

FINDINGS OF THE TWG ON THE ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS OF LEADER AND OF MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE

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TWG Objectives:

- ☐ To provide practical methodological advice and support materials for assessing the impacts of Leader and Quality of Life measures
- ☐ To facilitate a greater convergence in impact evaluation of axis 3 & 4 at EU level

Major scope of the WP:

- ☐ Defining the concept of QoL as relevant to the RDP and its interaction with the Leader approach
- ☐ Adopting a series of impact categories (expected impacts)
- ☐ Suggesting a framework of reference for capturing the indicators
- ☐ Suggesting an overall methodological approach that takes into account the specificities of axis 3 and 4

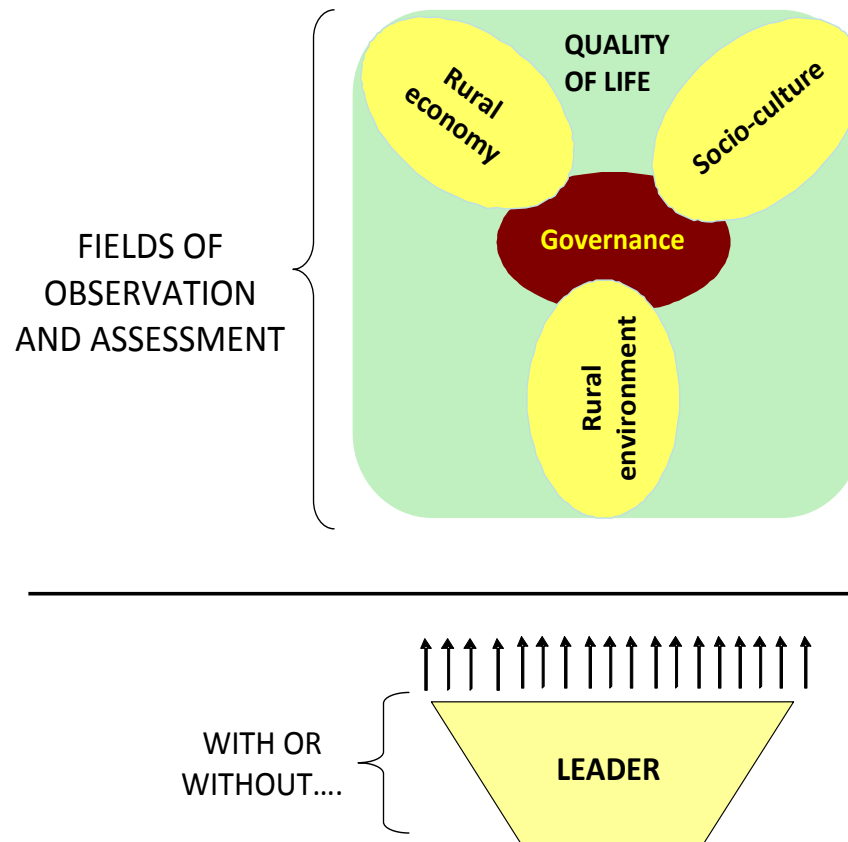
What has been done since the last Expert Committee Meeting?

- œ Developing the **framework of reference**, including main impact categories, evaluation criteria and suggested indicators
- œ Conducting two **workshops** (one with MS evaluators and one with team of experts)
- œ Incorporating **feedback and current practice** from MS
- œ Fine-tuning of the 3 step **overall methodological approach** and the framework of reference

- Little guidance available from the CMEF → suggested methods and tools have to be **complementary to the CMEF** (EQ, impact indicators)
- Estimate the impact both at local and at **RDP level**
- Leader stands for a process oriented approach whereas the focus of the WP is on how to capture the **impacts**
- Take into account the **key features of Leader** as well as the area-based nature of Axis 3 and 4 measures
- Consider the perspective of **external** evaluators as well as the **internal perceptions and judgements** of stakeholders
- Consideration of tools must first focus on **practicality and resource demands** (disproportionate to the available budget)

Understanding the concept of Quality of Life

- Four dimensions

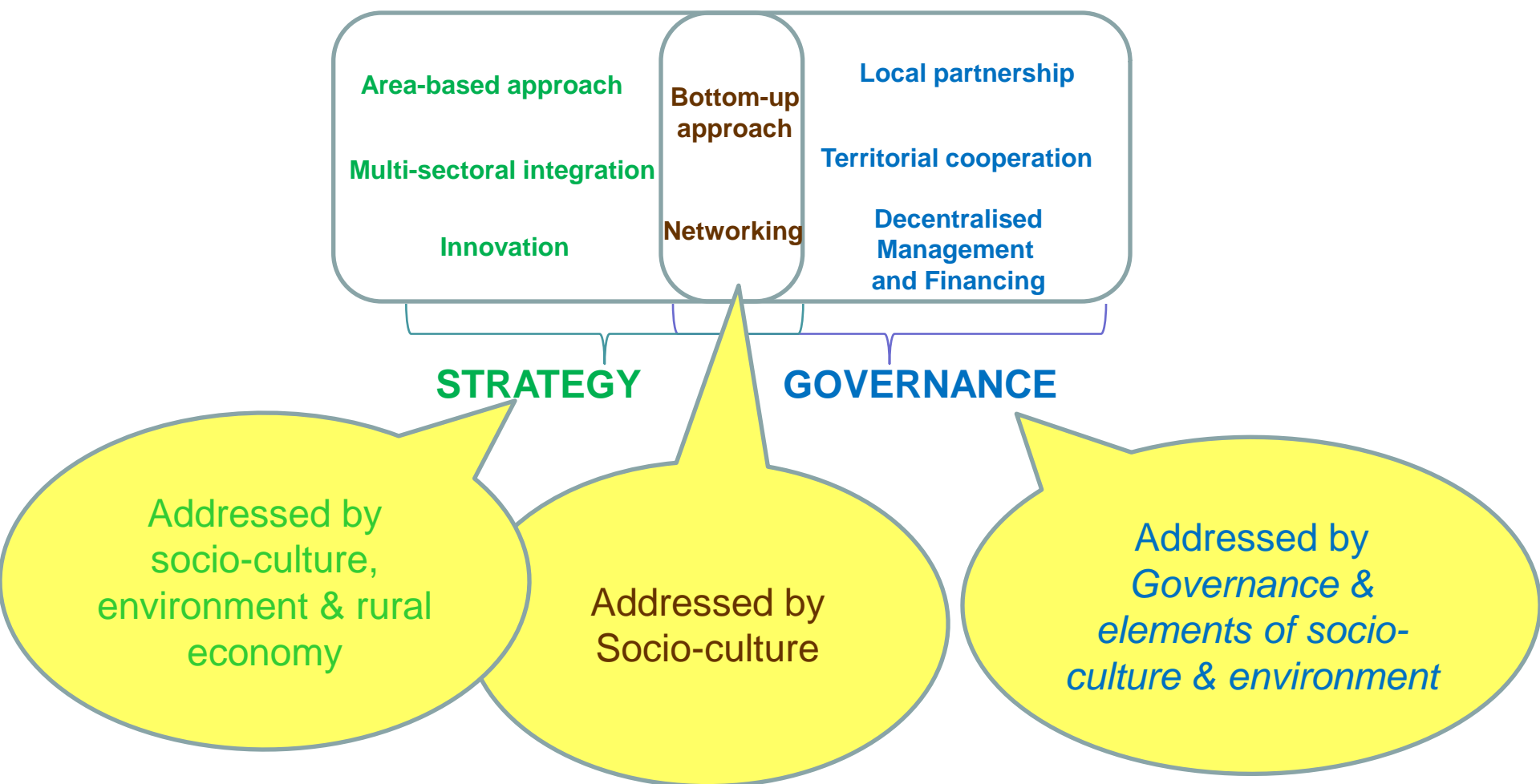


Source: Helpdesk of the Evaluation Expert Network

The 8 key features of Leader & links to QoL dimensions



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Definition of 7 main impact categories

Rural economy:

(1) livelihoods and (2) liveability

Socio-culture:

(3) social capital and (4) cultural capitals

Rural environment:

(5) enhanced wellbeing due to environment

Governance:

(6) multi-level and (7) local governance

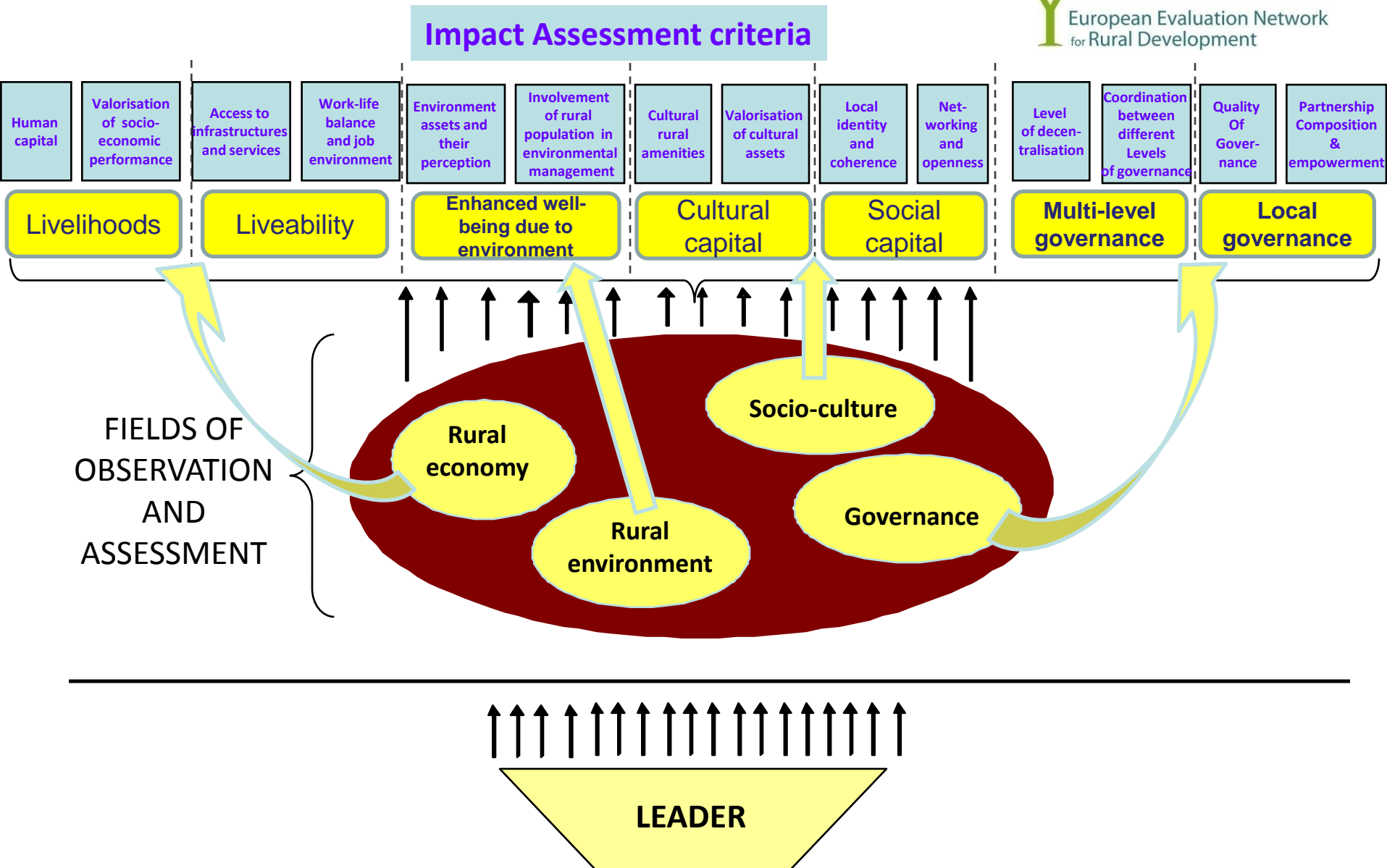
Clarifying assessment criteria through a framework of reference

- Structured along the 4 dimensions of QoL
- Introduced by the relevant common EQ of the CMEF
- Operationalised into four columns showing
 - ✧ impact categories
 - ✧ assessment criteria
 - ✧ *specific EQ related to expected impacts*
 - ✧ *suggested impact indicators*
- Suggestions for the possible sources of verification for these indicators

Integration of the 7 impact categories and 14 assessment criteria



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Suggested methodological approach:

Step 1: Complete the framework of reference based on the CMEF monitoring information and on further information collected

- œ Rely as much as possible on the existing data sources, e.g. the monitoring information provided by the CMEF indicators, the participatory self assessments of the LAGs
- œ Further information depending on the data situation could be collected through surveys, stakeholder interviews, case studies

Suggested methodological approach 2

Step 2: Organise round table meetings with selected stakeholders in order to collect complementary qualitative information

- œ steering group may be utilised as stakeholder group (with the consent of MA and other involved parties)
- œ alternatively a focus group specifically for this purpose
- œ a skilled facilitator is needed to consolidate diverse and possible fragmented or even inconsistent information from different sources

Suggested methodological approach 3

Step 3: Confront these judgements with the baseline situation

- ☞ Suggested approach: use or adapt a multi-criteria ranking tool
 - ☞ The framework of reference (step 1) provides a matrix against which the overall impact of the RDP can be assessed
 - ☞ Stakeholder or focus group members take up the suggested assessment criteria, EQs and indicators as a basis for the ranking
 - ☞ The ranking scale could offer six states (0-6) to describe 6 possible states of the indicators set out in the framework of reference
 - ☞ The result could be visualised in a web-profile

Example: Local level governance

➡ **Related CMEF Common evaluation question:**

To what extent has the Leader approach contributed to improving governance in rural areas?

➡ **Example for an assessment criterion:**

Empowerment of local actors & partnership composition

➡ **Related impact specific EQ:**

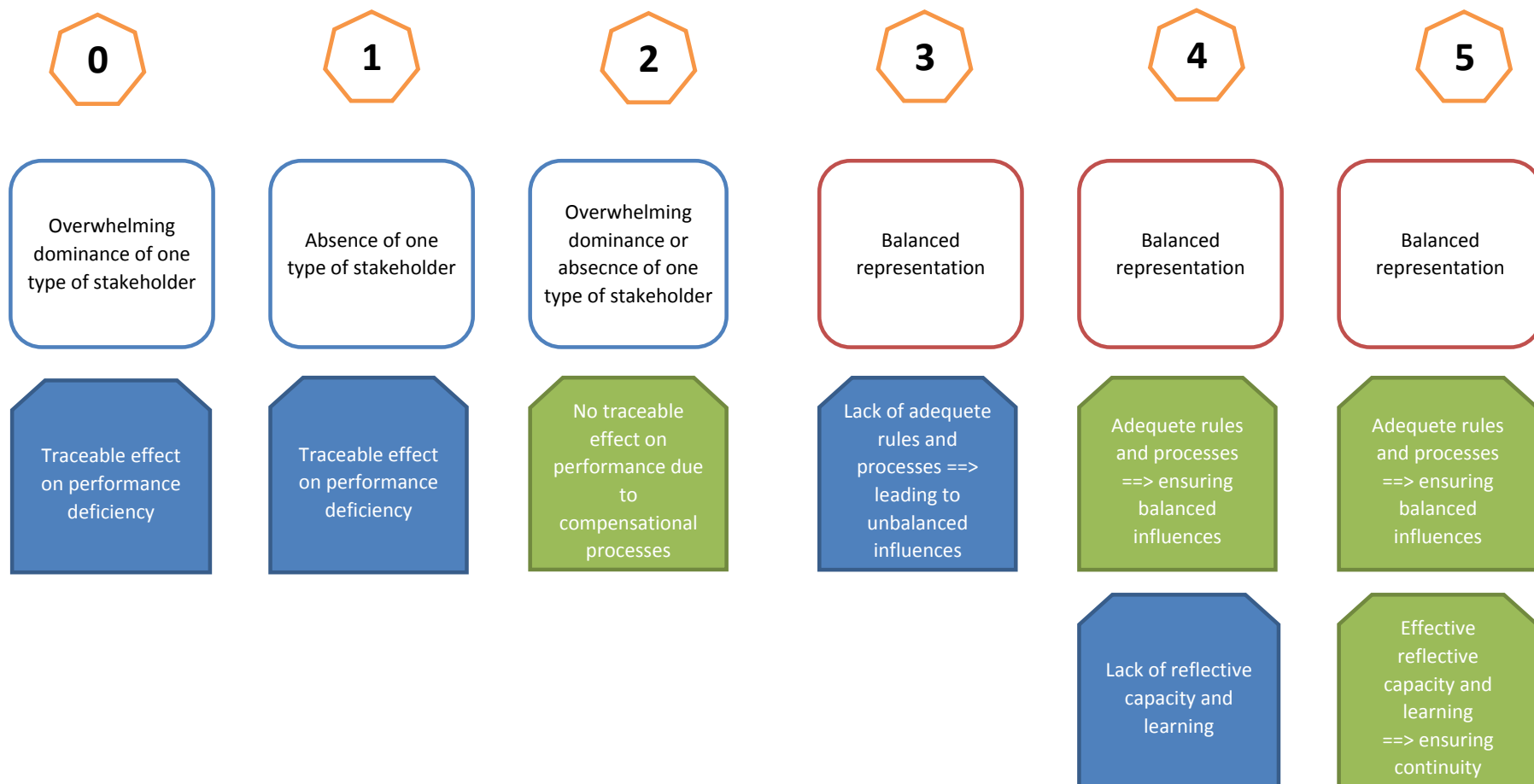
To what extent have QoL measures and Leader contributed to involve relevant actors of the socio-economic spectrum of the areas targeted in the decision making process?

➡ **Related impact indicator:**

Balance between public sector/-politicians & private sector & civil society/ associations/ advocacy groups

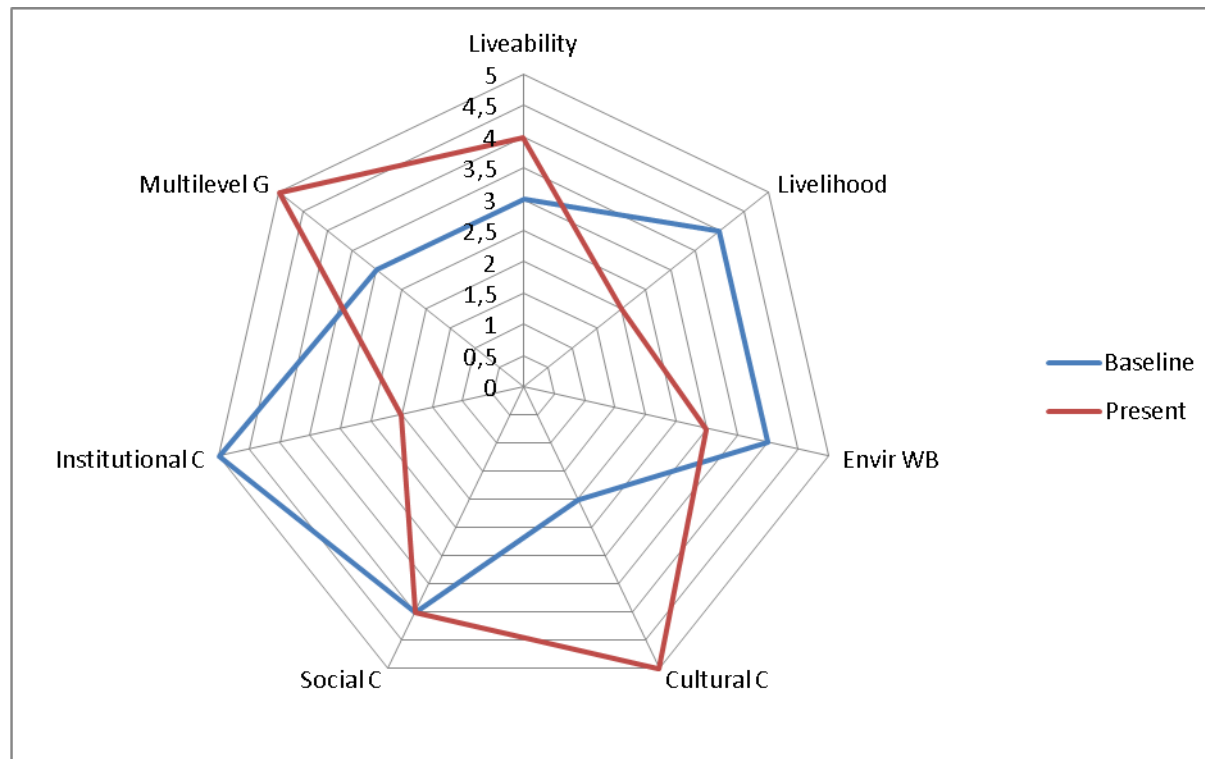
Example: Local level governance – 2

Suggested tool: multi-criteria ranking





The web profile – a fictional example



Thank you for your attention!