



# Future development of evaluation practice: Expectations from a DG REGIO perspective

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**Prague, 10 June 2014**

## 2007-2013 as starting point

- MS *can* evaluate during the period
- MS *can* have evaluation plan

Very few obligations, demand driven evaluations

- 830 evaluations carried out
- Unequally distributed across MS
- 80% process evaluation + "monitoring"; 22% impact
- Quality variable, often unknown
- Meta-evaluation practically absent

Source: Expert evaluation network

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docgener/evaluation/pdf/eval2007/2013\\_een\\_task2\\_synthesis\\_final.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/evaluation/pdf/eval2007/2013_een_task2_synthesis_final.pdf)

# Regulatory requirements 2014-2020

- Evaluate contribution of programmes to objectives at least once during programming period (art. 56 CPR)
  - id est evaluation of impact legally required
- Evaluation plan, to be confirmed by monitoring committee (art. 114)

# Member States decide:

- Evaluation questions
- Methods
- Organisation
  
- Intention to facilitate
  - Ownership
  - Creativity
  - And finally quality and use

# Scope of required evaluations

- Each specific objective should be covered by impact evaluation
- The extent will differ according to nature of result, available evidence, policy importance
- Non-impact evaluations stay possible

# Which approaches should be used?

- Theory-based
- Counterfactual
- Other – modelling, CBA, ...

No one method can answer all questions. All methods have strengths and weaknesses.

# Impact evaluations

- Timing
  - As late as possible, as early as necessary: depends on nature of intervention; consider evaluating similar interventions 2007-2013
  - Evaluations will not be carried out at the same time
- Necessary data
  - Depends on evaluation method
  - Supported entities and individual participants (regulatory obligations: Art. 125 and Annex XII)
  - Data from other sources of information than monitoring systems: unemployment records, tax records...
  - Need to be planned in advance

# Elements of evaluation plan - 1

## 1) Objectives, coverage, coordination

- What evidence available in different policy fields?
- Coordination and cooperation between managing authorities encouraged (evaluation coverage, findings, practice)



# Element of evaluation plan - 2

## 2) Evaluation framework – the organisation

- Responsibilities
- Evaluation process
- Involvement of partners
- Source of evaluation expertise, independence
- Training programme – internal, external
- Strategy to ensure use and communication
- Timetable
- Budget
- Quality management strategy

# Elements of evaluation plan - 3

## 3) Planned evaluations

- Indicative list, ad hoc evaluations possible
- Impact evaluations should be planned early
- Each evaluation:
  - subject, rationale, evaluation questions
  - Methods, data requirements
  - Duration and tentative date
  - Estimated budget

# Meta-evaluations

- Central governments are encouraged to play their role
- Commission will invest in this field
  - Annual reporting on MS evaluations from 2016
  - Review of selected number of evaluations
  - Repository of evaluations (obligation to public access in regulation)

# Tasks for evaluations

- Core task: impact on beneficiary
  - Did the intervention make a difference for the beneficiary?
  - What were the mechanisms for this?
- Second task: contribution to solution of problems
  - Was the intervention relevant in its political context? Was a problem (partially) fixed?
  - Link with concept of policy monitoring (monitoring of result indicators for a region, MS)



# Open data – a task for managing authorities and Commission

Provide easy access to :

- Data on beneficiaries and other
- Metadata
- To act as quality incentive for data
- To encourage academic research
- To spread the "burden of proof" beyond managing authorities

# What is the most important factor to have high-quality evaluations?

- Evaluable programmes!
  - Testable specific objectives
  - Expressed in result (outcome) indicators
  - Accompanied by evaluation plans.

# DG REGIO reference documents

- Concepts and recommendations

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docoffic/2014/working/wd\\_2014\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/2014/working/wd_2014_en.pdf)

- The evaluation plan (with DG EMPL)

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docoffic/2014/working/evaluation\\_plan\\_guidance\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/2014/working/evaluation_plan_guidance_en.pdf)