

# How are evaluations planned and organised in Sweden?

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# Evaluation Secretariat

- Evaluation Secretariat started 2013
- Secretariat manages and commissions evaluations for RDP and other ESI programmes
- An independent function within the Swedish Board of Agriculture
- Supported by an Advisory Research Committee
  - An external, independent, group of researchers
  - Provide an independent quality control of evaluations
  - One or two committee members follow each evaluation



# Evaluation planning

## RDP Evaluation plan

- Rather general in scope
- Little guidance for operational planning of evaluations
- Sets an overall structure and commitment

## Operational plan

- A long-list of specific evaluation ideas and topics
- Annual prioritised short-list produced
- Based on an assessment of needs and discussions with stakeholders



# Evaluation topics

## Programme operation and management

- On-ongoing evaluation of EIP-Agri
- Evaluation of selection criteria

## Methodology studies

- Index for biodiversity monitoring and policy evaluation
- Model for evaluation of LEADER impacts

## Cross-cutting topics

- Baseline study on rural innovation ("Farm CIS")
- Comparison of LEADER projects between the ESI funds

Programme impacts

Programme outputs and results



# How do we communicate evaluations?

## Communication plan for each specific evaluation

**Evaluation workshop** to present main results and recommendations  
Target group: ministry, MA management, management of other agencies

Published **online** as:  
[Follow up reports](#) and  
[Evaluation reports](#)

[Blog](#)

Evaluation-specific **additional activities**, e.g.:

- [NRN podcast or online seminar](#)
  - Press release
  - Additional workshops or presentations

## Communication about evaluations

**Presentations** in different fora  
**Target groups:** MC and other (adapted according to need)

[Summaries of programme results and outcomes](#)



# Do's and don't's – lessons for the future

- Do:
  - Have clear processes and structures from the start
  - Involve relevant internal and external stakeholders early
  - Develop contacts with a wider evaluation community (especially other public sector agencies)
  - Evaluate throughout the programme period
  - Consider national evaluation needs as well as EU requirements
- Don't:
  - Underestimate the need for communication for developing an evaluation awareness
  - Forget to evaluate your evaluations and processes!
  - Undertake evaluations that have no benefit for the programme and its goals



# Role of the Evaluation plan

- Create an overall framework for the management of evaluations
  - Ensuring stability, showing the MA's commitment and level of ambition and resources
  - Learn from past experiences
- Should have an appropriate level of detail on specific topics
  - A degree of flexibility needed!
  - Should be realistic!
- Should support the operational, day-to-day management of evaluations

