

Ongoing evaluation of the RDPs 2007-2013

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Brussels, 28-29 September 2010



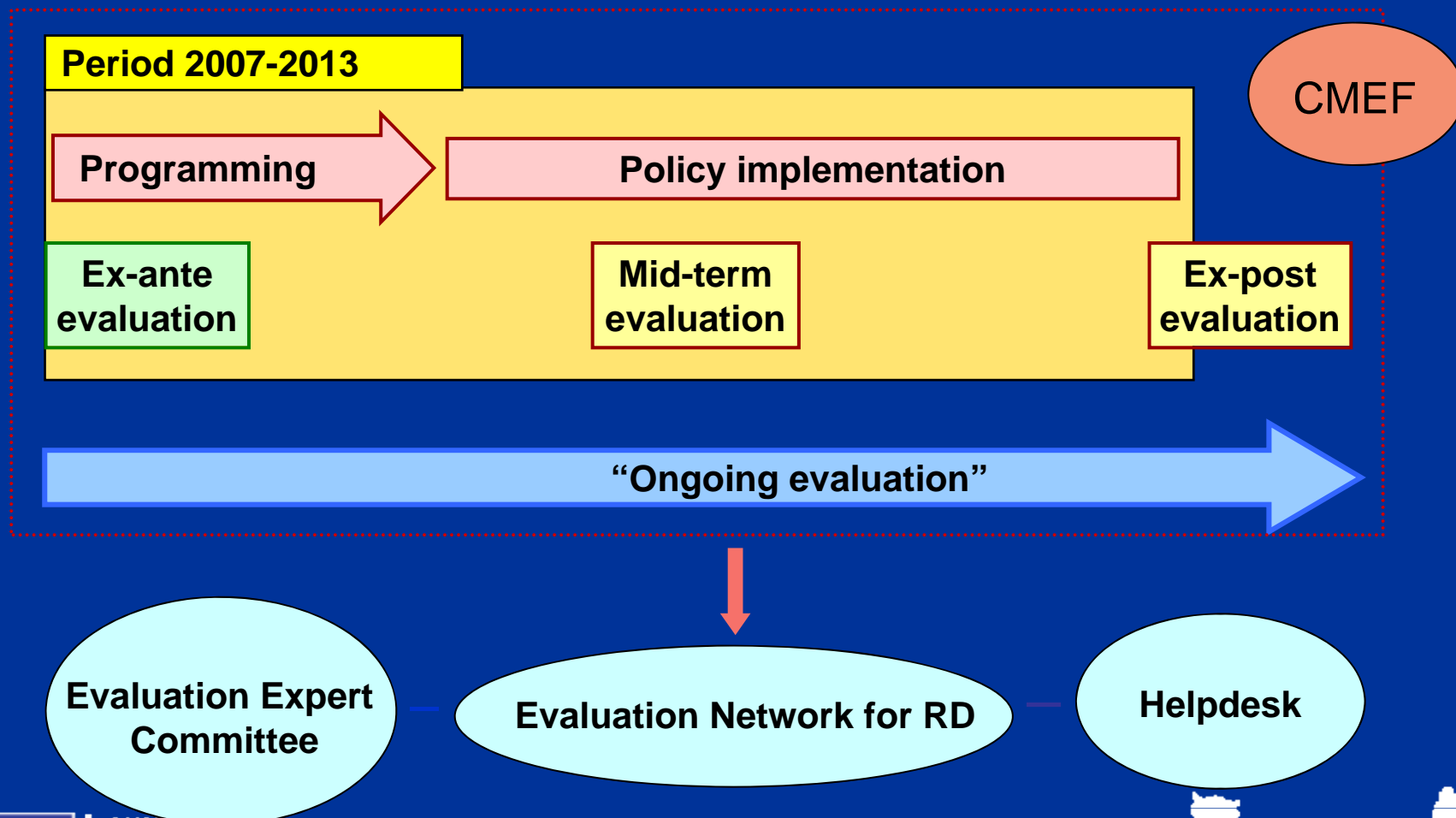
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Rural Development evaluation

- Evaluation organised at programme level
- Evaluation methods / tools need to be refined and adapted
- Data needed at appropriate level
- Results should be comparable (aggregation)
- Results feed back into programming (ownership)
- **Active involvement** of MS necessary



The evaluation system



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The evaluation system

- A full-fledged **common monitoring & evaluation framework (CMEF)** with a set of common indicators and guidance documents, linked to the objectives at programme, national and EU level
- ... complemented by **programme-specific** indicators
- The introduction of an “**ongoing evaluation system**”
- The creation of a **European Evaluation Network for Rural Development**



Objectives of ongoing evaluation

- Timely establishing and quantifying baseline indicators and target levels
- Better linking monitoring with evaluation in terms of data collection / provision
- Ensuring capacity building early on
- Ensuring continuity of evaluation activities, i.e. regular assessment of progress, annual reporting
- Supporting the establishment of good practices
- Preparing the ground for the mid-term and ex-post evaluations (2010, 2015)



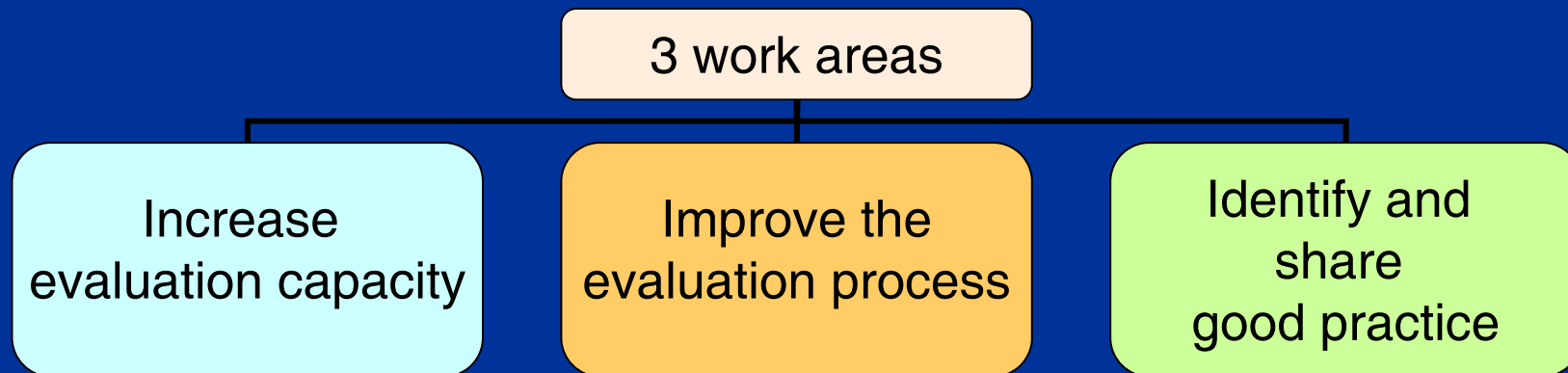
Bringing the actors together...

- **Evaluators:** assess the *impacts* of RD measures / programmes
- **Member States:** ensure availability of data on general trends, outputs and results; steer the evaluation process; report to the Commission
- **Commission:** establishes the common framework, provides methodological support, facilitates capacity building & exchange of good practice, synthesis of mid-term & ex post evaluations

⇒ **European Evaluation Network
for Rural Development**



Three work areas



Work activities

A) Guidance on evaluation practice / tools

- Thematic working groups (guidance documents)
 - High Nature Value land and farming
 - Assessing environmental & socio-economic impacts
 - Capturing the impact of LEADER and of measures to improve the quality of life in rural areas
- Thematic pool (desk research, surveys on specific technical questions, e.g. GVA indicators, interpretation of common evaluation questions, evaluation of national rural networks)



Work activities

B) Other support and guidance

- Preparation of the mid-term evaluations
- Collection / dissemination of good practice
- Capacity building in the MS
(provision of supporting material, presentations)
- Evaluation training for AGRI desk officers
- Frequently asked questions – Helpdesk function



Work activities

C) Information and dissemination

- Trilingual website
- Newsletter (4 issues so far)
- Participation in events
 - meetings of evaluators in MS
 - national evaluation networks
 - conferences / workshops on evaluation
 - focus groups
- Internet-based discussion forum



Recent Network outputs - examples



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Where are we?

- The system is **up and running**, we are shifting towards a partnership-based relationship with the MS
- A constructive dialogue **between the MS and the Commission** has been established
- An active dialogue **among the MS** is emerging
- A considerable amount of **capacity building** and “preparatory” activity has been going on in the MS
- MS are much better prepared for the **mid-term evaluation** than in the previous period
- A significant **improvement in the quality of the mid-term evaluation results** is expected



Where are MS with the MTE?



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MTE - main problems

- Little impact to evaluate so far
- Data availability (especially for small regions)
- Environmental indicators
- Carry-over from previous programmes



MTE – good practice

- Use of additional data (outside CMEF)
- Value of prior data collection (especially for MTEs starting late)
- Focus on reasons for delays in implementation
- Analysis of administrative costs



Useful reading

- The Handbook on CMEF:
http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rurdev/eval/index_en.htm
- The Evaluation Expert Network:
<http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/evaluation>
- Synthesis of ex-ante evaluations of rural development programmes 2007-2013:
http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/eval/reports/rurdev/index_en.htm

