

Background

The SWOT analysis and needs assessment of Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) draw on evidence to justify the RDP's intervention logic. RDPs should address the most relevant needs of rural areas in EU Member States and contribute to the Union's rural development priorities and the EU strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

Managing Authorities are currently in the process of developing RDPs and are receiving feedback through the *ex ante* evaluation of their SWOT analysis, needs assessment and RDP intervention logic. Feedback may refer to:

- Quality of data and use of common context indicators;
- Completeness and consistency of the SWOT-analysis and needs assessment;
- Structure of the SWOT and needs assessment.
- Linkages between SWOT analysis, needs assessment and RDP intervention logic, etc.

Besides the technical aspects of preparing an RDP and an *ex ante* evaluation it also needs to be considered to what extent the *ex ante* evaluation can effectively influence the strategy design of the 2014-2020 RDPs.

Read more:

[Guidelines for the *ex ante* evaluation of 2014-2020 RDPs](#)

How to reach the meeting venue?



State Veterinary Administration, Slezská 7, Prague 2, Czech Republic

Underground map:

http://www.myczechrepublic.com/prague/prague_metro.html

Contacts

Overall coordination:

Helpdesk of the European Evaluation Network for Rural Development
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Local organizer / host:

Ministry of Agriculture
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Good Practice Workshop

The *ex ante* evaluation of SWOT analysis and needs assessment

Prague, 27-28 May 2013

Venue information:

State Veterinary Administration
Slezská 7, Prague 2,
Czech Republic

Participation is subject to confirmation via e-mail.

[Please register here >>>](#)

Thematic focus

The Good Practice Workshop aims to provide a forum for discussion on the *ex ante* evaluation's assessment of the SWOT analysis and needs assessment as the base for an RDP's intervention logic: *How have the SWOT and needs assessment been carried out and structured? What use was made of context indicators? How have needs been prioritized? How was the SWOT and needs assessment linked to the intervention logic? What were the main issues raised by ex ante? What consequences did they have for the programmes?*

Objectives

- **Exchange of experiences** on SWOT analysis and needs assessment;
- **Develop understanding** on common issues raised by the *ex ante* evaluation;
- **Identify lessons learnt** for the improvement of the SWOT analysis, needs assessment and intervention logic before finalising the RDP.

Main target audience

Managing Authorities, SWOT experts and *ex ante* evaluators.

Method

Presentations, case studies, discussions, and interactive group work. (Working language: English)

Outcome

The workshop documentation will be published on the [website](#) of the European Evaluation Network for Rural Development and presented to the Evaluation Expert Committee.

Agenda 27 May 2013

13:00 Setting up the frame

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome • Objectives of the workshop and agenda of the day 	<p>Mr Josef Tabery MA Czech Republic</p> <p>Hannes Wimmer Evaluation Helpdesk</p>
<p>Strategic programming and ex ante evaluation: What are the requirements & expectations?</p>	<p>Ignacio Seoane Deputy Head of Unit L4, DG Agriculture</p> <p>Christophe Derzelle, Unit G3</p>
<p>Methodological Framework: SWOT and needs assessment as a basis to develop a sound RDP intervention logic?</p>	<p>Robert Lukesch Evaluation Helpdesk</p>

14.30 Coffee break

15:00 Sharing experiences and identifying challenges

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case studies: Designing the SWOT analysis, needs assessment and ex ante evaluation • Czech Republic • Hungary • Germany • Finland 	<p>Case study presenters (evaluators, Managing Authorities, experts) from the Member States</p> <p>Jaroslav Prazan</p> <p>Judith Habuda</p> <p>Dietmar Welz</p> <p>Sari Rannanpaa</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflection round on case studies 	<p>Moderation Evaluation Helpdesk</p>

18.00 End of day 1

19:30 Social dinner next to Moldau river (at own expenses; Approx 25 €)

Agenda 28 May 2013

09:00 Developing solutions

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the day • Group work: Key challenges in SWOT, needs assessment and ex ante evaluation • Presentation of solutions 	<p>Moderation Evaluation Helpdesk</p>
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11:00 Coffee break

11:15 Concluding session

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary conclusions • Next steps • Workshop closing 	<p>Moderation Evaluation Helpdesk</p> <p>DG Agriculture</p> <p>Evaluation Helpdesk</p>
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13.00 End of workshop

Only for members of the Evaluation Expert Committee:

14:00 – 16:30: **Meeting of the Sounding Board of the Thematic Working Group Evaluation Plan:** Participants discuss the Draft Evaluation Plan Guidelines