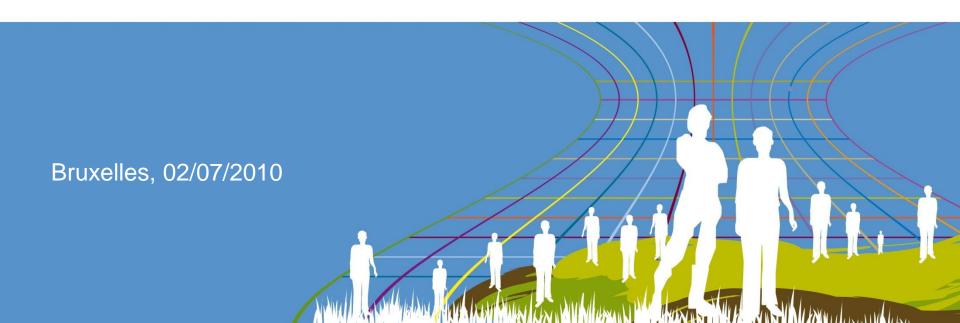






National Rural Network Evaluation

Simona Cristiano, Alessandro Monteleone National Rural Network - Italy







Outlines of the presentation

- 1) Programme objectives and intervention logic
- 2) Evaluation Plan of the NRN
- 3) Approach to the on-going evaluation
- 4) Updating the ex-ante evaluation
- 5) Defining additional evaluation questions and themes
- 6) Setting up result and impact indicators
- 7) Outputs scheduled







Programme objectives and intervention logic

1st Set of measures Improvement of governance

Supporting central, regional and local Administrations in the improvement of rural development programmes' performance, in terms of efficiency, efficacy and integration with other policies.

- 1.1.1 Horizontal support to Administrations engaged in the Rural Development Programme implementation
- 1.1.2 Support to the establishment of the national monitoring and evaluation system

Encouraging the connection of national, regional and local Institutions with horizontal and vertical partnership in the implementation of rural development policies and their coordination with other policies.

- **1.2.1** A national standing forum on partnership
- **1.2.2** Inter-regional workshops for development

3rd Set of measures Diffusion of good practices and knowledge

Capitalizing, diffusing and transferring experiences, good practices and innovations

- **3.1.1** Identification and analysis of transferable good practices/innovations and relevant information
- **3.1.2** Transfer of good practices/innovations and relevant placement into different contexts

Promoting and encouraging the diffusion of possibilities and results of rural development policies.

- 3.2.1 Supporting the promotion of services in favour of rural actors
- 3.2.2 Information on contents and results achieved by CAP and rural development policies

2nd Set of measures

Strengthening of the managerial and planning capacities

Supporting the acquisition, updating and improvement of managerial and planning capacities of individuals involved in the implementation of Rural Development Programmes, also with a view to integration and coordination with the other policies.

- 2.1.1 Preparation of training programmes for Local Action Groups in the process of formation
- 2.1.2 Organisation of experiences and know-how exchange
- **2.1.3** Workshops on pilot ideas and integrated projects

Supporting partnership capacity between territories and actors involved in rural development.

- 2.2.1 Technical assistance to inter-territorial and transnational cooperation
- 2.2.2 Technical assistance to cooperation among institutions

4th Set of measures

Management of the Network

- 4.1.1 Implementation, management and operation of Network structures
- **4.1.2** Communication Plan and publicity of interventions
- **4.1.3** Monitoring and evaluation of the Network









The Evaluation Plan: defining the governance

- Who's who & who does what:
 - MA, Indipendent evaluator, Steering group,
 Stakeholders: skills, roles and functions
- What to do:
 - Priorities of the evaluation activities
 - Methodologies, data and sources
 - Outputs & timining
 - Programme specific evaluation questions
- How to do it:
 - Call for tender for selecting the evaluator (pubblished in May; closed in Nov 2009)
 - Procedures and relations between the different actors





Priorities of the evaluation activities

- Report on the evaluability conditions:
 - Updating and review the programme indicators
 - Assessing the Adequateness of data and sources
- Focusing on the:
 - Capability to create an objective-led network
 - Working with the stakeholders in a participative approach
 - Capability to enhance the RDPs' and local governance
 - © Capability to support cooperation, networking and exchange of practices at all levels
 - Efficiency of the NRN's organization
 - Effectiveness of communication activities
 - Utility of outputs and services provided by the NRN







NRN and the evaluator

Participativeness

- Continous involvement of the stakeholders
- Learning evaluation
- Participation to meetings organized by NRN
- Supporting the selfevaluation exercise

- User-friendly reporting
- Meetings
- Dialogue & exchange of views

Communication

Usefulness

- Result-management oriented
- Encouraging changes in behaviours



Programme strategy & objectives

- Project cycle management approach
- Cause&effects approach



- MA's specific evaluation demand
- Focusing on priorities
- Developping AEQs







Programme strategy & objectives

Updating the ex-ante evaluation

Consistency of the assessments

Desk analysis

PCM & S.M.A.R.T.

Ex ante indicators (output, result and impact): check, updating, review and additional set.

Desk analysis & interviews

Additional set set "networking indicators"

- Scale-assessment
- Sub-articulation for impact indicators
 (qualitative setting)

Sources



Mapping the evaluation NEEDS

Research & Desk analysis

Interviews

Drafting & Selecting evaluation QUESTIONS

Multicriteria analysis

Sharing and Revising the EQs with the MA and the NRN

Focus group

Desk analysis

Defining INDICATORS

Desk analysis

PCM & S.M.A.R.T. criteria



Additional EQs: themes and methods

NRN supportiveness

- Rural Governance
- Ruralactivizenship
- Addressing Local needs

Desk analysis

Communication

NRN's Organization

- Dissemination
- Territorial Coverage
- •Structures and the internal relations
- Task mngnt
- Participative approach

Field analysis & participative evaluation (interviews, Delphi method, EASW, Focus group, brainstorming)

LEADER, Cooperation, Good practises

- Human capital
- Behavioural changes
- Utilization of good practises

SOCIAL NETWORK
ANALYSIS
(SNA)







Outputs as scheduled

Output	Deadline
Report on impact, result and output indicators	Delivered (22 April 2010)
Report on the Evaluability Conditions and design of the evaluation	Delivered (22 May 2010)
Draft Mid-Term Evaluation Report	By 30 October 2010
Mid -Term Evaluation Report	By 15 December 2010
Draft Annual Report	By 30 March (2011, 2012, 2013, 2014)
Annual Report	By 30 May (2011, 2012, 2013, 2014)
Draft ex-post evaluation	By 30 March 2015
Ex-post Evaluation	By 30 May2015







Thank you for your attention

NRN - Italy: monteleone@inea.it cristiano@inea.it

NRNP's indipendent evaluator : Ecosfera Vic s.r.l. vbuscemi@ecosfera.it fangori@ecosfera.it