



Ex post evaluation of RDPs 2007-2013

Expectations and use

GPW "Methods for assessing impacts of RDPs 2007-13. Practices & solutions for the ex post evaluation"

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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 naive 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 !