From Ongoing Evaluation towards the Evaluation Plan

European Evaluation Network for Rural Development

Good Practice Workshop

Vienna, 14 May 2012

Relevant facts on Evaluation Plan (legal proposals)

- An **evaluation plan** shall be drawn up by the MA for each RDP

- Member States shall ensure that **appropriate evaluation capacity** is available (art. 49 CPR)

- The EC shall establish **minimum requirements for the evaluation plan**

- Member States shall organise the production and gathering of the requisite data and supply the information provided by the monitoring system to the evaluators. (art. 83 RDR)

Character of Evaluation Plan

RDP Bulgaria	RDP IT Piemonte:
• **No evaluation plan** • **2 public tender procedures respectively cover-ng periods 2007-2010 and 2011-2015** • **Outputs : 2 ongoing evaluation reports and the MTE**	• **formal act of MA (for requirements of EC and national bodies)** • **Contains „clarification about what MA means with evaluation"** • **Not flexible, defined by MA** • **Covers whole period**
RDP Austria	**RDP BE Flanders:**
• **Yearly updated Project Handbook** • **Covers evaluation environment, tasks, definition of roles & responsibilities ; timing reporting, guidelines, data** • **Project plan: management, basics, indicators, contracts** • **Has management function**	• **Since January 2010 formaly written down, before on ad-hoc basis** • **Yearly updated** • **Started to introduce project management principles in team (execution plan is part of it)** • **For project management**

Challenges concerning ongoing evaluation

- Lack of clear **definition of roles and responsibilities**;
- **Coordination between evaluation stakeholders** (MA, PA, beneficiaries, intermediate bodies, Env. Associations, etc.);
- Hard to ensure **continuity and knowledge** (staff turnover);
- **Data and information collection**, IT system.
- Lack of **ownership for the evaluation exercise**;

The evaluation plan is…

- a management tool to ensure that
  - sufficient and appropriate **evaluation activities** are undertaken, and
  - that sufficient and appropriate **resources** are available, in particular:
    - to provide the information needed for programme steering and to feed the enhanced AIR in 2017; and 2019 as well as interim assessment of progress to the objectives
    - to ensure that data required for evaluation purposes is available at the right time in the appropriate format;
    - to allow aggregation across the EU of certain key information (needed for accountability).

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Objectives

- Objectives and purpose of evaluation

- General topics :

  Programme vs measures
  Implementation vs effects
  Target groups vs target areas
  MA vs EU vs population

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Governance

- Coordination in and outside RDP
- Management of evaluation
- Relationship among *ex ante*, SWOT analysis and Evaluation plan
- Organisational structure of the evaluation plan
- Quality management (method to improve evaluation results)
- Simplification: RDP and evaluation

- Description of current evaluation system: SWOT analysis
- Stakeholder analysis

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Evaluation topics

- Priorities to important areas
- Main evaluation subjects
- Approximate timing

- Topics of evaluation
- Specific evaluation needs
- Glossary
- Specific thematic surveys + studies
- Purpose of evaluation topics

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- Responsibility of LAGs to assess their own strategy (art. 30)
- Responsibility of the NRN to support the LAGs to conduct evaluation activities (art. 55)
- Conjunction with other CSF funds (parallelism)
- Production of a practical handbook (guidelines, templates, methods)

8 Communication

- Communication strategy to wider public, tax payers, etc.
- Communication strategy of evaluation findings to evaluation stakeholders
- Feedback of evaluation to policy makers
- Getting evaluation findings used (following recommendations) –

o Internal communication (during process)
o Communication

9 Resources

- Overall budget + resources
- Indicate the amount of technical assistance for evaluation of RDP

o Indicative budget
➔ For each activity

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Data

- Data collection linked to objectives and indicators

o Information system (structure, links, gaps, bottlenecks)
o Interfaces with monitoring (data sourcing)

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Timeline

- Timeline according to milestones ; specific enhanced implementation reports 2017 and

o Schedule for evaluation activities → link to data
o Timing of individual evaluations (flexible + to be reviewed)

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Coordination

- Links to other evaluations

o With Pillar I (e.g. impacts)
o With other CSF funds + regional funds

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Conclusions

Basic messages on Evaluation Plan:

- **must still be kept flexible** to be able to respond to new evaluation challenges

- must be regularly revised by the Managing Authority in order to work as **management tool**

- There should not be two evaluation plans : **keep it simple**

What needs further clarification?

- what will become part of the **minimum requirements**

- what needs to be described in **Evaluation Plan ←→ RDP**

- relation between **Evaluation Plan ←→ ex ante evaluation**

- **guidance**