

# Guidelines for the Evaluation of National Rural Networks 2014-2020

## State of play

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# Content

- Structure of the NRN Guidelines
- Content of the NRN Guidelines
- Main comments on NRN Guidelines

# What is the structure of the guidelines?

Introduction

Part I: NRN's evaluation context

Part II: NRN's evaluation framework

Toolbox

# Content of Introduction

## Evaluation of NRNs

Why do we need guidelines?

What are the target groups?

How can the guidelines be used?

# Content of Part I

## 1- Networks and networking

Networks, formal/informal and networking

## 2- Why evaluating NRNs?

Achievements towards NRN objectives  
Transparency  
Accountability  
Policy learning

## 3- Differences between evaluation and self-assessment

Main differences  
Complementarities

## 4- Focus of NRN evaluation

Relevance, effectiveness, achievements, efficiency, impacts, success and failure factors

## 5- Common and programme-specific elements

Objectives,  
Intervention logic, EQs, indicators

## 6- Process of NRN evaluation

Stakeholders and their role  
Key steps: planning, implementing disseminating

# Content of Part II

**1**  
**NRN**  
**intervention logic**

**2**  
**The monitoring**  
**and evaluation**  
**framework**

**3**  
**Evaluation**  
**design,**  
**methods**  
**and data**

**4**  
**Key points**  
**to consider**

# Intervention logic

- Construction/review of NRN intervention logic, reflecting the NRN context and identified needs**
- What needs to be considered in the construction of the IL: common and programme-specific elements**
- Intervention logic of NRNs and NRNPs**
- Examples on the construction of the intervention logic**

# Monitoring and evaluation framework



- ❑ **Role** of common and programme-specific **evaluation questions** and **indicators** in evaluation:
  - ❑ Demonstration of contribution of policy
  - ❑ Focus and support the evaluation
- ❑ **Triangular consistency**: objectives, questions and indicators
- ❑ How to **design** programme-specific evaluation **questions**:
  - ❑ The level of the objective in the hierarchy;
  - ❑ The formulation of the objective;
  - ❑ The means to achieve the objective;
  - ❑ The means to answer the evaluation question.
- ❑ How to **develop** programme-specific **indicators** using **judgement criteria**

*Examples of programme-specific result indicators*



# Evaluation design, methods and data



- ❑ The **evaluation design** should allow assessing NRN achievements, results and impacts attributable to the NRN activities (is counterfactual analysis suitable for NRN assessment?).
- ❑ Using a **mix** of quantitative and qualitative methods
- ❑ **Links** between indicators, methods and data

*Examples of methods in the Toolbox*

# Key points to address in evaluation

- ❑ Clarify the **purpose** of NRN
- ❑ Define NRN **objectives**
- ❑ Construct the NRN **intervention logic** to address specific needs
- ❑ Design NRN **monitoring and evaluation framework** linked to intervention logic
- ❑ Decide and design the **self-assessment** and link it to **M&E**
- ❑ Identify **methods and data** collection techniques
- ❑ **Assess results, impacts and achievements** of NRN

# Content of Part III (Toolbox)

**Common output indicators fiches**

**Common NRN objectives, groups of actions and indicators, and links between them**

**Suggested methods for the assessment of NRNs**

**Practice in evaluation of NRN (IT, ES, FI)**

**Examples of topics to be included in the questionnaire for NRN assessment**

# Main comments on NRN guidelines

Positive feedback on the usefulness of the information and completeness of the guidelines.



## Technical comments:

- Clarify the non-binding nature of the suggested **result indicators and judgement criteria**
- Enhance the **consistency on some of the terms** used throughout the guidelines
- Increase **cross references** to the different parts of the guidelines and to legal acts
- Update some of the **bibliography** and references provided

# Main comments on NRN guidelines



## Content related comments:

- Link **operational objectives** to the common and network-specific groups of activities
- Clarify the **counterfactual** situation in case of NRNs
- Describe the difference between NRN **added value and indirect effects**
- Provide more detailed information about the **social network analysis**
- Provide an assessment of the **examples** of NRN / NRNP evaluation described in the Toolbox

# Thank you for your attention!

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