

News in Brief

Fifth meeting of the Evaluation Expert Committee

The fifth meeting of the Evaluation Expert Committee took place on 2 July 2010 in Brussels and focused on several issues of high interest for the Member States when carrying out their mid-term evaluations (MTE).

Final findings of the “Leader and Quality of Life” Thematic Working Group of the Evaluation Expert Network were discussed with the Member States’ representatives

- This working paper explores possible ways of how to capture the impact of Leader and of measures to improve the Quality of Life in rural areas. The intermediary results of this working paper had been shared with the Member States representatives and Evaluation Expert Committee members already in the first half of 2010. In July the final findings were presented and Member States have been encouraged to field-test the approach during the MTE or the ex post. The final version of the working paper has now been published. For the full details read article on page 1.

Working paper on the “Evaluation of National Rural Network Programmes” shows evaluation approaches of four Member States, which had opted to have a National Rural Network Programme (NRNP)

- As these Member States (Germany, Italy, Portugal and Spain) are required to evaluate their NRNPs under the same framework as all the other programmes, the working paper is intended to provide methodological support on how to capture the impacts of networks. In this respect the working paper also provides useful information for the other National Rural Networks (NRNs) which are, as clarified during the Evaluation Expert Committee meeting, required to evaluate their networks financed from technical assistance. One delegate from Italy gave a presentation about the approach to the evaluation of their Rural Network Programme. For further information about the Working Paper, read the article on page 6.

Activities concerning the assessment of the CMEF introduced by the Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development and the Evaluation Helpdesk An eye-catching and stimulating mindmap reflected the results and suggestions of the round table on “First experiences from the implementation of the CMEF”, which took place at the previous meet-



Photo: courtesy of Evaluation Helpdesk

The CMEF mindmap was presented to delegates at the Fifth meeting of the Evaluation Expert Committee, 2 July 2010

ing of the Evaluation Expert Committee. This was followed by a presentation of the preliminary findings on the update of the SWOT analysis of the CMEF and the ongoing evaluation systems. The SWOT report will be available at the end of this year.

Explanatory notes to the Common Evaluation Questions (EQs) and recommendations on MTE reporting give Member States the last indications for conducting the MTE

- The discussions concerned practical challenges to answer EQs (e.g. when impacts are not yet observable) and how to structure the MTE report. A delegate from Germany presented a concrete approach of developing the MTE report. For further details, read the article on page 9.

Issues concerning the availability and accessibility of Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN) data clarified by the Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development

- The presentation by an official from Unit AGRI-L3 “Microeconomic analysis of EU Agricultural holdings” raised interesting discussions regarding the various provisions concerning confidentiality and access to data at national level, the use of the data by the EC and inclusion of additional variables to enhance the tool. For further information about FADN, consult the website: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rica/index_en.cfm

Next meeting of Evaluation Expert Committee is tentatively scheduled for 26 November 2010.