

Common Evaluation Questions for Rural Development Programmes 2014-2020

Eric Nieto/Jela Tvrdonova

Outline

1. Purpose of Evaluation Questions
2. Main lessons learned (2007-2013)
3. Proposed approach for Common Evaluation Questions for Rural Development (2014-2020)
4. Examples of possible Common Evaluation Questions for Rural Development
5. Next steps

Purpose of Evaluation Questions

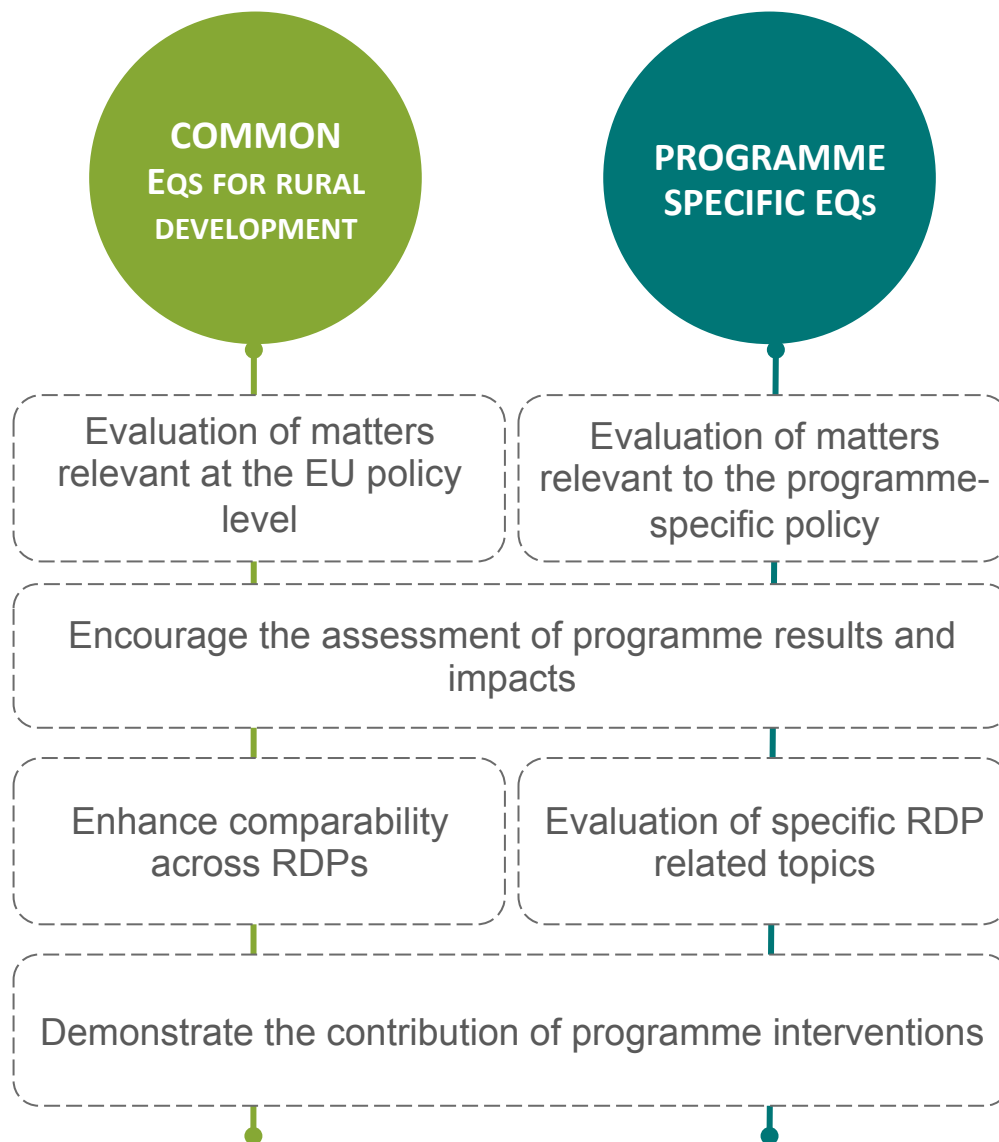


- Define the **focus** of evaluations
- Demonstrate the **progress, impact, achievements, effectiveness, efficiency and relevance** of rural development policy

Common Monitoring and Evaluation System distinguishes EQs:

- a) Common Evaluation Questions for Rural Development (CEQ-RD)
- b) Programme-Specific Evaluation Questions (PSEQs)

Purpose of Evaluation Questions



Lesson learned (2007-2013)

- **Overall too large set** of CEQs
- **Diverse approaches to answer the EQs:** General answers to EQs; others were not answered at all due to:
 - Uncertainty on general concept
 - Insufficient guidance on answering EQs
 - Unclear formulation of EQs
 - Missing definitions of key terms
 - Missing common judgment criteria
 - Difficulties in collecting data to answer CEQs
 - Insufficient planning for evaluation

Lesson learned (2007-2013)

- **Inconsistency:**
 - between CEQs and RD indicators
 - between CEQ and the policy framework
- Horizontal evaluation questions were **difficult to assess in a structured way**: mix of thematic- impact- and implementation-related questions

Clear and straightforward evaluation framework



Triangular consistency

between objectives, questions and indicators which allows for:

- Less EQ and more targeted towards policy
- Clearer formulation of EQ and harmonization of all terms used
- More evidence to answer EQ
- Better planning the evaluation

How are the CEQs developed?

1. Common Evaluation Questions

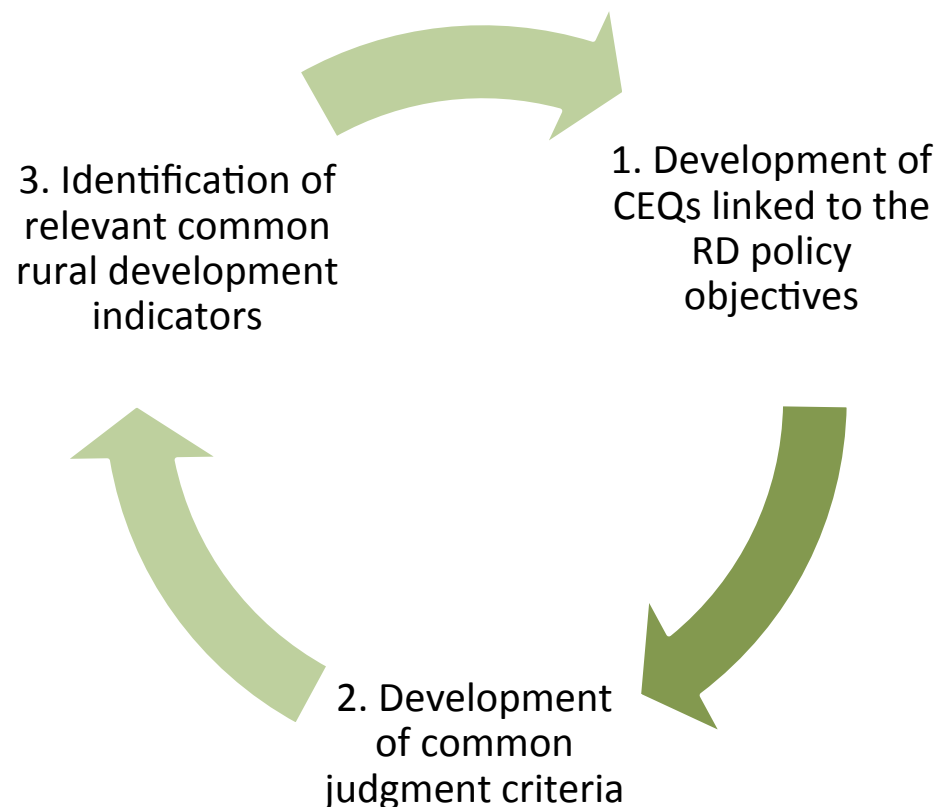
- Linked to RD policy objectives
- Causal-effect questions (To what extent..?)

2. Common judgment criteria

- Set the foundations to assess the success of intervention
- Formulate explicit judgments on the basis common terms
- Facilitate the identification of data, information and analysis needed

3. Common RD indicators

- Additional information when necessary



Proposed set of CEQs

- Focus Area-related Evaluation Questions (18 EQs)
- Horizontal Evaluation Questions (12 EQs)

FA-related Evaluation Questions

- Linked to the **objectives of the Focus Areas** in order to demonstrate the achievements towards the policy objectives
- Capture the **contribution of the interventions** under each FA in terms of programme **results**
- Answered with the means of **common target** and **complementary result indicators** (and additional information when necessary)
- Reporting in the **AIRs in 2017** and **2019** and in the **ex post** evaluation

FA-related Evaluation Questions

Example

Focus Area 4c: Preventing soil erosion and improving soil management

To what extent has the RDP intervention contributed to preventing soil erosion and improving soil management?

JUDGEMENT CRITERIA

- More agricultural and forestry land has been under enhanced management contracts to prevent soil erosion
- More agricultural and forestry land has been under enhanced soil management contracts

COMMON RD INDICATOR

- % of Agricultural land under management contracts to improve soil management (*target indicator*)
- % of forestry land under management contracts to improve soil management (*target indicator*)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- % of Agricultural land under management contracts to prevent soil erosion.
- % of forestry land under management contracts to prevent soil erosion

Horizontal Evaluation Questions

- Linked to the **overall policy objectives** and **cross-cutting elements** in order to demonstrate the achievements
 - EU 2020 objectives
 - CAP objectives
 - RD cross-cutting priorities (environment, CC, innovation)
 - National Rural Networks
 - Technical Assistance
 - Operational performance (synergies)

Horizontal Evaluation Questions

- Capture the **contribution of the programme** towards the overall policy objectives in terms of **impacts**.
- Answered with the means of **common impact indicators, common context indicators** and **complementary result indicators** (and additional information when necessary)
- Reporting in the **AIR in 2019** and in the **ex post** evaluation.

Horizontal Evaluation Questions

Example

CAP objective
Viable Food Production

To what extent has the programme contributed to achieving the CAP objectives of:

- ***Viable food production?***

JUDGEMENT CRITERIA

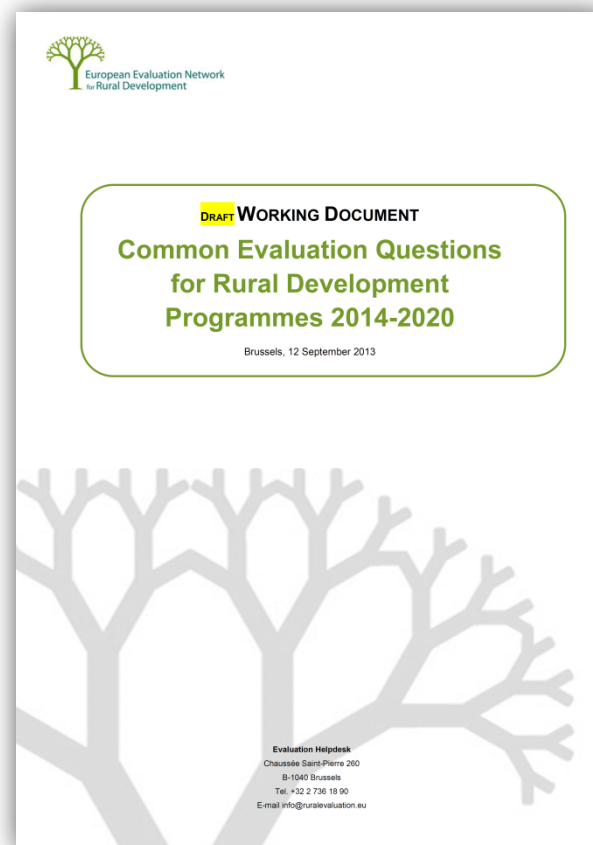
- The agricultural entrepreneurial income has increased
- The agricultural factor income has increased
- Agricultural productivity has increased

COMMON RD INDICATOR

- Agricultural entrepreneurial income
- Agricultural factor income
- Agricultural productivity

Next Steps

- Discuss with ExCo members the proposed CEQs (Group work)
- Written comments on the working document by 30 September
- Present the revised document at the next ExCo meeting



Group discussion on CEQs

... addressing the following questions:

1. Do the CEQs reflect the policy objectives?
2. Is the formulation of the CEQs clear and straightforward?
3. Do the judgment criteria allow for the assessment of the success of the intervention?
4. Are the common indicators and proposed additional information sufficient to answer CEQs?

→ **Do ExCo Members agree to the overall approach taken for the new set of CEQs?**

Thank you for your attention!

Evaluation Helpdesk
Chaussée Saint-Pierre 260
B-1040 Brussels
Tel. +32 2 736 18 90
E-mail info@ruralevaluation.eu
<http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/evaluation/en/>