



# Improving interaction and coordination: the experience of the monitoring and evaluation task force

Martina Bolli

ENRD event 2 June 2014  
Workshop 2: Increasing  
stakeholders involvement in RD  
implementation



# Rural development in Italy

1 National Strategic Plan

Drafted under the responsibility of  
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and  
Forestry Policies

21 Rural Development  
Programs (RDPs)

Regions are the Managing Authorities  
and responsible for the on going  
evaluation

1 National Program «**Rural Network**»

“Agricultural Policy” Ministry is the Managing  
Authority

80 million of euros for “EU compulsory” and  
“national” measures

Implementing administrations (INEA, ISMEA, SIN)

Network structure in thematic task forces

3 general objectives:

- improve the governance
- improve the “planning and implementation capability”
- exchange best practice



## NRN organogram





# Scope of the presentation

- **Focus on Monitoring & Evaluation TASK FORCE**
- Monitoring and Evaluation System is a strategic element of Italian NRN
- Past heritage and continuity of the work carried out during previous programming periods
- Exchange and discussion place on strategic themes relating to rural development policy in Italy
- **Objectives:**
- To spread an **evaluation culture** and to build **evaluative and governance capacity** at national, regional and local level
- To enlarge **knowledge** of the context where policies (not only rural) work and of the effects on territories
- To create a **community** of practice and learning

# Approach

## ✓ **Networking**

Systematic method of work: integration and involvement of RD and external stakeholders (other policies, thematic experts, scientific community :

- At national level (other TFs, Mipaaf, other NRN partner, other policies administrations, other networks)
- At regional/local level (Regions, delegated institutions, socio economic partners)
- At European level (EERDN)

## ✓ **Communication and transparency**

Feedback into policy making processes

"Telling" to rural territories in cooperation with the evaluators

## ✓ **Participation**

Inclusive process representing the complexity of the rural areas



# Activities

**Scientific and operative support:** steering regional and local processes and providing tools to better organize the evaluation activities and the use of evaluation results.

**"networking" functions:** Stimulating the links between institutions and partners and the participation and discussion on specific themes, encouraging the best practice and innovative solutions exchange and "capitalization", going beyond the "sectorial segmentation".

**Communication and information:** spreading the opportunities and the results of rural policy; addressing on the role that stakeholders can play in evaluation processes; orienting a more conscious participation of internal and external stakeholders to the issues of rural development.

# Activities tools 1

- Support

Evaluation governance capacity building action for a robust *on going* framework of evaluation: participation to **SG**, guidelines, training, participation in **self evaluation processes**, e.g. Leader. Evaluation capacity building action analysis and study activity, **steering methodologies** (e.g. FADN, ad hoc sample and counterfactual analysis; macro-economics models for impact analysis of RD policy), pilot evaluative projects.





## Activities tools 2

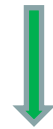
- Networking and best practice exchange

Thematic working groups practice;

events on specific themes: *congresses, seminars, workshops;*

*study visit* in Italy and in other European countries;

cooperation with European and other international and national networks.



EENRD, evaluators, regional Administrations, LAGs, Regional policy, thematic experts and researchers, other countries, farmers organizations, academics, UN organizations (FAO, IFAD), environmental associations







# Activities tools 3

- Information and communication

E - platforms and NRN website implementation, as both information and participatory tools, e-journals and newsletter, training courses (e-Valprog) and other learning events (Evaluation results), DB informative systems (CCI, GeoGAL, Integrated projects monitoring sy

Regione	Costo totale	Importo programmato	Importo pagato	Importo a disposizione	Importo impegnato
Emilia-Romagna	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121
Liguria	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121
Lombardia	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121
Piemonte	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121
Puglia	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121
Sardegna	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121
Sicilia	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121
Toscana	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121
Umbria	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121
Valle d'Aosta	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121
Veneto	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121	1.121.121.121
<b>TOTALE</b>	<b>11.211.211.211</b>	<b>11.211.211.211</b>	<b>11.211.211.211</b>	<b>11.211.211.211</b>	<b>11.211.211.211</b>



**Indice degli argomenti**

- Forum News
- Forum sulla Valutazione
- Materiali docenti
- Rendiconti attività svolta
- Forum docenti
- File
- Template bibliografia
- Wiki docenti

**PRESENTAZIONI**

- Il Programma (455.03 KB)
- Typologies of Governance Models (Franco Mantino) (452.22 KB)
- Operational rules and results in Cohesion Policy programmes: Analysis and proposals for conditionalities (Paola Casavola) (129.38 KB)
- Come rendere la valutazione delle politiche meglio utilizzabile nel processo decisionale pubblico (Alberto Martini) (41.08 KB)

**PRIMA PARTE**

12 - L'utilizzo dei risultati della valutazione

**SECONDA PARTE**

22 - L'utilizzo dei risultati della valutazione



## BEST OF ITALIAN NATIONAL RURAL NETWORK 2007. 2013

This repository promotes a selection of some of the best products of the Italian National Rural Network divided into categories. In the transition from the past to the new programming period 2014-2020, we found it necessary to provide a toolkit as a point of reference for stakeholders in the rural development sector, institutional partners and the general public. Though most of the content is in Italian, this section provides a short description of each product.



[www.reterurale.it/bestof](http://www.reterurale.it/bestof)

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### THE MAIN TOPICS:

**DOCUMENTS**  
guidelines, surveys, reports  
or other analysis

**PEER TO PEER**  
study visits and internships

**TOOLS**  
research analysis, data repository,  
georeferencing data

**EVENTS**  
conferences, seminars, workshops,  
focus groups, sessions of WG,  
meetings

**MEDIA & COMMUNICATION**  
institutional and educational  
campaigns, papers for a broader  
audience, social networks, videos

**RETERURALE NAZIONALE 20072013**

PER SAPERNE DI PIU' AREE TEMATICHE ARCHIVI SERVIZI

**il PORTALE dello SVILUPPO RURALE**

Best of Italian National Rural Network

**BEST OF ITALIAN NATIONAL RURAL NETWORK 2007. 2013**

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**WHAT IT IS ALL ABOUT**

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MAPPA DEL SITO | CONTATTI E INIZIATIVE | INFO LEGALI



## **E valprog** *E-learning course on the Evaluation of Rural Development Programmes*

**Partner:** RRN, Associazione Bartola-AGRIREGIONIEUROPA

**For whom?** Managing authorities, regional and local administrations and authorities sharing RDPs implementation, socio economic partners, all those who are interested in the evaluation of socio-economic policies (evaluators, researchers and academic community, professional organizations, civic associations, etc.)

**Aims:** Arising awareness and consolidating a culture of evaluation and the vision that it is a useful tool for the policy making processes, by:

- sharing and exchanging knowledge and improving the competencies in evaluation;
- Disseminating basic knowledge on the theory of evaluation and on the European and national approach;
- providing tools and information to better organize the evaluation activities.





## 10 modules split into three parts:

1. Evaluation: approaches, methodologies, techniques
2. The evaluation of the RD in the UE
3. The monitoring of the RD in the UE

**Didactic method:** Moodle open source platform, access is free and always available; entry and verification tests for each module; bibliographic references; tutorial support; each lesson is conducted by an expert of the subject; basic computer skills

E- Valprog is available on the websites of the National Rural Network ([www.reterurale.it](http://www.reterurale.it)) and Agriregionieuropa ([www.agriregionieuropa.it](http://www.agriregionieuropa.it))

**E-learning course on the Evaluation of Rural Development Programmes (E-VALPROG)**

**Aims**  
In order to disseminate and consolidate the culture of evaluation it is necessary to improve the quality of evaluations and to raise awareness among administrators about the need of conducting evaluations that better provide useful knowledge. A knowledge better related to the definition and implementation of development policies in rural areas. In this context, the National Rural Network is organizing a training course on "Evaluation of Rural Development Programmes", with the aim of contributing to the spread of knowledge and to the improvement of evaluation skills of actors directly involved in rural development processes. In particular, the course aims to:  
- disseminating basic knowledge on the theory of evaluation;  
- providing tools and information to the Managing Authority of rural development policies to better organize "the evaluation activities";  
- contributing to the creation of a shared vision on evaluation as activity necessary to the formulation and re-orientation of the processes of planning and implementation of interventions;  
- raising awareness on the role that actors can play in evaluation processes;  
- foster a more conscious participation of people to the issues of rural development.

**Beneficiaries**  
- Officials and heads of regional administrations involved in rural development programs;  
- Socio economic partners of boards;  
- Other actors interested in evaluation and rural development policy (teachers, researchers, students, farmers, etc.)

The E-VALPROG course will be made available on the National Rural Network ([www.reterurale.it](http://www.reterurale.it)) and Agriregionieuropa ([www.agriregionieuropa.it](http://www.agriregionieuropa.it)) websites.

**Outline**  
The evaluation of the RD in the EU  
Module 6 The evaluation of European Union Rural Development Policy  
The Framework of European Commission and the regulations on evaluation  
The approach of the Common monitoring and evaluation framework  
Main principles, roles and contents of Rural Development Programmes evaluation  
Strategic Environmental Assessment  
Italian Rural Development Network for Rural Development  
National Evaluation Plan  
Module 7 The governance of Rural Development Policy evaluation  
On-going evaluation concept in the literature  
Rural Development Programmes on-going evaluation activities  
Rural Development Programmes on-going evaluation functions  
On-going evaluation and monitoring in Rural Development Programmes  
The governance of on-going evaluation  
Functions of an on-going evaluation governance  
Principles of an on-going evaluation governance  
Structures of an on-going evaluation governance: composition, roles, models  
Governance of on-going evaluation processes  
Module 8 Common monitoring and evaluation framework  
The strategic approach  
Evaluation questions  
Measuring and answering  
Italian network for rural development: Task Force  
Monitoring & Evaluation

**Tests**  
The monitoring of RD in the 'UE  
Module 9 Monitoring in Rural Development Policy  
The concept of monitoring  
Monitoring in programming cycle  
Monitoring instruments  
Modalities and timing of monitoring  
Monitoring the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development  
Monitoring Committee, procedures, annual progress reports  
National strategic monitoring  
Module 10 Monitoring in Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework  
Monitoring in annual progress reports  
Common indicator tables for monitoring  
Minimum information requirements and informative flows  
National monitoring system  
Typologies of information  
Informative flows towards European Union

**Virtual Library**

**Teaching staff...**  
Roberto Cogliare, INEA Researcher - IRN Task Force Monitoring and Evaluation  
Veronica La Fresca, Researcher at the Faculty of Sociology of "La Sapienza" University  
Martina Bolli, INEA Researcher - IRN Task Force Monitoring and Evaluation  
Rosario Romano, INEA Researcher - IRN Task Force Monitoring and Evaluation  
Alessandro Marchionni, INEA Researcher - IRN Task Force Monitoring and Evaluation  
Silvana Cristoforo, INEA Researcher - IRN Task Force Monitoring and Evaluation  
Vincenzo Fucilli, Researcher and professor at the Faculty of Agriculture of Bari University  
Fabrizio Panerai, INEA Researcher - IRN Task Force Monitoring and Evaluation  
Marica Sisti, Vice Director of "Progetti Valutazione" and teacher and component of the didactic commission of the Master in "Analisi della Politiche Agricole in Italia"  
Silvia De Martomoso, INEA Researcher - IRN Task Force Monitoring and Evaluation

**Coordinators:**  
Vincenzo Fucilli, [v.fucilli@reterurale.it](mailto:v.fucilli@reterurale.it)  
Martina Bolli, [bolli@inea.it](mailto:bolli@inea.it)

**Glossary**

## **E valprog** *E-learning course on the Evaluation of Rural Development Programmes*

- **Costs: 40.000 EUR**
- **Duration: January 2012 - on going (and waiting to be updated ...)**
- **Participants n. 314**
  - Teaching staff 10
  - Students 130 (different sectors)
  - Visitors 174

**Benefits:** access free and always available, customizable contents, broaden participation, immediate control of the understanding of the topic covered, monitoring, forum of discussion, basic computer skills and internet access needed.

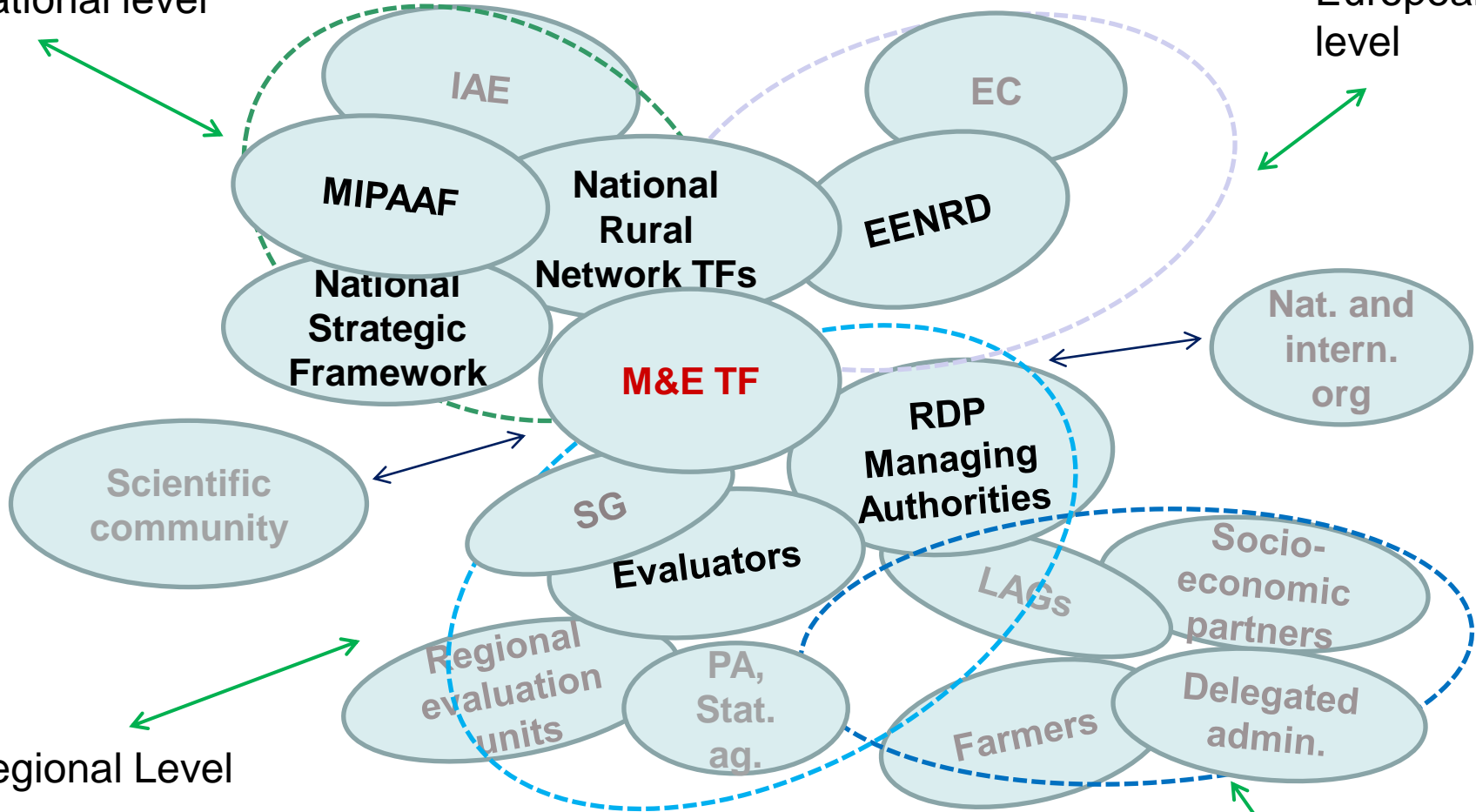
**Critical points:** lessons targeting, potential greater difficulty in comprehension, motivations decreasing, students performance judging system, animation actions.



# The networking governance system of M&E TF

National level

European level



Regional Level

Local level





# Value added of networking

NRN is enriching and strengthening our functions by making them systematic:

- ✓ Evaluation as learning process
- ✓ Co-production of knowledge
- ✓ Sharing the results of our activity through different tools adapted to specific themes

# Lessons learnt and purposes for future

- ✓ Still not structured and systematic the presence of a important part of stakeholders (local administrations, university, research institutes, civil society, farmers, etc.) within the evaluation processes.
- ✓ Evaluation still perceived as something formal, belonging only to policy level.

Next NRN: to broaden the evaluation community and build a community of practice, making all relevant stakeholders actual part of the NRN.



Thank you for attention!

Martina Bolli

Italian National Rural Network - INEA

[www.reterurale.it](http://www.reterurale.it)

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