

Good practice workshop Targeted data management for evidence-based evaluation in Rural Development Budapest 8-9 October 2012

Data management practice in the Hungarian RD programme

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Content

Combined presentation by

- The Hungarian Managing Authority
- The Hungarian Paying Agency (Agricultural and Rural Development Agency-ARDA)
- An External Evaluator



How monitoring activity is carried out in Hungary /Managing Authority

Ministry of Rural Development



State Secretary for Rural Development



Department for Rural Development



Unit of Managing Authority and Monitoring:

Evaluation and monitoring activities are carried out within this unit



Data collection system

Data specified in CMEF, NHRDP, own national indicators

As for **output indicators** data is collected by:

 the Agricultural and Rural Development Agency (ARDA) – Paying Agency: the main data collector for data supplied by beneficiaries.

The work of ARDA is assisted by the following background institutions:

- National Food Chain Safety Office (NÉBIH)
- Institute of Geodesy, Cartography and Remote Sensing (FÖMI)
- National Agricultural Advisory, Educational and Rural Development Institute (NAKVI)

As for **result, impact and context** indicators the MA works with background institutions such as:

- Central Statistical Office (KSH)
- Hungarian Public Nonprofit Company for Regional Development and Town Planning (VÁTI)
- Agricultural Research Institute (AKI)



Data collection system

Source of information:

- Support and payment claims IACS
- IT system for general beneficiary data, territorial data
- E-questionnaire (web-site)
- Other external sources (statistical data)



Identification of data need

Establishment of Working groups – MA, PA field and monitoring experts, background institutions - with the aim of:

- Specification of data need and continuous improving of data quality
 - type, exact definition, unit of measurement, source, the frequency of collection, the level of aggregation, use of data (reports, evaluation etc.)
 - continuous supervision of data specification and of data sources for minimising the data provision from beneficiaries
 - more output data from internal PA sources (quick and more efficient)
 - result and impact indicators from targeted sources: a revision is currently underway regarding the methodology for collecting these data
- Simplification arrangements
 - less data required from beneficiaries
 - less data for own national purposes
 - data collection from more authentic sources



Regulating the provision of data

Data handling is regulated by law: role, rights and obligations of data suppliers (institutions involved in the implementation, beneficiaries), and data users (MA, other institutions – EC, MC etc.), provisions for handling of data (data security provisions)

Regarding output data and certain basic data for result and impact indicators (under supervision):

- Decree of MRD states the rules of data provision by beneficiaries, circle of data by measures to be provided by the beneficiaries, the time of data provision, the procedure of handing over data collected by ARDA to the Managing Authority

As regards to result, impact and context data

- There is no formal contract or written agreement between the MA and the data providers: data is provided based on "tradition" and good cooperation practice between institutions



"Resources" required for setting up a robust monitoring system for evaluation

- Raising awareness of the importance of having good quality data for monitoring and evaluation purposes
- The evaluation of certain key areas in the right time and in the appropriate manner
- Use of external experts and quality assurer
- Sufficient and well –trained staff (capacity building on a continuous basis)
- Proper and timely identification of data need
- Regulated connection with data suppliers (beneficiaries and other institutions)
- Good communication with the EC
- Well-functioning IT system
- Adequate financial resources to insure the operation of the entire system (TA)



Raising awareness of dedicating sufficient resources to data collection

- Good communication between actors of the Monitoring and evaluation system and the stakeholders (hierarchy, MC members, beneficiaries, civil partners, EC, etc.) by events, workshops, conferences. Short, understandable reports.
- The outcomes of the monitoring and evaluation system are taken into account by the implementation system.
- Feedback from the stakeholders are taken into account during the implementation.





Agricultural and Rural Development Agency (ARDA)

- An independent legal entity with national powers and budgetary institution having own business management
- Is accredited to perform paying agency tasks in connection with measures financed from EAGF and EAFRD
- Monitoring tasks:
 - Management and Coordination Department: manage data collection and processing, reporting on Rural Development Programme and Fisheries Fund.
 - Department for System Development: give IT support to data collection and processing





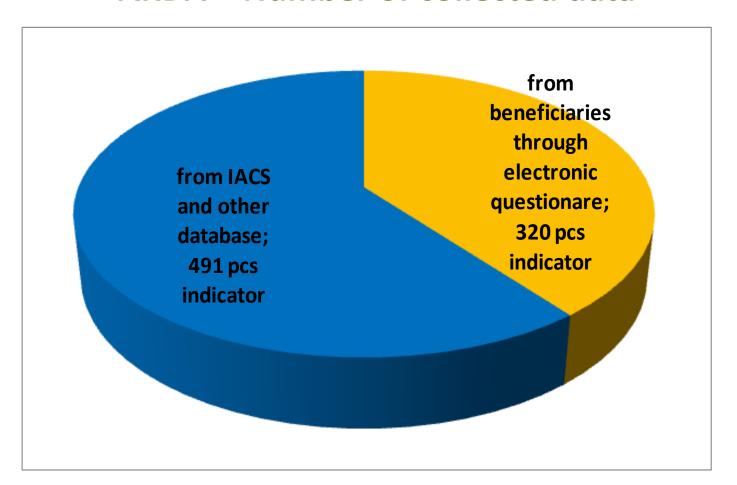
ARDA - Data collection

- ARDA is responsible for collecting beneficiary data
- Common data identification with the Managing Authority and the experts from background institutions
- Define and review annually
 - what kind of data should to be collected per measures
 - Frequency of data collection
 - Source of data
- Source of data:
 - Support claim, payment claim (IACS)
 - Electronic data supply system for collecting progress data on the implementation of projects from beneficiaries on annual basis





ARDA - Number of collected data

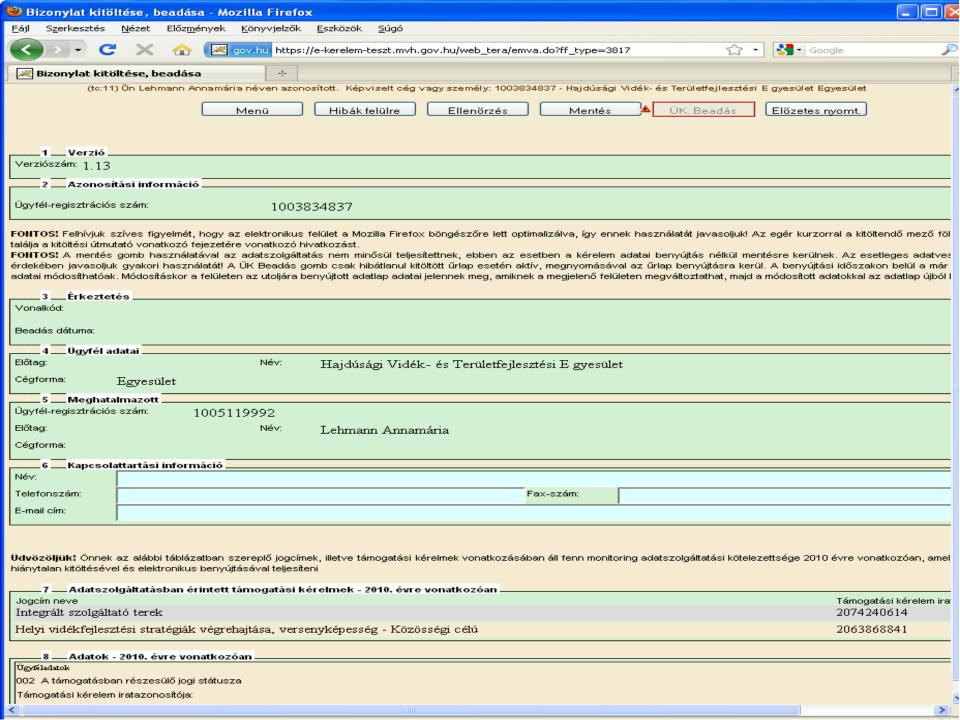


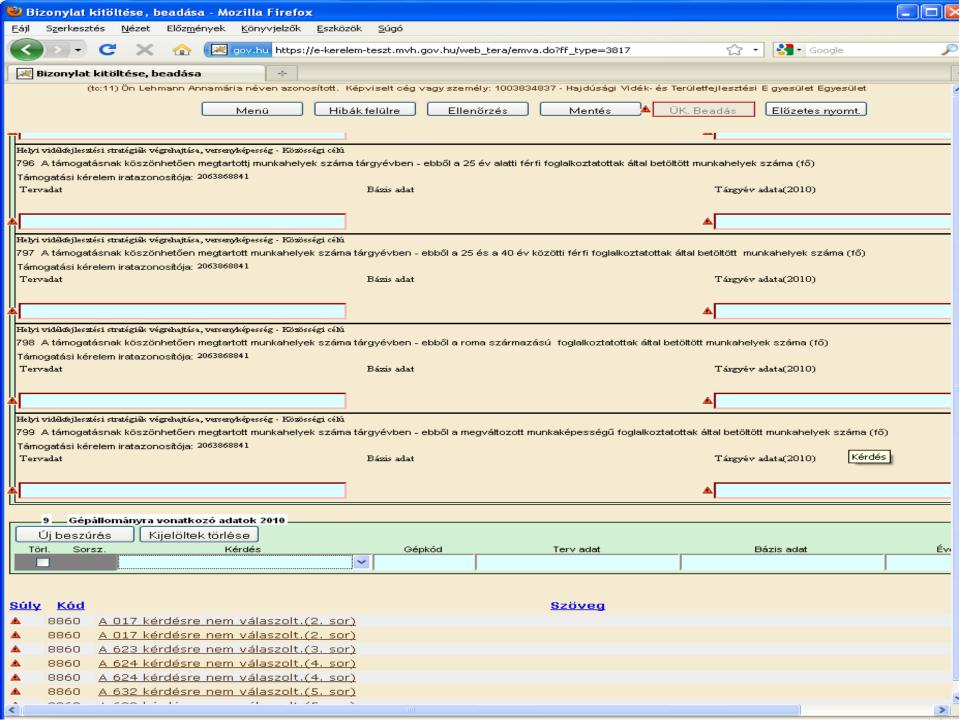




ARDA - Electronic data supply system

- Legal background: Regulation of the Ministry of Rural Development
- Data supply once a year (February-March)
- Access through e-government portal
- "Client-specific" e-questionnaire: only those data appear, which are relevant for the related measures of a certain beneficiary
- Acceleration, effectiveness: speed up data supply and aggregation
- "The system will work instead of you"
- Built-in automated data control
- Avoid additional multiple data entry
- Questionnaire cannot be submitted until all questions are answered









ARDA - Tools for informing beneficiaries about monitoring requirements

- Guidelines and tutorial videos for filling in e-questionnaire published on the homepage of the Agency
- Client Service Centre is reinforced during data supply
- "Question & Answer" menu on the Agency's website
- Involvement of the Agricultural Chamber and the network of agricultural extension officers

Trainings:

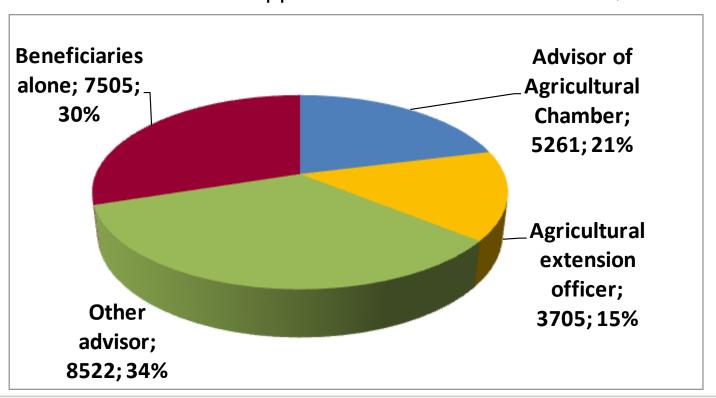
- Internal trainings and workshops for colleagues who help beneficiaries to fill in the e-questionnaires
- External trainings for Agricultural Chamber and the network of agricultural extension officers.





ARDA – Rule of the Agricultural Chamber and extension officers

- Number of beneficiaries were obligated to supply data in 2012: 26 800
- Number of beneficiaries supplied data in 2012: 24 993







ARDA – Data processing

- IACS is used to process the monitoring data
- Before data are submitted to the MA for the annual progress report, data coherences, obvious deteriorations are examined

Reports

- Data supply for the annual progress report to the MA
- Monthly reports on program implementation to the Monitoring Committee
- Weekly report on program implementation to the MA and management
- Data supply for the evaluators
- Reports for other external data-users (e.g.: Central Statistical Office)





What resources are needed to set up the monitoring system?

- Human resources: sufficient number of staff, continuous trainings
- IT background: minimize and facilitate work for data collectors and providers
- Financial instruments to establish the system

How can we raise awareness of dedicating sufficient resources to data collection?

- Good communication with the management: emphasize that successful monitoring and evaluation system improves implementation of the programs
- Feedback from evaluators
- Strengthening the role of monitoring and evaluation at EU level
- Good quality reports





ARDA - Challenges

- Strengthening human capacity, setting up a separate monitoring unit, clear definition of rules and responsibilities
- Developing IT system for data providers, improve data quality and availability
- Increasing transparency



Evidence based evaluations

Mid-term evaluation 2010:

- All 7 impact indicators were evaluated
- The use of data was restricted due to low level of payments/timing of the MTE (was too early)
- Qualitative analysis and result indicators

On-going evaluation:

- Follow-up of the 7 indicators in 2012
- Evaluability assessment for the use of counterfactual methods: checking the use of the FADN database
- Capacity building
- Data collection methodology for result indicators



Constraints of evaluation methods

Problems at impact indicator level:

- Novelty of the method of counterfactual impact assessment and the quantification of theory based impact assessment in general
- Novelty of the methods in agriculture and rural development
- Lack of experience and literature at EU level
- Diverse interpretation of definitions in the CMEF
- Weaknesses of the monitoring system

Problems with the monitoring indicators were:

- Increasing number of clients and measures
- Too much indicators by measures
- Difficult to define indicators
- Gaps between monitoring data and evaluation requirements
- Difficult to manage data supply
- Difficult to ensure reliable database



The use of counterfactual impact assessment: constraints

Mid-term evaluation 2010

- Lack of data for the evaluation of certain measures (especially Axis II)
- Constraints of the application of CIA in field of agriculture and rural development in general
- The MTE had a stronger focus on implementation issues rather than on impacts
- Evaluation culture to be developed further in Hungary

On-going evaluation

- Hungary is in the course of implementing impact assessment
- It's a learning process



Thank you for your attention!