



Update on the activities of the Evaluation Helpdesk

16th meeting of the Expert Group for Monitoring and Evaluating the CAP
Brussels, 20 March 2019

POWERED BY



1. **Interactive decision tool** “Data for the assessment of RDP achievements and impacts” (TWG-6).
2. **Launch of Thematic Working Group 7** “Preparing the ex-ante evaluation the CAP Strategic Plan”.
3. **Announcements**
4. **State of play of the evaluation activities in relation to the AIR in 2019** in the Member States – interactive exercise.

TWG-6 'Data for the assessment of RDP achievements and impacts'



INTERACTIVE DECISION TOOL

DATA FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF RDP ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACTS

IMPACT INDICATORS:

I.10 WATER ABSTRACTION IN AGRICULTURE

I.11 WATER QUALITY:

I.11-1 GROSS NUTRIENT BALANCE (GNB) (*GROSS NITROGEN BALANCE (GNB-N) AND GROSS PHOSPHORUS BALANCE (GNB-P)*)

I.11-2 NITRATES IN FRESHWATER

CONTENTS

LOGIC MODEL



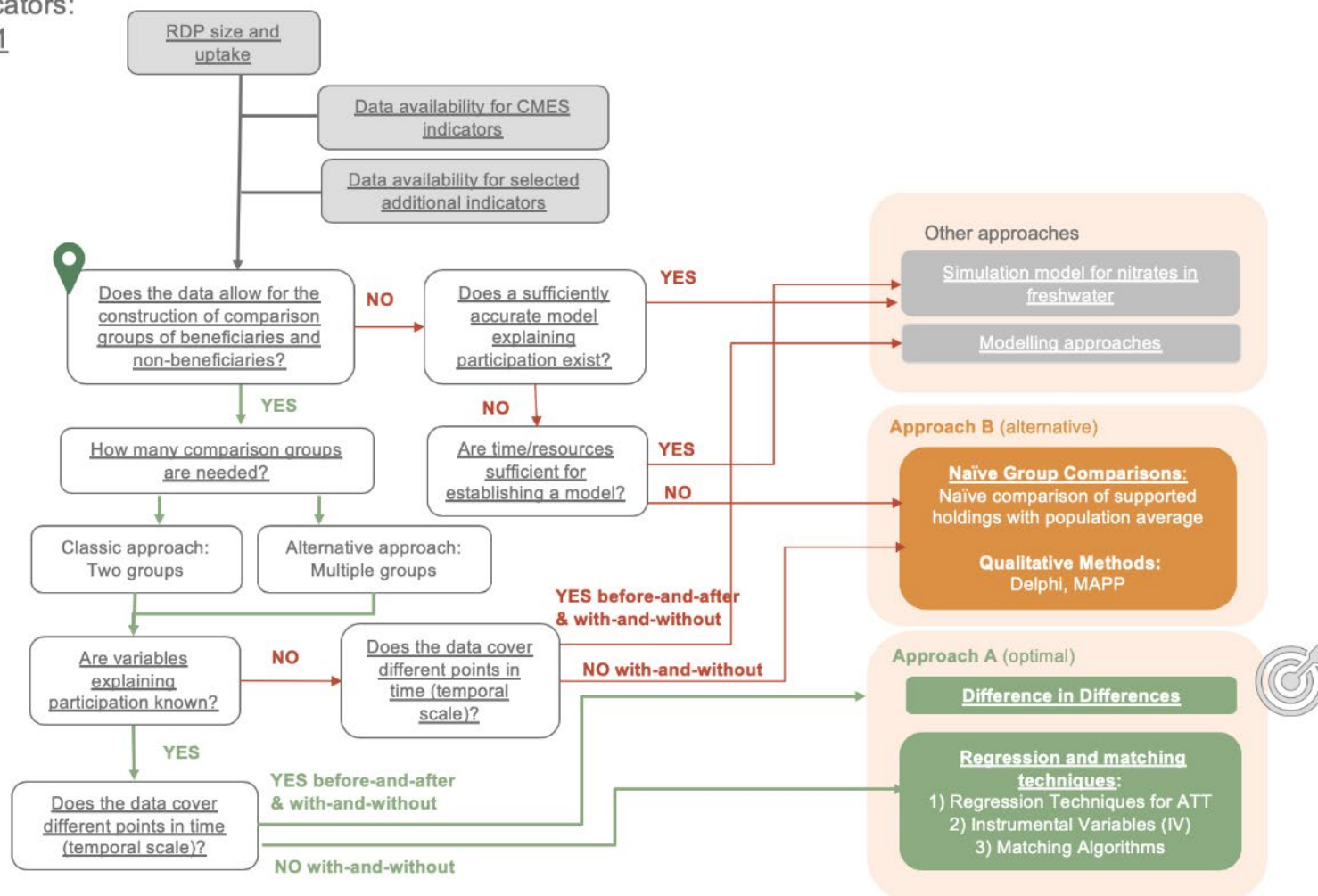
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<https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/evaluation/thematic-working-groups>

Logic models



Impact indicators:
I.10 and I.11





Data availability for CMES indicators

Micro level

Data available:

- **For assessing water abstraction and GNB** (both N and P) there is no recent micro-level data available at the EU level. A survey of agricultural holdings should be undertaken for this purpose to create a database.
- **For assessing Nitrates in freshwater** the European Environment Agency maintains the Water Information System for Europe (WISE) and Water-Quality (WISE 4) which reports aggregate and disaggregated data for different levels including that of the monitoring site.

 Note

 Note

Proxies:

- At the micro level there are no proxies for the common indicators I.10 and I.11 (GNB and Nitrates in Freshwater).

Surveys:

- The data and information needed for I.10 and I.11 (GNB) should be collected via surveys. Further information can be found in:
 - Eurostat and OECD (2014), 'Data Collection Manual for the OECD/Eurostat Joint Questionnaire on Inland Waters', Version 3.0. p. 52.
 - Eurostat and OECD (2013), 'Nutrient Budgets – Methodology and Handbook', Version 1.02. p. 27-28.
- This survey data may include:
 - type of water source (public water supply, self-supply from fresh surface water, self-supply from fresh groundwater, desalinated water, reused water);
 - actual irrigation (type of crop according to agricultural statistics, irrigated hectares, irrigation in m³/year);
 - distribution of water to farms by irrigation techniques including sprinkler, trickle, and gravity (irrigated hectares, water distributed in m³/year);
 - water used for other purposes (e.g. livestock, washing);
 - nutrient inputs (fertiliser, manure, etc.) and nutrients outputs (cultivations, sales of manure, etc.).





Data availability for CMES indicators

Specificities for regionalised RDPs

Specificities in the data availability for regionalised RDPs

For Water Abstraction (I.10):

- Some regional RDPs have readily available regional estimates from their national statistical services.



Example: Spain

- Other regional RDPs should calculate values for the indicators as they are not readily available from Eurostat or through national sources:
 - One approach is to utilise WFD data on RBDs, especially when RBDs boundaries and administrative boundaries coincide.



Examples: Spain - Canary Islands, Finland - Åland

- Another approach is to utilise regional water coefficients from previous surveys (e.g. the 2010 SAPM) and apply them on the current regional data of cultivations by irrigation method.



Example: Italy

For Water quality (I.11 – GNB):

- Attempts to regionalise the GNB-N were undertaken by the JRC.



Example: EU-wide study by JRC

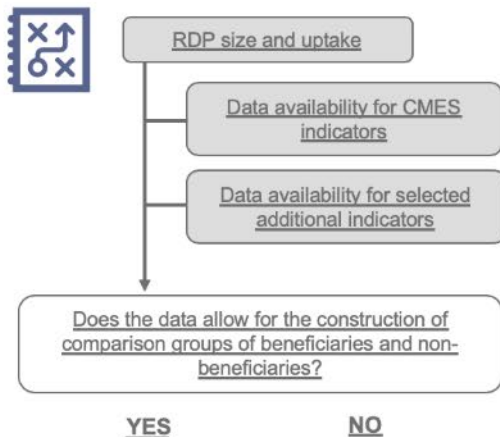
- Some countries have successfully attempted to regionalise GNB.



Example: Finland



Interactive decision tool



Does the data allow for the construction of comparison groups of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries?

Why is this question important?

What are the conditions in order to answer the question with YES?

Are there any specificities to be considered for regionalised RDPs?

What can be done to improve the data situation?

Short-term solutions (for AIR 2019)

Long-term solutions (for ex-post)

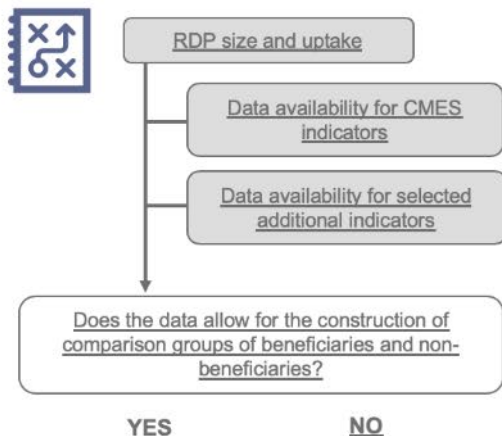


Guidelines *Assessing RDP achievements and impact in 2019*, PART II, Chapter 2.1 and 2.6 and PART IV, Chapter 4.4.

Guidelines *Assessment of RDP results*, Chapter 2.1 and 6.2, and Annex 11, Chapter 2.9.

Guidelines for the ex post evaluation of 2007-2013 RDPs, Chapter 4.3

Interactive decision tool



Does the data allow for the construction of comparison groups of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries?

What are the conditions in order to answer the question with YES?

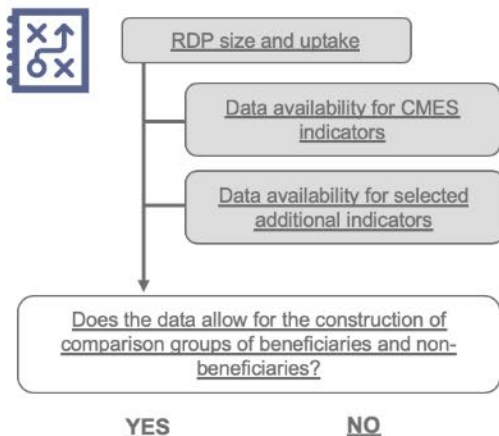
For water abstraction in agriculture (I.10) and water quality (I.11 - GNB) the main condition is to create the database through a very careful sampling procedure to reflect the RDP's intervention logic and its spatial coverage. The database should contain the following information to facilitate the construction of comparison groups:

- ✓ Representative sample of beneficiaries (identified from the CMES operations database).
- ✓ Correspondingly representative sample of non-beneficiaries.
- ✓ A reliable and consistent measurement of the indicator (I.10 and/or I.11-GNB) at the agricultural holding level (i.e. a way to measure the volume of irrigation water and GNB applied to all sampled units).
- ✓ A record of key agricultural holdings' characteristics to be used for screening out non-beneficiaries which cannot serve as matching variables when constructing the counterfactual. Furthermore, these variables should not be used as 'control' variables for simple regression analysis.

Evaluators should have the capacity to measure the indicator at the agricultural holding level.

Options for the construction of comparison groups.

Interactive decision tool



Does the data allow for the construction of comparison groups of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries?

What can be done to improve the data situation?

Short-term solutions (for AIR 2019)

Since data on supported agricultural holdings is available through the operations database in 2019, data on non-supported agricultural holdings can be retrieved from other existing sources or through the database of irrigation water associations or on farm bookkeeping data. These sources should include either the estimate of the impact indicator or collect data to calculate it.

These databases and sources include:

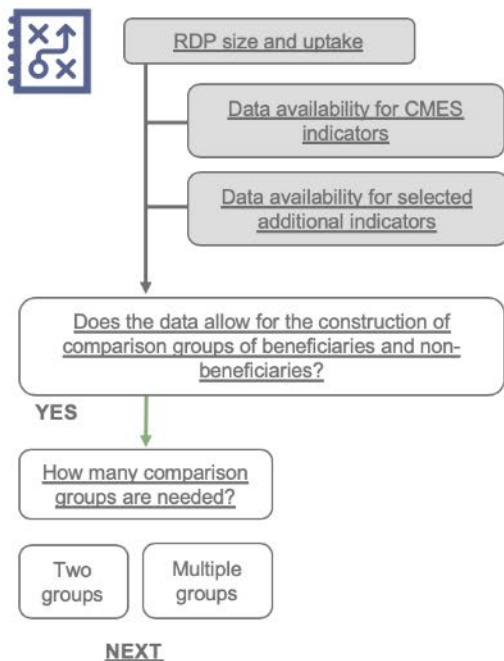
- Data kept by irrigation water or rural electricity providers from which non RDP supported holdings can be identified;
- IACS;
- FADN combined with records on individual cultivations from which water for irrigation can be calculated;
- On farm cross-compliance records for GNB (as part of the IACS) or bookkeeping data for fertiliser and manure purchase, sales and consumption.

Long-term solutions (for ex-post)

A regular survey of agriculture (with quality of SAPM) should be considered for collecting data on all environmental indicators, which have data gaps. Such a survey can be coordinated with the Farms Structure Survey (FSS).



Interactive decision tool



How many comparison groups are needed?

Why is this question important?

What are the conditions in order to answer the question?

Are there any specificities to be considered for regionalised RDPs?

What can be done to improve the data situation?

Short-term solutions (for AIR 2019)

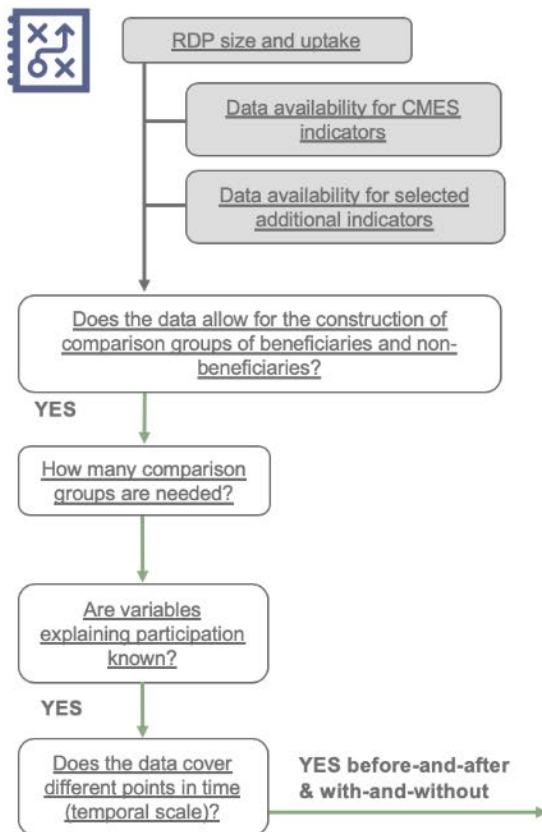
Long-term solutions (for ex-post)



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Regression and matching techniques and Difference in Differences

At the micro level, the assessment is first conducted at the level of the agricultural holding. Additional indicators should be used to assess water abstraction apart from irrigation purposes, total water abstraction and exploitation in agriculture. For the assessment of the RDP's effects on water quality, the effects from the use of fertilisers and pesticides should also be considered.

To net out these effects the guidelines suggest regression and matching techniques (Regression Techniques for ATT, Instrumental Variables, Matching Algorithms) with Difference in Differences, if data is available. Data for setting up a counterfactual within the approach for water abstraction and water quality 'GNB', can be drawn from a survey of agricultural holdings. This information can be complemented with existing agricultural holding data (FADN, national or regional databases from irrigation water providers, Single Area Payment data, etc.). For water quality 'Nitrates in freshwater', the use of a case study approach is recommended to net out the RDP's effects.

At the macro level (NUTS 3 or NUTS 4), if sufficient data exists, it is recommended to net out the effects using Generalised PSM or apply spatial econometric methods taking into account spatial autocorrelations among units.

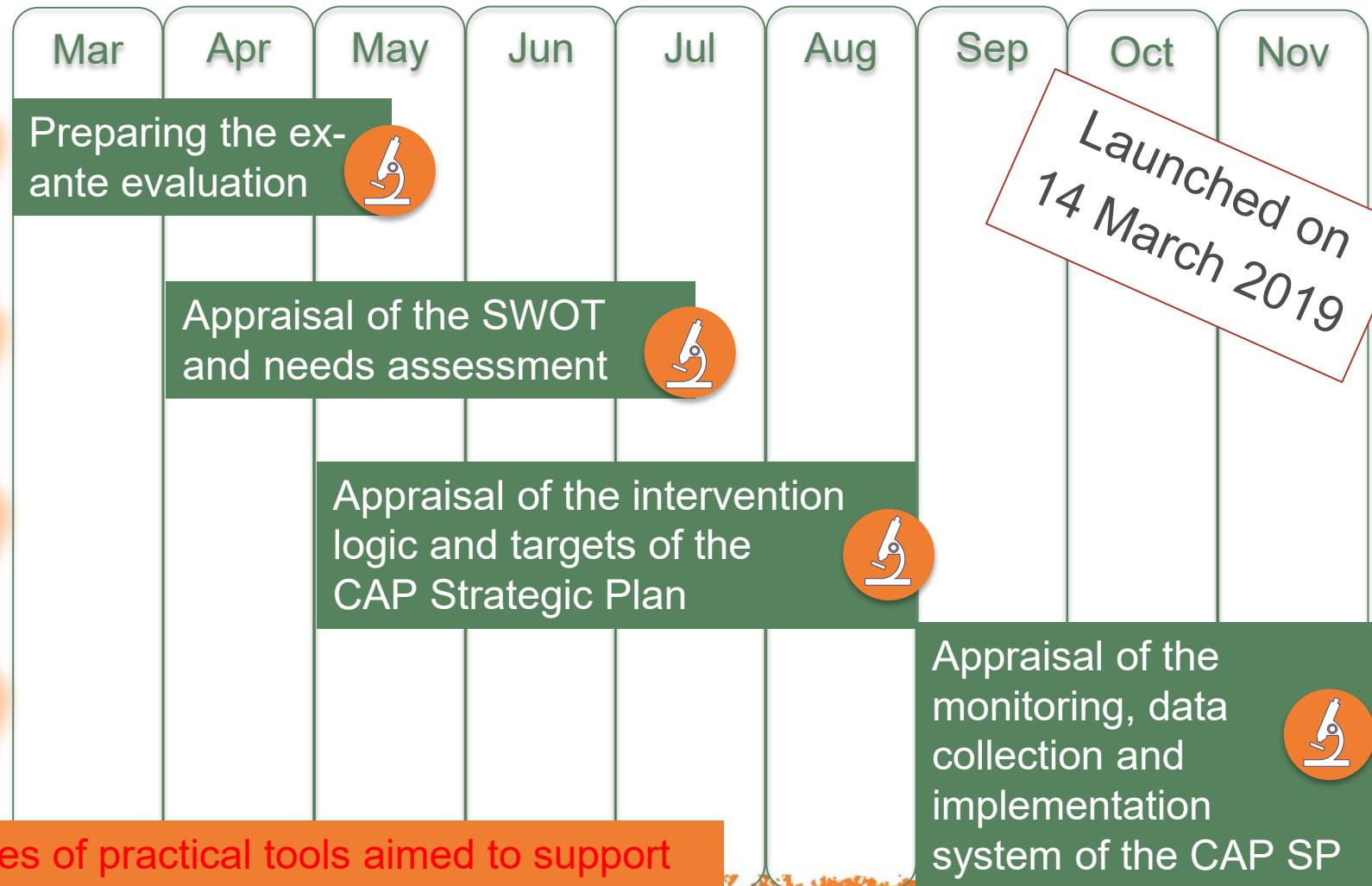


Read more in guidelines *Assessing RDP achievements and impact in 2019*, PART II, Chapter 2.6.3 and PART IV, Chapter 4.4.2.



Thematic Working Group 7

‘Preparing for the ex-ante evaluation of the CAP Strategic Plan’



Series of practical tools aimed to support
MAs, evaluators for ex-ante evaluation

TWG 7 'ex-ante'



TWG-experts



TWG-meeting



Sounding Board

Volunteers of the Expert Group on Monitoring and Evaluating the CAP, members of the RNs' Steering Group. Ideally, at least one representative per MS.

Task: To provide structured feedback on draft documents (toolboxes)

Form: Written procedure



Invitation to participate in the Sounding Board will be sent by e-mail.

Announcements

- Good Practice Workshop no. 10
- NetworX-event on 11-12 April: working session on evaluation
- New factsheets published
- Yearly Capacity Building Events in autumn 2019
- Updated working document “Evaluation-related queries” to be published soon!

State of play of evaluation activities for the AIR in 2019



1. What is the **state of play in your Member State** as regards the evaluation activities in relation to the AIR to be submitted in June 2019? → indicate on GREEN POST-IT your Member State and the stage (for the majority of RDPs)
 - a) Preparing: Tendering/contracting of evaluator ongoing
 - b) Structuring
 - c) Observing (data collection)
 - d) Analysing
 - e) Judging: Answering of evaluation questions
2. What are the **outstanding issues** that still need to be clarified in relation to the AIR in 2019? → indicate on YELLOW POST-IT.



Thank you for your attention!

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