

Synthesis of Focus group results 2011

“Needs assessment”

Presentation by
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Introduction

- **Objective:** Go beyond collection of needs - give **immediate benefits** to the participants
- **Focus:** MTE **recommendations** on **M&E**
- **Key questions:**
 - What are the main recommendations?
 - How will they be addressed?
 - Which support is needed?

Who participated in the Focus Groups?



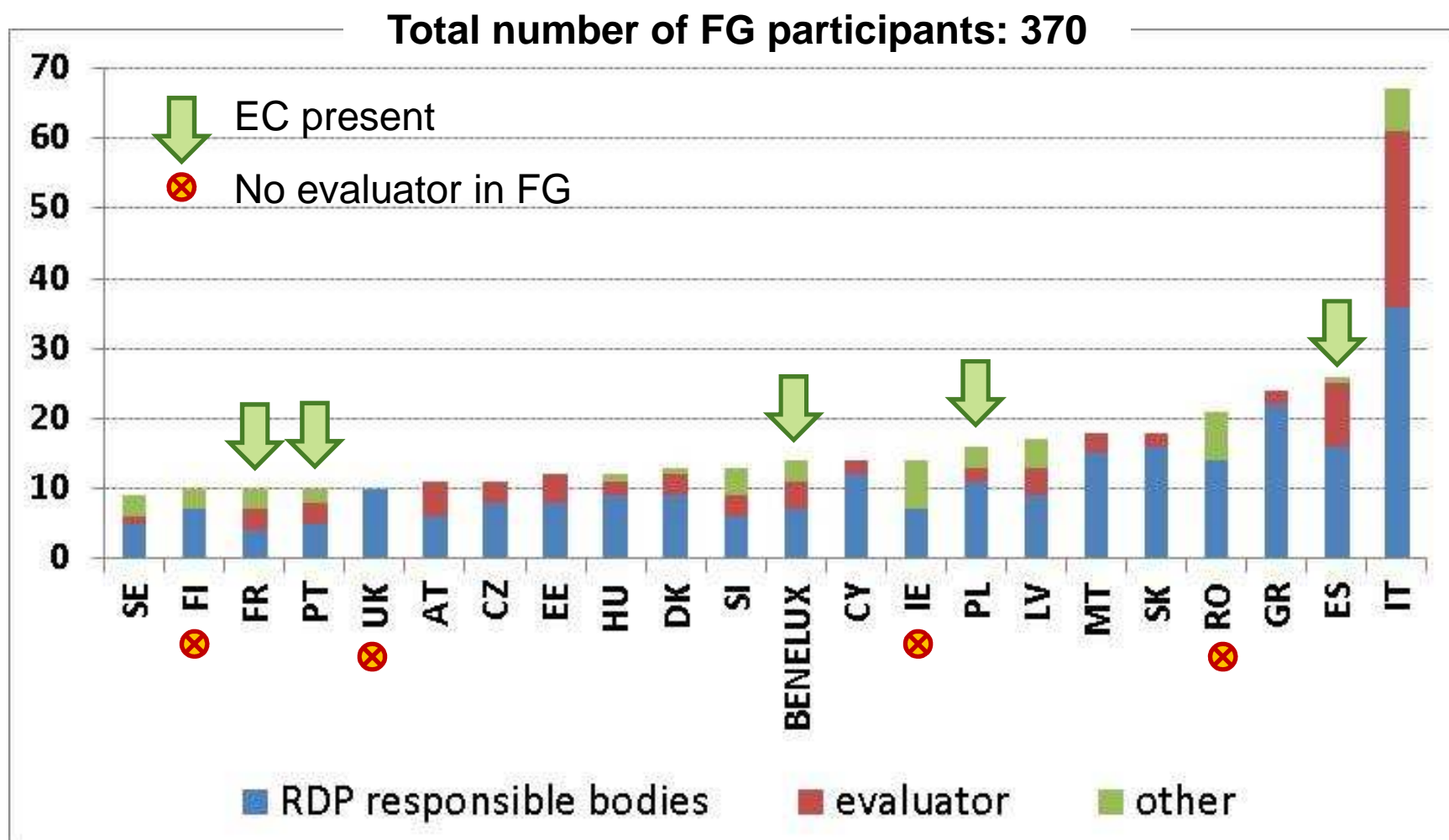
Participants



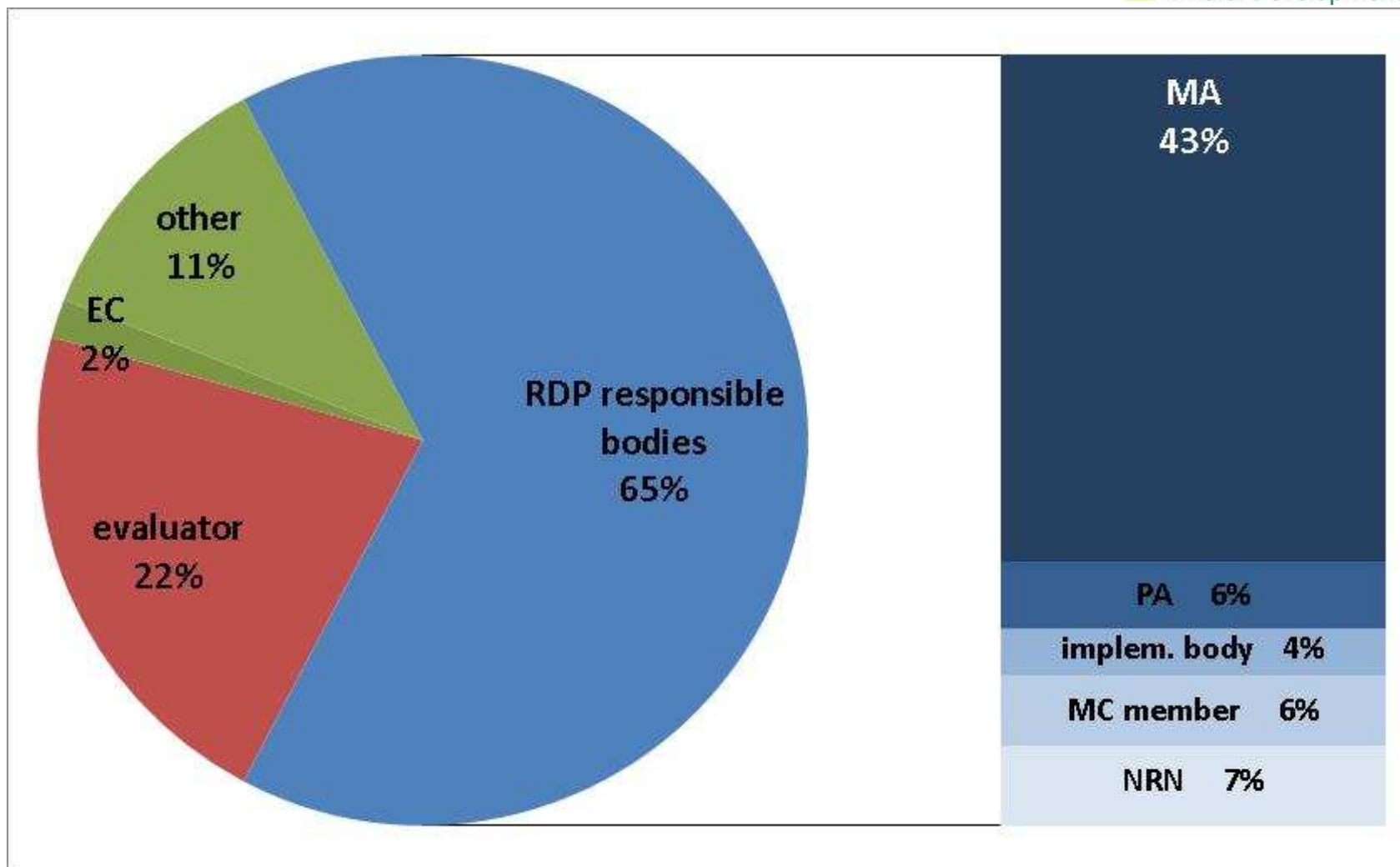
By January 2012 the network reached:

- **24 Member States** (except of DE, LT, BG)
- **370 participants** in total
- Multi-regional FGs in IT, ES, PT, BeNeLux
- **21 FG reports** are included in the present synthesis (UK, FR and EE to be included)

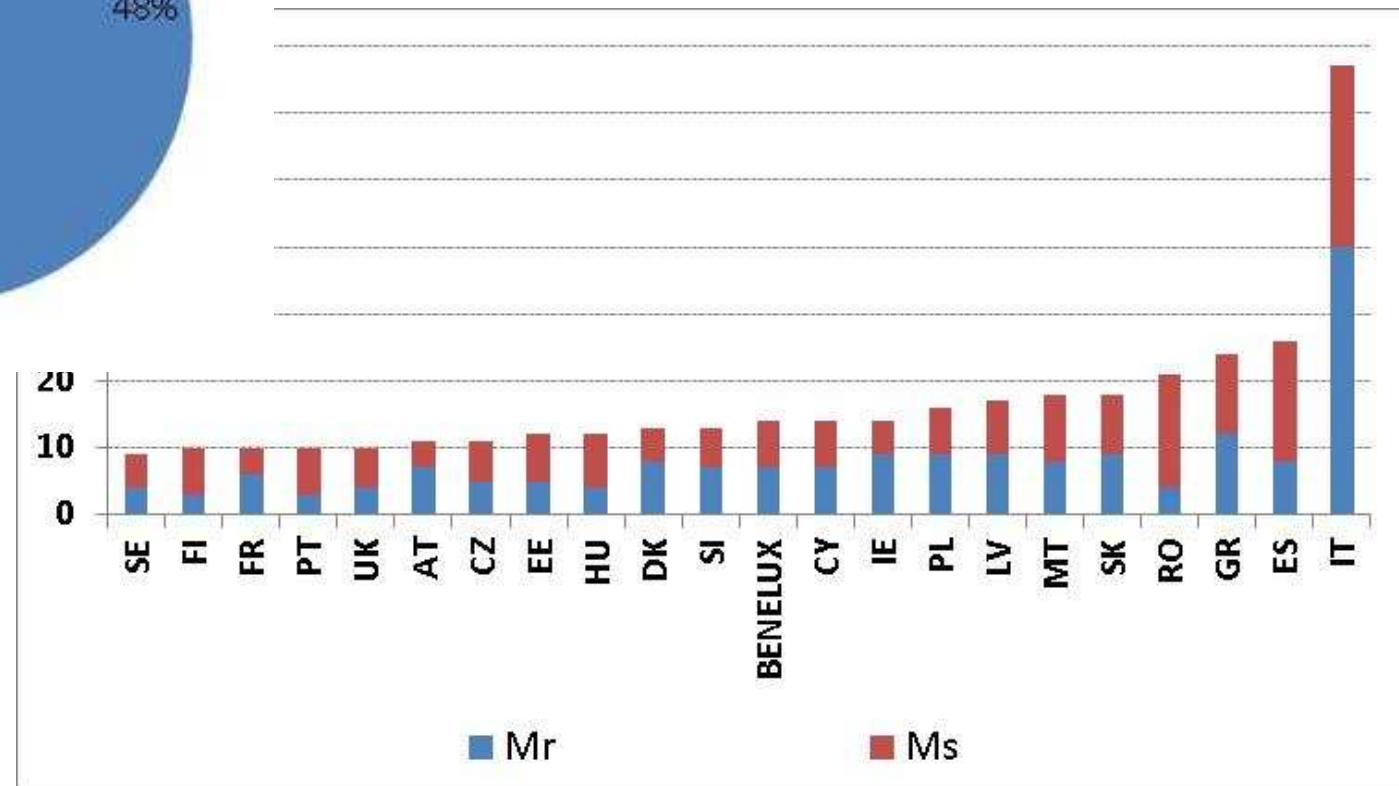
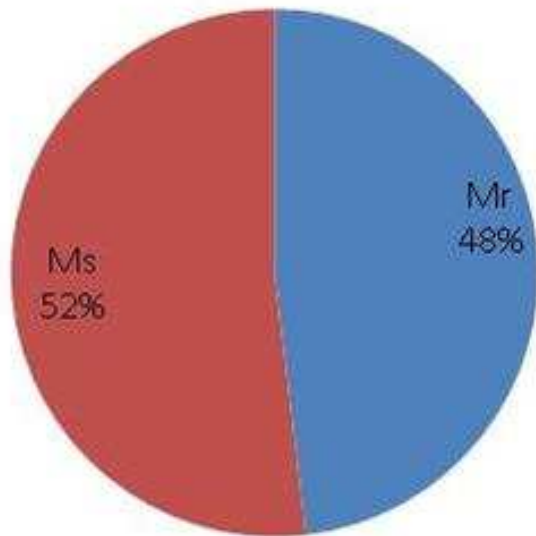
FG size & composition



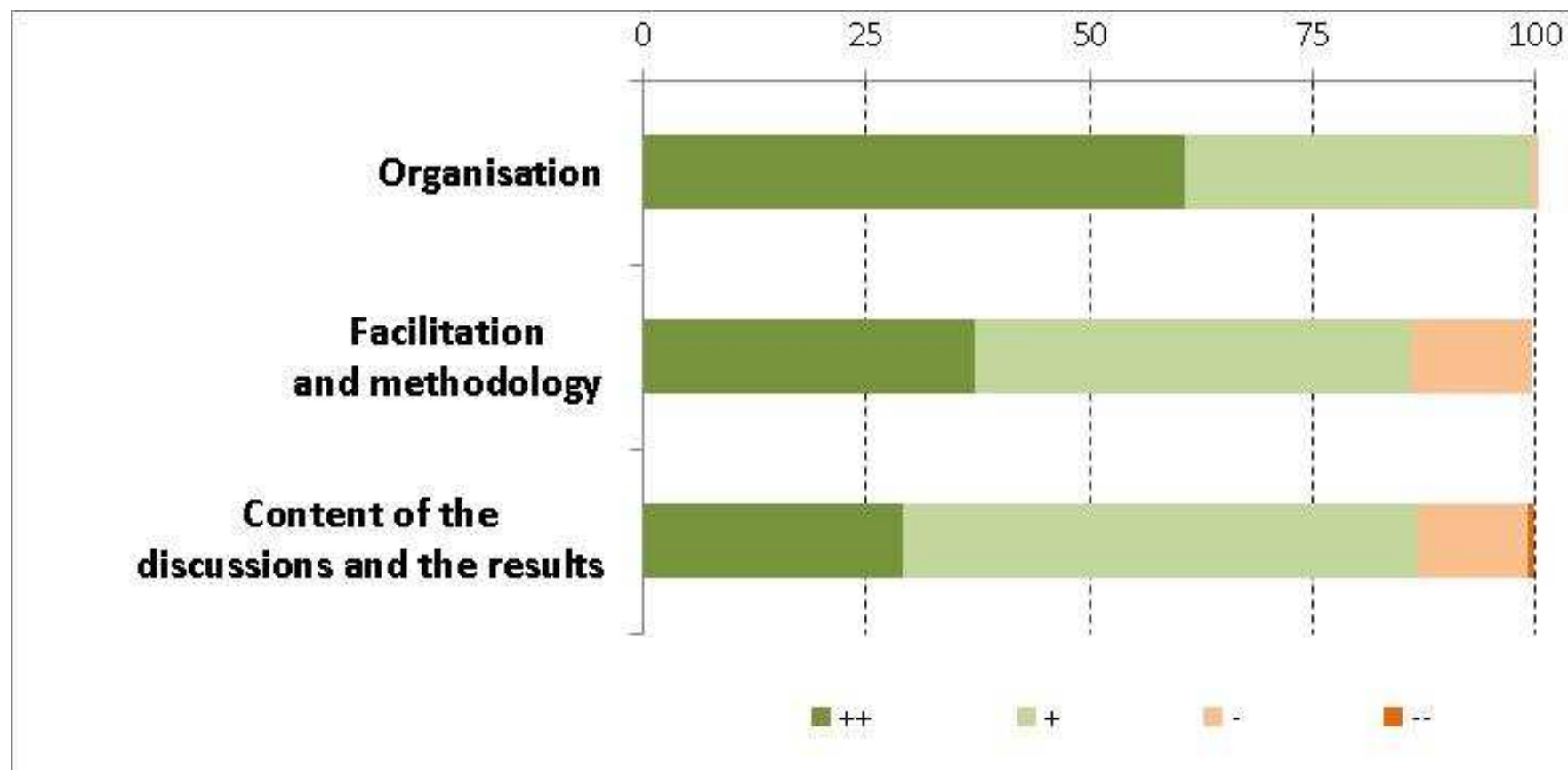
FG composition (total)



FG gender distribution



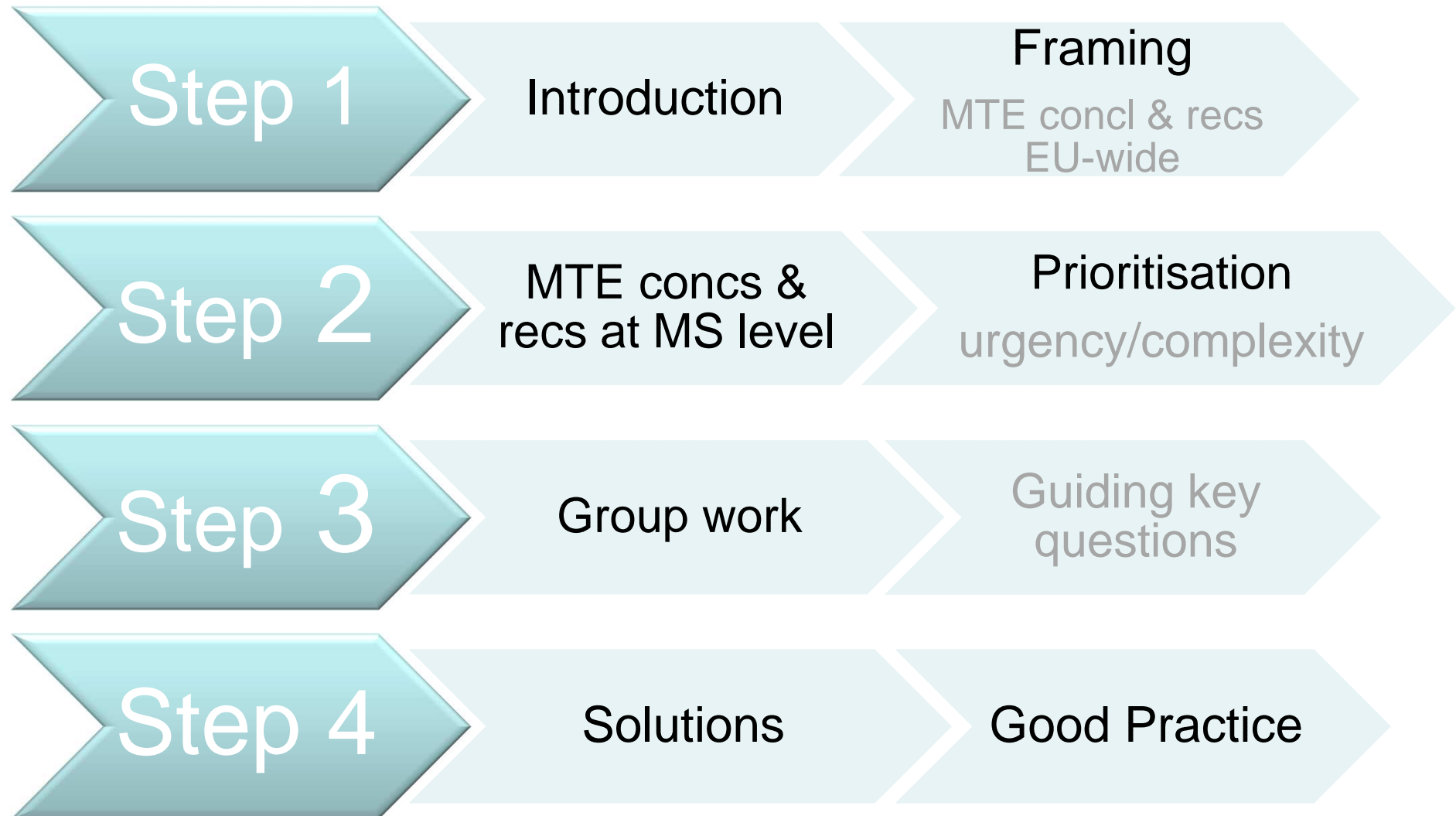
Satisfaction with FGs



How did we conduct the Focus Groups?



FG-Method used

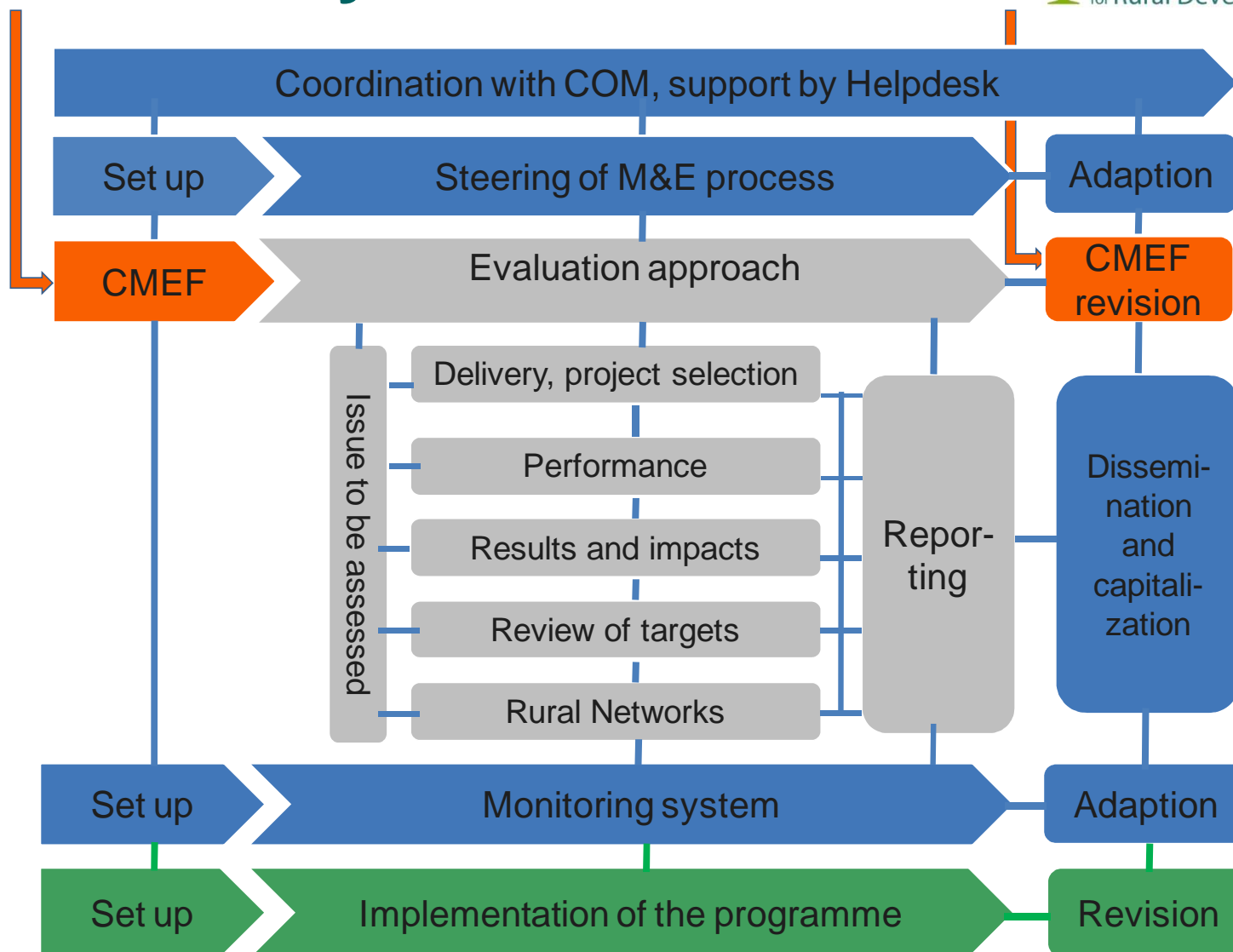


Which **findings** did the Focus Groups reveal?

Inventory of MTE recommendations

- More than **90 recommendations** related to the specific issue M&E could be extracted by Geographic Experts and FGs from MTE reports and Feedback letters (by DOs)
- Recommendations are often **integrated** in nature and address a number of issues
- In order to ease the **clustering** of the numerous recommendation a **reference base** has been developed (see map)

M&E activity fields



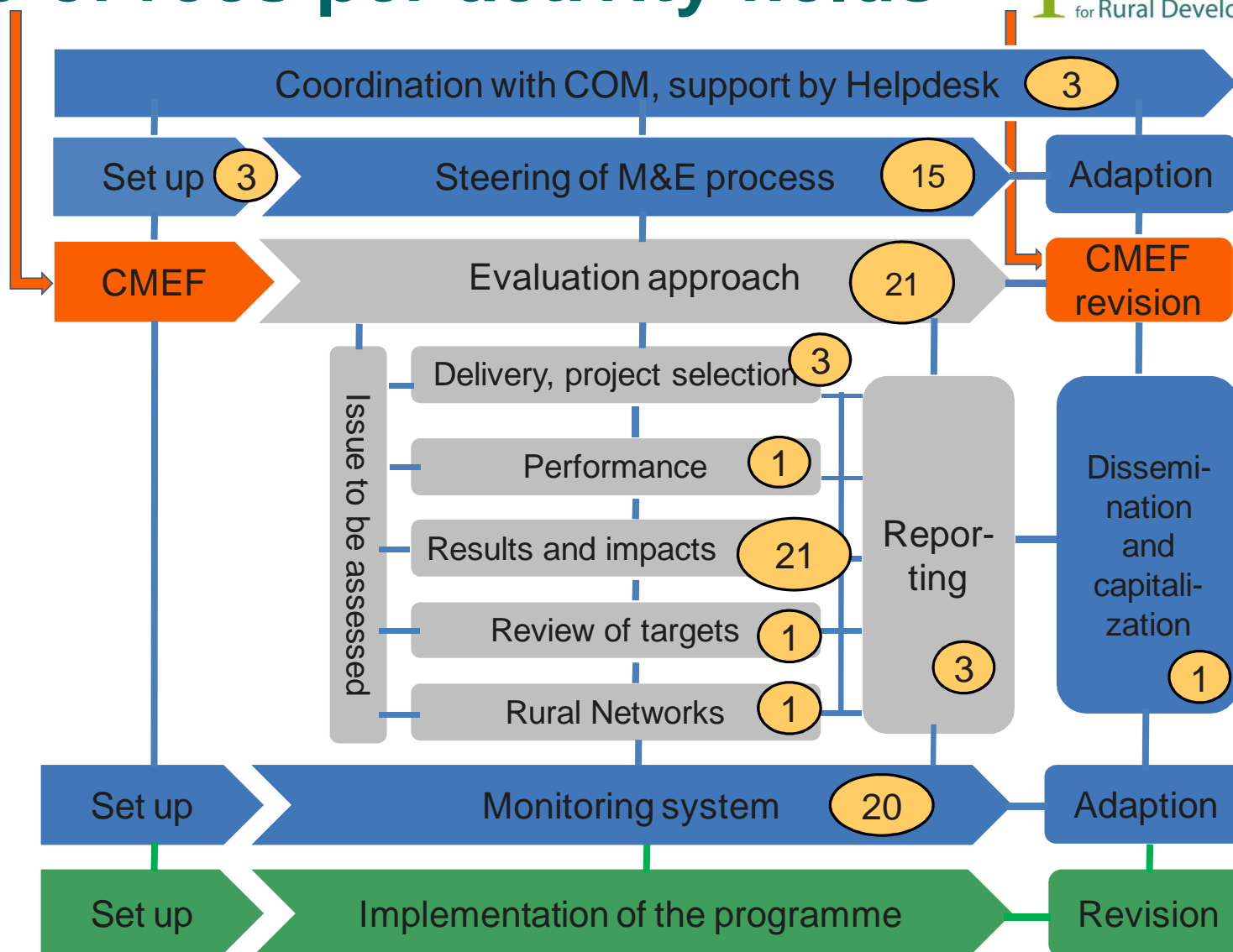
Clustering of MTE recs

- All recommendations (and their prioritization) have been i) collected in a **data base** and ii) **clustered** in iterative steps along the M&E activity fields
- Database and clustering allow for a number of **analysis** to achieve a **full picture** of FG result;
For example:
 - No of recs per activity fields
 - Type of recs per MS

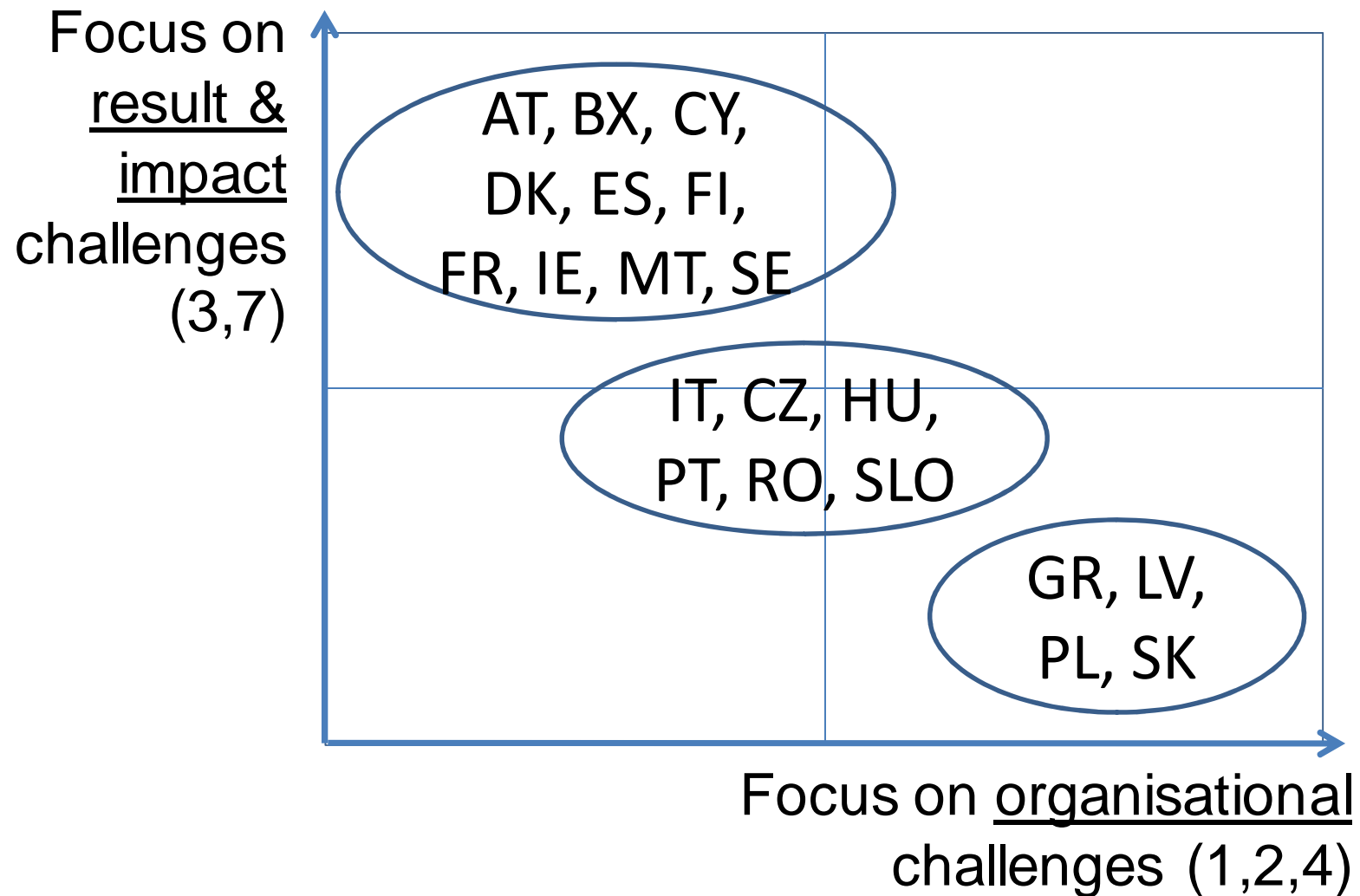
No of recs per activity fields



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Scope of discussion of M&E needs (simplified)



Broadly addressed M&E activity fields



Most prominent and top prioritized across MS:

- AF 2) **Steering** of ongoing evaluation process, provision of accompanying capacity building
- AF 3) Develop an adequate **evaluation approach** at programme level
- AF 4) Design and management of the **monitoring system**
- AF 7) Assessment of **results & impacts** (against baselines)

Ad 2) Steering of ongoing evaluation process, provision of accompanying capacity building



- One of the major FG issues relevant for at least 11 MS.
- Addresses the improved **governance** of the evaluation process through establishing **steering groups** and **evaluation plans**, enhanced **inter-institutional cooperation**, **better involvement of MC** members and provision of **training**.

Ad 3) Develop an adequate evaluation approach at programme level



- One of the two most prominent FG issues relevant in all MS.
- Addresses the **fundamental design** of the evaluation – in response to the CMEF requirements: establishing a **sound evaluation architecture** in terms of evaluation questions and indicators and proposals for **CMEF revision**

Ad 4) Design and management of the monitoring system



- Major FG issue in nearly all MS (16 out of 20).
- Two aspects can be distinguished:
 - The **basic task** to provide timely valid data sets for the administration of the programme
 - To provide timely meaningful **data for the evaluators**, for the decision makers and for reprogramming. In this case more in-depth information is needed. It seems FGs addressed primarily the second aspect

Ad 7) Assessment of results & impacts



- One of the two major FG issues relevant for all MS
- This activity field is in methodological terms the most complex and needs a lot of **development work** and adequate **resourcing**
- FG discussed a number of methodological **challenges** for programme bodies and evaluators, e.g. **needs for enhanced data collection**, how to deal with **counterfactual** analysis and deadweight, needs to **foster systematic exchange** on methods

What can we conclude from these findings?

Conclusions re Needs (1)

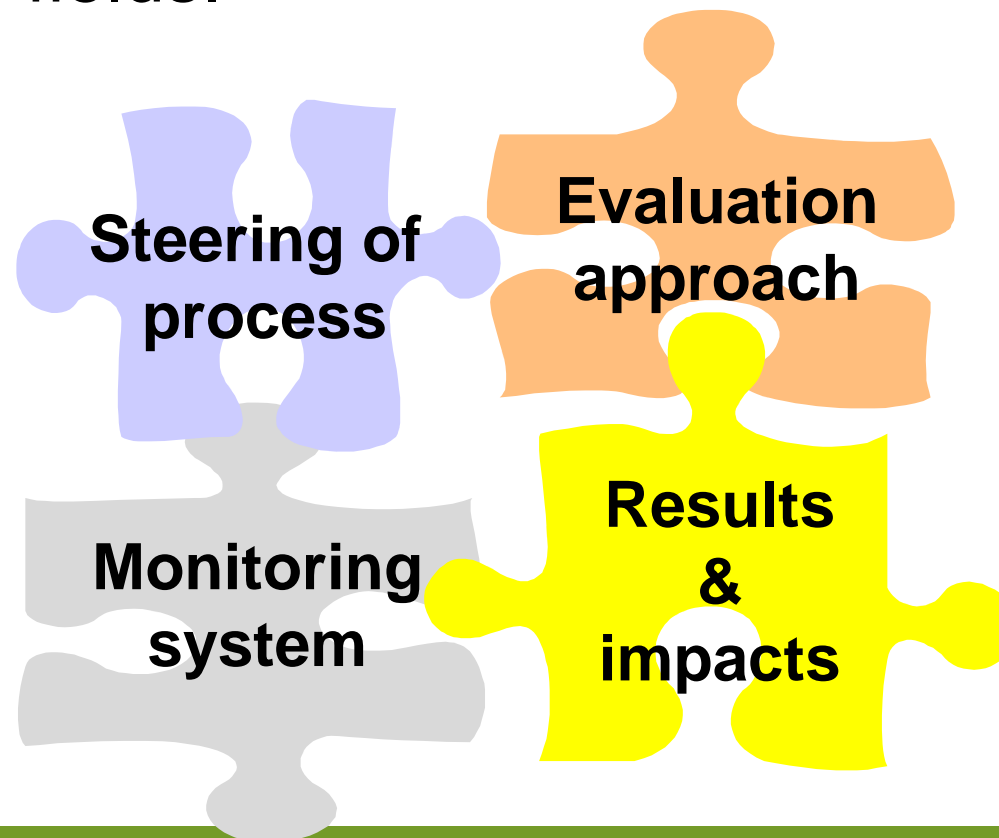
- The FG issues 3) **Evaluation approach** and 7) **Assessment of results & impacts** have already been systematically addressed by various actors (e.g. working papers)
 - RDPs: research studies, internal MTE-updates (part of ongoing evaluation)
 - Helpdesk: working papers, new exchange formats
 - EC: CMEF review
 - Other actors: workshops, conferences

Conclusions re Needs (2)

- Related to the FG issues 2) **Steering of ongoing evaluation process** and 4) Management of **monitoring system** serious bottlenecks have been articulated by Focus Groups.
- Both activity fields are crucial for the success of M&Es
- Systematic approach how different actors address these bottlenecks can so far hardly be recognized.

Conclusions re Needs (3)

- All actors involved in M&E need to develop a **balanced approach** to tackle **all four** M&E activity fields.



Suggested topics for Focus Groups in 2012



Focus Groups in 2012 should **continue** to deal with the MTE **recommendations** and should address two specific topics which could not be treated sufficiently in the 2011 FGs:

- Systematic assessment of **achieved progress in the implementation** of the identified recommendations (e.g. by a comparable rating method)
- Systematic collection of **good practice approaches** related to the M&E activity fields

Thank you for your attention

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