

Evaluation guidelines

This guidance note presents the guidelines for ongoing evaluation of IPARD rural development programmes 2007 – 2013 including the common evaluation questions.

The purpose of the guidelines is:

- To prepare Candidate Countries for the process of on-going evaluation basing on evaluation guidelines of rural development programmes in Member States
- To give an overview of the general principles of evaluation
- To explain the concept of ongoing evaluation
- To clarify the role of evaluation for rural development programmes
- To explain the requirements for and the specific tasks of ongoing evaluation including mid-term and ex-post evaluation

GUIDELINES FOR ONGOING EVALUATION
IPARD RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES 2007 – 2013

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1. INTRODUCTION

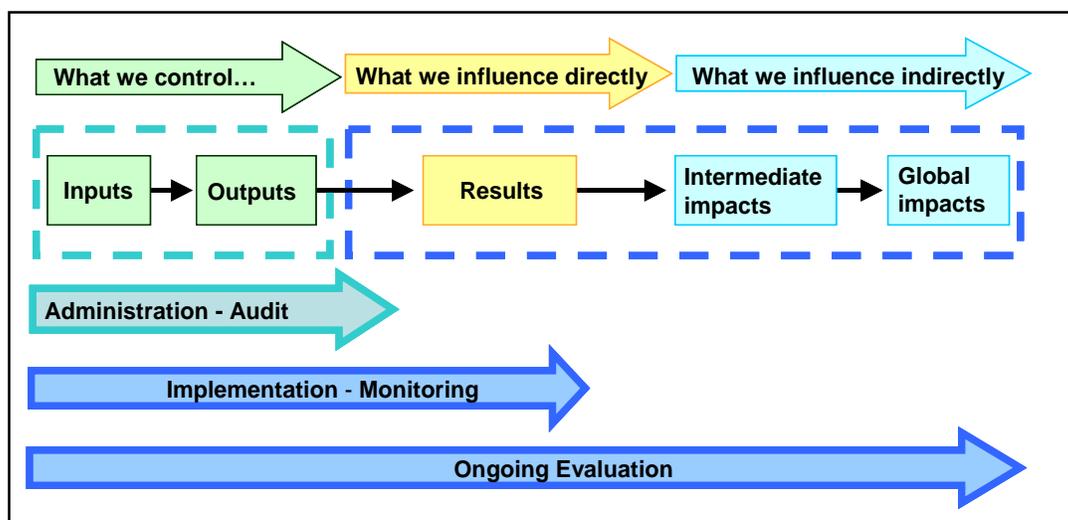
Commission Regulation (EC) 718/2007 implementing an instrument for pre-accession assistance (IPA) in Art. 57 and 191, as well as Sectoral Agreement in Art. 65 state that IPA beneficiary country shall establish a system of ongoing evaluation for each IPARD Rural Development programme.

The purpose of these guidelines is to support a Candidate Country in setting up an evaluation system and in carrying out evaluation including mid-term and ex-post evaluations of the IPARD Rural Development programmes.

2. GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF EVALUATION

Evaluation is a process of judgement of interventions according to their results, impacts and the needs they aim to satisfy. Evaluation looks at the effectiveness (the extent to which objectives are achieved), the efficiency (best relationship between resources employed and results achieved), and at the relevance of an intervention (the extent to which an intervention's objectives are pertinent to needs, problems and issues).

Rural development evaluation must provide information on the implementation and impact of the co-financed programmes. The aims are, on the one hand, to increase the accountability and transparency with regard to the legal and budget authorities and the public and, on the other hand, to improve the implementation of the programmes by contributing to informed planning and decisions concerning needs, delivery mechanisms and resource allocation.



2.1. Monitoring and Evaluation

Understanding evaluation requires clarity concerning the distinction of the common elements of audit, monitoring, and evaluation as these are complementary albeit different exercises.

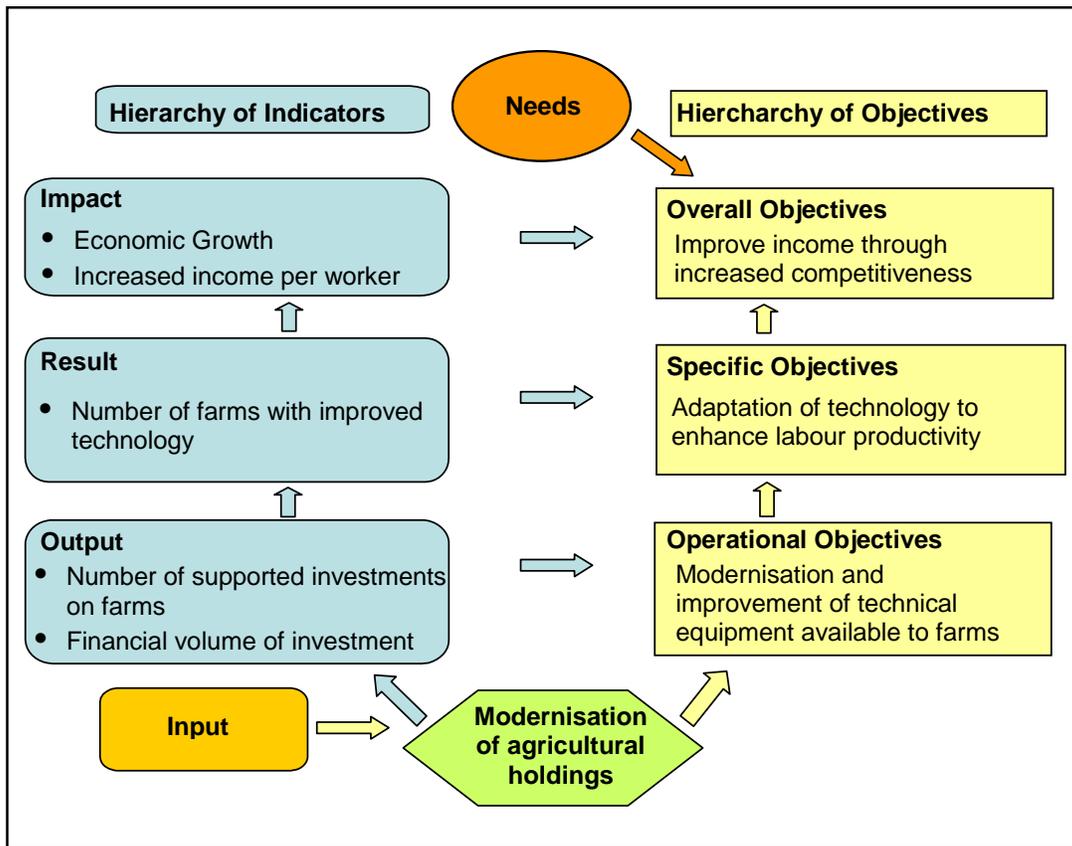
The focus of audits is the correct administrative and financial management of measures. Monitoring is a continuous and systematic stocktaking of budgetary inputs, activities

financed under measures and data on first results at the level of projects. Monitoring generates quantitative data. It gives a feedback on the proper implementation of measures, facilitating corrections of deviations from operational objectives. Monitoring contributes to making public spending accountable and it provides valuable information for the evaluation of measures.

Evaluation looks at the results and impacts of programmes - by assessing their effectiveness, efficiency, and relevance of measures – provides an input into the formulation and re-orientation of policies. In doing this, evaluation heavily relies on data and information collected by monitoring which suggests an early interaction between both activities.

2.2. Intervention logic and indicators

A key-tool of evaluation is the so-called “intervention logic” which establishes the causal chain from the budgetary input, via the output and the results of measures, to their impact. Thus, the intervention logic guides the consecutive assessment of a measure’s contribution to achieving its objectives.



The intervention logic starts from the needs, which describe the socio-economic or environmental requirements to which the programme and/ or measure should respond. The policy response is developed through a “hierarchy of objectives”, representing the break down from the overall objective, via more specific objectives, to operational

objectives. For the purpose of evaluation, the “hierarchy of objectives” is matched by a “hierarchy of indicators” which reflect the different elements of the intervention logic of a measure.

Following the causal chain of the “intervention logic”, the “hierarchy of indicators” starts from the inputs, i.e. the financial and/or administrative resources which will generate the outputs of programme activities pursuing operational or measures-related objectives. The subsequent results are the immediate effects of interventions, which should contribute to the achievement of the specific objectives. Impacts should contribute to reaching the overall objectives of the programme which, in a well designed programme, must correspond to the previously identified needs.

The indicators are used as tools to assess at each level (output, result, impact) how far the expected objectives have been achieved by measures or whole programmes. Indicators have to be specific, measurable, available/achievable in a cost effective way, relevant for the programme, and timely available. Indicators can not always be filled with quantitative statistical data; in some cases, indicators might also include qualitative assessments or logical assumptions.

For the purpose of evaluating rural development programmes, we distinguish the following types of indicators:

- Input indicators: These refer to the budget or other resources allocated at each level of the assistance. *Example*: expenditure per measure declared to the Commission
- Output indicators: These measure activities directly realised within programmes. The activities are the first step towards realising the operational objectives of the intervention and are measured in physical or monetary units. *Example*: number of training sessions organised, number of farms receiving investment support, total volume of investment.
- Result indicators: These measure the direct and immediate effects of the intervention. They provide information on changes in, for example, the behaviour, capacity or performance of direct beneficiaries and are measured in physical or monetary terms. *Example*: investments undertaken, number of farmers participating successfully in training courses.
- Impact indicators: These refer to the benefits of the programme both at the level of the intervention but also more generally in the programme area. They are linked to the wider objectives of the programme. *Example*: increase in employment in rural areas, increased productivity of agricultural sector, increased production of renewable energy.

As evaluation looks at change over time, the establishment of the counterfactual is a central issue for all evaluations. In this context the “base-line indicators”, established by the SWOT analysis and ex-ante evaluation at the time of programming, need to be mentioned. The base-line indicators are an important reference point for the evaluation of impacts of single measures and programmes as a whole.

3. THE LEGAL REQUIREMENT FOR EVALUATING IPARD RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

Evaluating rural development programmes is a legal requirement. Article 57 and 191 of Commission Regulation (EC) 718/2007 implementing Council Regulation (EC) 1085/2006 establishing an instrument for pre-accession assistance (IPA) stipulates that,

“Evaluations shall aim to improve the quality, effectiveness and consistency of the assistance from Community funds and the strategy and implementation of the programmes.

Programmes shall be subject to ex-ante, ex-post and, where appropriate, interim evaluations carried out by independent evaluators under the responsibility of the beneficiary country.

Articles 65, 66 and 67 of the Sectoral Agreement specify the management and the functions of evaluation as follows:

Article 65 On-going evaluation

- 1. Candidate Country shall establish a system of on-going evaluation for the IPARD Programme. This system shall be organised on the initiative of the Managing Authority in cooperation with the Commission on a multi-annual basis and shall cover the entire programming period.*
- 2. The Managing Authority and the IPARD Monitoring Committee for the Programme shall use on-going evaluation to:*
 - (a) examine the progress of the IPARD Programme in relation to its goals by means of result and, where appropriate, impact indicators;*
 - (b) improve the quality of IPARD Programme and their implementation;*
 - (c) examine proposals for substantive changes to the Programme;*
 - (d) prepare for interim and ex-post evaluation.*
- 3. The Managing Authority shall report each year on the on-going evaluation activities to the IPARD Monitoring Committee with copies to the CAO and the Audit Authority. A summary of the activities shall be included in the annual report provided for in Article 68.*

Article 66 Interim evaluation

- 1. If the Commission considers as appropriate, in the third year following the year of adoption of the first Decision of the conferral of management of aid of the IPARD Programme, the on-going evaluation shall take the form of a separate interim evaluation.*

2. *The interim evaluation shall propose measures to improve the quality of the IPARD Programme and its implementation. In particular Candidate Country shall ensure that the interim evaluation examines the initial results of the IPARD Programme, their consistency with the ex-ante appraisal, the relevance of the targets and objectives and the extent to which they have been attained. It shall also assess the quality of Programme monitoring and implementation and the experience gained in setting up the system for implementation of the IPARD Programme.*
3. *The interim evaluation shall be submitted to the IPARD Monitoring Committee and to the Commission by 31 December of the year referred to in the paragraph 1 of this Article.*
4. *In addition to the assessment referred to in Article 63(8), the IPARD Monitoring Committee, the Managing Authority and the Commission shall consider the implications of the evaluation with a view to reviewing the IPARD Programme.*
5. *The Managing Authority shall inform the Commission about the follow-up to the recommendations in the evaluation report.*
6. *If Candidate Country fails to submit the interim evaluation report by the date referred to in paragraph 3 the provisions of Article 39(4) shall apply.*

Article 67

Ex-post evaluation

1. *During the last year of validity of the commitment established in the most recent MFA concluded with Candidate Country, the on-going evaluation shall take the form of a separate ex-post evaluation. It shall be completed and submitted to the Commission not later than the end of that year.*
2. *On the basis of the evaluation results already available as well as evaluation questions relevant to the IPARD Programme, the ex-post evaluation shall cover the utilisation of resources and the effectiveness and efficiency of the IPARD Programme, its impact and its consistency with the ex-ante evaluation. It shall cover factors contributing to the success or failure of implementation, the achievements of the IPARD Programme and results, including their sustainability. It shall draw conclusions relevant to the IPARD Programme and to the enlargement process.*
3. *If Candidate Country fails to submit the ex-post evaluation report by the date referred to in paragraph 1 the provisions of Article 39(4) shall apply.*

Moreover, following Article 191 of Commission Regulation 718/2007, evaluations shall be carried out by independent evaluators under the responsibility of beneficiary country.

4. THE CONCEPT OF ONGOING EVALUATION

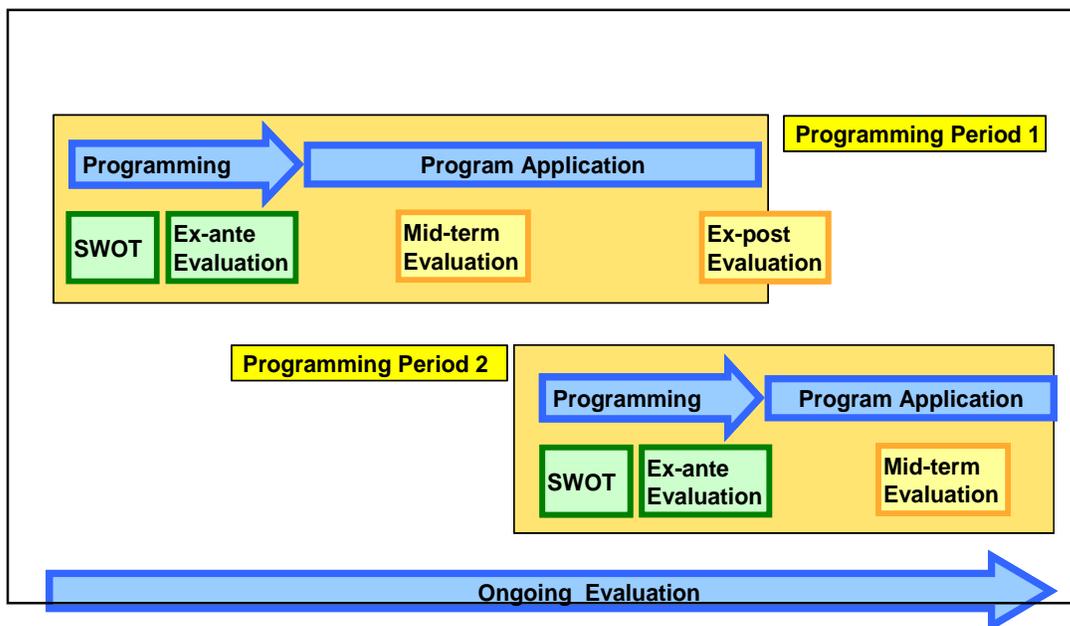
Ongoing evaluation includes all the evaluation activities to be carried out during the whole programming period, comprising ex-ante, mid-term, and ex-post evaluation as

well as any other evaluation-related activity the programme authority may find useful for improving their programme management. This includes the interaction between evaluation activities, the compilation and refinement of indicators, and data collection.

Ex-ante evaluation sets the basis for setting up a system of evaluation by identifying objectives, target levels, and baselines for the programme. On this basis, a system of ongoing evaluation has to be developed which ensures capacity building early on and continuity of evaluation-related activities during the whole programming period. This implies that ongoing evaluation has to be established at the very beginning of the programming period.

Ongoing evaluation consists of two main elements, which are closely interlinked and form an integrated approach to optimizing evaluation to help improving programme implementation:

- a) continuous activities for programme evaluation at programme level with annual reporting on those activities; in the third year following the year of adoption of the first Decision of the conferral of management this report may take the form of a mid-term evaluation. In 2015 the report takes the form of an ex-post evaluation; mid-term and ex-post evaluations are summarised at Community level, if the Commission considers as appropriate.
- b) a system of accompanying thematic studies to be carried out at the initiative of the Commission, examining in closer detail certain measures, axes, geographic zones, or specific aspects of rural development policy wherever and whenever the need for such examination arises. These studies will be required in a Candidate Country if specific needs arrive.



As shown in the above figure, the outputs of ongoing evaluation have also an important role for the preparation of legal proposals and draft programmes, which naturally take place in the last phase of a respective actual programming period. And it is already during this period that the work on ex-ante evaluations and the evaluation guidelines for the new programming period have to be prepared. This underlines once more the need for organising evaluation as an “ongoing” activity with continuous capacity building and an interaction between evaluation, monitoring, programming, the definition of indicator and data collection at Community level and at Candidate Country level.

5. SPECIFIC TASKS FOR ONGOING EVALUATION AT PROGRAMME LEVEL

5.1. Setting-up the evaluation system

5.1.1. Administrative matters

As stipulated by Art. 65 of Sectoral Agreement, Candidate Countries are responsible for setting up a system of ongoing evaluation and for providing the human and financial resources necessary to carry out evaluations.

Evaluations must be carried out by independent evaluators from bodies without direct involvement in the implementation, management and financing of the programmes. The evaluator should be competent regarding up to date evaluation practice. Public institutions are not excluded, provided they fulfil the criteria of independence and competence. The same evaluator may deal with the evaluation at all stages of the programming cycle. Such an arrangement may in some cases improve continuity and reduce the costs of evaluation.

In order to ensure a high quality of the evaluation, a regular consultation of stakeholders should be ensured. The setting up of a steering group which accompanies the evaluation process and which involves representatives of different departments is advisable. The steering group should contribute to the preparation of the terms of reference. The members of the steering group can provide access to additional information; they shall support and monitor the work of the evaluator.

5.1.2. Establishing the Terms of Reference

The terms of reference serve the purpose of establishing the framework for evaluation activities during the different phases of ongoing evaluation (ex-ante evaluation, mid-term evaluation, ex-post evaluation). In addition, they form the basis for calls for tenders or the establishment of service requests within framework contracts.

The terms of reference must reflect the legal requirements for evaluation, the principles of evaluation as well as the arrangements for evaluation, set out in individual rural development programming documents. In order to allow a target-oriented preparation of the terms of reference in the steering group, it is advisable to establish an evaluation mandate, giving an overview on context, scope, timing, and objectives of the evaluation in question.

The key part of the terms of reference for evaluation projects is the list of common and programme-specific evaluation questions which set out the evaluation themes and which refer to the indicators established.

The evaluation tasks to be carried out by the evaluator need to be specified with respect to the four different phases of evaluation:

- Structuring
- Observing
- Analysing
- Judging

As the outputs of each of these evaluation steps need to be discussed by the steering group and/or the commissioning body, the reporting format for each of the different tasks needs to be specified. Moreover, the terms of reference must clarify how the output of the different tasks feed eventually into the final evaluation report.

The main lines concerning the methodology applied, the work plan, and the interaction with the commissioning body and, where established, the steering group need to be addressed.

5.1.3. Preparation of evaluation questions and indicators

For setting-up the evaluation system, it is inevitable for the managing authority to review the common and programme-specific evaluation questions and the related indicators in order to assess what needs to be done in terms of information gathering and analysis in order to answer these questions in a meaningful and appropriate manner.

Whereas the common evaluation questions and indicators are defined in a manner that makes them applicable across a large number of programmes, more precise target levels reflected by indicators and more precise questions may need to be established by the programming authority.

5.2. Evaluation tasks

5.2.1. Structuring

The structuring phase serves the purpose of establishing a clear understanding of the evaluation tasks and preparing the information and data set as well as the analytical tools needed to answer the evaluation questions. In this respect the evaluators have to:

- Establish detailed intervention logics for the different measures to be evaluated.
- Define the key terms of the evaluation questions, elaborate judgement criteria allowing to answer each evaluation question and, where appropriate, the identify target levels.
- Establish a methodology on how to answer the evaluation questions (common evaluation questions including horizontal questions and programme specific questions).
- Identify indicators (common and programme specific indicators) as well as related information and data requirements allowing to assess effectiveness, efficiency, and relevance of measure and/or the programme.

As ongoing evaluation shall be supported by a continuous process of capacity building and establishment of good evaluation practices, the latter need to be well reflected in the approach established in the structuring phase.

5.2.2. *Observing*

The observing phase must identify the available and relevant information. Moreover, it must specify the validity and use of the quantitative and qualitative data used.

With respect to observing the evaluators have to:

- Create the tools needed for the quantitative and qualitative analysis: interview guides, questionnaires, queries for extractions from databases, requests for maps, guidelines for case studies, and any other data collection instrument that the contractor deems appropriate
- Collect data and qualitative information needed for answering each evaluation question: databases, studies, people to be interviewed, appropriate case study areas etc.
- Describe the process of programme implementation, composition of programmes, priorities and target levels, budget

5.2.3. *Analysing*

This phase is devoted to analysing all information available in view of assessing the effects and impacts of measures and programmes in relation to the programme's objectives and target levels. In order to assess progress made, the link to the baselines, provided in the context of ex-ante evaluations, has to be established. Impacts will be identified as net-contributions of each single measure to achieving a programme's objectives.

In this respect evaluators have to:

- Establish appropriate typologies of measures and/or beneficiaries in view of reducing the complexity for dealing with the empirical analysis.
- Process and synthesise available data and information, and - where necessary - handle data gaps by modelling or other extrapolations. Apply a measurement against the counterfactual as well as target levels.

5.2.4. *Judging*

In the judgement phase, the evaluator answers all evaluation questions and draws conclusions from the analysis regarding the judgement criteria defined in the structuring phase. The conclusions and recommendations relate to the effects of single measures as well as the programme as a whole. The conclusions and recommendations should be strictly based on evidence of the quantitative and qualitative assessment. The limitations of the validity of the findings and the resulting judgement should be critically reflected.

The answer to each evaluation question must reflect the common and programme specific indicators. Where appropriate, other relevant information about the impacts of the actions in question needs to be taken into account. In all cases, the answers to evaluation questions must be accompanied by a critical discussion of the evidence of

findings. Moreover, evaluation needs to consider the context within which measures are applied. If a certain measure or a part of the programme has not delivered the expected results and impacts, an analysis of the reasons for this unexpected effect is necessary.

In this respect evaluators have to:

- Answer all evaluation questions (common and programme specific questions)
- Assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the programme
- Assess measures with respect to their balance within the programme
- Judge on the degree to which the programme contributes to achieving the objectives set out in the Multi-annual Indicative Planning Document (MIPD)
- Identify the factors which contributed to the success or failure of the programme
- Draft conclusions and recommendations based on the findings
- Identify possible adjustments necessary for improving the programme

5.3. Reporting

As stipulated by Article 65 (3) of the Sectoral Agreement, programme authorities each year starting from first full year of programme implementation have to establish a report on their activities related to ongoing evaluation. A summary of this report must be taken up in the annual progress report, in accordance with Article 68 of the Sectoral Agreement.

The first report after programme implementation will describe the provisions for the establishment of the evaluation system in the national/regional context (indicators, administrative arrangements, data collection provisions). The following annual reports will describe the evaluation activities undertaken, among others capacity building and methodological work, data collection, and references to difficulties encountered.

Where applicable, the annual reports should express needs with respect to the adaptation of programme-specific indicators and data sets. Equally important, they should help the Commission to identify needs for accompanying/thematic horizontal evaluations in relation to specific measures/ axes/ challenges.

The mid-term evaluation report, if the Commission considers as appropriate, and the ex-post evaluation report will provide answers to all common and programme-specific evaluation questions, derived from an assessment of the effectiveness, efficiency, and relevance of measures and programmes. The reports will also include a judgement on the degree to which measures and programmes as a whole meet their targets and contribute to the success or failure of implementation, the achievements of the IPARD Programmes and results, including their sustainability. On the basis of evaluation findings, the mid-term evaluation report has also to identify the need of change of programmes, where applicable.

6. INDICATIVE OUTLINE OF AN ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT ON ONGOING EVALUATION

1. Introduction
2. The system established for ensuring ongoing evaluation
3. The evaluation activities undertaken (ongoing and finished)
4. Data collection
5. Difficulties encountered and need for additional work

7. INDICATIVE OUTLINE OF AN EVALUATION REPORT

1 Executive summary

- Main findings of the evaluation
- Conclusions and recommendations

2 Introduction

- Purpose of the report
- Structure of the report

3 The Evaluation Context

- Brief contextual information about the programme: related national policies, social and economic needs motivating assistance, identification of beneficiaries or other target groups
- Description of the evaluation process: recapitulation of the terms of reference, purpose and scope of the evaluation
- Brief outline of previous evaluations related to the programme

4 Methodological Approach

- Explanation of the evaluation design and the methods used
- Description of key terms of programme-specific and the common evaluation questions, judgement criteria, target levels.
- Sources of data, techniques for data collection (questionnaires, interviews; size and selection criteria for samples ...); information about how the indicators are calculated in order to assess the quality and reliability of the data and identify possible biases.
- Techniques for replying to the evaluation questions and arriving at conclusions.
- Problems or limitations of the methodological approach.

5 Description of Programme, Measures, and Budget

- Programme implementation: actors involved, institutional context
- Composition of the programme; description of priorities and measures
- Intervention logic of single measure

- Budget foreseen for the entire programming period
- Uptake and budget actually spent

6 Answers to Evaluation Questions

- Analysis and discussion of indicator(s) with respect to judgement criteria and target levels referred to by evaluation questions.
- Analysis and discussion of quantitative and qualitative information from public statistics, specific surveys/enquiries, or other sources.
- Answers to the evaluation questions

7 Conclusions and Recommendations

- Coherence between the measures applied and the objectives pursued; balance between the different measures within a programme.
- Degree of achieving programme-specific objectives as well as objectives set out in the Multi-annual Indicative Planning Document (MIPD).
- Recommendations based on evaluation findings, including possible proposals for the adaptation of programmes.

8. EVALUATION QUESTIONS

AXIS I: Improving market efficiency and implementation of Community standards

Measure	Investments in agricultural holdings to restructure and to upgrade to Community standards
Measure Code	101
Evaluation questions	<p>To what extent have the supported investments contributed to improve the income of beneficiary farmers? To what extent have supported investments contributed to improving the competitiveness of the agricultural sector?</p> <p>To what extent have the supported investments contributed to a better use of production factors on holdings?</p> <p>To what extent have the supported investments improved the quality of farm products in compliance with EU standards?</p> <p>To what extent the supported investments improved production conditions in terms of better working conditions in compliance with EU standards?</p> <p>To what extent have the supported investments improved production conditions in terms of animal welfare in compliance with EU standards?</p> <p>To what extent have the supported investments facilitated environmentally friendly farming?</p>

Measure	Support for the setting up of producer groups
Measure Code	102
Evaluation questions	<p>To what extent has the setting up of producer groups helped to improve the income of their members?</p> <p>To what extent has the setting up of producer groups contributed to improve the processing and/or marketing agricultural products (including fishery products) increase their quality (by complying with EU standards) and prepare the implementation of CMO in the beneficiary sectors?</p>

Measure	Investments in the processing and marketing of agriculture and fishery products to restructure those activities and to upgrade them to Community standards
Measure Code	103

Evaluation questions	<p>To what extent have the supported investments helped to increase the added value of agricultural and fishery products through improved and rationalised processing and marketing of products?</p> <p>To what extent have the supported investments helped to increase the added value and competitiveness of agricultural products by improving their quality?</p> <p>To what extent have the supported investments improved health and welfare conditions in compliance with EU standards?</p> <p>To what extent have the supported investments contributed to protect the environment?</p> <p>To what extent have the supported investments contributed to restructure the processing food industry in the sectors involved in order to be able to compete in the single market?</p>
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AXIS II: Preparatory actions for implementation of the agri-environmental measures and local development strategies

Measure	Actions to improve the environment and the countryside
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Measure Code 201

Evaluation questions To what extent have the supported actions contributed to protect natural resources in beneficiary areas? To what extent have the supported actions contributed to develop practical experience of agri-environment implementation at farm level (or pilot sites?)?

To what extent have the supported actions contributed to develop practical experience of agri-environment implementation at administration level?

Measure	Animal welfare payments
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Measure Code 201

Evaluation questions To what extent have the payments contributed to encouraging farmers to adopt high standards of animal husbandry which go beyond the relevant mandatory standards?

To what extent have the payments contributed to increasing welfare compatible animal husbandry?

To what extent have the payments contributed to maintaining or promoting sustainable farming systems?

Measure 2.2 Preparation and implementation of local rural development strategies

Sub measure	Acquisition of skills, animating the inhabitants of LAGs territories
Measure Code	202
Evaluation questions	<p>To what extent have supported activities increased the capacities of rural actors for preparing, developing and implementing local development strategies and measures in the field of rural development?</p> <p>To what extent have supported activities contributed to reinforcing territorial coherence and synergies between the measures intended for the broader rural economy and population?</p> <p>To what extent have supported activities contributed to improve the quality of life in rural areas?</p>

Sub Measure	Implementation of local development strategies
Measure Code	202
Evaluation questions	<p>To what extent has the LEADER approach contributed to improving governance in rural areas?</p> <p>To what extent has the LEADER approach contributed to mobilising the endogenous development potential of rural areas?</p> <p>To what extent has the LEADER approach contributed to introduce multi-sectoral approaches and to promote cooperation for the implementation of rural development programmes?</p> <p>To what extent has the LEADER approach contributed to the priorities of axis 1, 2 and 3?</p> <p>To what extent has the support increased the capacities of Local Action Groups and other partners involved for implementing local development strategies?</p> <p>To what extent has the support contributed to increasing the capacity for the implementation of LEADER?</p>

Sub measure	Cooperation projects
Measure Code	202
Evaluation questions	<p>To what extent has the support contributed to promoting cooperation and to encouraging transfer of best practices?</p> <p>To what extent have cooperation projects and/or transfer of best practices based on the LEADER approach contributed to a better achievement of the objectives of one or more of the three other axes?</p>

AXIS III: Development and diversification of rural economy

Measure	Improvement and development of rural infrastructure
Measure Code	301
Evaluation questions	<p>To what extent have the type and extension of rural infrastructure activities been in accordance with the priority needs of the rural areas concerned?</p> <p>To what extent have the supported investments contributed to improve the competitiveness of the rural areas?</p> <p>To what extent have the supported investments contributed to improve the quality of life of the beneficiary rural populations?</p>

Measure	Diversification and development of rural economic activities
Measure Code	302
Evaluation questions	<p>To what extent have the development and diversification of on-farm and/or off-farm activities contributed to increase the income (and standard of living) of the beneficiary rural population?</p> <p>To what extent have supported investments promoted the diversification of farm households' activities towards non agricultural activities? Focus the analysis on the most important activities in this respect.</p> <p>To what extent have supported investments promoted additional employment opportunities for farm households outside the agricultural sector?</p> <p>To what extent have supported investments contributed to improving the diversification and development of the rural economy?</p> <p>To what extent have supported investments contributed to improving the quality of life in rural areas?</p>

Measure	A improvement of training
Measure Code	303
Evaluation questions	<p>To what extent have supported training and information activities improved the human potential of rural population to diversify their activities towards non agricultural activities? Focus the analysis on the most important activities.</p> <p>To what extent has the knowledge gained from supported training and information activities been used in the area affected?</p> <p>To what extent have supported training and information activities contributed to improve the quality of life in rural areas?</p>

AXIS V: Technical Assistance

Measure	Technical Assistance
Measure Code	501
Evaluation questions	<p>To what extent have the technical assistance measures facilitated the implementation of the programme actions?</p> <p>To what extent have the technical assistance measures increased the acquaintance of the rural populations and authorities involved with EU procedures, rules and principles, notably those regarding IPARD?</p>