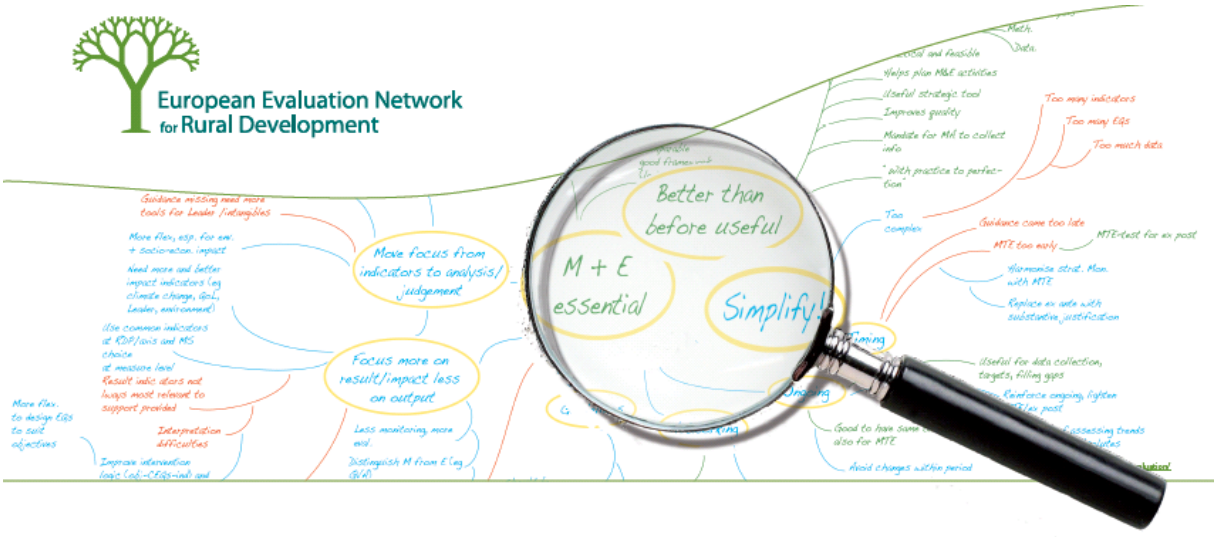


USEFULNESS

- **Developing the CMES in close collaboration with stakeholders to address their specific needs in evaluation:**
  - Assess effectiveness, efficiency and relevance of programmes;
  - Contribute to a better targeted support;
  - Establish a common learning process.
- **Introducting new evaluation elements in the CMES to make it more practical and useful for programme authorities (e.g. evaluation plan, Operations database).**

SIMPLIFICATION

- **Reducing the common elements of the CMES (common indicators, CEQs.);**
- **Enhancing the flexibility of Member States to introduce programme-specific elements in the CMES;**
- **Using common EU data sources for a more straightforward data collection and analysis;**
- **Developing the Operations Database to simplify the aggregation of information for AIRs and to facilitate programme evaluation.**

QUESTIONS

To what extent can the objectives of evaluation (assess effectiveness, efficiency and relevance of RD policy intervention; contribute to better targeted support; establish common learning process) be achieved with the new CMES?

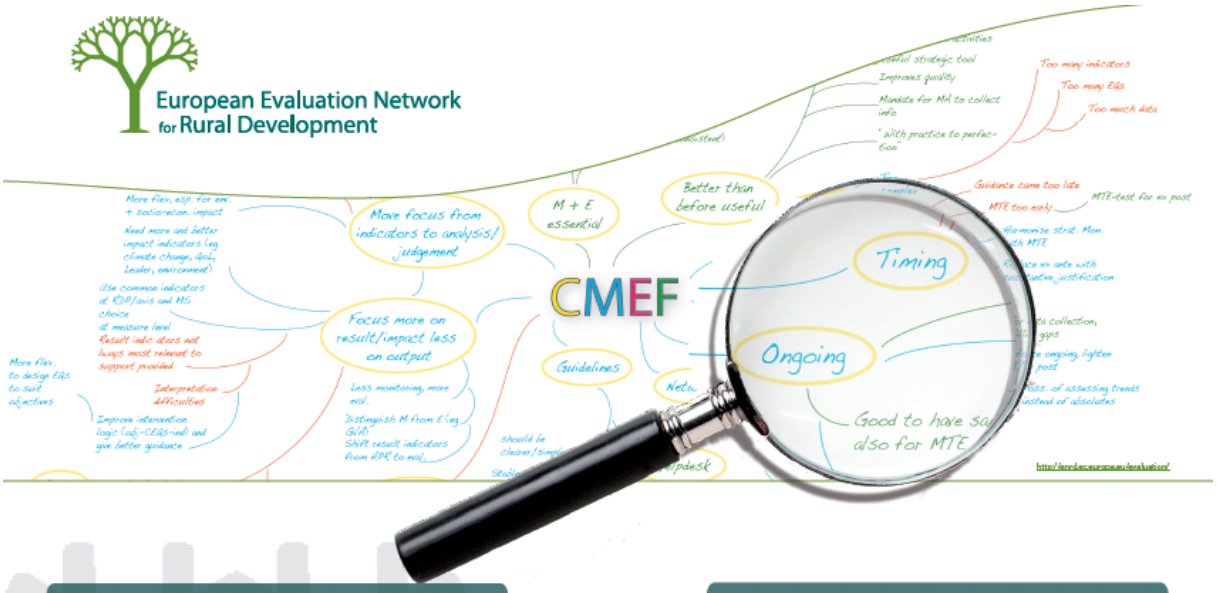
Answers:

1. « Evaluation culture » depends on the willingness in the MS to evaluate and design their policy, not on the M&E system.
2. Monitoring Committee and Evaluation units within the MA find the M&E system not always useful
3. Performance framework is enough, no need for additional indicator plan.
4. No impacts in enhanced AIR in 2017 is a good thing
5. Less result indicators is good but what is the use of target indicators?
6. It is positive to have guidance at the start of the programme.
7. In regional RDPs, common context indicators are useless and the number has doubled in order to bring in additional ones.
8. Should move from data delivery to data analysis
9. Less gaps now after implementing the CMEF but we want to focus on the real important issues. For M&E a selection on the focus should be made.

To what extent does the reduction of common elements provide more room for programme-specific elements and does this increase the usefulness and/or simplify the programme evaluation?

Answers:

1. Monitoring was imposed on MS.
2. The new system is more complex: focus areas, priorities, etc. The regional authorities are in a state of shock.
3. The complexity of the M&E system follows the complexity of RD policy (many measures).
4. Too mant targets → the system becomes more complex.
5. Who will use programme-specific indicators?
6. There are mixed feeling about the EP.
7. Measures operations vs. programme evaluation.
8. Impact Pillar II , much lower impact Pillar I.
9. Where is the reduction of common elements?
10. There are still many differences in the monitoring tables and indicator tables in the CMES.



TIMING

- **Adapting the timing of evaluation to make results more useful for programme management and steering;**
- **Implementing two enhanced Annual Implementation Reports:**
  - 2017 AIR: Focus on programme results;
  - 2019 AIR: Focus on progamme impacts, achievements and contribution to policy objectives.

ONGOING EVALUATION

- **Strengthening evaluation during the programming period with the evaluation plan to make the concept of ongoing evaluation more tangible;**
- **Building M&E into the programme from the beginning of the implementation of the RDP;**
- **Providing more room to MAs to finetune and make evaluation activities concrete as needed throughout programme implementation.**

QUESTIONS

Has the timing of evaluations been better adapted to the needs of programming and programme implementation? Are timing issues adequately/better addressed in the new CMES?

Answers:

1. It is difficult to assess at the moment how the outcomes of the 2017/2019 evaluation will be in terms whether timing was improved or not.
2. It seems difficult to report sound results in the enhanced report in 2017 as some of the MS will have only one year of programme implementation
3. The evaluation in 2017/2019 will be a good opportunity to test your evaluation system (e.g. data collection)

To what extent can the Evaluation Plan ensure evaluation throughout the implementation period?

Answers:

1. Uncertainty about the Evaluation Plan being a tool that ensures evaluation throughout the programming period
2. In MS with a good evaluation culture and where annual working plans are developed for evaluation, the Evaluation Plan represents an additional burden. In other MS it is a possitive tool to encourage thinking about the M&E system in advance.
3. It is important to have and dedicate sufficient human and economic resources to ensure evaluation thoughout the programming period.
4. The CMES provides room for programme-specific evaluations and they can be financed through technical assistance.

FOCUS ON ANALYSIS & JUDGEMENT

- **Designing RDPs around an intervention logic which provides the basis for evaluation by linking programme interventions to the RD focus areas and priorities;**
- **Developing guidelines to support MAs and evaluators on the analysis and judgement of RDPs.**

FOCUS ON RESULTS & IMPACTS

- **Defining and describing the set of common result and impact indicators in the CMES;**
- **Giving more room to MAs to develop programme-specific result and impact indicators if needed;**
- **Assessing the programme's contribution to EU RD priorities, CAP objectives and EU2020 objectives with result and impact indicators.**

QUESTIONS

What needs to be done to support MS to improve the evaluation from methodological point of view?

Answers:

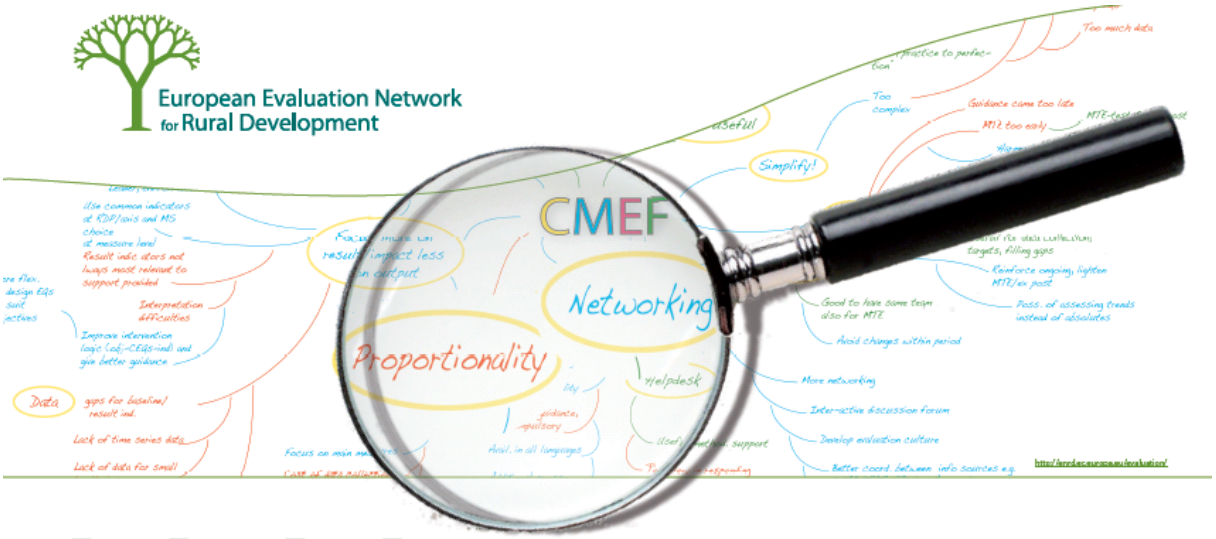
1. More focus on purpose of evaluation – bringing important messages, and not so much on methods.
2. Less guidance, more examples, especially on interpretation of evaluation results. This is required already for enhanced AIR in 2016.
3. Good practice workshops are good tool for exchanging examples, but their outcomes should be disseminated more broadly. It would be also useful to organize one GPWQ on methods in relation to assessment of results and impacts.

To what extent are the common result and impact indicators sufficient to address programme effects and to answer the reduced set of common evaluation questions? To what extent should the PSEQs be developed to complement the reduced set?

Answers:

1. Common impact indicators are not sufficient but EC should not provide more common indicators. It should be left for MS to develop programme specific indicators.
2. Values for impact indicators provided by the EU do interpret RDP results, they should be netted out and explained why observed change happened.
3. Assessment of impacts/net effects, analysing the causality of impact indicators values is rather challenging, time and resources consuming

4. Common evaluation question are not sufficient, but we do not want more. MS can develop their own evaluation questions – programme specific (PSEQ). When?:
    a. In case the CEQ are not relevant for the RDP context
    b. If CEQ do not cover specific issues
    c. If MS has specific evaluation needs, like delivery mechanism
    d. If sub-questions are needed to specify further CEQ



NETWORKING

- Supporting the EU and MS on evaluation matters continues throughout the programming period;
- Exchanging information and methods supported by the European networks;
- Strengthening the technical support to help evaluation stakeholders to fulfil their role;
- Developing guidelines related to the new CMES (CEQs, intervention logic, indicators, etc.), planning further guidance to be developed when needed.

PROPORTIONALITY

- Reducing the number of common elements outlined in the CMES as compared to 2007-2013 programming period (e.g. indicators, EQs);
- Clarifying the links between data and results to make better use of the resources;
- Using Eurostat data for impact and context indicators;
- Providing legal backing for requesting information to programmes beneficiaries.

QUESTIONS

How has the issue of proportionality been addressed in the CMES? Is the reduction of compulsory elements and more room for programme-specific elements a noticeable contribution to more proportionality? How is the function of the Evaluation Plan seen with respect to proportionality?

Positive aspects	Negative aspects	Proposals
1. Evaluation plan is a good tool as it makes possible to be proportionate. 2. The requirements for the Evaluation Plan do not need to be too detailed → room for adaptation. 3. Common elements	1. Proportionality not really addressed. A lot still needs to be done 2. Same demands for small and big RDPs. 3. Very complex methodologies; there is a lack of simpler methods for smaller programmes/measures.	Have more Good Practice examples for small MS, RDPs or measures.

How would you assess the future role of networking (& support)? Are the provisions for networking and capacity building for the CMES sufficient?

Positive aspects	Negative aspects	Proposals
1. Regular meetings with experts, forum for common thinking	1. Networking inside a small MS is useless. 2. Difference on implementation in the MS. Where to draw the line? How to use the guidance?	1. Documents targeted to all general actors involved in the implementation. 2. Translation of all guidance documents. 3. Involve Desk Officers in networking activities, consultation on evaluation criteria. 4. Non binding guidelines should be more diversified (more methods). 5. RDC and ExCo role should be clearer. 6. Integrate monitoring in ExCo