



Context indicators and the RDP: the view from AGRI

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What are we looking for in the RDP?

- *Legal compliance*
 - **Respect of legal framework; completeness etc**
- *Logical coherence*
 - **Will the RDP meet the needs of the territory and contribute to its sustainable development? (Article 3 RDR)**

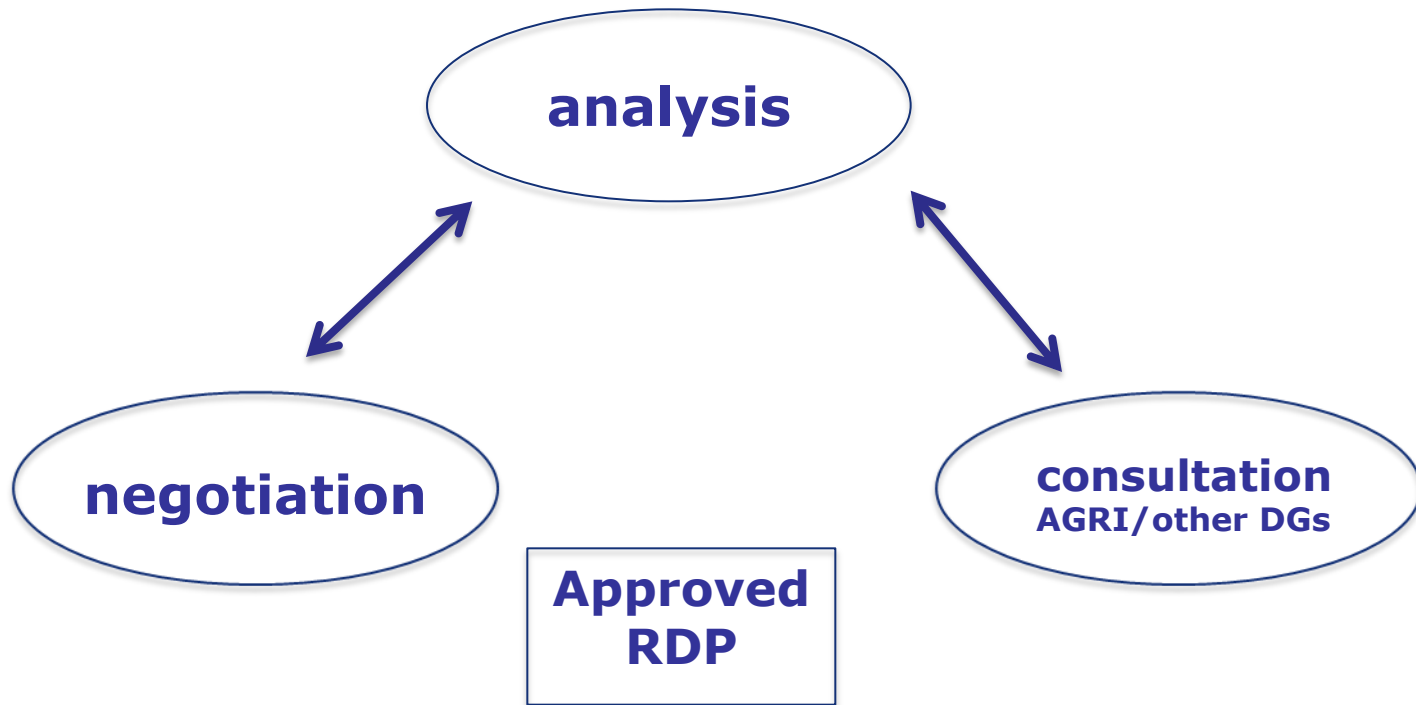
Context indicators are (mostly) linked to logical coherence

Who looks at the RDP within the Commission?

- *RD Desk Officer*
- *AGRI specialist units (environment, food quality, climate change, forestry etc)*
- *Horizontal units (coordination, financial management, audit)*
- *Other DGs (may have extra info: e.g. NATURA)*

Not all will know the territory: require the information to be provided in the RDP

RDP assessment process:



The analysis asks questions such as:

- *Is the RDP appropriate?*
- *Are the proposed actions needed?*
- *Does it take the right approach?*
- *Is the balance of priorities/resources right?*
- *Are the proposals realistic?*

Answers come through assessment of elements of the RDP:

- *Description of the territory*
- *SWOT analysis*
- *Needs assessment*
- *Intervention logic*
- *Measures, actions, criteria*
- *Financial allocations*

All with the help of the ex-ante evaluation

Context indicators are key to providing the answers.....

- *They give an overall picture of the territory*
- *They identify the specificities of the territory*
- *They provide the foundation for the SWOT analysis*
- *They allow needs to be identified*
- *They indicate priorities for intervention*
- *They allow assessment of validity of targets*

Providing an overall picture.....

- *The context indicators should give a comprehensive picture of the territory*
- *Using the most recent data*
- *Analysis of the context indicator data reveals the particular characteristics of the territory*
- *Which will feed through into the design of the RDP, influencing the choice of focus areas, measures, targeting etc*

Providing an overall picture.....

- *The context indicator data should enable even those unfamiliar with the area to understand the logic of the strategy and the reasons for the choices made*

Providing an overall picture...

- *Use of the common context indicators*
 - **Ensures the SWOT is comprehensive**
 - **Means issues which are NOT priorities can be identified**
 - **Provides consistency throughout the RDP and throughout the programming period**

But common indicators may not be enough.....

Providing an overall picture....

- *Programme specific context indicators can be added*
 - **to provide additional information on specificities of the territory**
 - **To describe issues for which common data is lacking**
 - **to support and justify particular interventions (e.g. targeting, measure packages, thematic sub-programmes)**

Providing an overall picture....

- *Example from RO RDP 2007-2013*
 - **Additional statistics provided on farm structure and distribution to illustrate the issue of subsistence/semi-subsistence farms**
 - **Explains why farm diversification measure (311) not used, but only rural tourism (313) and micro-enterprise support (312)**

The foundation for the SWOT...

- *Avoid simply including values in a table...*
- *Use the data to identify Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats*
- *Illustrate the SWOT with data evidence*
- *Ensure consistency and coherence between context indicator values and the SWOT*

Identifying needs.....

- *The SWOT analysis leads into the needs assessment*
- *Context indicator values provide the evidence for the identification of needs emerging from the SWOT*
- *This lays the basis for understanding the RDP strategy*

Indicating priorities for intervention..

- *Are the most important needs addressed?*
- *Is the balance of the strategy appropriate?*
- *Have the most relevant focus areas been selected?*
- *Is the resource allocation proportionate to the different needs?*

Context indicators are used to help provide answers to these questions.

Indicating priorities for intervention..

- *the intervention logic presents the mix of measures, actions and targeting proposed to achieve the objectives set*
- *context indicators help us understand not only “what” is needed, but “why” the proposed mix has been chosen, and to propose amendments where appropriate*

Assessing the validity of targets..

- *Context indicators can be used to check whether targets are realistic*
- *Example: consider the % of young farmers to be supported under P2B, not simply in relation to the resources allocated, but also the number of farms and age structure of farmers*
 - **Is what is proposed feasible?**

To sum up.....

- *The context indicators are a thread running right through the RDP*
- *They link the different RDP elements together*
- *They are crucial to provide an understanding of the territory and the reasons for the actions proposed*
- *They facilitate the design, negotiation and approval process of the programmes*

So we need to get them right!!