



Estonian RDP 2013-2020 Evaluation (Plan)

ENRD Evaluation Helpdesk
GOOD PRACTICE WORKSHOP:

'A journey through evaluation plans: Learning from past experiences for the future CAP'
28 - 29 June 2021 (online)

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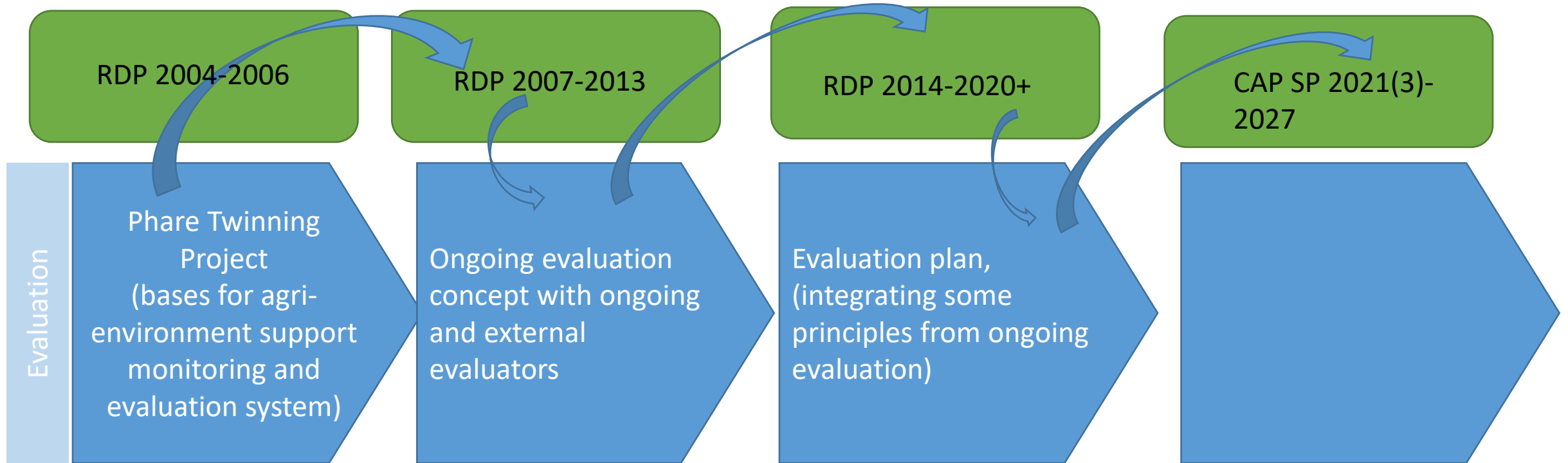
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Evolution of the evaluation culture and capacity building (1)



Continuous development of the evaluation system





Evolution of the evaluation culture and capacity building (2)

Studies for environmental indicators:

- **soil** (studies on soil organic matter and soil fertility (pH, K, P); soil nutrient dynamics);
- **water** (studies on nutrient balance, pesticide use, water quality);
- **biodiversity** (farmland birds, bumblebees, earthworms, soil microbes, vascular plants in field edges);
- **landscape** (studies on changes in the landscape),
- **socio-economic** (studies on family farm income, share of organic products sold as organic and study on environmental awareness).



Evolution of the evaluation culture and capacity building (3) - some highlights



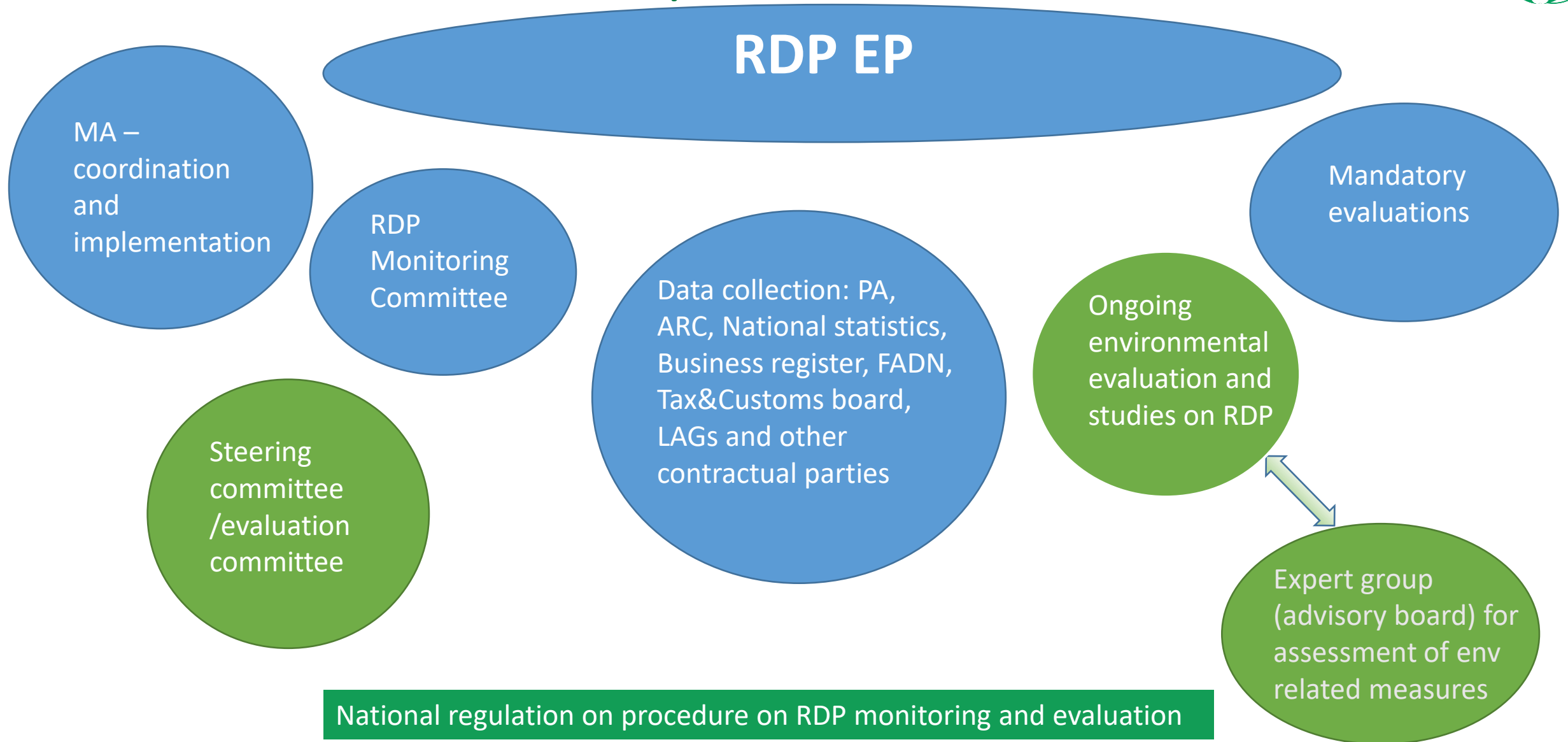
Examples of contributing bottom-up events and actions:

- Nordic-Baltic evaluation related working meetings/study trips (in SE, DK, LV, EE, both MA and evaluators involved, mainly in 2007-2013)
- Peer-learning on HNV with Navarra, Spain (incl. Environmental agency, MA, evaluators)
- EST organized 2 RDP evaluation related conferences:
 - Using Evaluation to Enhance the Rural Development Value of Agri-environmental Measures, 2008;*
 - Quo vadis, farmland biodiversity? (focus on RDP AE/BD measures, BD indicators), 2012*
- Communication on M&E results (information days, other publicity)
- YCBE by Helpdesk as regular platform for M&E related discussions and other events
- Active participation in international evaluation related events





RDP 2014-2020 evaluation system





Governance aspects

- National regulation on procedure on RDP monitoring and evaluation.
- MA coordinates and implements the Evaluation Plan.
- Environment related evaluation studies are reviewed and approved by the MA annually.
- Annual report on environmental measures and evaluation studies is presented to MA each April for the previous year (also serving as communication purpose).
- Expert group (advisory board) for assessment of environment related measures.
- On other topics MA orders studies based on needs (annual decision-making process).
- All the information collected and analysed by ongoing evaluator or on a ad-hoc basis, is available for the external evaluators.





Data management good practices (1)

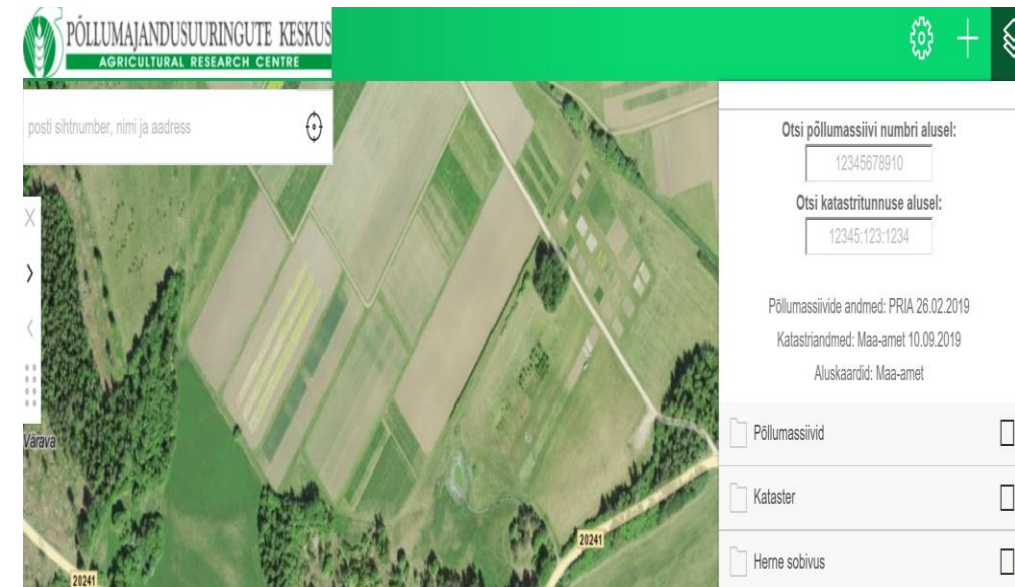
- Cooperation agreements are set between different data providers to exchange data (e.g., between PA and ARC, private forest foundation and ARC, etc)
- Specific environmental data collection from agricultural land dates as far back as 2004 as the national sources (e.g., national statistics) are still insufficient.
- Working out a methodology for identifying HNV farmland according to available sources, updating as better sources become available.





Data management good practices (2) – soil apps serving evaluation and farmers needs

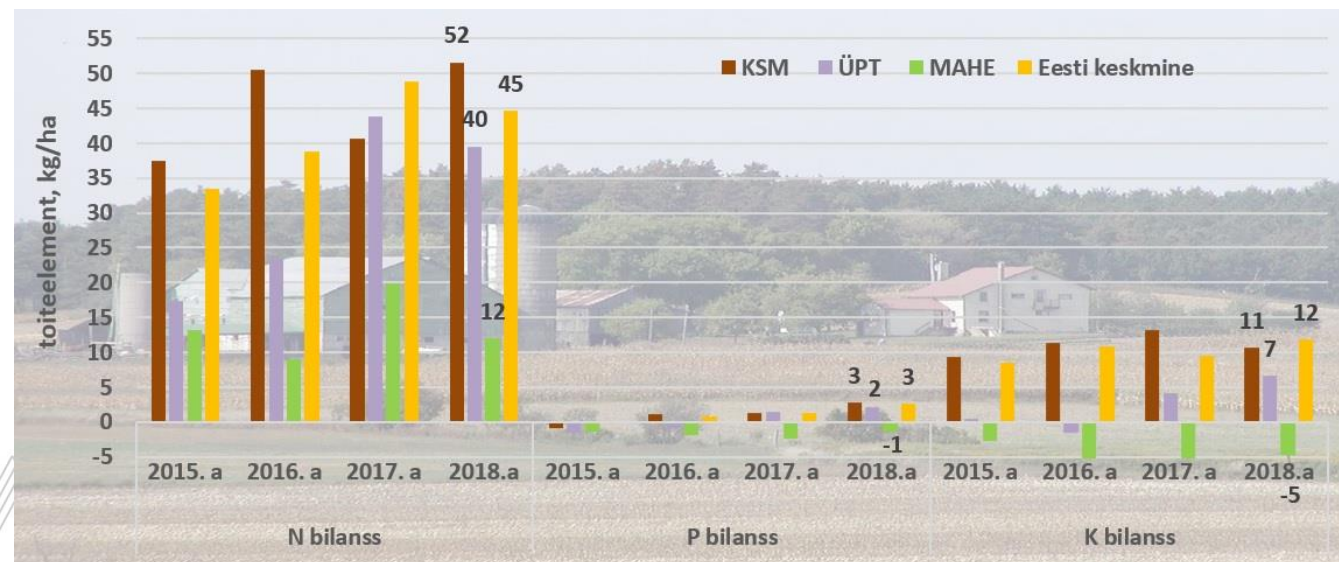
- GIS-based **app for the soil sampling**
- GIS-based **soil suitability app for different crops**
- GIS-based **app for soil erosion**





Additional national indicators

- More than 90 additional national indicators (both quantitative and qualitative) were used in AIR 2017 and AIR 2019 to answer the CEQ. These were necessary to assess if and how the focus area targets are met.
- A lot of the additional indicators were based on on-going studies (on indicators).



Communication aspects



- Publications/articles/website.
- Information days to introduce evaluation studies and activities.
- Beneficiaries receiving AEC support have the requirement to attend trainings, where also evaluation studies are introduced.
- Targeting audience: wider audience and broad scale topics *versus* targeted audience and targeted topics.



Lessons learned

- **Open communication** between the data providers/evaluators and MA **on ongoing basis**.
- **Continuous data collection and data synthesis** to be able to feed mandatory evaluations in required timeframe. Until now, most of the evaluations are largely based on the information produced by the ongoing evaluation and studies.
- **Support application forms (Operational database) have to feed** as much as possible **the data need** of the evaluators – obvious, but still with „hooks“.
- Most of the studies carried out on ongoing basis for the RDP evaluation **go beyond the required minimum** level and are much broader - this is especially important for internal use in proper policy design.



Picture:

<https://meelespealasteaiameeskond.wordpress.com/keskonnakasvatus/>

Vision for future

- The existence of both ongoing and ad-hoc evaluation studies, enables evaluation results to inform future policies in time. Mandatory evaluations provide valuable input as well.
- Soon we are going to start planning how to incorporate previous experience and new period evaluation needs.
- Questions:
 - What is mandatory for ex-post?
 - How to incorporate evaluation of CAP I and II pillar?
 - How and when evaluate different interventions?
 - Which part of ongoing evaluation and studies could be continued?





Thank You!

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Picture: Mati Kose