



Data management in RDPs 2014-2020: provisions and activities in the Member States - lessons from EP and 2016 AIR screening

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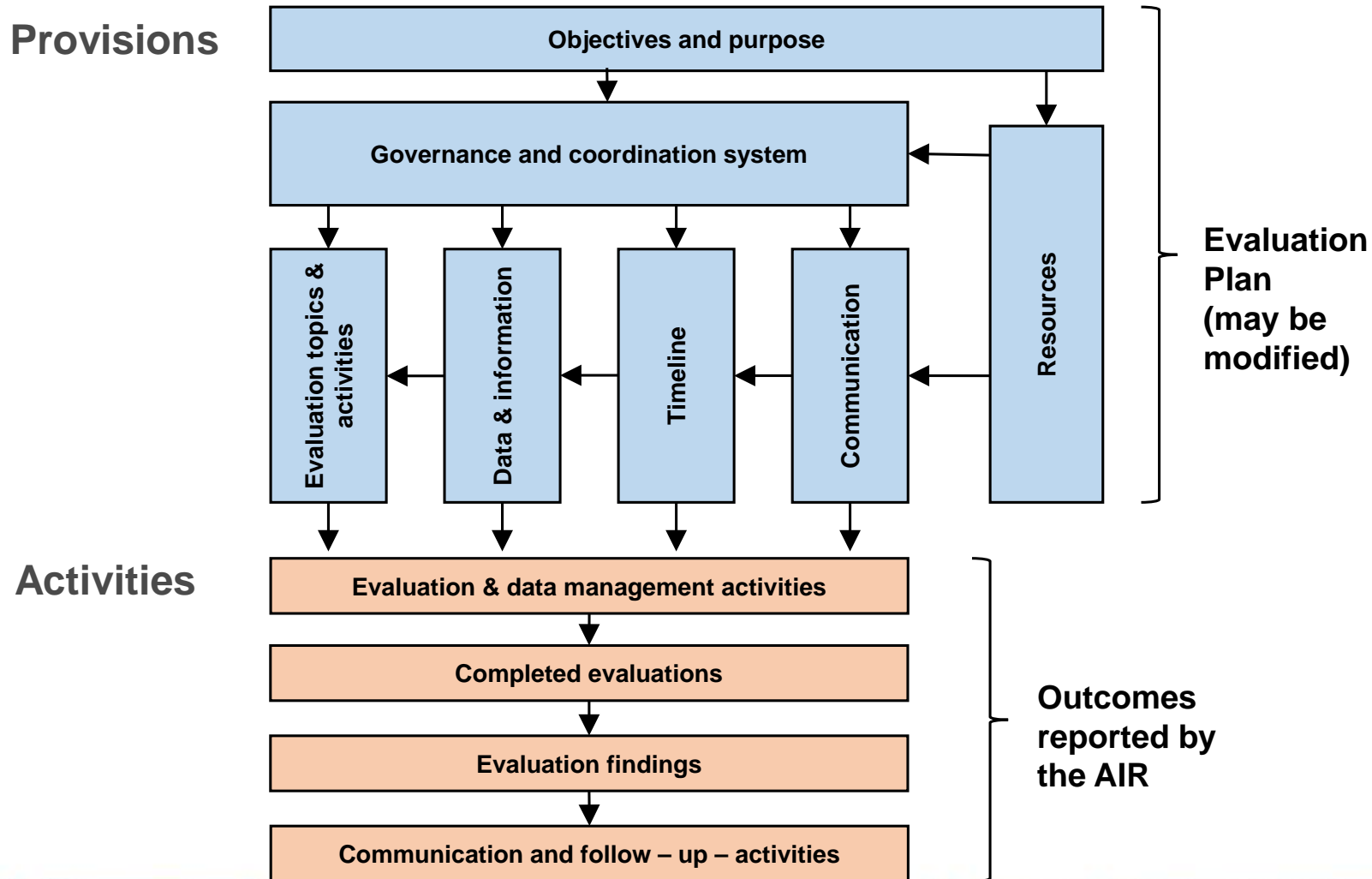
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Good Practice Workshop “Targeted data management for evidence based evaluation of Rural Development Programmes 2014-20”, 5-6 December 2016 Bordeaux (FRANCE)





Link between EP and progress reporting





Information sources for EP and 2016 AIR screening

- **115 Evaluation Plans (EPs)** of the RDPs 2014-2020
 - *N.B: The National Frameworks of DE, ES, FR do not include an EP!*
- **115 Annual Implementation Reports (AIR) submitted in 2016** with focus on section 2 „The progress in implementing the evaluation plan“
 - *In 8 AIRs (ES, IT) no evaluation related content was reported.*



Data management in the evaluation plans included in RDPs 2014-2020

Results of the EP screening



Remember: What is the minimum content of the evaluation plan section on data management?

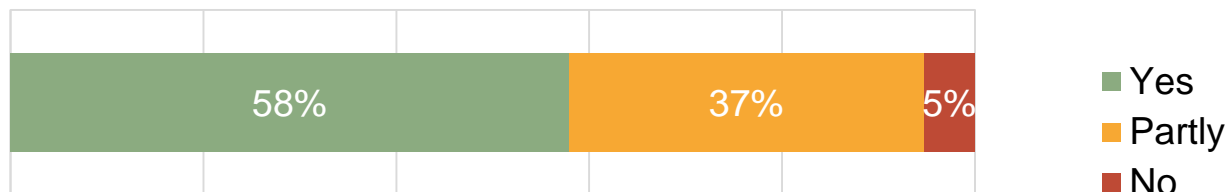
- Describe the **system** to record, maintain, manage and report statistical information for evaluation
- Identify **data sources** to be used
- Identify **data gaps** and potential institutional issues related to data provision
- Demonstrate that **appropriate** data management systems are operational in due time



Description of the data management system in the EPs

- The **Information system** is – at least partly – described in 95% of the evaluation plans
- The **characteristics** of the information system (e.g. key actors, information systems, procedures) are given in most of the EPs, sometimes not being very specific

Does the EP describe the information system on RDP implementation?



Source: Summary Report, October 2016



Description of data sources in the EPs

EPs address the issue data sources for evaluation in very different ways

- Some EPs list a wide range of agricultural, environmental, social data sources including non-agricultural data to capture the broad thematic scope of the RDPs (e.g. AT-National, SK-National, SE-National, UK-England)
- Other EPs focus on the operation database as data source to be used
- Other EPs provide no information on data sources



Description of data gaps / solutions in the EPs

- In some EPs there is **good discussion** of prior problems and data challenges
- Most EPs do not mention **data gaps, bottlenecks** or potential institutional issues related to data provision
- Only a few EPs report on possible **solutions** to overcome problems encountered
- Only a few EPs describe provisions to ensure a **good quality** of the monitoring data
- Only a few EPs specify provisions to conduct **counterfactual evaluations**



Good practice in data management identified in the EPs

- A number of **good practice examples** in data management could be identified
- Some **serious effort** has gone into developing better data management and e-governance, e.g. development of indicator fiches, collaboration agreements between key actors, improvement of operations database, quality assurance for the collection of monitoring and evaluation data



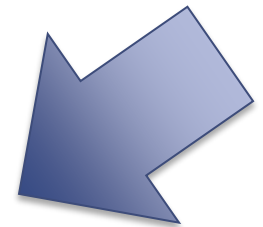
The progress made in data management as reported by AIRs

Results of the screening of section 2 of the AIRs submitted in 2016
(reporting period 2014 and 2015)



AIR 2016 – Content of sub-section c) – Data management activities

- Sub-section **a)** – Modifications of the EP
- Sub-section **b)** – Evaluation activities undertaken
- **Sub-section c) – Data management activities**
- Sub-section **d)** – List of completed evaluations
- Sub-section **e)** – Summary of completed evaluations
- Sub-section **f)** – Communication activities
- Sub-section **g)** – Follow-up activities





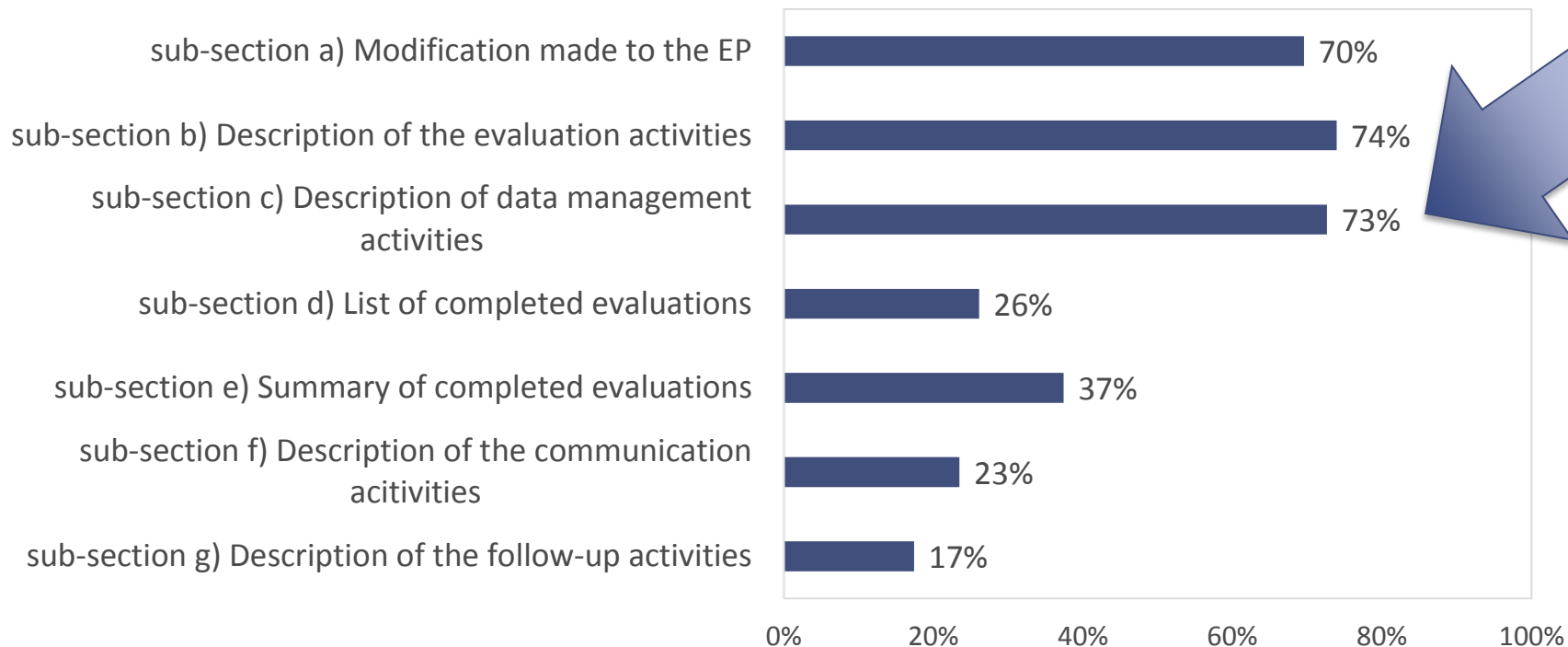
AIR 2016 – Content of sub-section c) – Data management activities for evaluation

Describe activities/problems/solutions in relation to:

1. Preparing and running the **operations database**
2. Screening data and **information sources/providers** to ensure robust evaluation methods (incl. counterfactual analysis)
3. **Agreements** with data providers and arrangements/legal steps to make data available
4. Arrangements to fill **data gaps** and collect missing information

AIR: Completeness of section 2

73% of the AIRs submitted in 2016 reported on data management activities (sub-section c)



AIR: Data management activities (sub-section c)

About half of the activities were related to preparation and running of the operations database

Type of data management activity	No of activities reported
Preparing and running the operations database	67
Screening data and information sources/providers to ensure the application of robust evaluation methods (including preparation of counterfactual analysis)	21
Agreements with data providers and necessary arrangements/legal steps to include the identified providers' data in the databases used in the RDP evaluation	18
Arrangements to fill data gaps and collect missing information	19
Other activities	6
Total number of data management activities reported	<u>131</u>



Conclusions / 1

- The EP chapter on data and information is a **good starting point** to develop a data management framework / strategy
- Some serious effort has gone into **developing better data management and e-governance**. A number of information systems were updated to meet the new requirements of this programming period, or a still being updated
- There is, however, a very **unbalanced situation** among EPs and AIRs in providing information on the data management system. Only a few demonstrate in a transparent way that appropriate data management systems are operational in due time



Conclusions / 2

- It is still a major challenge to ensure all necessary data for evaluations
- A long list of around 20 to 30 agricultural, environmental and social data sources is necessary to answer the common evaluation questions taking into account programme specific information needs / indicators
- Some EPs, however, address only the pillar II operations database and not the full range of data sources for evaluation
- Many evaluation plans do not provide detailed provisions on how to address potential data gaps and bottlenecks
- More details should be provided on the method for creating control groups and data collection of non-beneficiaries
- There is a lack of information related to the financial resources needed to cover the costs for data collection / management



Conclusions / 3

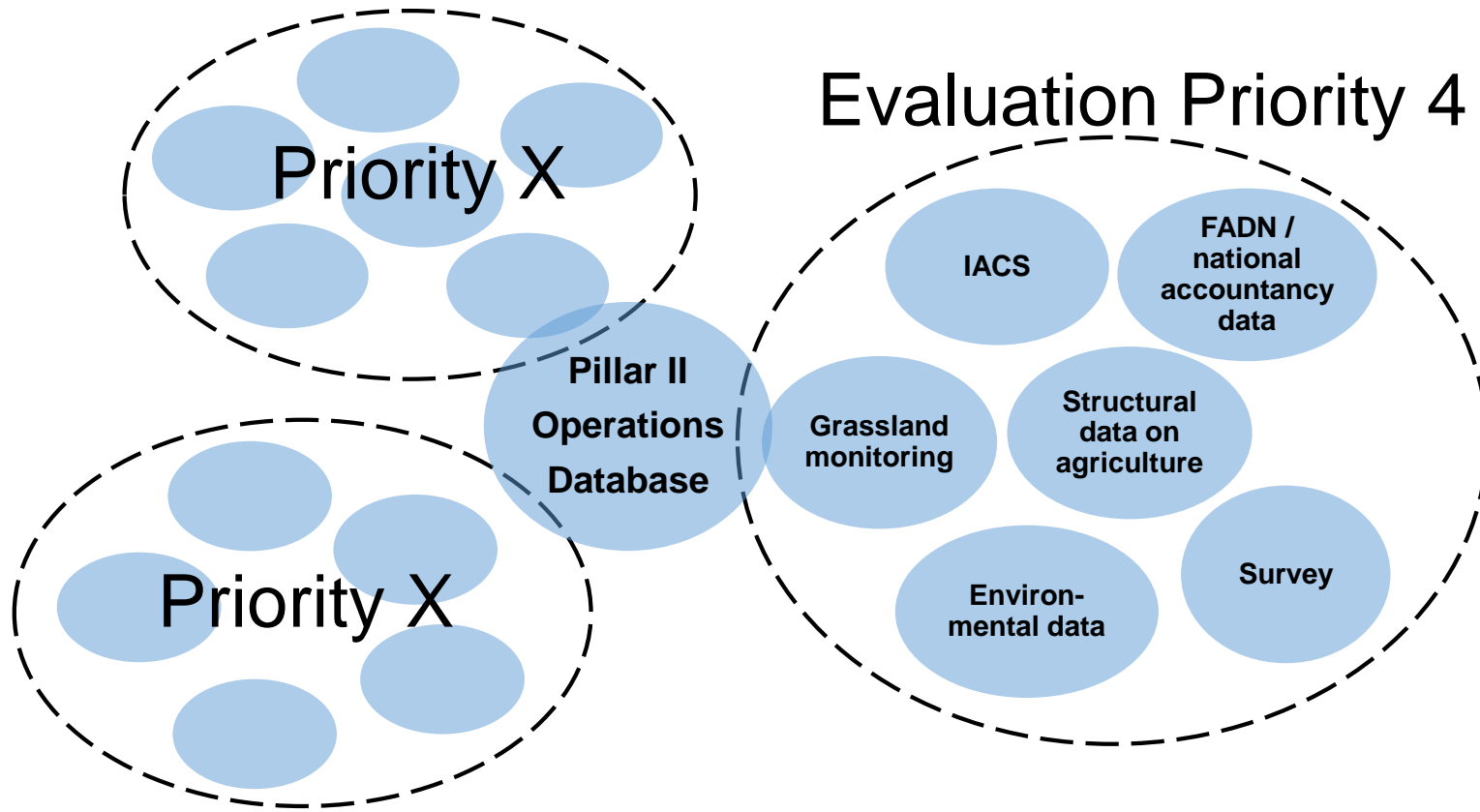
- The legal requirements in the 14-20 period underline the need for the Member States and programmes to put in place a more systematic approach for evaluation related data collection and provision of data to evaluators (Reg. 1305/2013 Article 76 (2))
- This calls out for a comprehensive data management framework or even strategy developed by the Member States and programmes
- This comprehensive framework should address the full set of data sources necessary for evaluation
- **An open question remains about the realistic scope and level of a comprehensive data management strategy (see illustration on the next slide). What will work on the practical level? What have we learned from drafting the EPs and internal operational plans? Who is the owner of a comprehensive data management strategy?**



What is the right scope / level of a data management strategy?

Comprehensive data management

Evaluation Priority 4





Thank you for your attention!

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