Ex post evaluation of RDPs 2007-2013
Expectations and use

Palermo, 4-5 July 2016
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Purpose of the ex post evaluation

• From the point of view of Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005
  ➢ **Degree of utilisation of resources**: how funds have been spent
  ➢ **Effectiveness**: to what extent objectives have been achieved
  ➢ **Efficiency**: was value for money received
  ➢ Socio-economic **impacts** and impacts on the six Community priorities (i.e. competitiveness, environment, quality of life, etc)
  ➢ **Goals** of the programme
  ➢ Draw **lessons** regarding RD policy
  ➢ Factors of **success** or **failure** of programme's implementation, including **sustainability** of results & impacts
  ➢ Identify **good practice**
Purpose of the ex post evaluation

• **From the point of view of the new 2014-2020 CMES**
  - Demonstrate the **progress** and **achievements** of the programme
  - Assess the **relevance** of the programme: extent to which objectives are pertinent to needs and problems
  - Assess the **results & impacts**
  - Contribute to **better targeting** of support: allocate funds where they are most needed and where they will have the most impact
  - Support the **learning** process: building **evaluation culture**
    - Better understanding of methodological limitations
    - Identifying & disseminating good evaluation practices
Lessons from the mid-term evaluation

• Many MTEs were rather weak
  ➢ Low expectations/insufficient importance given by MAs
  ➢ Limited skills
  ➢ Unavailable/hard to find data
  ➢ Limited budgets

• Insufficient monitoring hindered data availability and quality

• Evidence of outcomes often very sketchy

• Hardly any MTE looked at value for money (efficiency)
Lessons from the mid-term evaluation

- **Assessment of RD impacts**
  - No, tentative or only basic assessment (with naïve methods)
  - Very few assessments with advanced methods
  - Impacts mainly assessed at measure level

- **Counterfactual/net effects**
  - Only a minority of MTEs assessed net effects
  - Advanced methods for counterfactuals rather rare
  - Weak analytical bases for conclusions & recommendations
Expectations regarding ex post evaluation

• Data, indicators, evaluation questions

- Sufficient data quantity, of high quality, collected in due time in a cost-effective way
- Complement quantitative data with qualitative information
- Baseline data used for 2014-2020 period may also be used in ex post evaluation
- Use full set of common indicators and revised set of common evaluation questions
- Indicators need to be linked to the programme strategies and actions and enable answering evaluation questions
- Use programme-specific indicators and evaluation questions to capture a full picture of the impact of the programme
Expectations regarding ex post evaluation

• Evaluation methods

- Assess programme impacts applying advanced, robust methods
- Choice of methods very important, as different methods bring different evaluation findings
- Triangulation of methods (cross-confirming qualitative and quantitative analysis)
- Use of counterfactuals and netting out of effects
Expectations regarding ex post evaluation

- **Governance of funds**
  - Evidence-based findings, conclusions and recommendations
  - Show RDP achievements at all territorial levels: regional/national/EU
  - Show clear link between programme actions/interventions and outcomes
Expectations regarding ex post evaluation

- Communication of evaluation findings
  - Communicable to different target audiences
  - Presented in an interesting way to have a real impact (showcasing)
  - Managing authorities should learn from the evaluation findings and be familiar with programme outcomes
  - Evaluation reports should be comparable and allow aggregation of evaluation findings across the EU
Expectations regarding ex post evaluation

- COM expects high quality reports
- Managing authorities & evaluators encouraged to follow the ex post evaluation guidelines
  - Indicative outline of ex post report
  - Quality assessment grid
- COM will also assess quality of ex post reports
- Quality assessment tool for desk officers under development
- Training for desk officers in Autumn 2016
- Observation letters will be sent in 2017
Use of the ex post evaluation

• **Transparency and accountability**
  - Increased interest/pressure from taxpayers, stakeholders and general public to know what has been done and achieved with funds disbursed

• **Policy learning tool**
  - Evaluation findings shall be actively discussed/debated (i.e. within the Monitoring Committee but also more widely)
  - Identify areas for improvement, share good and bad practices
  - Identify unintended and/or unexpected effects of programmes' interventions
  - Effective use of evaluation findings with follow-up actions
Use of the ex post evaluation

• **Improve quality and implementation of 2014-2020 programmes**
  
  ➢ Confirm needs assessment of programmes
  ➢ Lead to modifications of programmes
  ➢ Used in preparation of enhanced AIRs 2017 & 2019
  ➢ Used to validate 2013 baselines
Use of the ex post evaluation

**Inform decision-making and political priority-setting**

- Commission applies the "Evaluate first" principle to make sure that any policy decisions take into due account lessons from past EU action
- Ex post evaluation is an essential part of policy cycle and supports better decision-making
- It contributes to strategic planning and to the design of future interventions
- It contributes to identify opportunities for simplification and reduction of administrative burden
- For instance, lessons learned from ex post evaluation could feed into impact assessment on post-2020 policy
- Summary of ex post reports will be disseminated within Commission and to EP, Council & European Court Auditors
Use of the ex post evaluation

• **Increase evaluation culture**

  - Increase importance given to & understanding of evaluation process
  - Shift focus from disbursing support (absorption) to achieving results/impacts & performance
  - Increase ownership of results
  - Focus on the programme in question
  - Be more integrated in the policy cycle (=>tool for policy formulation)
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION !