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[Assessing RDP Achievements and Impacts in 2019](#) ^[1]

These non-binding Guidelines aim to examine the challenges in relation to the evaluation activities for the AIR in 2019 by:

- Presenting practical approaches to estimate the RDP's net contributions to the common CAP impact indicators and assess the progress in achieving the EU level objectives;

- Providing support for answering the common evaluation questions (CEQs) 22-30 and for reporting on evaluation findings to the European Commission in the AIRs submitted in 2019.

The Guidelines are structured in four parts (presented in three documents):

- PART I (primarily for Managing Authorities): informs about the legal requirements and outlines how to report in 2019 on the CEQs 22-30. Part I contains references to other existing guidance.
- PART II (primarily for evaluators): offers methodological support for assessing the common impact indicators of Pilar II (sectoral, environmental and socio-economic impacts). This part explains each intervention logic, the use of additional evaluation elements, explains the data requirements, the units of assessment and guides the reader through choosing the most appropriate evaluation approaches for netting out the RDP's contributions to the values of the CAP impact indicators. Furthermore, Part II also suggests approaches to assess RDP contributions towards achieving the EU 2020 strategy and innovation.
- PART III: contains the fiches for answering the CEQs 22-30.
- PART IV: contains the technical annex including more detailed information on the approaches to assess the CAP impact indicators and the glossary of terms.

Publication date:

August, 2018

Evaluation Type:

- AIR submitted in 2019

Author(s):

The European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development



LESSONS LEARNED FROM TENDERING AND CONTRACTING THE EX ANTE EVALUATION 2014-2020 EVALUATION IN GREECE

REPORT OF THE EUROPEAN EVALUATION HELPDESK FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT | May 2019

EX ANTE EVALUATION OF THE RDP 2014-2020

The tendering and contracting of any evaluation is a critical first step in the evaluation process, which serves to provide a framework for ensuring the quality and robustness of findings. The activities involved need to be carefully planned and therefore require a careful planning of resources and the establishment of clear roles and responsibilities. The tendering and contracting of the ex ante evaluation can serve as an important mirror to reflect vital lessons learned for upcoming and future evaluations.

This factsheet provides an overview of the tendering and contracting process for the ex ante evaluation in Greece of the rural development programme (RDP) 2014-2020 and lessons learned for future evaluations.

TENDERING AND CONTRACTING OF THE EX ANTE EVALUATION IN GREECE

Dealing with uncertainties

The tendering and contracting of the ex ante evaluation is often faced with several uncertainties. This could include uncertainty for the adoption of the legislative proposals between the EU co-legislators; a lack of final guidance for the ex ante evaluation, or even possible delays in the approval process of the programme (including the ex ante evaluation). For all these reasons, it is important to build in provisions to account for these uncertainties.

To account for these uncertainties, the tender published by the Greek RDP Managing Authority added important provisions for the evaluator to address possible observations raised by the European Commission in its contract. In addition, the duration of the contract signed with the evaluator was important, which stipulated that it should cover the period until the final approval of the RDP 2014-2020 in order to ensure the stability of the ex ante process.

Contracting a skilled evaluator

The skills and competences of the evaluator are crucial for the final quality of the ex ante evaluation. Contracting a skilled evaluator is often one of the biggest challenges for the RDP Managing Authority, as it often involves achieving an understanding of what is expected, or because it is difficult to

FURTHER INFORMATION

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contract one single qualified evaluator with both general and specific skills for the evaluation of the EAFRD.

To overcome this challenge, the Managing Authority of Greece contracted a consortium of private evaluators and public universities in order to obtain as much thematic expertise on specific themes (e.g. water, soil, climate change, biodiversity) and skills in different methodological/economic models in order to have the most robust possible findings. In this way, the evaluation could benefit from the methodological expertise of universities and institutes as well as the additional data that these organisations collect, which the Managing Authority does not. Furthermore, expert knowledge on specific themes (policy, soil, etc.) can be better attained through this type of consortium arrangement.

[Lessons Learned from Tendering and Contracting the Ex Ante Evaluation 2014-2020 in Greece](#) [2]

This factsheet provides an overview of the tendering and contracting process for the ex ante evaluation in Greece of the rural development programme (RDP) 2014-2020 and lessons learned for future evaluations.

Publication date:

May, 2019

Evaluation Type:

- Ex Ante Evaluation 2014-2020

Author(s):

The European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development



[Getting Prepared for the Ex Ante Evaluation of the CAP Strategic Plan](#) [3]

This report summarises the major outcomes of the Good Practice Workshop, 'Getting Prepared for the Ex Ante Evaluation of the CAP Strategic Plan', which was hosted by the European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development.

Publication date:

April, 2019

Evaluation Type:

- Ex Ante Evaluation 2014-2020

Author(s):

The European Evaluation Helpdesk For Rural Development



[RURAL EVALUATION NEWS - Issue Number 12](#) [4]

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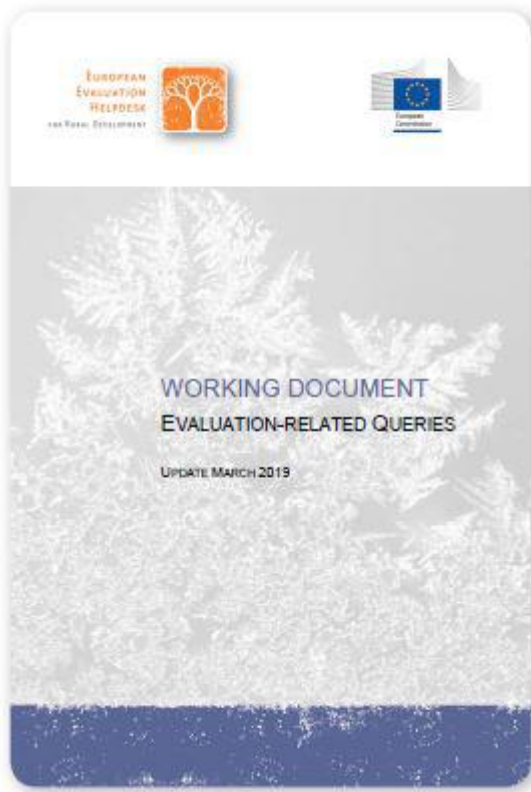
April, 2019

Evaluation Type:

- Other

Author(s):

The European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development



[Evaluation-related Queries](#) [5]

This working document compiles a selection of evaluation-related queries raised by the Member States between 2016 and 2019. Answers were prepared by the European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development in collaboration with the responsible Commission services.

Publication date:

April, 2019

Evaluation Type:

- Other

Author(s):

The European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development

TENDERING AND CONTRACTING THE EX ANTE EVALUATION 2014-2020 IN SLOVENIA

FACTSHEET ON THE EUROPEAN EVALUATION HELPSDESK FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT - 2020.09.2019



EX ANTE EVALUATION OF THE RDP 2014-2020

The ex ante evaluation is a process which supports the preparation and management of an intervention strategy. Its purpose is to gather information and carry out analysis, which helps to define objectives and make sure they can be effectively met. This is achieved through various activities including the appraisal of the SWOT analysis, assessment of needs, the intervention logic and targets and appraisal of the monitoring and evaluation arrangements and implementation. These activities need to be diligently planned and therefore require a careful planning of resources and the establishment of clear roles and responsibilities. An important step to achieve this is to effectively tender and contract the ex ante evaluator, which serves as a precursor to all other activities.

This factsheet provides an overview of the tendering and contracting procedures for the ex ante evaluation in Slovenia of the rural development programme (RDP) 2014-2020.



OVERVIEW OF THE TENDERING AND CONTRACTING OF THE EX ANTE EVALUATION IN SLOVENIA

Contracting a skilled evaluator

The skills and competences of the evaluators are crucial for the final quality of the ex ante evaluation. Contracting a skilled evaluator is often one of the biggest challenges for the RDP Managing Authority.

Based on the previous ex ante evaluation, the Slovenian RDP Managing Authority has learned that, in addition to strong methodological skills, evaluation with specific knowledge of the territory or of the situation in a country/region can bring added value to the analysis and the recommendations which follow. Furthermore, the diversity of the composition of the team of contracted evaluators should also be considered because it allows for a wider range of territorial and sectoral knowledge and facilitates the highest level of results.

Dealing with uncertainties

The tendering and contracting of the ex ante evaluation is often faced with several uncertainties. This could include



FURTHER INFORMATION

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www.programi-poizvaj.si



uncertainty for the future approval of the legislative proposals between the EU co-legislators, a lack of final guidance for the ex ante evaluation, or even possible delays in the approval process of the programme (including the ex ante evaluation). For all of these reasons it is important to build in provisions to account for these uncertainties.

In the ex ante evaluation of the Slovenian RDP 2014-2020, the contract signed between the evaluators and Managing Authority did not include specific provisions or safeguards to address these kinds of uncertainties. Consequently, additional contracts had to be prepared for the evaluators to take into account the observations raised by the European Commission on the RDP.

[Tendering and Contracting the Ex Ante Evaluation 2014-2020 in Slovenia](#) [6]

This factsheet provides an overview of the tendering and contracting procedures for the ex ante evaluation in Slovenia of the rural development programme (RDP) 2014-2020.

Publication date:

March, 2019

Evaluation Type:

- Ex Ante Evaluation 2014-2020

Author(s):

The European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development



[Approaches to Assess Environmental RDP Impacts in 2019](#) ^[7]

This report summarises the major outcomes of the Good Practice Workshop, 'Approaches to Assess Environmental RDP Impacts in 2019', which was hosted by the European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development.

The workshop aimed at showing and discussing practical examples of evaluation approaches for assessing the environmental related CAP Pillar II impact indicators and for answering the related Common Evaluation Questions (CEQ) in 2019.

Publication date:

January, 2019

Evaluation Type:

- AIR submitted in 2019

Author(s):

The European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development

THE EVALUATION OF SUPPORT FOR THE EXPANSION OF BROADBAND IN SWEDEN

SUPPORT BY THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT - WORKING COPY



EDP SUPPORT TO BROADBAND EXPANSION

Rural Development Programme (RDP) Focus Area 4C is designed to enhance the accessibility, use, and quality of information and communication technologies (ICT) in rural areas. Under this focus area, EDPs can support investment for broadband infrastructures, including its creation, improvement, expansion and accessibility.

Investments in broadband infrastructures can play an important role in the socio-economic development of rural areas, and their effects are expected to be measured by using common and/or additional evaluation elements, such as questionnaires, judgment criteria, indicators and methods.

For instance, the common result indicator 6.23 measures the percentage of the rural population benefiting from new or improved services and infrastructures. RIC can be used in combination with additional indicators to answer the evaluation questions related to the Focus Area 4C. The pilot studies have also taken into account the accessibility and quality of information and communication technologies (ICT) in rural areas.

This factsheet explains Sweden's approach to the evaluation of broadband support.



EVALUATION OF BROADBAND EXPANSION IN SWEDEN

In Sweden, the expansion of broadband infrastructure is supported by the EDP and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). As managing authority of these funds, the Swedish Board of Agriculture (SJV) and the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth (TUV) commissioned the Department of Urban and Rural Development at the Swedish Agricultural University (SLU) to evaluate the effects of broadband investments on rural enterprises and the effects of the policy mix used to deliver broadband investments.

The evaluation aimed to answer nine additional evaluation questions, as well as prepare the evaluation for the Annual Implementation Report (AIR) to be submitted in 2019.

Working Steps of the Evaluation:

The first part of the evaluation was carried out from Autumn 2017 to Spring 2018 and consisted of a qualitative and quantitative analysis of



FURTHER INFORMATION

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Rikå Öst
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Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

For additional information on the Evaluation:

[Evaluation of support for the expansion of broadband in Sweden](#)



the current situation and a review of the literature on the evaluation of broadband.

The preliminary results were reported and discussed with the 'reference group', and a selected pool of experts of the Swedish Board of Agriculture. The first interim evaluation report was published in July 2018 and presented four evaluation questions.

The second part of the evaluation started in August 2018 and the preliminary results will be presented in December 2018. It updates the Swedish Board of Agriculture and analyses the data collected from the [2018-2019](#) [Survey](#) (SJV) about rural enterprises. The publication of the second and final report is expected by Spring 2019.

[The Evaluation of Support for the Expansion of Broadband in Sweden](#) [8]

This factsheet explores Sweden's approach to the evaluation of broadband support.

Publication date:

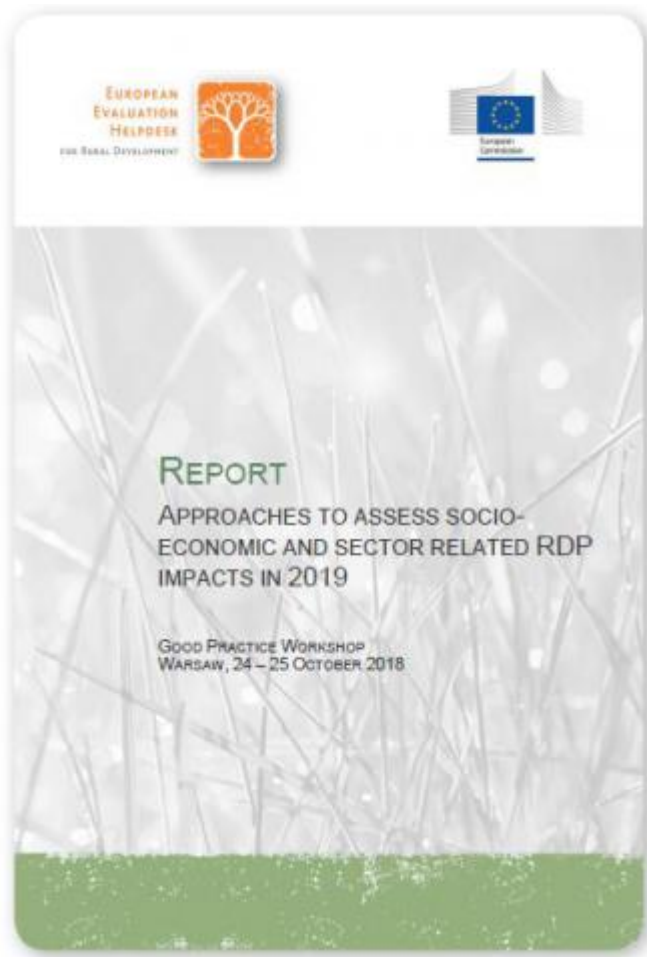
November, 2018

Evaluation Type:

- AIR submitted in 2019

Author(s):

The European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development



[Approaches to Assess Socio-economic and Sector Related RDP Impacts in 2019](#) ^[9]

This report summarises the major outcomes of the Good Practice Workshop, 'Approaches to Assess Socio-economic and Sector Related RDP Impacts in 2019', which was co-hosted by the European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development and Polish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

The workshop aimed at showing and discussing practical examples of evaluation approaches for assessing the socio-economic and sector related CAP Pillar II impact indicators and for answering the related Common Evaluation Questions (CEQ) in 2019.

Publication date:

November, 2018

Evaluation Type:

- AIR submitted in 2019

Author(s):

The European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development



[Assessment of the Progress in Implementing the Evaluation Plans of RDPS 2014-2020. Chapter 2 of the AIR submitted in 2018](#) ^[10]

This summary report describes the progress made by the Member States in implementing the RDP evaluation plans over the calendar year 2017. The summary is based on the screening of Chapter 2 of 115 Annual Implementation Reports (AIRs) submitted to the European Commission in 2018.

Publication date:

November, 2018

Evaluation Type:

- Other

Author(s):

The European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development

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