

# Practice in evaluation of NRNP in 2007 – 2013

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# NRN evaluation versus self-assessment

Aspects	Self-assessment	Evaluation
Responsibility	NRN	Managing Authority
Execution	NRN with experts	Independent evaluator
Mission	Facilitate effective steering / managing of NRN	Support implementation of NRN interventions towards RD objectives, facilitate steering the network
Purpose	Assess the added value of NRN on rural areas and beneficiaries	Assess efficiency and effectiveness of NRN in line with RD objectives
Subject	Action plan and its implementation	NRN intervention logic of and its accomplishment
Usability of outcomes	Improvement of the action plan and its implementation	Improvement of NRN intervention logic for better targeting needs and RD objectives

# Experiences with evaluation of NRN



- Limited experiences in evaluation of NRN (only few RDP mid-term evaluation conducted assessment of NRN)
- NRNP – compulsory mid-term evaluation
- Four Member States:  
Spain, Italy, Germany and Portugal

# Evaluation framework (MTE)



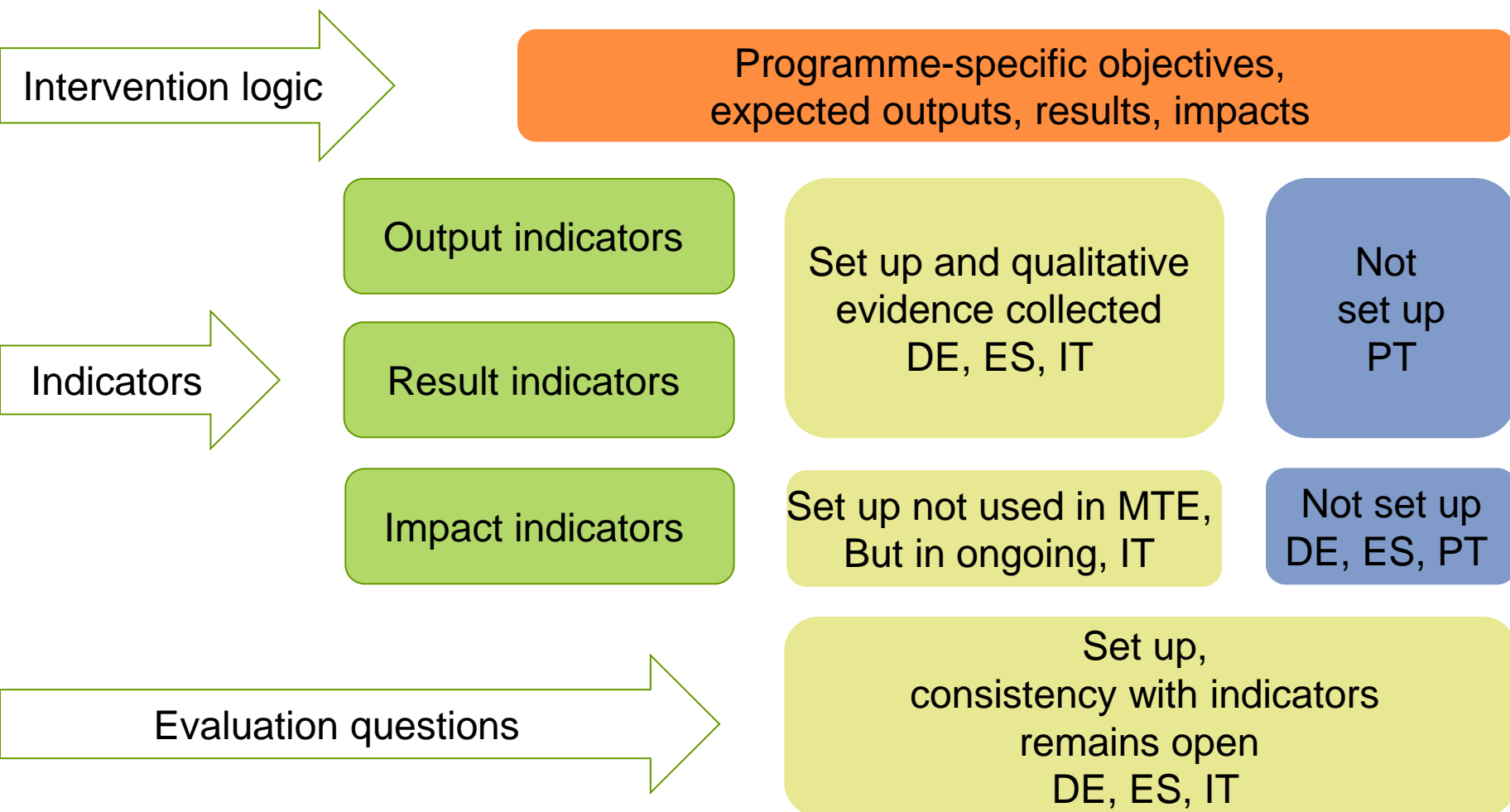
- **CMEF common indicators** and most of the common evaluation questions were not adequate to evaluate National Rural Network Programmes
- NRNPs have therefore tried
  - to **establish a programme-specific intervention logic** including the set-up of overall, specific and operational objectives of the NRNP;
  - to develop **programme-specific indicators** and **evaluation questions**;
  - these programme-specific evaluation questions and indicators have not always been set up in consistency with programme objectives at *ex ante* stage.

## **For ex post:**

→ *Revisit / establish NRNP intervention logic, indicators and evaluation questions!*

# Evaluation framework (MTE)

**Only programme-specific!!!**



# Assessment of impacts (MTE)

- **Impact indicators of the NRNPs have not been set up, since...**
  - they are difficult to identify,
  - it is not easy to connect networking activities to overall objectives of the EU rural development policy – competitiveness of agriculture and forestry sectors, environment and quality of life.

## **For ex post**

*→ It is vital to consider RD policy objectives and the improved governance in rural areas as key horizons for NRNPs and NRN action plans and develop impact indicators around them.*

# Methods and collection of evidence

Methodological  
approach

**Qualitative**  
**Legal acts, CMEF Guidelines B**

Desk research: APRs  
(DE, IT, ES, PT)  
MA documentary (DE, PT)  
Minutes of MC (DE)  
Official existing statistics (ES)  
Home page of NRN (DE)

Interviews with MA staff  
RD stakeholders  
(DE, IT, ES)  
and beneficiaries (PT)  
Questionnaires (IT, PT)  
Field surveys, SNA (IT)

Sources of  
evidence

Monitoring data on  
networking  
Financial data (DE)

Self-assessment  
techniques



# Methods and collection of evidence (MTE)

- Results and impacts of NRNPs represent qualitative and quantitative changes and were difficult to capture.  
→ *They shall be the subject of ex post evaluation of NRNPs*
- Mostly qualitative sources and methods were / *shall be* employed in evaluation of NRNPs.

## **For ex post:**

- *Consider the evaluation methods and availability of data and information to be collected once the intervention logic has been reviewed in the light of the MTE and on going evaluation.*

# Conclusions and recommendations on monitoring and evaluation

Germany	Italy	Spain	Portugal
→ Programme-specific EQ shall be introduced during ongoing evaluation	<p>→ Clarify indicators, their baseline and target values (migrate data to new system),</p> <p>→ Assess impacts of actions across the country,</p> <p>→ Increase the use of the output indicators and strengthen the financial progress of the network.</p>	<p>→ Indicator system should be improved to show correspondence between activities and output / results,</p> <p>→ Revise output and result indicator system: clarify, reduce number,</p> <p>→ Revise the values of certain output targets.</p>	None

# Constraints, limitations

- Delay in implementation
- Development of programme-specific indicators,
- Identification of data sources,
- Gaps in data collection,
- Finding the most appropriate evaluation methodology in relation to NRN.

## For *ex post*

- *Revision of programme-specific indicators and evaluation questions, examination of their mutual consistency and with programme objectives ;*
- *Decision on the best **combination of quantitative and qualitative methods**;*
- ***Identification of data sources** and system for collecting data ;*
- *Specific attention shall be given to **programme impacts**, which shall be tackled during the ex post evaluation.*



# Thank you for your attention!

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