



European Evaluation Network
for Rural Development



European Commission
Agriculture and Rural Development

PREPARING FOR THE MID- TERM EVALUATION OF THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

A SURVEY OF THE MEMBER STATES

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The European Evaluation Network for Rural Development (abbreviated to "Evaluation Expert Network") operates under the responsibility of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development. The overall aim of the Network is to increase the usefulness of evaluation as a tool for improving the formulation and implementation of rural development policies by helping to establish good practice and capacity building in the evaluation of rural development programmes up until 2013.

Additional information about the activities of the Evaluation Expert Network and its Evaluation Helpdesk is available on the Internet through the Europa server (http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rurdev/eval/network/index_en.htm)

PREPARING FOR THE MID- TERM EVALUATION OF THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

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JUNE 16, 2009

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Introduction

The Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) is a key milestone in the ongoing evaluation activities of the Rural Development Programmes (RDPs). For the 2007-13 programming period, the Member States (MS) of the European Union are required to ensure that, for each of their RDPs, a MTE is completed before the end of 2010. According to the EU regulations, the MTE must be outsourced to independent bodies. This way, the resulting evaluation reports will provide objective advice to the Managing Authorities (MAs) on how to improve the quality, performance and the implementation of their RDPs.

Making all the necessary preparations for organising the MTE may pose challenges to the MAs. The needs assessment that the Evaluation Helpdesk of the European Evaluation Network for Rural Development carried out in 2008 had identified some of the difficulties encountered or expected by the programme stakeholders. These include drafting the terms of reference for the independent evaluators, organising the tender procedures, selecting the independent evaluators and the evaluation methods they propose. Yet, the needs assessment was not designed to focus specifically on the problems that the MS may have with respect to the MTE. It was therefore agreed that the Evaluation Helpdesk would conduct an MTE-dedicated survey of the state of preparation of the MS. This activity was included in the Work Programme of the Network.

The survey, providing a snapshot of the status of preparation for the MTE, will contribute to:

- ✓ better understanding the design of the ongoing evaluation systems in the MS, and how the MTE links in;
- ✓ highlighting the challenges that the MS are facing when organising their MTEs;
- ✓ providing an EU-wide reference for all the MS conducting their evaluation activities.

Most importantly, the findings of this survey underpin the drafting of the Guidelines regarding the Mid-Term Evaluation, which will provide additional support to the MAs in their preparatory work. These Guidelines will complement and elaborate on the more general guidance that is delivered through the Guidance Note B (Evaluation Guidelines) to the Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (CMEF). The survey is also useful in informing about future difficulties expected during the MTE process, as some of the challenges identified by the MAs might have an impact on the evaluators' work later on.

This report presents the findings of a questionnaire-based survey, addressed to the MAs of all the RDPs in the EU. The national network and the national framework programmes were excluded, which left the target population at 88 programmes. The report draws on 62 responses, received throughout May and June 2009. The survey has a wide geographic coverage, and only few programmes have not taken part. A full list of the participating programmes is laid out in the Annex.

The questionnaires have been prepared by the Evaluation Helpdesk and its Core Team of experts, while the Geographic Experts of the Evaluation Helpdesk administered them to their relevant EU counterparts. The Helpdesk subsequently analysed the responses and drafted this report.

The report is structured as follows. The first section looks into how the MTE links into the ongoing evaluation process. Section II presents the arrangements the programme authorities have made to coordinate their evaluation activities and to enhance their evaluation capacities. Section III provides a snapshot of the steps the MS have taken to prepare for the MTE, while Section IV reports on the difficulties they have encountered and proposes ways to address these challenges.

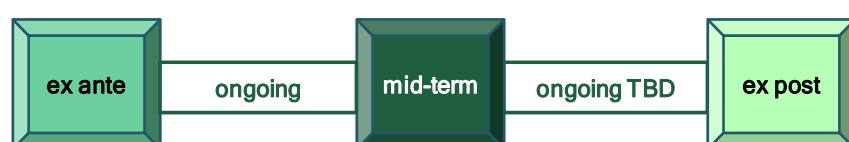
I. The MTE in the ongoing evaluation process

1. **The EU regulations stress that the MTE is an integral part of ongoing evaluation.** Article 86(4) of Council Regulation (EC) 1698/2005 states that “in 2010, ongoing evaluation shall take the form of a separate mid-term evaluation report”. Notwithstanding that, the MTE presents a set of features that make it a distinct and markedly important milestone in the ongoing evaluation process. The MTE builds on the various evaluation activities carried out since the beginning of the programming period, and is the first significant moment of reflection about the performance of the RDP since the launch of the programme. This reflection transcends the regional or national level, and feeds into a concerted assessment of programming under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

2. **Within this framework, the MS are free to design their ongoing evaluation systems as they deem appropriate.** As per article 86(1) of the Council Regulation (EC) 1698/2005, the setting up of an ongoing evaluation system is mandatory for each RDP. However, the Regulation does not impose any constraints on the design of these ongoing evaluation systems, other than the obligation to hire independent evaluators for the ex-ante, mid-term and ex-post evaluations. Consequently, programme authorities have a lot of flexibility in organising and managing the evaluation activities that occur between the ex-ante, mid-term and ex-post evaluations, and to integrate them with these milestones.

3. **The survey reveals a variety of patterns in use across the MS¹, as described below.** In most cases, the definite information about the organisation of the evaluation activities goes only until the end of the MTE. For this reason, the figures below suggest that the designs applying to the remaining activities are yet to be determined (TBD).

4. **Minimal outsourcing.** According to this pattern, it is the MA which conducts the overall



ongoing evaluation, while organizing tenders only for those steps that necessitate independent evaluators. These are the ex-ante, mid-term and the

Figure 1: Minimal outsourcing

ex-post evaluations. Such a choice does not exclude the possibility that the MA contracts out some supporting activities, e.g. thematic studies. However, these activities tend to be sporadic and rather marginal in the overall set of evaluation activities. This design is similar to that used in the previous programming period 2000-06.

5. **In-house project.** Under this design, the ongoing evaluation (including the mid-term) is entrusted to an independent yet public unit or agency. The latter may, in turn, contract out specific activities. This option is exceptional among the MS, as only two of the respondents have chosen it.

¹ The Annex presents the choice that each programme participating in the survey made with regard to the design of the ongoing evaluation system.

In **Austria**, the ongoing evaluation and the MTE are organized as an in-house project, managed by the ministry's independent evaluation department. This department coordinates some 20 evaluators from 6 different institutions. Numerous supporting studies (approximately 40 studies estimated for

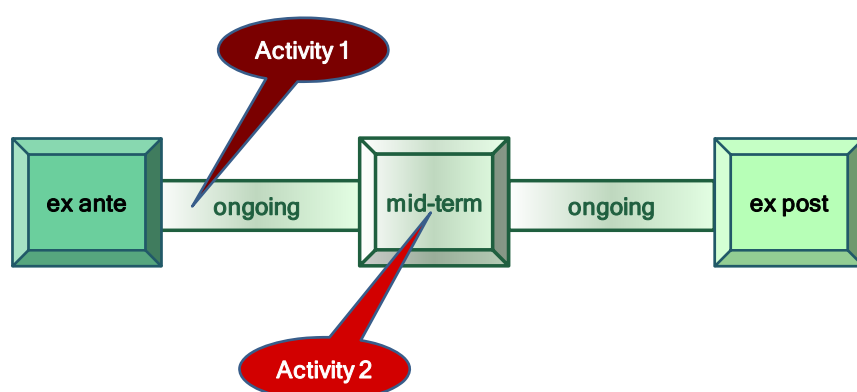


Figure 2: In-house project

the 2007-2013 period) feed into the ongoing

evaluation and the MTE. These studies are either carried out in-house or outsourced. In **Italy-Piemonte**, the ongoing evaluation is similarly organized as an in-house activity. An internal department of the region (the evaluation unit), independent from the MA, has been entrusted with the ongoing evaluation of the RDP. This arrangement is complemented by a contract with an external coordinator and by different contracts with research institutes.

6. **Sequential outsourcing (simple).** The MA externalizes most or all of the ongoing evaluation

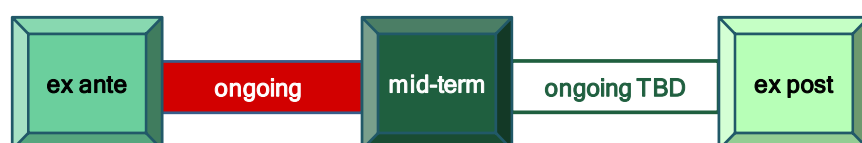


Figure 3: Sequential outsourcing, simple

activities to one contractor, who can be public or private, an individual organization or a consortium. The particularity of this design is that the ex-

ante, mid-term and ex-post evaluations are tendered separately from the rest of the ongoing evaluation activities. This pattern is rather rare across the MS, for at least two reasons. First, there is a lack of continuity in the evaluators' work because of the sequential contracting. Second, the administrative efforts to organize a succession of tenders are greater than for fewer but longer-term contracts.

7. **Sequential outsourcing (multiple).** The MA outsources some or all of the ongoing evaluation

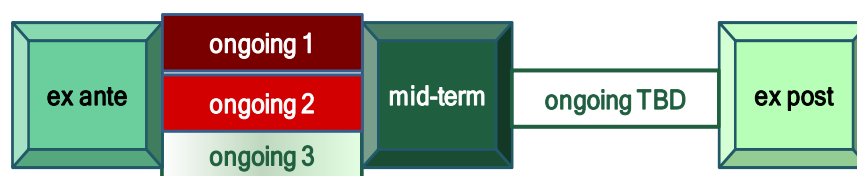


Figure 2: Sequential outsourcing, multiple

activities under a set of different contracts. The MTE is typically then tendered out separately, as a single contract, but variations may exist. The advantages of using

different contractors for the different types of evaluation activities (e.g. usually there is a division by measure or by axis) are greater flexibility and a potential for deeper specialization. In some cases, it may be complicated to build a multi-disciplinary consortium, and this design overcomes such a difficulty. Still, this is a rather rare choice across the EU, as the downsides are similar to those characteristic to the simple sequential outsourcing.

8. **Full outsourcing.** The MA tenders the ongoing evaluation under a single contract, which also



Figure 5: Full outsourcing (1)

covers the MTE. Variations may occur as to the duration and coverage of the contract overall, thus going as far as to include the ex-post evaluation for the

current programming period. This design presents several advantages. It keeps the administrative burden related to the evaluation activities low, as there is no need to organize frequent tenders. Most importantly, it facilitates a better collaboration between the evaluators and the MA, with potentially positive effects on the quality of data collection, and on the quality of the evaluation as

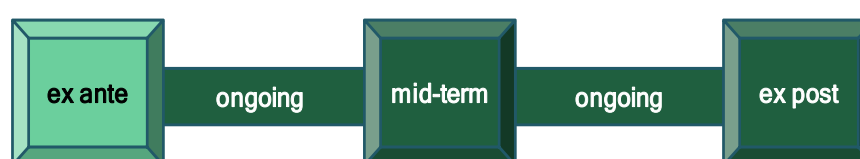


Figure 6: Full outsourcing (2)

such. It also makes possible an increase in the role and impact of evaluation in the delivery of the rural development policy. As

a downside, it may provide less flexibility in choosing or changing the evaluators than the sequential contracting, for instance, which makes the planning of the first tender tremendously important (e.g. in terms of defining the qualifications and tasks of the evaluators).

9. **An overview of the choices MAs have made is provided below.** As Figure 7 shows, the

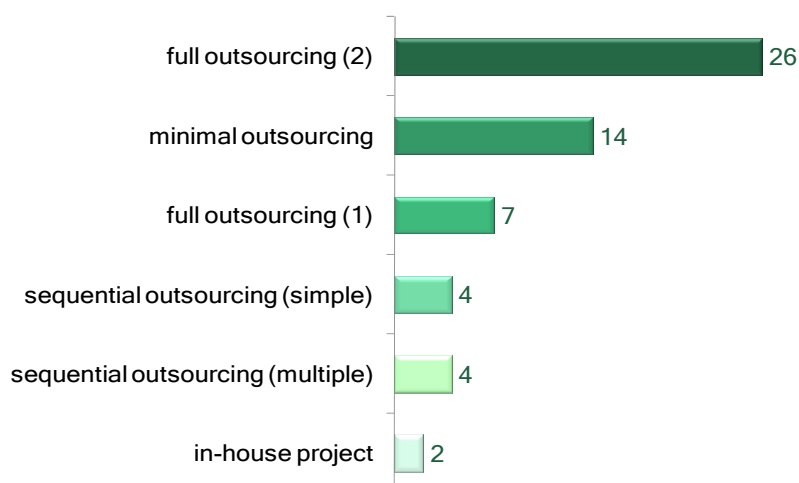


Figure 7: Overview of the ongoing evaluation designs chosen (number of programmes)

Note: The total number of programmes above is only 57, as 5 respondents did not provide sufficient information in order to allow an adequate identification of their evaluation system designs.

majority of programmes preferred to outsource all their ongoing evaluation activities to one contractor (either a single organisation or a consortium). This covers the MTE, and, in most cases (26 programmes) also the ex-post evaluation. Another common design is the minimal outsourcing (14 programmes), continuing the evaluation approach of the previous programming period.

The remaining options (sequential outsourcing and the organisation of ongoing evaluation as an in-house project) are used only to a limited extent in the EU. As the report shows, these choices have important implications on the degree of preparedness for the MTE and on the needs and difficulties encountered.

II. Coordination and capacity building in evaluation

10. The increased focus on the evaluation activities must be matched by adequate capacities.

Compared to the previous programming period, the evaluation activities gained in importance and demand more sophisticated techniques and methods. The CMEF has a broad coverage, both in terms of indicators and related data needs, and in terms of subject areas. Consequently, conducting the evaluation activities requires a greater number of actors, and a wide set of specialties and skills. The MAs, who bear the responsibility for the successful completion of the RDP evaluation exercise, need to ensure that all these diverse resources are pooled together and coordinated effectively.

11. Most of the MAs have taken action towards strengthening their own evaluation capacities.

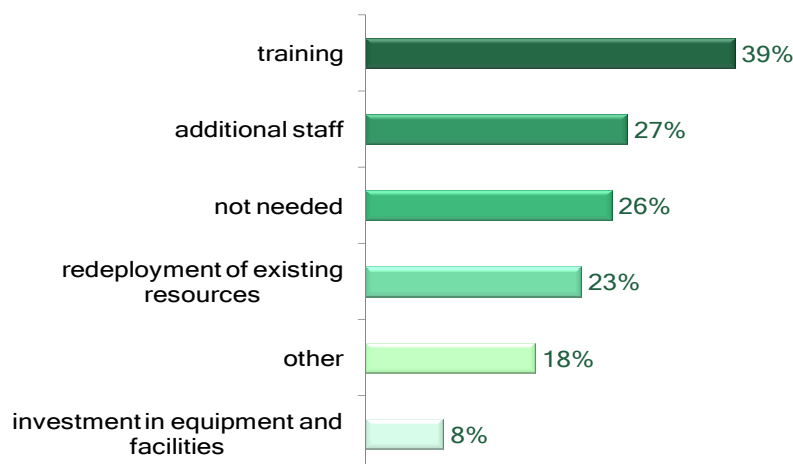


Figure 8: Ways to enhance the evaluation capacities in the MAs

Note: The percentages do not add up to 100%, because multiple answers were possible.

As displayed in Figure 8, nearly three quarters of the MAs surveyed **have taken** such a decision. Training of staff is the preferred way to enhance evaluation capacities, but also additional staff was hired in about one quarter of the cases. However, the MAs reported to have typically used a mix of capacity

building instruments. In addition to the most common ways to strengthen evaluation knowledge and capabilities, some 18% of the respondents also resorted to alternative solutions. These include: networking, setting up of evaluation units within the MAs, and cooperation with specialized departments or institutions (e.g. departments of economic analysis in public administration bodies or even private companies).

12. Managing the relationship with the independent evaluators is an important responsibility of the MAs. Although the MAs are taking steps towards increasing their evaluation capacities, this may be still insufficient when dealing with the complexities of the evaluators' work. Moreover, the evaluation of the RDPs is a complex process involving numerous stakeholders. In order to accommodate that, the Guidance Note B (Evaluation Guidelines) to the CMEF advises the programme authorities to set up a steering group. This body should involve representatives of various departments – thus ensuring a wide stakeholder representation – and should support and monitor the work of the evaluator.

13. About 58% of the respondents have already set up a steering group for evaluation. A few more programme authorities are planning to do so in the near future, which would increase their share to 65%. The way in which the MTE is connected to the ongoing evaluation process plays a role

in the decision to set up a steering group. Programmes tendering the MTE separately are less inclined to have a steering group in place, whereas the opposite happens for the programmes having opted for full outsourcing, and which already have their independent evaluators working.

14. The role and composition of the steering groups, if created, present variations across MS.

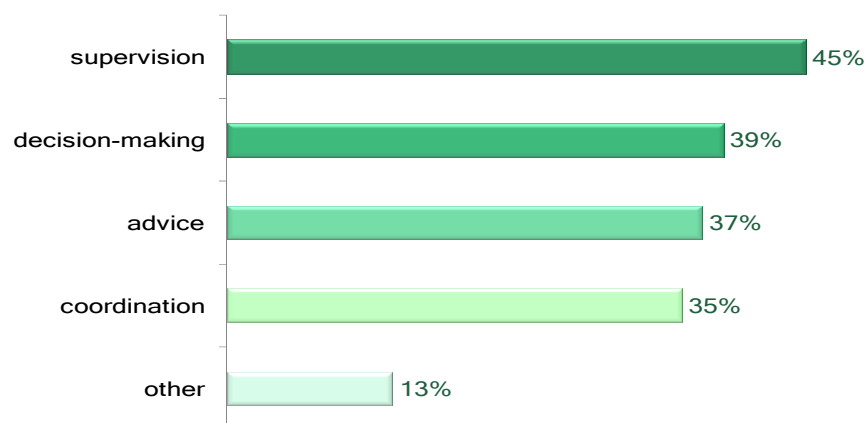


Figure 9: Functions performed by the steering group

Note: The percentages do not add up to 100%, because multiple answers were possible.

The MS surveyed were invited to describe the set of *functions* that their steering groups perform. In most cases, the steering groups' role is not limited to only one task. Supervising the work of the evaluators, and making related decisions are the most common functions. The steering groups may also serve for

preparing, assessing and coordinating the documents to be submitted to the Monitoring Committee for decision, or as a discussion forum for the evaluation design at both programme level and cross-national level (in the case of multiple programme countries). A particular case was reported by Italy-Trento, where a joint steering group follows all evaluations (including of the structural funds), coordinated under a single plan. This group fulfils all the functions described in Figure 9.

15. As far as the *composition* of the steering group is concerned, it ranges from a minimalist design, involving only a few specialists from various departments of the MA, to a very wide range of inter-institutional participants. The more complex structures prevail by a small margin, and may include: paying agencies, other organisations active in the public administration (e.g. ministries of environment, finance, ministries in charge of structural funds, etc.), LEADER groups, farmers' unions, nature conservation associations, research institutes, and associations of evaluators.

III. Steps made towards organising the MTE

16. Appointing the independent evaluators is now a major administrative priority for the MAs

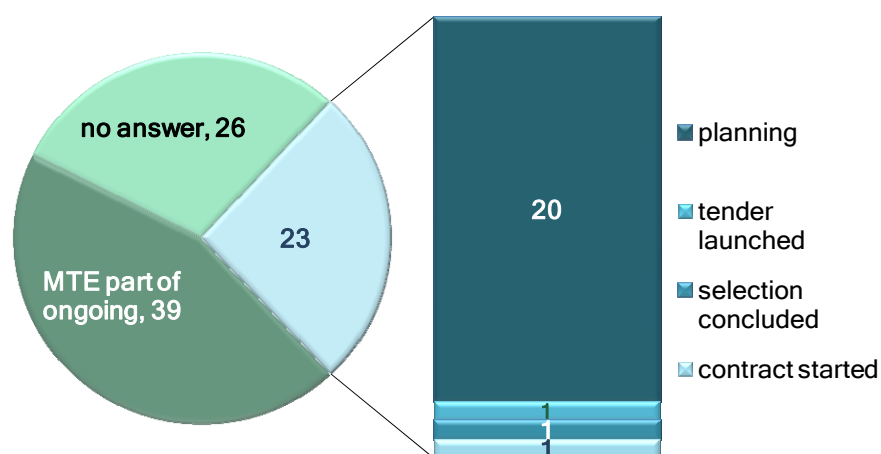


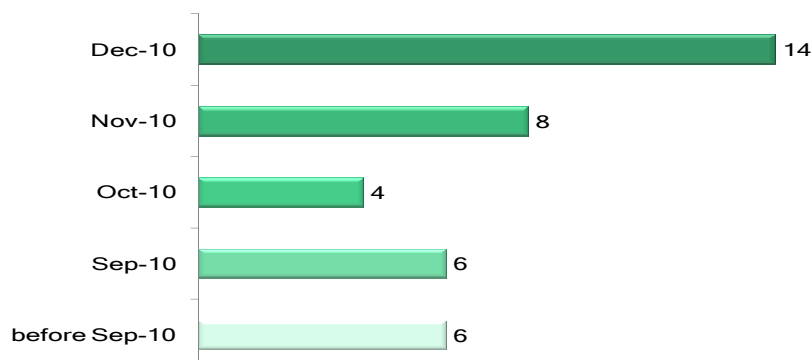
Figure 10: Progress in appointing the evaluators for the MTE (number of programmes)

tendering the MTE separately. While the evaluators to carry out the MTE have already been secured in a number of cases (including the full outsourcing and the in-house projects), 23 programmes reported that they are only now in the process of contracting them. As most of these respondents are still in the planning phase (20 programmes), there is

an increased necessity to expedite the preparations, in order to allow the incoming evaluators to effectively meet the deadline for completing the MTE, set in the Regulation.

17. About three quarters of the authorities currently contracting out their MTE have decided the key parameters of their tendering process. Of the 23 programmes currently outsourcing the MTE, 16 will manage it under a single contract, with 1 under a set of separate contracts. Most authorities favour open tenders (13 programmes) to restricted (only 2 programmes). Furthermore, there is an even distribution of the geographical level of competition: 8 programmes go for EU-wide tenders, and 8 others only for nation-wide. However, this leaves about one quarter of the 23 programme authorities still to decide how their tenders will be organised. While most of the authorities organising MTE tenders envisage the end of 2009 or beginning of 2010 for their contractors to start, there are a few cases in which the start date is foreseen for mid-2010, or still needs to be confirmed. These are at a risk of running short of time for adequately completing their MTE.

18. The majority of MAs are aiming for their evaluators to submit the MTE report by the last quarter of 2010.

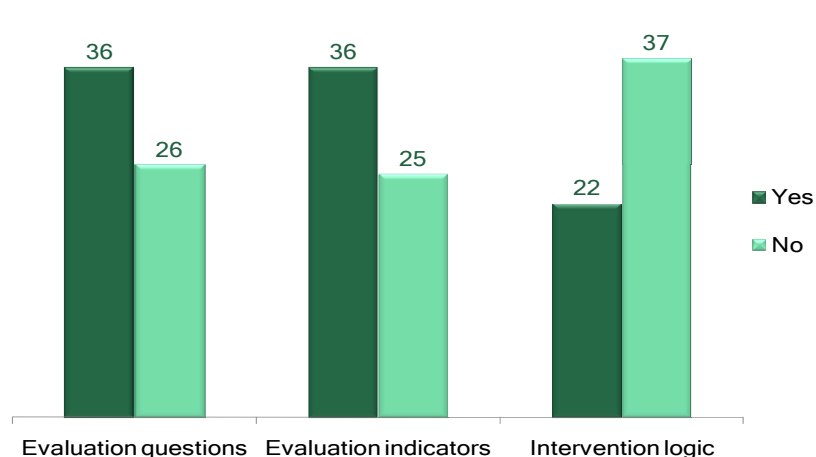


This observation applies to all the participants in the survey, irrespective of how they articulate the MTE with their other evaluation activities. A more

Figure 11: Planning of the completion of the MTE report (number of programmes)

detailed breakdown of the planned schedule is laid out in Figure 11. However, several of the MAs surveyed did not provide an estimated date or have provided only an indication of the quarter rather than of a particular month. Figure 11 does not capture these responses. In the context of setting the date for finalising the MTE report, the programmes that have contracted the evaluators earlier in the programme implementation cycle have clear benefits. Their contractors have more time to carry out the MTE, and more scope to conduct deeper and more detailed assessments.

19. Apart from setting the system and making the administrative arrangements for



evaluation, the MAs need also get involved in a series of preparatory activities.

An important course of action to take early in the programme implementation cycle is to review the evaluation questions, the evaluation indicators and the intervention logic frames. This mainly involves their cross-checking and adaptation to the specificities of each region

Figure 12: Preparatory activities for the (mid-term) evaluation of the RDP (number of programmes)

or country. However, as Figure 12 reveals, only some of the programmes surveyed have undertaken such actions up to the present.

20. There is a fine line to draw when determining who should be primarily responsible for such revisions. While the Guidance Note B (Evaluation Guidelines) to the CMEF suggests that the revisions should be mainly carried out by the MA, this is, in reality, the case for only 11 of the 37 programmes having reviewed either of the evaluation questions, indicators or intervention logic frames. The preferred option (23 of the 37 programmes) is a joint approach, involving both the evaluators and the MA. This presents the advantage of utilizing the specialised knowledge and the experience of the evaluators, to complement the typically more limited evaluation capacities of the MAs. However, for such a cooperation to be possible, it is necessary to have the evaluators contracted early in the programme implementation. Such a consultation is therefore common for the programmes benefiting from full outsourcing of the evaluation activities, and represents another benefit of this evaluation design.

21. Most of the programmes surveyed have made arrangements for their evaluators to have access to data. Only in few of the cases reported (e.g. Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, some of the Italian and Spanish programmes) such preparations have not yet been completed. As far as the majority of the programmes are concerned, the information provided on this issue reveals a wide range of aspects covered, and various approaches considered. In some cases, the evaluators have direct and free access to the IT systems (e.g. Italy-Piemonte, France-Héxagone, Germany-Sachsen-Anhalt). In others, they may receive all the data they need from their MAs, and only the MAs have direct access to the IT systems (e.g. Cyprus). Alternatively, the MAs may choose to

provide the only data they hold, and facilitate the evaluators' access to data collected by other organisations (e.g. Estonia, Romania, and the Slovak Republic). In Austria, for instance, more nuances are reported with regard to the provisions on data access. The individual evaluators can in principle extract raw data directly from the monitoring database. However, in order to minimise the risk of errors in the analysis of this information, sometimes the evaluation unit of the MA performs an initial processing of the data, before making it available to the evaluators. However, in all cases, provisions on data security, privacy protection and confidentiality need to be part of the contractual arrangements between the MAs and the evaluators; many of the programmes surveyed clearly highlight that.

IV. Difficulties encountered and need for further support

Data collection and methodologies

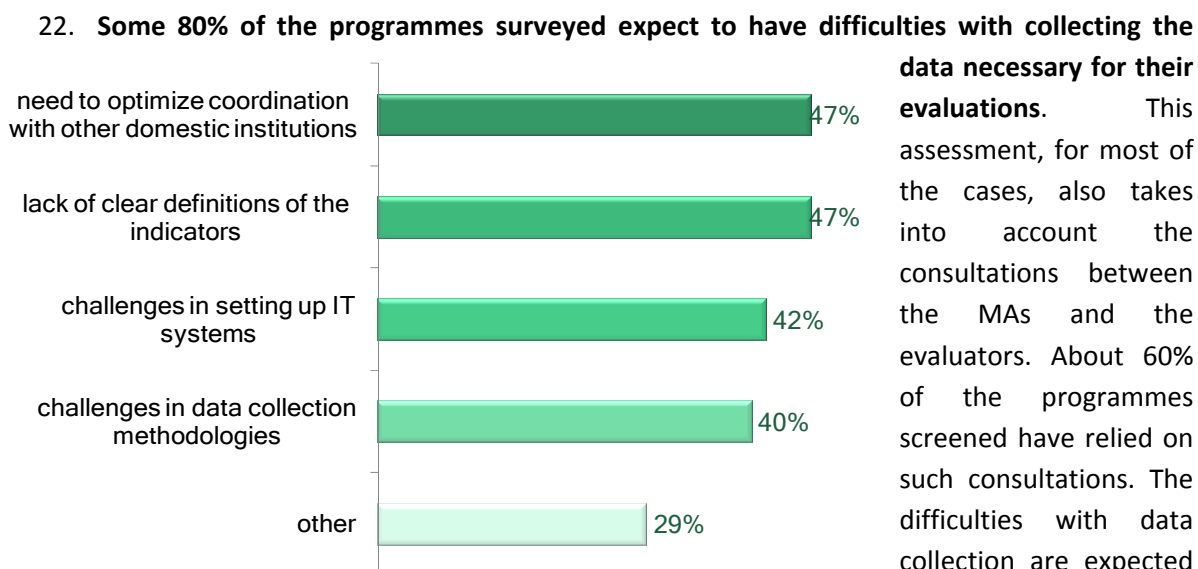


Figure 13: The main reasons for the expected difficulties with data collection

Note: The percentages do not add up to 100%, because multiple answers were possible.

23. **The responsibilities for addressing the expected shortcomings in data collection must be duly divided between the national and the European levels.** Tackling two of the most common causes of difficulty (i.e. the need to optimise coordination with domestic institutions, and challenges in setting up the IT systems) falls entirely within the remit of the MAs and/or other domestic actors. There is no scope, in these cases, for action to be taken within the framework of the European Evaluation Network for Rural Development. However, the remaining factors impeding data collection may call for EU-concerted responses. These are the lack of clear definitions of the indicators, and the challenges in data collection methodologies. As far as other difficulties are concerned, they are mostly related to missing or insufficient data (including obtaining data on the control groups), as well as to factoring the output data into the calculation of some of the result and impact indicators. Also, some respondents questioned the relevance of some of the baseline indicators for the purposes of evaluation. Both the Network, including the European Commission, and the national/regional authorities may need to play a role in tackling these aspects, depending on the exact nature of each difficulty encountered.

24. **There is a very wide-range of indicators, and related issues, reported to pose challenges to the MS in view of the upcoming MTE.** The MTE will be the first reporting milestone as regards the impact indicators. Recurrent answers from the MS point out difficulties expected primarily in relation to the environmental indicators (biodiversity, water quality, and climate change, and only to a much lesser extent high nature value - HNV), and to the gross value added indicators (including economic growth). These challenges refer both to the impact (and to some extent result) indicators,

and to the related baseline indicators. The problems highlighted cover: data gaps (e.g. data never collected before, or updated with low frequencies – e.g. every 10 years), challenges with retrieving the necessary information from programme beneficiaries, and also the more thorny issue of netting out the policy impacts. With regard to the latter, feedback from the MAs surveyed reveals that they are facing difficulties with defining and observing the control groups when using matching methods. On one hand, it is difficult to identify non-supported units, particularly for some measures with a very wide territorial/sectoral coverage. On the other hand, it is even more difficult to obtain comparable data (e.g. book-keeping data) for the non-supported units, for fear of violating the rules on data protection.

The Evaluation Helpdesk is currently involved in providing targeted assistance on some of these aspects, mainly through:

- thematic working groups (e.g. definition and covering of data gaps in relation to the HNV impact indicator, and assessment of the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the RDPs);
- guidance on specific topics (e.g. clarifications on the gross value added result and impact indicators);
- other forms of support (ongoing, and/or in progress), such as: examples of good practice, and answers to specific queries from the MS.

Administrative and procedural matters

25. About 56% of the programmes surveyed *needed* or still need support in drafting the terms of reference (TORs) for their evaluators. The needs for guidance in drafting the TORs for the evaluators depend strongly on the evaluation systems in place. If, for instance, the MAs contracted their evaluators early in the programming period, to cover more than just the MTE, the TORs had been finalized in due time for that. As a consequence, many of the programmes having opted for the full outsourcing approach, or for the in-house managed projects, are no longer in need for support, although they had welcomed it in the past. Some of the countries with multiple regional programmes have found such assistance on the national level. The Italian regions, for example, had it delivered by the Italian National Evaluation Network for Rural Development.

26. Still, about half of the programmes surveyed would welcome additional guidance on the

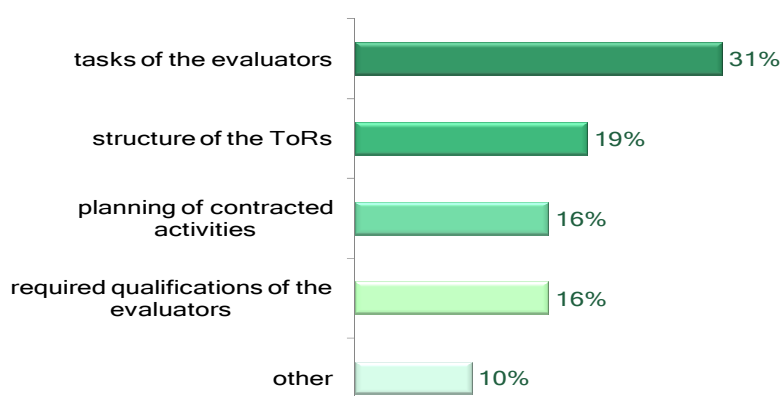


Figure 14: Main areas of difficulty in drafting the TORs for the evaluators

Note: The percentages do not add up to 100%, because multiple answers were possible.

TORs at this stage. This need is the most prevalent amongst the programme authorities who are contracting out the MTE separately from the rest of the ongoing evaluation activities. The need for guidance is particularly prominent in the new

member states. The areas in which the MAs surveyed would welcome assistance most are presented in Figure 14. The percentages reflect the share of the respondents who highlighted a particular area, in the total number of responses received. Multiple answers were possible. The survey revealed that defining the tasks of the evaluator is the most challenging aspect of drafting the TORs. In addition to the needs presented in the graph, some MAs also pointed out aspects such as: guidelines for assessing the offers received during the tendering process, or an EU-harmonized description of the methodological approaches for the evaluators to take, so that evaluations become more comparable at the EU level.

27. Miscellaneous aspects were brought up to help improve and clarify the guidance already delivered through the CMEF Handbook. Through a final, open-ended question, the survey gave the MAs the opportunity to propose how the existing guidance can be improved in view of the upcoming MTE reporting. The following points came through².

- clarify the reporting frequency for the result indicators: annual, in the Annual Progress Reports, or periodical, in the MTE and ex-post evaluation reports;
- in relation to the above, also clarify the intervals of the surveys required for the result indicators (e.g. the gross value added indicator fiche only specifies the start and end date of the project as landmarks for data collection, with the mid-term and ex-post evaluations also given as important surveying milestones);
- draft explanatory fiches to the evaluation questions;
- supply more details on the data sources available;
- develop a glossary of key evaluation terms.

Some of these issues can be considered as priority topics for the Evaluation Helpdesk's work in the immediate future.

The Evaluation Helpdesk is currently involved in providing targeted assistance on some of these aspects, mainly through:

- guidelines for the MS to prepare for the MTE;
- a set of dedicated good practice examples;
- a dedicated FAQ section on the website of the Network;
- a glossary of key evaluation terms.

² To avoid repetition, they do not include some points that have already been addressed in other parts of the paper (e.g. calculating the net impacts or methodologies for data collection).

Annex: The ongoing evaluation systems in the EU

Of the 62 respondents, 14 have opted for **minimal outsourcing**: Belgium-Flanders, Bulgaria, Germany-Bayern, Denmark, Ireland, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia, Spain – Castilla-la-Mancha, Spain – Navarra, Sweden, and UK-Wales.

Of the 62 respondents, 2 have opted for the ongoing evaluation as an **in-house project**: Austria and Italy-Piemonte.

Of the 62 respondents, 4 have opted for **sequential outsourcing (simple)**: Germany-Sachsen (tendered to a downstream agency of the ministry), Hungary (planning), Romania (planning), and Spain-Extremadura.

Of the 62 respondents, 4 have opted for **sequential outsourcing (multiple)**: France-Héxagone, Estonia, UK-England and UK-Scotland.

Of the 62 respondents, 7 have opted for **full outsourcing (1)**: Cyprus, Germany-Saarland, France-Guadeloupe, Latvia, Spain-Andalucía, Spain-Cataluña, and Spain-Aragon.

Of the 62 respondents, 26 have opted for **full outsourcing (2)**: Germany-Hessen, Germany-Nordrhein Westfalen, Germany-Brandenburg Berlin, Germany – Niedersachsen Bremen, Germany-Hamburg, Germany-Thüringen, Germany – Schleswig Holstein, Germany-Sachsen Anhalt, Germany – Mecklenburg Vorpommern, Finland-Continental, Italy-Emilia Romagna, Italy-Veneto, Italy-Liguria, Italy-Campania, Italy-Abruzzo, Italy-Marche, Italy-Bolzano, Italy-Lazio, Italy-Umbria, Italy-Lombardia, Italy-Trento, Portugal-Continent, Portugal-Madeira, Portugal-Açores, Slovakia, and UK-Northern Ireland (planned, to be confirmed).

Of the 62 respondents, 5 have provided insufficient information to accurately characterize the design of their ongoing evaluation system: Czech Republic*, Germany – Rheinland-Pfalz**, Germany – Baden Württemberg**, Greece*, and Finland-Aland Islands**.

*Note: * - The contracting of the ongoing (including mid-term) evaluation is not yet finalized;*

*** - No information is provided on the end date for the ongoing evaluation contract.*



European Evaluation Network
for Rural Development

Evaluation Helpdesk

260 Chaussée St Pierre – B-1040 Brussels

Tel: +32 (0)2 736 18 90

E-mail: info@ruralevaluation.eu