

Assessing RDP impacts in Austria: Lessons learned from the ex-post evaluation 07-13 and the way ahead for AIR 2019

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Outline

RDP overview

Evaluation purpose and questions

Evaluation approach

Data

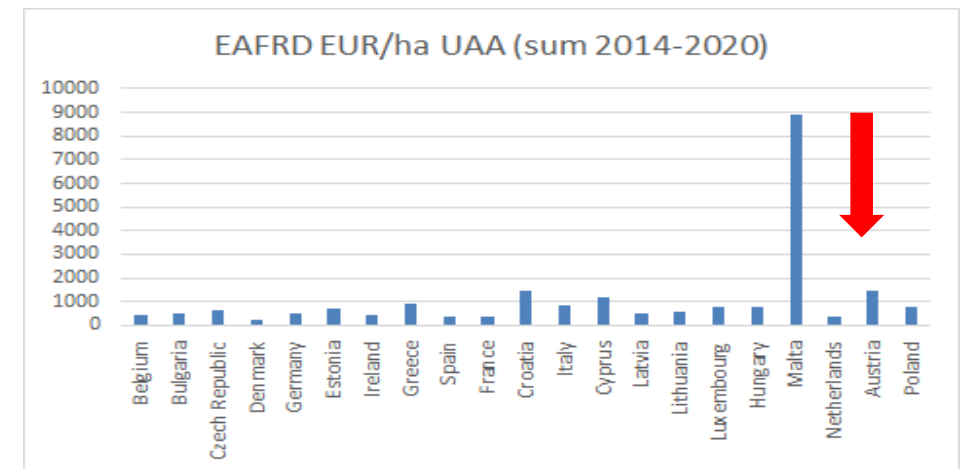
Preliminary findings

Strengths and weaknesses of the approach

Lessons learned and recommendations

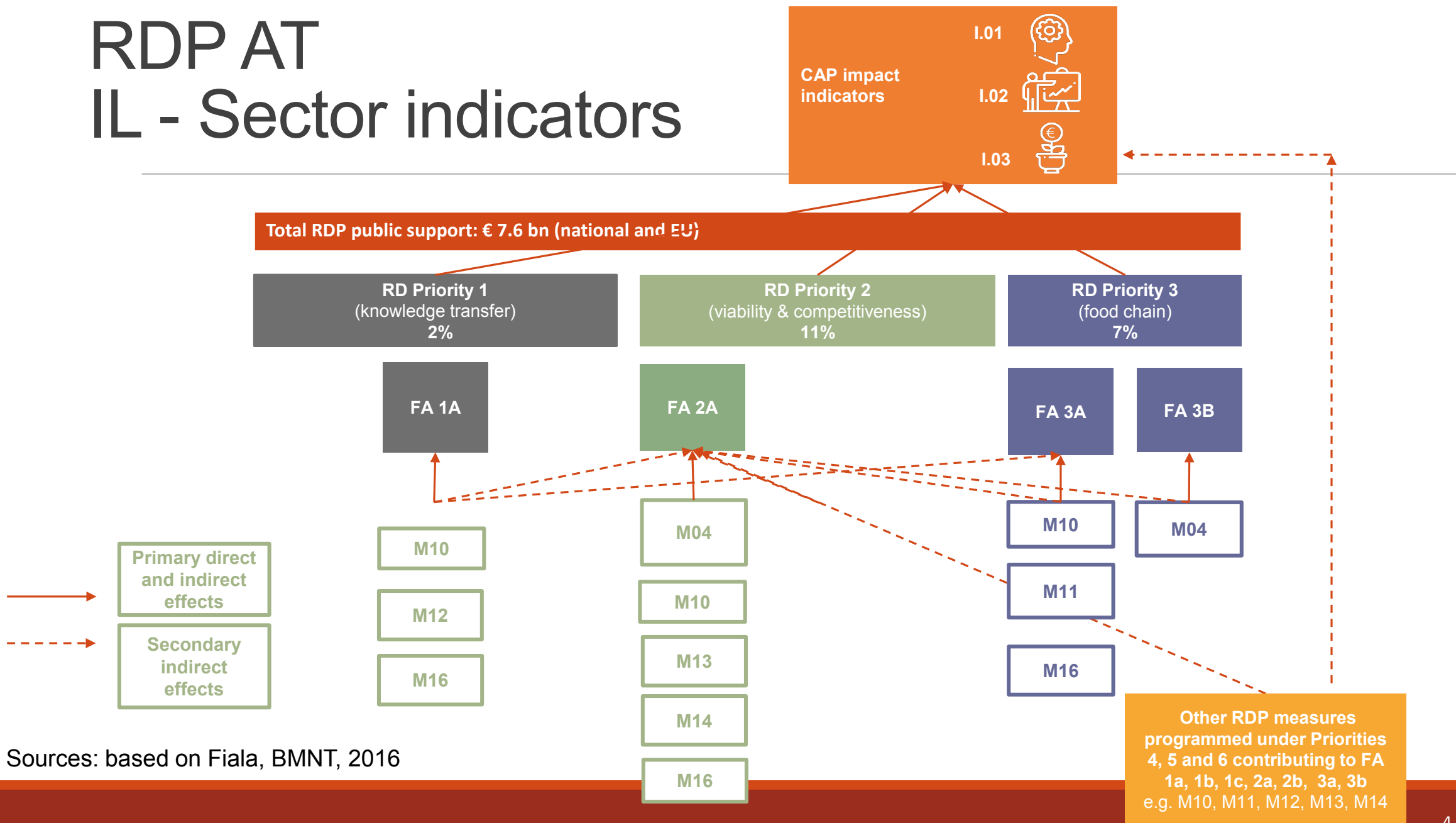
RDP overview in AT

- RDP is a major policy in Austria
 - RDP volume appr. 1 bn €/a
 - compare: Pillar 1 Direct Payments: 0.67 bn €/a in AT
 - compare: share of UAA 1.5%, share of EU RDP funds 5.3%
- In 2017, RDP funds were equivalent to 37% of factor income
- Share of measures in 2017:
 - 29% for agri-environment and climate
 - 27% for areas facing constraints
 - 13% for investment support



Source: REGULATION (EU) No 1305/2013; EUROSTAT [ef_m_farmleg]

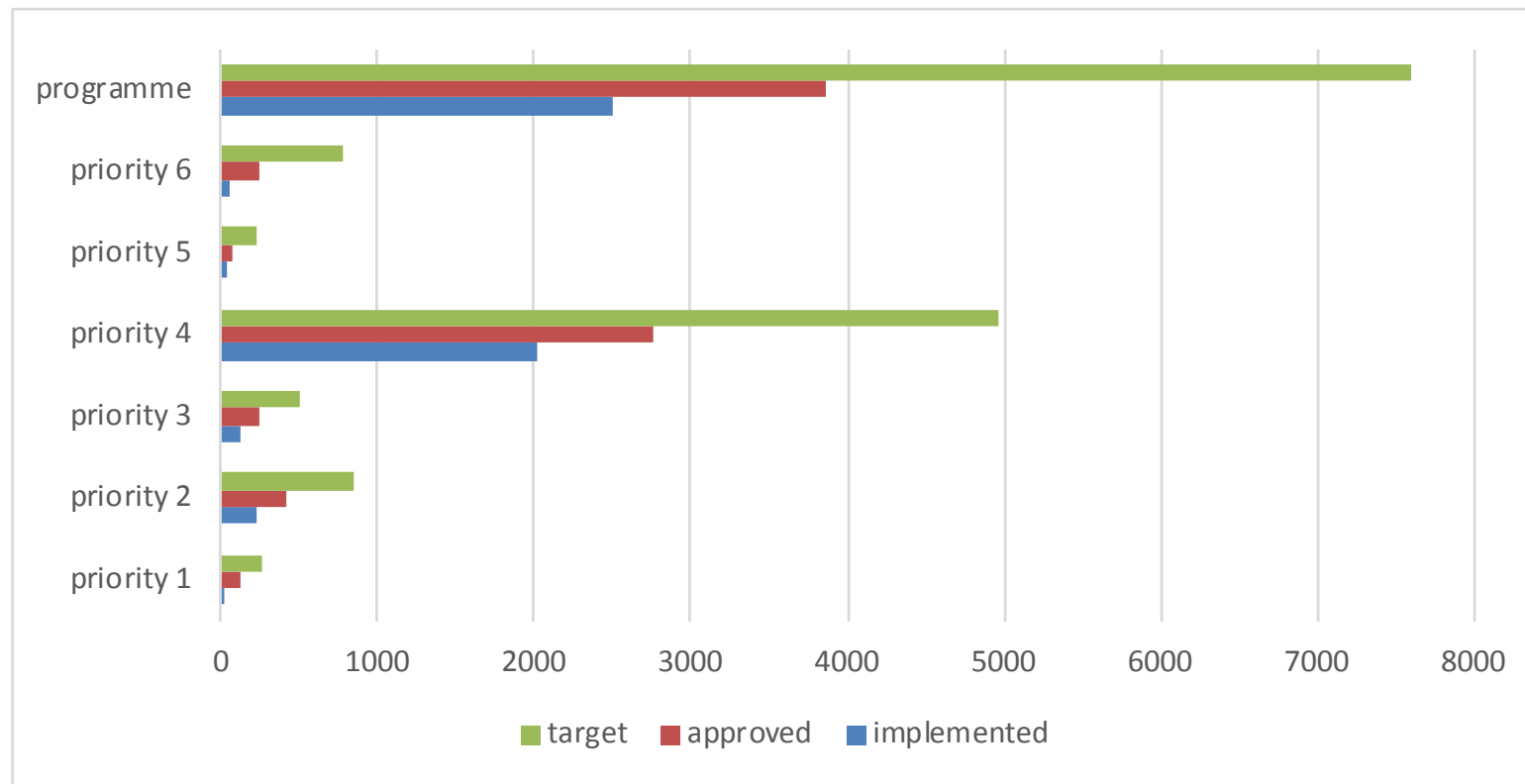
RDP AT IL - Sector indicators



Sources: based on Fiala, BMNT, 2016

Level of AT RDP uptake by end 2017

Table 1: Overview on the level of RDP uptake in Austria



Source: based on Meier, BMNT, 26-06-2018

Evaluation purpose

- **Commissioned by BMNT** (Federal Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism)
- **Main purposes:**
 - impact (mainly sector and socio-economic) of AT-RDP
 - contribution of RDP for the achievement of EU 2020 strategy indicators
 - answers to specific questions relevant for BMNT strategies
- **Timeline:**
 - preliminary results: 3 Dec 2018
 - final results: 28 Feb 2019

Evaluation elements

- **Common Evaluation Questions: 4, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 29**
- **Common Indicators used:**
 - I.01 Agricultural entrepreneurial income
 - I.02 Agricultural factor income
 - I.03 Total factor productivity in agriculture
- **Additional Evaluation Questions:**
 - Impact on entrepreneurial income on conventional farms?
 - Impact on entrepreneurial income on organic farms?
 - How did the production portfolio change?
- **Additional indicators:**
 - concentration measures (e.g. Herfindahl)
 - structural change

Source: REGULATION (EU) No 808/2014; Annex V

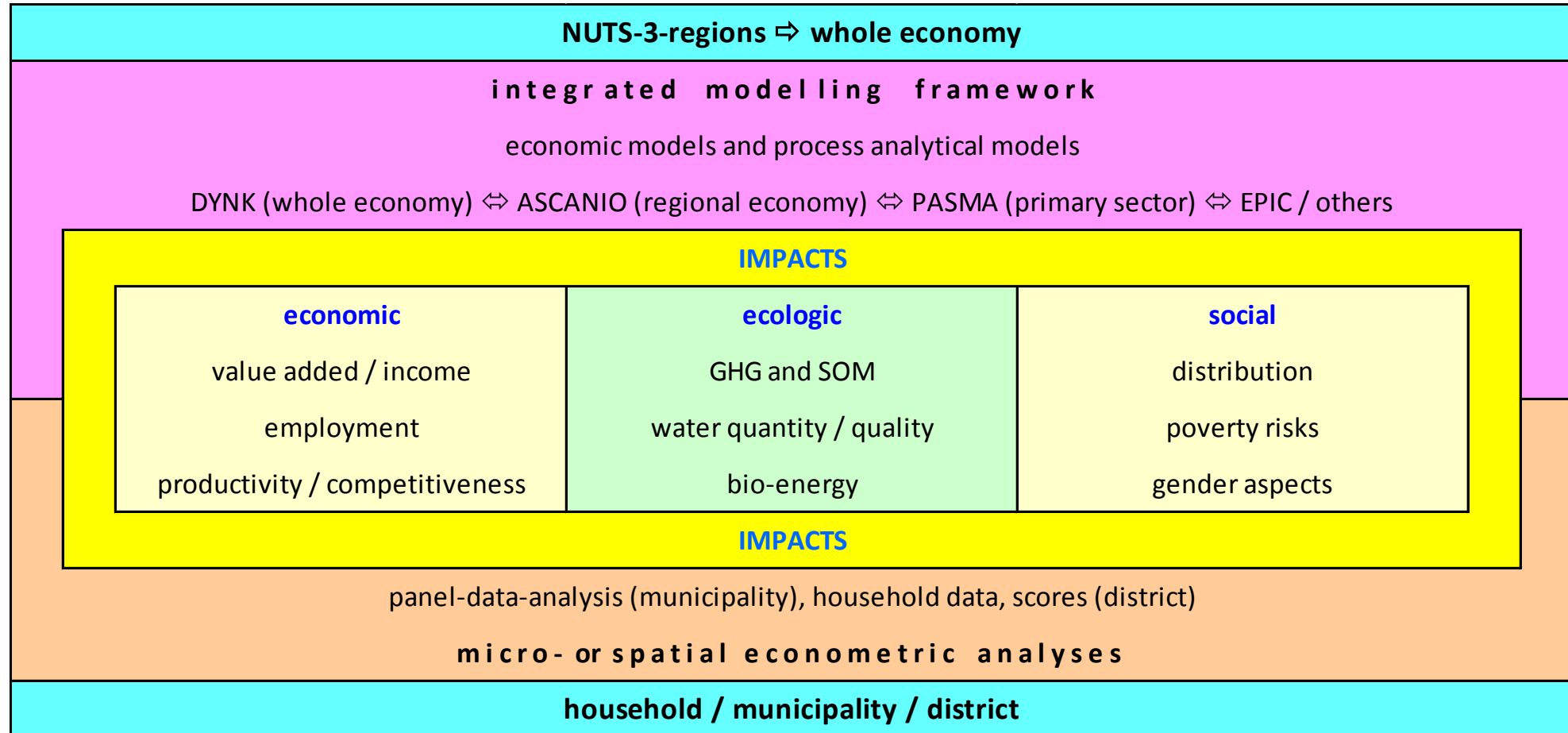
Evaluation approach

1. **Quantitative assessment at micro-level:** PSM combined with DiD
2. **Quantitative assessment at regional (municipality, NUTS3) and macro-level (AT):** agricultural sector model, regional input-output model, national dynamic macro model (spatial) econometric models based on municipality / NUTS3 data (e.g. fixed-effects)

Reasons for using the methods

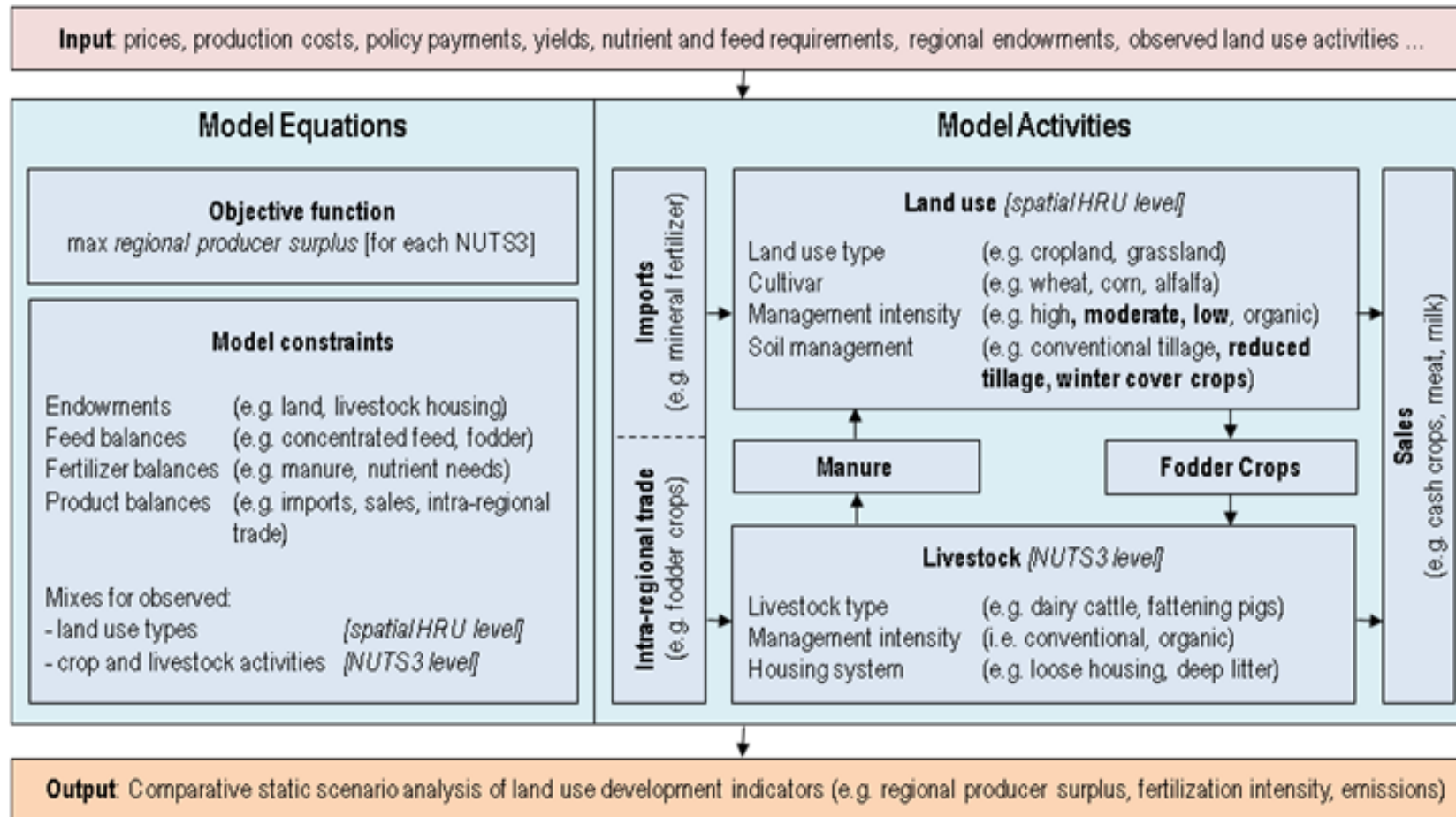
- access to FADN, municipality and NUTS3 panel data
- previous experience with the method in RDP 2007-2013 ex-post and RDP 2014-2020
- robustness & validity,
- transparency & credibility
- practicability & cost effectiveness

Evaluation approach 1/3: concept



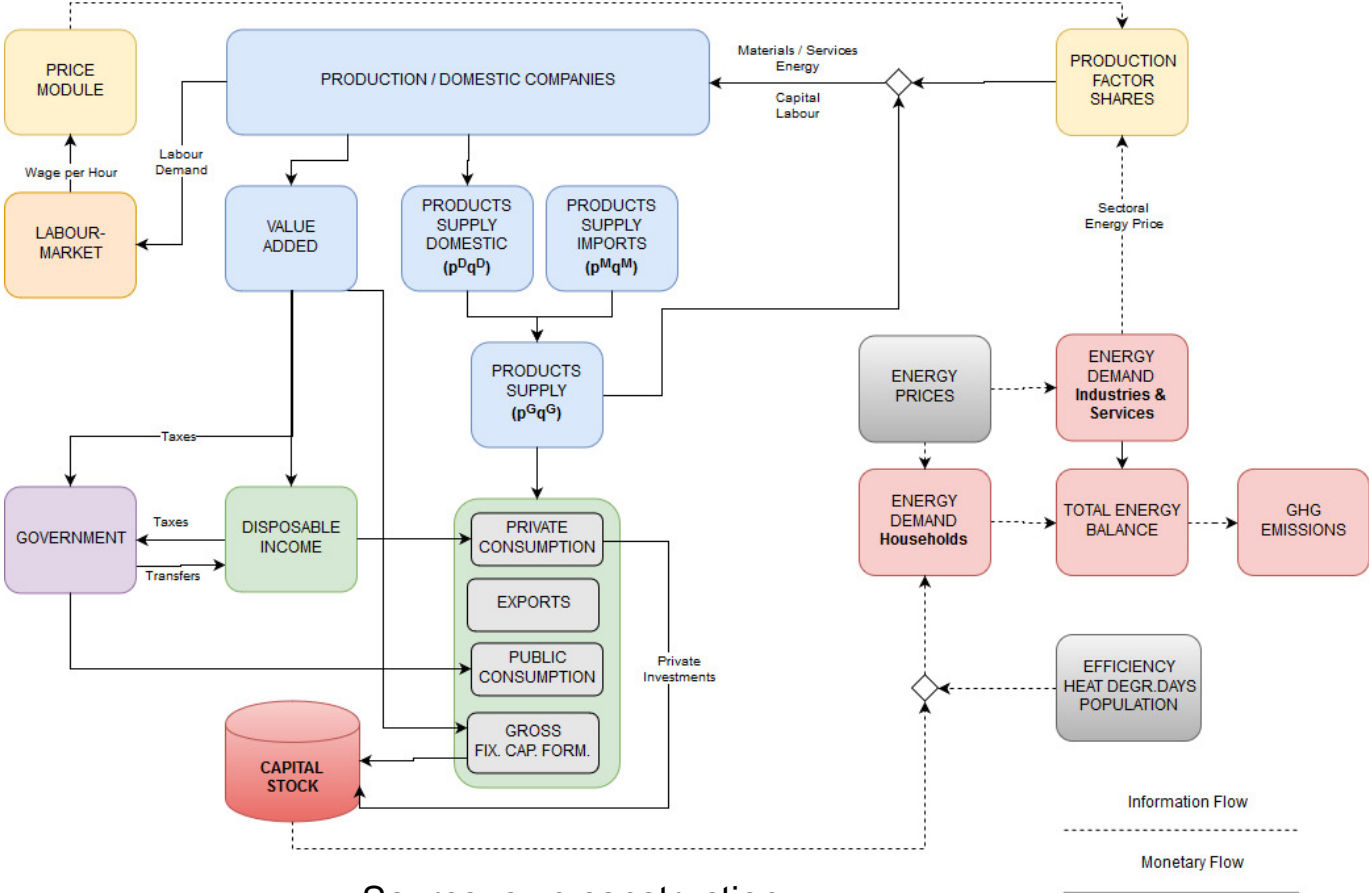
Source: own construction

Evaluation approach 2/3: PASMA



Source: own construction

Evaluation approach 3/3: DYNK



Source: own construction

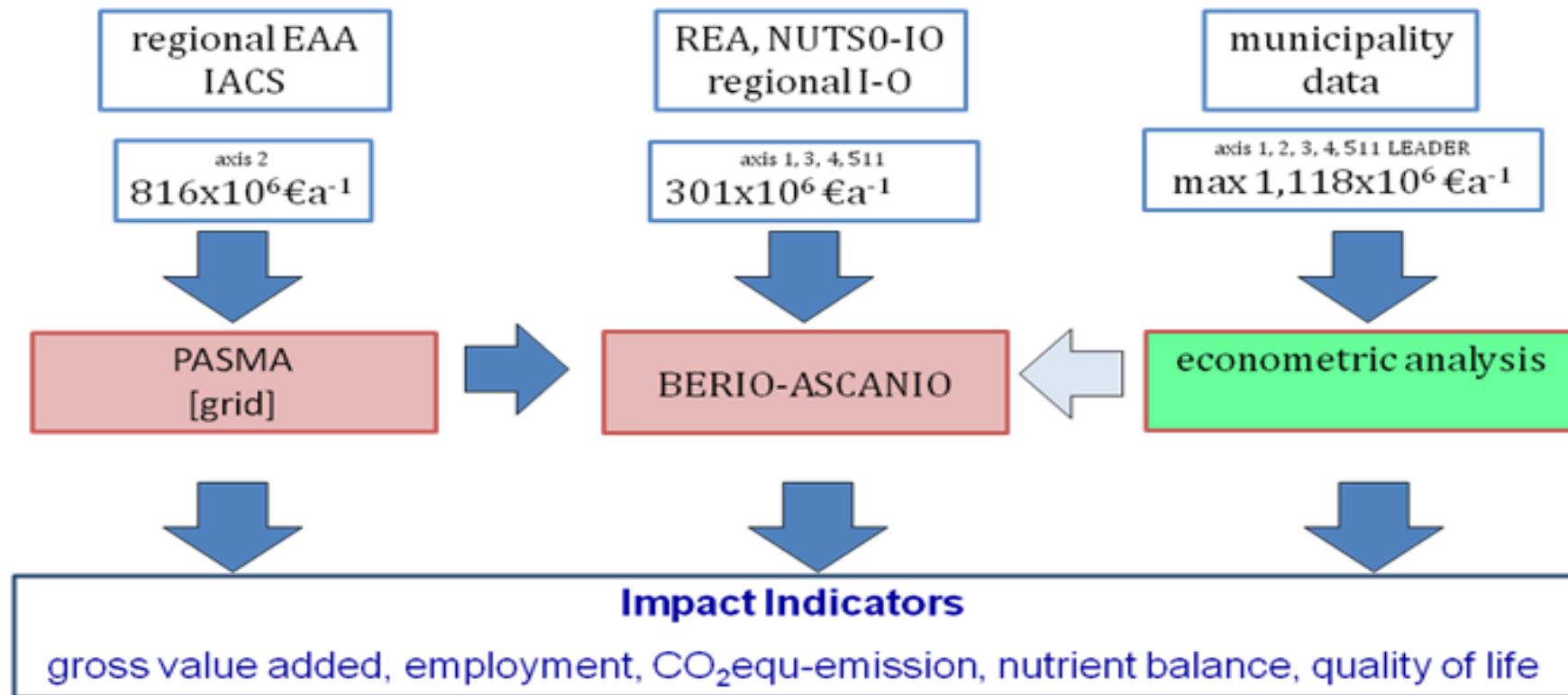
Data situation in Austria

Table 2: Data sources used - overview (selection)

Data description	Source
administrative data	BMNT
farm book keeping	national FADN via BMNT
farm structure survey	STAT, BMNT
economic accounts of agriculture NUTS3	STAT
EUSILC	STAT
income data (municipality)	STAT
foreign trade data	STAT, WIFO
gender data	WIFO
energy data	STAT
GHG emission data, water quality	WIFO, BOKU, UBA
survey data	evaluators

Source: own construction

Experience from previous evaluations



Source: Sinabell et al. 2016

Preliminary findings

to be presented on the 5th Dec 2018

Strengths and weaknesses

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>Methodology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• well founded in applied welfare analysis context• integrated assessment modelling approach – interdisciplinary team• combination of programming model and econometric modeling approaches• fully consistent with EU-2020-strategy and ESI-funds evaluation approaches <p>Practicability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• scaling very well: relevant results for many purposes• teams working on impact and result indicators are well integrated (forward – backward linkages)	<p>Methodology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• more advanced approaches still lacking, e.g. causality not based on RCTs• modelling: regional model not (yet) dynamic <p>Practicability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• evaluation of ESI-funds not made in an integrated manner• evaluation not linked to national programs and EU 2020 strategy reporting but separate• integration into planned strategic plan preparation not yet accomplished• data set generation is still a big challenge

Lessons learned and recommendations

- **Planning:** RDP design needs to have programme evaluation already in mind (learning from previous evaluations)
- **Human resources:** appr. 30 person months (many more in managing authority to provide data etc.) for this approach
- **Timing:** preparation well in advance necessary
- **Coordination:** regular meetings (every 4 months) of all evaluators very helpful
- **Support:** detailed guidance on reporting (number of words, details of indicators, etc.) very helpful
- **Look ahead:** all ESI funds plus national programmes together

Thank you

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