the administrative burden for beneficiaries and authorities
- Introducing the possibility of using standard unit costs
- In the reporting process, elimination of the submission of the public supporting documents
- At the pre-contracting stage, avoid re-checking documents submitted by the beneficiaries at the stage of submission of the application
- Elimination of the submission of denials by public institutions

THANK YOU!



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<https://www.madr.ro/pndr-2014-2020/implementare-pndr-2014-2020/evaluare-pndr-2014-2020/studii-rapoarte-de-evaluare/studiul-de-evaluare-evaluarea-impactului-suprareglementarii-asupra-implementarii-pndr-2014-2020.html>