EUROPEAN EVALUATION HELPDESK FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

European Commission

# GUIDELINES

## ASSESSING RDP ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACTS IN 2019

**PART III – FICHES FOR ANSWERING THE COMMON EVALUATION QUESTIONS 22 – 30**

AUGUST 2018

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The Evaluation Helpdesk is responsible for the evaluation function within the European Network for Rural Development (ENRD) by providing guidance on the evaluation of RDPs and policies falling under the remit and guidance of DG AGRI's Unit C.4 'Monitoring and evaluation' of the European Commission (EC). In order to improve the evaluation of EU rural development policy the Evaluation Helpdesk supports all evaluation stakeholders, in particular DG AGRI, national authorities, RDP managing authorities and evaluators, through the development and dissemination of appropriate methodologies and tools; the collection and exchange of good practices; capacity building, and communicating with network members on evaluation related topics.

Additional information about the activities of European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development is available on the Internet through the Europa server (http://enrd.ec.europa.eu).

# GUIDELINES

## ASSESSING RDP ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACTS IN 2019

**PART III – FICHES FOR ANSWERING THE COMMON EVALUATION QUESTIONS NO. 22 – 30**

AUGUST 2018

CONTENT

# 3 FICHES FOR ANSWERING THE COMMON EVALUATION QUESTIONS 22-30

***PART III*** *of the non-binding Guidelines 'Assessing RDP achievements and impacts in 2019' has to be read in context with* ***PART I*** *(informing Managing Authorities about the legal requirements of the Annual Implementation Report submitted in 2019), with* ***Part II*** *(providing methodological support to evaluators for assessing the common impact indicators of Pilar II) and* ***Part IV*** *(Technical Annex).*

### Introduction to the structure of the fiches

The following fiches provide support for stakeholders when replying to the common evaluation questions related to the EU level objectives (CEQ 22 – 30). The fiches follow the logical steps of conducting the assessment of RDP impacts and of answering the evaluation question. More information on the logical steps have been already described in Annex 11 of the Guidelines ''Assessment of RDP results: how to prepare for reporting on evaluation in 2017''. However, it needs to be highlighted that the SFC template for the AIR in 2019 will not require to provide information on all the steps mentioned in the fiches:

**Step 1 - clarification of RDP intervention logic linked to the CEQ**. The fiche shows an example of an intervention logic first in a narrative table, listing the objectives, indicators, RD priorities, FAs and measures. Additionally, also a figure of the intervention logic is provided.

**Step 2 – consistency check between CEQ, judgement criteria and indicators.** Prior to answering the CEQ, the consistency between the CEQ, judgment criteria and the indicators shall be checked. As a starting point the judgment criteria as suggested in the Working Document ''Common evaluation questions for RDPs 2014-2020'' can be used to answer the common evaluation question with the common impact indicators. Member States may however employ more additional judgment criteria and additional impact indicators in case the common ones are not sufficient to answer the CEQ and/or in case of data gaps for the calculation of common indicators. Qualitative indicators can be applied as well to collect evidence for answering evaluation questions. Also, in this case, qualitative indicators are paired with the judgment criteria. Each judgment criteria should be paired with at least one indicator.

**Step 3 – description of methodology to answer the evaluation question**. The fiche briefly describes the suggested quantitative and/or qualitative methods and refers to where more detailed descriptions can be found.

**Step 4 – identification of data needs and sources for common and suggested additional impact indicators.** The fiche contains a table with indicators and related data sources. For the common and additional impact indicators, the main information from PART II of the Guidelines is summarised and a reference is given where to find the complete information. For other data and information, the source is either described or, where relevant, the web link to the source is provided.

**Step 5 – provision of solutions to possible challenges/risks/issues.** In this section, the possible challenges, risks and issues that may occur when applying the proposed methodology are listed. Solutions are also outlined, or reference is given where these can be found in the Guidelines.

**Step 6 - provision of answer to CEQ.** The fiche suggests that the answer to the CEQ is structured along the judgment criteria as listed in the 2nd step. It typically refers to 1.) the calculated values of the

indicators 2.) the collected qualitative information and/or 3.) the qualitative assessment. The answer to the evaluation question is based on evaluation findings. It is used to formulate the main conclusions and (if needed) also the related recommendations. They may refer to the composition of the RDP intervention logic (measures, operation, budget), RDP implementation (delivery mechanism) or other issues (e.g. future policy formulation).

## 3.1 Common Evaluation Question 22

To what extent has the RDP contributed to achieving the EU 2020 headline target of raising the employment rate of the population aged 20-64 to at least 75%?

### 1. CLARIFICATION OF GENERAL INTERVENTION LOGIC LINKED TO THE CEQ

**Example** (table)

| | |
|---|---|
| EU 2020 | **Priority:** inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion.<br><br>**Headline target:** 75% of the population aged 20-64 should be employed. |
| CAP overall objective | Achieving the balanced territorial development of rural economies and communities including the creation and maintenance of employment. |
| Impact indicators: | Common CAP impact indicator:<br>o Rural employment rate (I.14)<br><br>Additional indicators (examples):<br>o **Indicator related to the EU 2020 headline target:** Employment rate of the population aged 20-64[1]<br>o … |
| RD priorities and FAs: | RD priorities 1, 2, 3 and 6 and focus areas (1A, 1C, 2B, 3A, 6A and 6B) which supports the increase of employment rate directly. |
| Target and result indicators: | T1 - percentage of expenditure under Articles 14, 15 and 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 in relation to the total expenditure for the RDP (focus area 1A).<br>T3 -Total number of participants trained under Article 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013.<br>R3/T5 - % of agriculture holdings with RDP supported business development plans/investments for young farmers (focus area 2B).<br>R4/T6 - Percentage of agricultural holdings receiving support for participating in quality schemes, local markets and short supply circuits, and producer groups/organisations (focus area 3A).<br>R21/T20 - jobs created in supported projects, (focus area 6A).<br>R24/T23 - jobs created in supported projects (Leader), (focus area 6B). |
| RD measures: | M01, M02, M03, M04, M06, M07, M08.6, M09, M16 and M19. |

[1] The employment rate of the population aged 20-64 is defined as employed persons aged 20-64 years as a share of the total population of the same age group(s), at national level. It is different from indicator I.14 which relates to thinly populated areas, not the national level.

**Example** (figure)


## 2. CONSISTENCY CHECK BETWEEN CEQ, JUDGEMENT CRITERIA AND INDICATORS

| Judgment criteria[2] ⟷ | Common indicators ⟷ | Additional impact indicator[3] |
|---|---|---|
| The rural employment rate of population aged 20-64 has increased. | Rural employment rate (as netted out for RDP) (I.14). | Employment rate of the population aged 20-64 (national level indicator). |
| … | … | … |

[2] Judgment criteria proposed by the WP: Common evaluation questions for RDPs 2014-2020. Furthermore, Member States may add their own judgment criteria.

## 3. DESCRIPTION OF METHODOLOGY TO ANSWER THE EVALUATION QUESTION

*(quantitative if using common and additional indicators or other data available, qualitative, if using available qualitative information and mixed if using both).*

CEQ 22 is answered with the help of the indicators linked to the headline target (see Step 1, above), notably the common CAP impact indicator I14 and the additional indicator linked to the headline target, notably, 'the employment rate of the population aged 20-64'.

The proposed methodology for the assessment of the RDP's impacts with impact indicator I.14 while using quantitative and qualitative methods can be found in PART II, Chapter 2.9.

Similarly, the methodology for the calculation of the additional indicator with the use of qualitative methods can be found in PART II Chapter 2.10.

## 4. IDENTIFICATION OF DATA NEEDS AND SOURCES FOR COMMON AND SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL IMPACT INDICATORS

| Indicators | Data needs and links to data sources |
|---|---|
| Rural employment rate (I.14) | Eurostat series from the Labour Force Survey, aggregated by degree of urbanisation at Member State level.<br><br>Information from focus groups and Delphi method.<br><br>See Chapters 2.9, 4.7.2 and 4.7.3 of the Technical Annex of the Guidelines. |
| Employment rate of the population aged 20-64 | Employment rate of the population aged 20-64 for 2014-2018 (if using this indicator for the AIR2019) and for 2014-2020 (if using this indicator for the ex-post evaluation).<br><br>Eurostat series from the Labour Force Survey, aggregated by degree of urbanisation at MS level.<br><br>EU 2020<br><br>Information from survey and focus groups . |

## 5. PROVISION OF SOLUTIONS TO POSSIBLE CHALLENGES/RISKS/ISSUES

| Challenges/risks/issues | Solutions: |
|---|---|
| Eurostat only provides country level data. | Conduct survey to a sample of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries within the regional RDP territory, using Eurostat data as a proxy. |
| Eurostat only provides total numbers, it does show how much of it is due to the RDP contribution. | Screen relevant measures with potential to contribute to employment and conduct a survey to a sample of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries in order to identify the RDP contribution. |
| Difficult to use sampling criteria for selecting similar profiles of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. | Consult with MAs and measure managers for narrowing down the profiles. |
| … | … |

### 6. PROVISIONS OF ANSWER TO CEQ

| Judgment criteria[4] | ⟷ | Answer[5] |
|---|---|---|
| The rural employment rate of population aged 20-64 has increased. | | … |
| … | | … |

## 3.2 Common Evaluation Question 23

To what extent has the RDP contributed to achieving the EU 2020 headline target of investing 3% of the EU's GDP in research and development and innovation?

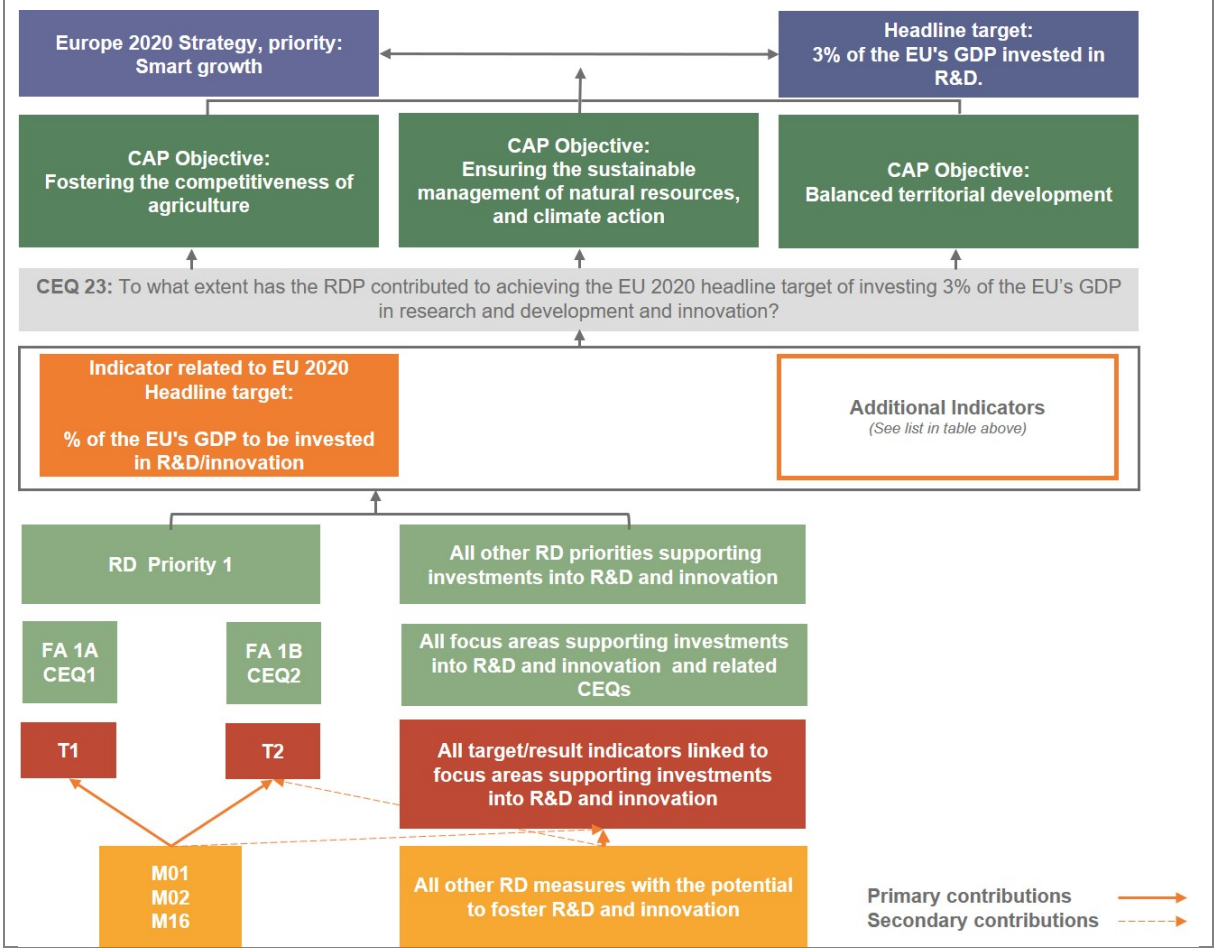
### 1. CLARIFICATION OF GENERAL INTERVENTION LOGIC LINKED TO THE CEQ

**Example** (table)

| | |
|---|---|
| CAP overall objective | All three CAP overall objectives |
| Impact indicators: | Indicator related to EU 2020 headline target:<br>o % of the EU's GDP to be invested in R&D/innovation<br>Additional indicators (examples):<br>o RDP expenditure in R&D as a % of the GDP;<br>o Gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD) relative to gross domestic product (GDP);<br>o RDP expenditures in R&D and innovation as a % of the total RDP expenditures;<br>o RDP expenditures in R&D and innovation as a % of the gross domestic R&D & innovation expenditures. |
| RD priorities and FAs: | RD Priority 1 and FA 1A and 1B<br>All the other RD priorities and focus areas of which operations support investments into R&D and innovation. |
| Target indicators: | T1 - percentage of expenditure under Articles 14, 15 and 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 in relation to the total expenditure for the RDP (focus area 1A).<br>T2 - Total number of cooperation operations supported under the cooperation measure (Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013) (groups, networks/clusters, pilot projects…) (focus area 1B). |
| RD measures: | M01, M02, M16 and all the other measures with the potential to foster R&D and innovation. |

[4] Additional judgment criteria developed in Member States (see also Step 2)
[5] Answers are structured according to the judgement criteria. Limitations can also be described in the answers.

**Example** (figure)




## 2. CONSISTENCY CHECK BETWEEN CEQ, JUDGEMENT CRITERIA AND INDICATORS

| Judgment criteria[6] | Common indicators | Additional impact indicator[7] |
|---|---|---|
| Investments in R&D has increased.<br><br>Innovation has been fostered. | T1: % of expenditure under Art. 14,15 and 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 in relation to the total expenditure for the RDP.<br><br>T2: Total number of cooperation projects operations supported under the cooperation measure (Art. 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 (groups, networks clusters, pilot projects).<br><br>Indicator linked to headline target.<br><br>% of EUs GDP in research and development and innovation. | RDP expenditure in R&D as a % of the GDP (GERD 'rural development').<br><br>Gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD) relative to gross domestic product (GDP).<br><br>RDP expenditures in R&D and innovation as a % of the total RDP expenditures.<br><br>RDP expenditures in R&D and innovation as a % of the gross domestic R&D & innovation expenditures. |
| … | … | … |

[6] Judgment criteria proposed by the WP: Common evaluation questions for RDPs 2014-2020. Furthermore, Member States may add their own judgment criteria.
[7] Additional indicators developed in Member States may be added.

## 3. DESCRIPTION OF METHODOLOGY TO ANSWER THE EVALUATION QUESTION

*(quantitative if using common and additional indicators or other data available, qualitative, if using available qualitative information and mixed if using both).*

The question is replied with the means of indicators as suggested in the Helpdesk´s *Guidelines: Evaluation of Innovation in Rural Development Programmes 2014-2020*, Chapter, 2.4.4 and additional indicators if suggested in Member States. Methodology for calculation of all suggested common and additional indicators to answer the CEQ 23 can be found in the above-mentioned Guidelines.

## 4. IDENTIFICATION OF DATA NEEDS AND SOURCES FOR COMMON AND SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL IMPACT INDICATORS

| Indicators | Data needs | Links to data sources |
|---|---|---|
| T1: % of expenditure under Art. 14,15 and 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 in relation to the total expenditure for the RDP. | Data on completed projects implemented in line with Art. 14,15 and 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 – output indicators: 0.1, 0.3, 0.11, 0.12, 0.13, 0.14, 0.16, 0.17, 0.20, 0.21, 0.22, 0.23. | RDP monitoring system (operations database). |
| T2: Total number of cooperation projects operations supported under the cooperation measure (Art. 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 (groups, networks clusters, pilot projects). | Data on completed projects implemented in line with 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 – output indicators: 0.1, 0.16, 0.17, 0.20, 0.21, 0.22, 0.23. | RDP monitoring system (operations database). |
| RDP expenditure in R&D as a % of the GDP (GERD 'rural development'). | Data on RDP expenditures to R&D and innovation.<br>Data on GDP at NUTS 1 and NUTS 2 level. | RDP monitoring system (operations database).<br>Eurostat<br>National/regional statistics. |
| Gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD) relative to gross domestic product (GDP). | Data on Gross domestic expenditure on R&D at NUTS 1 and NUTS 2 level. | Eurostat<br>EU 2020<br>National/ regional statistics. |
| RDP expenditures in R&D and innovation as a % of the total RDP expenditures. | Data on RDP expenditures to R&D and innovation.<br>Data on total RDP expenditures. | RDP monitoring system (operations database). |
| RDP expenditures in R&D and innovation as a % of the gross domestic R&D & innovation expenditures. | Data on RDP expenditures to R&D and innovation.<br>Data on Gross domestic expenditure on R&D at NUTS 1 and NUTS 2 level. | Data on Gross domestic expenditure on R&D at NUTS 1 and NUTS 2 level.<br>Eurostat |

## 5. PROVISION OF SOLUTIONS TO POSSIBLE CHALLENGES/RISKS/ISSUES

| Challenges/risks/issues | Solutions: |
|---|---|
| For challenges/risks/issues and solutions see Chapter 2.4.4, part d 'Risks and solutions' of the *Guidelines: Evaluation of Innovation in Rural Development Programmes 2014-2020* | |

## 6. PROVISIONS OF ANSWER TO CEQ

| Judgment criteria[8] ⟷ | Answer[9] |
|---|---|
| Investments in R&D has increased. | … |
| Innovation has been fostered. | … |
| … | … |

[8] Additional judgment criteria developed in Member States (see also Step 2).
[9] Answers are structured according to the judgement criteria. Limitations can also be described in the answers.

### 3.3 Common Evaluation Question 24

To what extent has the RDP contributed to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to achieving the EU 2020 headline target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% compared to 1990 levels, or by 30% if the conditions are right, to increasing the share of renewable energy in final energy consumption to 20%, and achieving 20% increase in energy efficiency?

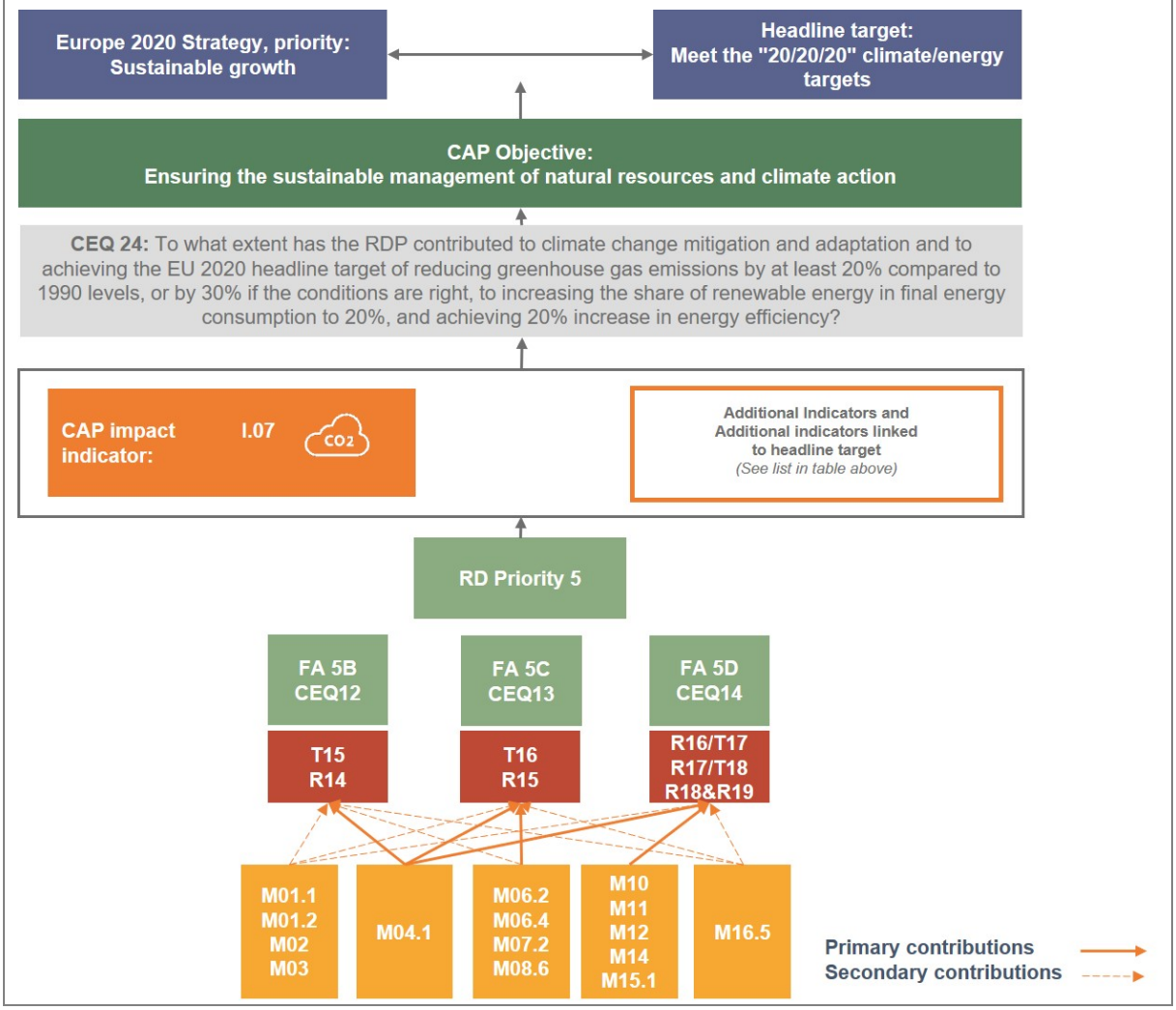
#### 1. CLARIFICATION OF GENERAL INTERVENTION LOGIC LINKED TO THE CEQ

**Example** (table)

| | |
|---|---|
| EU 2020 | **Europe 2020 Strategy, priority:** Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy.<br>**Headline target:** The '20/20/20' climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right). |
| CAP overall objective | Ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources and climate action. |
| Impact indicators: | CAP common impact indicator<br>• GHG emissions from agriculture (I.07)<br>Additional indicators (examples) [10]<br>• Indicators related to the EU 2020 headline target:<br>o % of GHG emissions as compared to 1990 levels,<br>o share (%) of renewable energy in final energy consumption,<br>o % increase in energy efficiency.<br>• Production of renewable energy from agriculture and forestry; (C.43)<br>• Share of renewable energy from agriculture and forestry as of total renewable energy production;<br>• (Agri-environmental Indicator No 24 – Renewable energy production);<br>• Energy use in agriculture, forestry and food industry; (C.44)<br>• Direct use of energy per ha of UAA (Agri-environmental Indicator No 8 – Energy Use);<br>• Ammonia emissions from agriculture;<br>• GNB-N;<br>• Other additional indicators to complement I.07 – see Chapter 2.3.1 in PART II and Chapter 4.2.1 of Technical Annex. |
| RD priorities and FAs: | RD Priority 5, focus areas 5B, 5C, 5D. |
| Target and result indicators: | T15 – Total investment for energy efficiency (focus area 5B).<br>T16 – total investment in renewable energy production (focus 5C).<br>R14 - Increase in efficiency of energy use in agriculture and food-processing in RDP supported projects (focus area 5B).<br>R15 - Renewable energy produced from supported projects (focus area 5C).<br>R16/T17 - percentage of LU (Live-stock Unit) concerned by investments in live-stock management in view of reducing GHG (Green House Gas) and/or ammonia emissions (focus area 5D).<br>R17/T18 - percentage of agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions (focus area 5D).<br>R18 - Reduced emissions of methane and nitrous oxide (focus area 5D).<br>R19 - Reduced ammonia emissions (focus area 5D).<br>R20/T19 - percentage of agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration or conservation (focus area 5E[11]). |
| RD measures: | Primary measures: M04.1, M06.2 and 6.4, M07.2, M08.6, M10, M11, M12, M14, M15.1.<br>Secondary measures M01.1 and 1.2, M02, M3, M16.5. |

[10] Ammonia and nitrogen applied on soils can become gasses and contribute to GHG emissions.
[11] Carbon sequestration affects LULUCF.

**Example** (figure)




## 2. CONSISTENCY CHECK BETWEEN CEQ, JUDGEMENT CRITERIA AND INDICATORS

| Judgment criteria[12] ⟷ | Common indicators ⟷ | Additional impact indicator[13] |
|---|---|---|
| Climate change has been mitigated and the agricultural, forestry and food sector has been adapted. | Share (%) of renewable energy in final energy consumption<br>Production of renewable energy from agriculture and forestry (C.43). | Share of renewable energy from agriculture and forestry as of total renewable energy production.<br>(Agri-environmental Indicator No24 – Renewable energy production).<br>GNB-N. |
| GHG and ammonia emissions have been reduced. | % of GHG emissions as compared to 1990 levels.<br>GHG emissions from agriculture (I.07)[14]. | Ammonia emission from agriculture.<br>Other additional indicators as mentioned in Chapter 2.3.1 in PART II and Chapter 4.2.1 of the Technical Annex. |

[12] Judgment criteria proposed by the WP: Common evaluation questions for RDPs 2014-2020. Furthermore, Member States may add their own judgment criteria.
[13] Additional indicators developed in Member States may be added.
[14] This includes LULUCF (sequestration) and ammonia which effectively becomes emission.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy have increased. | % increase in energy efficiency.<br><br>Energy use in agriculture, forestry and food industry (C.44). | Direct use of energy per ha of UAA (Agri-environmental Indicator No 8 – Energy Use). |
| … | … | … |

## 3. DESCRIPTION OF METHODOLOGY TO ANSWER THE EVALUATION QUESTION

*(quantitative if using common and additional indicators or other data available, qualitative, if using available qualitative information and mixed if using both).*

The methodology is primarily based on the quantitative analysis of the net effects of the corresponding impact indicators. Additional indicators should be used to explain either the trend, or the quantitative results of the impact indicators or to provide insights that are not provided by the impact indicators. Quantitative analysis of common impact and additional indicators is complemented by qualitative information that is crucial to explain the quantitative findings and also provide information that is not covered by the analysis of indicators.

The question is replied with the means of indicators linked to the headline target (suggested in Step 1) and Common CAP impact indicator I.07 'GHG emission from agriculture' supported by Common Context Indicators C43 and C44 and AEIs 8 and 24). Methodology for calculation of the CAP common impact indicator I.07 and information on the use of qualitative methods can be found in PART II Chapter 2.3.

## 4. IDENTIFICATION OF DATA NEEDS AND SOURCES FOR COMMON AND SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL IMPACT INDICATORS

| Indicators | Data needs and links to data sources |
|---|---|
| GHG emission from agriculture (I.07). | See Chapter 2.3. of PART II and Chapter 4.2.2 and 4.2.3 of the Technical Annex of the Guidelines. |
| % of GHG emissions as compared to 1990. | Data on GHG emissions in timeline.<br><br>EDGAR (JRC) – national values, 1-year delay.<br>EU 2020 |
| share (%) of renewable energy in final energy consumption. | Data on shares of use of renewables in final energy consumption.<br><br>Eurostat – national values, 2 years delay.<br><br>EU 2020 |
| Production of renewable energy from agriculture and forestry (C.43). | Eurostat: Energy Statistics, Table nrg_107a. |
| Share of renewable energy from agriculture and forestry as of total renewable energy production.<br><br>(Agri-environmental Indicator No 24 – Renewable energy production). | As above but calculate the share by dividing Production of renewable energy from agriculture and forestry to total production of renewable energy. |
| % increase in energy efficiency. | Data on energy consumption in timeline.<br><br>Eurostat – national values, 2 years delay<br>EU 2020 |
| Energy use in agriculture, forestry and food industry (C.44). | Eurostat: Energy Statistics, Table nrg_100a.<br><br>http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/energy/data/database?p_p_id=NavTreeportletprod_WAR_NavTreeportletprod_INSTANCE_QAMy7Pe6HwI1&p_p_lifecycle=0&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&p_p_col_id=column-2&p_p_col_count=1 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Direct use of energy per ha of UAA (Agri-environmental Indicator No 8 – Energy Use). | Divide Energy use in agriculture by the sum of UAA and forest area from the corresponding farm structure survey. |
| Ammonia emissions from agriculture. | Eurostat, Agri-environmental indicators. |
| GNB-N. | Eurostat, Gross nutrient balance on agriculture land. |
| Other additional indicators as mentioned in Chapter 2.3.1 in PART II and Chapter 2.2.1 of Technical Annex. | See Chapter 4.2.1 of the Technical Annex. |

## 5. PROVISION OF SOLUTIONS TO POSSIBLE CHALLENGES/RISKS/ISSUES

| Challenges/risks/issues | Solutions: |
|---|---|
| Challenge: The estimation of Common Context and Additional Indicators at a regional level. | Check with the statistical offices in MS/regions and other national/regional agencies responsible for collecting and reporting the data, if they aggregate regional data and thus keep unpublished records (can be usual practice). |
| Risk: The production of renewables from agriculture and forestry sometimes is based on a high share of imported primary material that is imported. | Check the national import statistics. If the share of imported primary material for the production of renewables from agriculture is high do not take into account the respective additional indicator. |
| Issue: The proposed additional indicator measures production of the renewables from agriculture and forestry while the 20% target is about final energy consumption. | Look up the national export statistics. If the share of exported renewable energy from agriculture (biogas, biodiesel-bioethanol) is not important, production is a good proxy to consumption. |
| … | … |

## 6. PROVISIONS OF ANSWER TO CEQ

| Judgment criteria[15] ⟷ | Answer[16] |
|---|---|
| [17]Climate change has been mitigated and the agricultural, forestry and food sector has been adapted. | … |
| GHG and ammonia emissions have been reduced. | … |
| Energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy have increased. | …. |
| … | … |

[15] Additional judgment criteria developed in Member States (see also Step 2).
[16] Answers are structured according to the judgement criteria. Limitations can also be described in the answers.
[17] Judgment criteria proposed by the WP: Common evaluation questions for RDPs 2014-2020.

### 3.4 Common Evaluation Question 25

To what extent has the RDP contributed to achieving the EU 2020 headline target of reducing the number of Europeans living below the national poverty line?

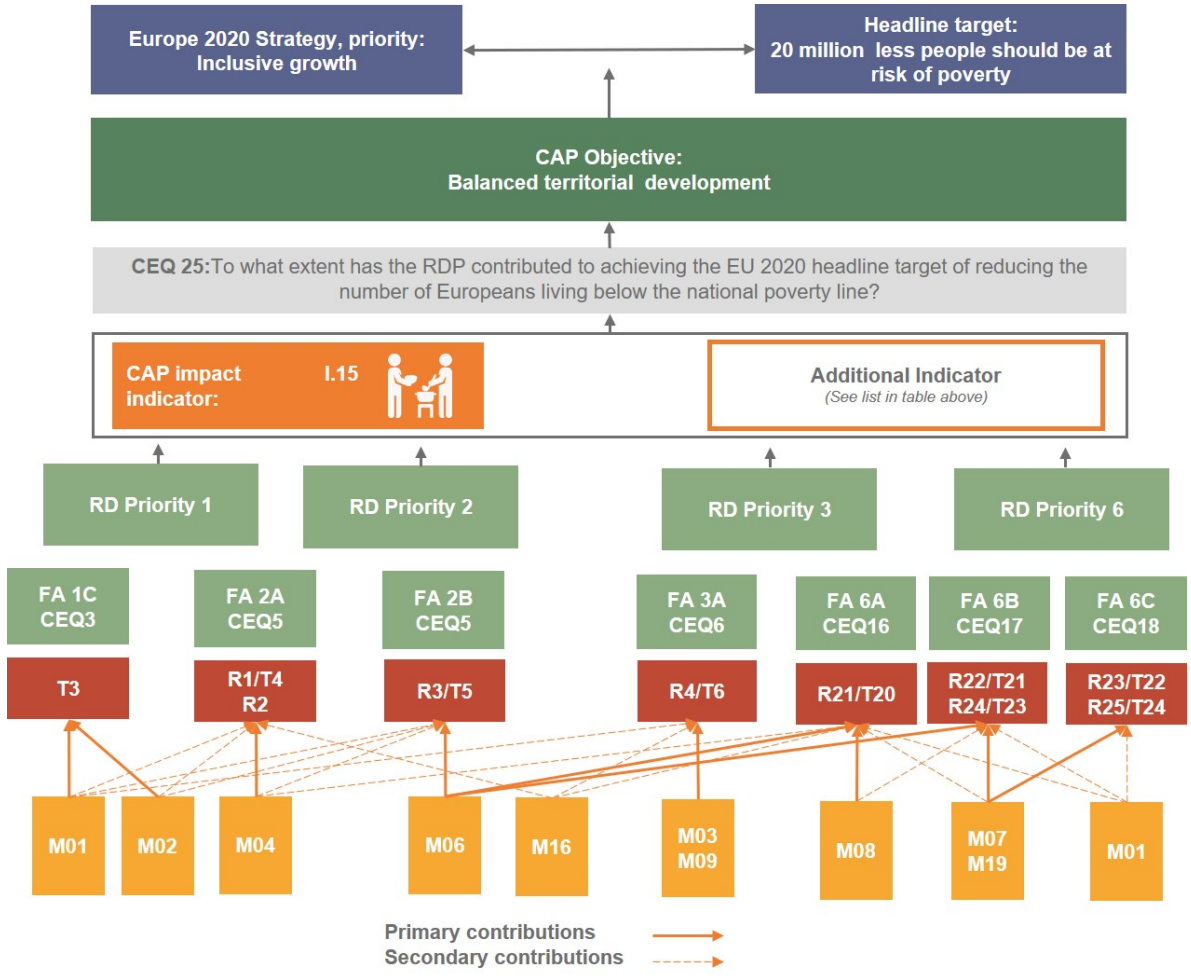
#### 1. CLARIFICATION OF GENERAL INTERVENTION LOGIC LINKED TO THE CEQ

**Example** (table)

| | |
|---|---|
| Overall objective: | **Europe 2020 Strategy, priority:** Inclusive growth: fostering the high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion.<br>**Headline target:** 20 million less people should be at risk of poverty. |
| CAP overall objective | Achieving the balanced territorial development of rural economies and communities including the creation and maintenance of employment |
| Impact indicators: | CAP common impact indicator:<br>• Degree of rural poverty (I.15)<br>Additional indicator related to the EU 2020 headline target (examples):<br>• Number of People at risk of poverty or social exclusion [18]<br>• … |
| RD priorities and FAs: | RD priority 1, 2, 3 and 6, focus areas 1C, 2A, 2B, 3A, 6A, 6B and 6C, which support the generation of skills, income, employment creation and improved services and accessibility and so combating poverty in rural areas. |
| Target and result indicators | T3 - Total number of participants trained under Article 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 (focus area 1C).<br>R1/T4 - Percentage of agriculture holdings with RDP support for investment in restructuring or modernisation (focus area 2A).<br>R2 - Change in Agricultural output on supported farms/AWU (Annual Work Unit) (focus area 2A).<br>R3/T5 - percentage of agricultural holdings with RDP supported business development plan/investments for young farmers (focus area 2B).<br>R4/T6 - Percentage of agricultural holdings receiving support for participating in quality schemes, local markets and short supply circuits, and producer groups/organisations (focus area 3A).<br>R21/T20 - jobs created in supported projects, (focus area 6A).<br>R22/T21 – Percentage of rural population covered by local development strategies (focus area 6B).<br>R23/T22 - Percentage of rural population benefiting from improved services / infrastructures (focus area 6B).<br>R24/T23 - jobs created in supported projects (Leader), (focus area 6B).<br>R25/24 - Percentage of rural population benefiting from new or improved services / infrastructures (ICT) (focus area 6C). |
| RD measures: | M01, M02, M03, M04, M06, M07, M08.6, M16 and M19. |

[18] Number of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion is defined as the share of population at risk of poverty or social exclusion at national level. It is different from indicator I.15 which refers to thinly populated areas.

**Example** (figure)




## 2. CONSISTENCY CHECK BETWEEN CEQ, JUDGEMENT CRITERIA AND INDICATORS

| Judgment criteria[19] ⟷ | Common indicators ⟷ | Additional impact indicator[20] |
|---|---|---|
| [21] The number of people living below the national poverty rate has decreased. | Degree of rural poverty (I.15). | People at risk of poverty or social exclusion. |
| … | … | … |

## 3. DESCRIPTION OF METHODOLOGY TO ANSWER THE EVALUATION QUESTION

*(quantitative if using common and additional indicators or other data available, qualitative, if using available qualitative information and mixed if using both).*

The question is replied with the means of the common CAP impact indicator I.15 'Degree of rural poverty' and an additional indicator linked to the headline target. The methodology for the assessment of CAP common impact indicator I.15 and information on the use of qualitative methods can be found in the PART II of the Guidelines Chapter 2.9, The methodology for the assessment of the additional headline target indicator can be found in Part II of the Guidelines Chapter 2.10.

[19] Judgment criteria proposed by the WP: Common evaluation questions for RDPs 2014-2020. Furthermore, Member States may add their own judgment criteria.
[20] Additional indicators developed in Member States may be added.
[21] Judgment criteria proposed by the WP: Common evaluation questions for RDPs 2014-2020.

## 4. IDENTIFICATION OF DATA NEEDS AND SOURCES FOR COMMON AND SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL IMPACT INDICATORS

| Indicators | Data needs and links to data sources |
|---|---|
| People at risk of poverty or social exclusion. | Eurostat data on people at risk of poverty and social exclusion, by degree of urbanisation (rural areas), at national level, 2 years delay.<br><br>Information from survey and focus groups. |
| Degree of rural poverty (I.15). | See Chapter 2.9. of PART II and Chapter 4.7.2 and 4.7.3 of Technical Annex of the Guidelines. |

## 5. PROVISION OF SOLUTIONS TO POSSIBLE CHALLENGES/RISKS/ISSUES

| Challenges/risks/issues | Solutions: |
|---|---|
| Eurostat data is provided with 2 years delay. | Extrapolate for the last two years based on the trend between 2014 and 2017 (for the AIR 2019). |
| Eurostat only provides country level data. | Conduct survey to a sample of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, using Eurostat data as a proxy. |
| Difficult to use sampling criteria for selecting similar profiles of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. | Consult with MAs and measure managers for narrowing down the profiles. |

## 6. PROVISIONS OF ANSWER TO CEQ

| Judgment criteria[22] | ⟷ | Answer[23] |
|---|---|---|
| The number of people living below the national poverty rate has decreased. | | … |
| … | | … |

[22] Additional judgment criteria developed in Member States (see also Step 2).
[23] Answers are structured according to the judgement criteria. Limitations can also be described in the answers.

### 3.5 Common Evaluation Question 26

To what extent has the RDP contributed to improving the environment and to achieving the EU Biodiversity strategy target of halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services, and to restore them?

#### 1. CLARIFICATION OF GENERAL INTERVENTION LOGIC LINKED TO THE CEQ

**Example** (table)

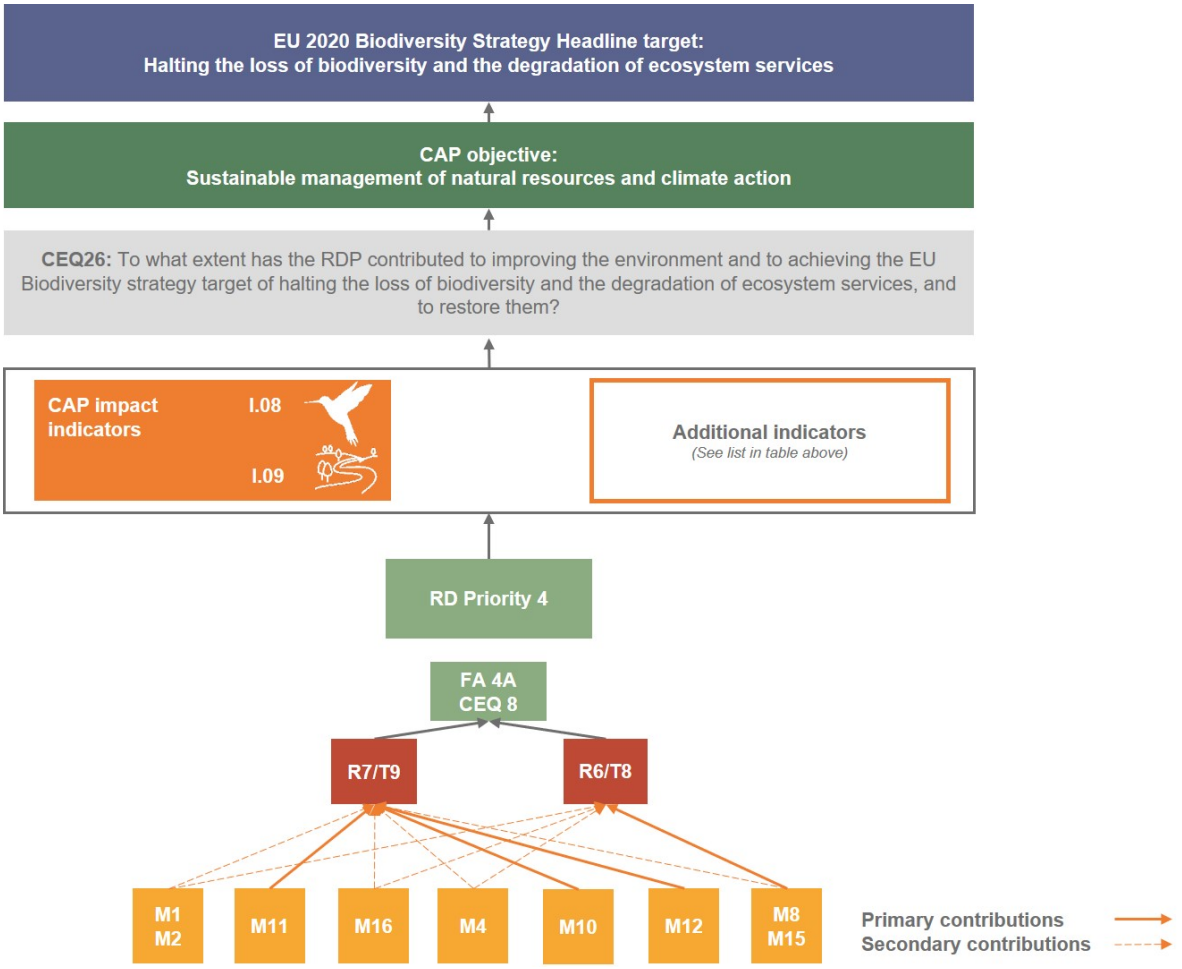
| | |
|---|---|
| EU 2020 | **Biodiversity objective:** Target 3 of the EU's Biodiversity Strategy is to 'Achieve more sustainable agriculture and forestry' which became a CAP overall objective.<br>Within Target 3, RDP is directly related to Action 9 'Better target Rural Development to biodiversity conservation' and more specifically to:<br>Action 9a: 'The Commission and Member States will integrate quantified biodiversity targets into Rural Development strategies and programmes, tailoring action to regional and local needs'.<br>Action 9b: 'The Commission and Member States will establish mechanisms to facilitate collaboration among farmers and foresters to achieve continuity of landscape features, protection of genetic resources and other cooperation mechanisms to protect biodiversity'. |
| CAP overall objective | Ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources and climate action. |
| Impact indicators: | CAP common impact indicator:<br>• Farmland Bird Index (I.08);<br>• High Nature Value (HNV) farming (I.09);<br>• Ammonia emissions from agriculture (I.07);<br>• Water abstraction (I.10);<br>• Water Quality – Gross Nutrient Balance (I.11);<br>• Water Quality – Nitrates Pollution (I.11);<br>• Soil organic matter in arable land (I.12);<br>• Soil erosion by water (I.13).<br>Additional indicators (examples)<br>• Number of flora and fauna species on contracted land;<br>• Number of farmland bird individuals;<br>• Singing males of corncrakes (example of individual bird species indicator);<br>• Bumblebee indicator;<br>• Population trends of agriculture related butterfly species;<br>• List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion.<br>The evaluator can also consult the EU Biodiversity Indicators linked to Target 3 (3A - Agriculture and 3B - Forestry).<br>**EU Biodiversity Indicators linked to Target 3A - Agriculture**[24]<br>Streamlining European Biodiversity Indicators (SEBI)<br>• SEBI 01 Abundance and distribution of selected species;<br>• SEBI 03 Conservation status of species of European interest related to agro-ecosystems and grassland;<br>• SEBI 05 Conservation status of habitats of European interest related to agro-ecosystems and grassland;<br>• SEBI 19 Agriculture: Nitrogen Balance; |

[24] The EU Biodiversity Indicators for agriculture and forestry are composed of a) the Streamline European Biodiversity Indicators (SEBI) b) the European Environment Agency's Core Set Indicators (CSI) and c) the Agri-Environmental Indicators (AEI). There is some degree of overlap among indicators (e.g., SEBI 019, CSI 025 and AEI 15) but they all have a common data source. In terms of reporting, the evaluator should use the indicator and source that provides better data in terms of timelines and spatial coverage.

| | |
|---|---|
| | • SEBI 20 Agriculture: area under management practices supporting biodiversity.<br>Core Set Indicators (CSI)[25]<br>• CSI 025: Gross nutrient balance;<br>• CSI 026 Organic farming.<br>Agri-Environmental Indicators[26]<br>• AEI 01: Agri-environmental commitments;<br>• AEI 02: Agricultural areas under Natura 2000;<br>• AEI 04: Area under organic farming;<br>• AEI 15: Gross nitrogen balance;<br>• AEI 18: Ammonia emissions from agriculture;<br>• AEI 23 High Nature Value farming;<br>• AEI 27.1: Water quality – Nitrate pollution;<br>• AEI 28: Landscape – state and diversity.<br>**EU Biodiversity Indicators linked to Target 3B – Forestry**<br>Streamlining European Biodiversity Indicators (SEBI)<br>• SEBI 01 Abundance and distribution of selected species: Common forest birds;<br>• SEBI 03 Conservation status of species of European interest related to forest;<br>• SEBI 05 Conservation status of habitats of European interest related to forest;<br>• SEBI 17 Forest: growing stock, increment and fallings;<br>• SEBI 18 Forest: deadwood. |
| RD priorities and FAs: | RD priority 4, focus area 4A. |
| Target and result indicators | R6/T8: percentage of forest/other wooded area under management contracts supporting biodiversity (focus area 4A).<br>R7/T9: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscapes (focus area 4A). |
| RD measures: | M01, M02, M04, M08, M10, M12, M15, M16. |

[25] https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/technical_report_2005_1
[26] http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Agri-environmental_indicators

**Example** (figure)




## 2. CONSISTENCY CHECK BETWEEN CEQ, JUDGEMENT CRITERIA AND INDICATORS

| Judgment criteria[27] | Common indicators | Additional impact indicator[28] |
|---|---|---|
| [29] Biodiversity and ecosystems services have been restored. | Farmland Bird Index (I.08).<br>High Nature Value (HNV) farming (I.09). | Population trends of agriculture related butterfly species.<br>Number of flora and fauna species on contracted land.<br>Number of farmland bird individuals.<br>Singing males of corncrakes (example of individual bird species indicator).<br>Bumblebee indicator.<br>EU Biodiversity Indicators linked to Target 3A – Agriculture.<br>EU Biodiversity Indicators linked to Target 3B – Forestry. |

[27] Judgment criteria proposed by the WP: Common evaluation questions for RDPs 2014-2020. Furthermore, Member States may add their own judgment criteria.
[28] Additional indicators developed in Member States may be added.
[29] Judgment criteria proposed by the WP: Common evaluation questions for RDPs 2014-2020

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Freshwater, riparian and coastal ecosystems are protected from agricultural activities as concerns abstraction (ecological flows) and pollution (GES - Good Ecological Status). | Water abstraction (I.10).<br>Water Quality – Gross Nutrient Balance (I.11).<br>Water Quality – Nitrates Pollution (I.11).<br>Ammonia emissions from agriculture (I.07). | None. |
| Soil resources that are vital for ecosystem operation are protected and loss of soil resources is halted. | Soil organic matter in arable land (I.12).<br>Soil erosion by water (I.13). | None. |
| Fragmentation has been halted and continuation of landscape features has been promoted. | | Case study description. |
| Genetic resources in agriculture and forestry are protected from lost and conserved from genetic erosion. | | List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion. (R808/2014, Annex I, Part I, point 8 of the content of RDPs). Related to M10.2 and M15.2 |
| … | … | … |

## 3. DESCRIPTION OF METHODOLOGY TO ANSWER THE EVALUATION QUESTION

*(quantitative if using common and additional indicators or other data available, qualitative, if using available qualitative information and mixed if using both).*

The methodology is primarily based on the quantitative analysis of the net effects of impact indicators I.08 and I.09. Additional indicators should be used to explain either the trend, or the quantitative results of the impact indicators or to provide insights that are not provided by the impact indicators.

For example, the use of SEBI 01 disaggregates (at the national level) the Common birds population index to 'All common birds', 'Common farmland birds' and 'Common forest birds'. Quantitative analysis of common impact and additional indicators is complemented by qualitative information that is crucial to explain the quantitative findings and provides information that is not covered by the analysis of indicators.

Use all the relevant results of CEQ 28 that refer to water and soil to examine and support the argument that the RDP has protected and conserved water (the fundamental resource of freshwater, riparian and coastal ecosystems), halted the loss of soil (erosion) and supported the management of soil resources (organic matter and erosion) on which the terrestrial ecosystems are based.

Use simple GIS methods to overlay RDP georeferenced data of support in Natura 2000 with Natura 2000 boundaries shapefiles to measure the extent of RDP intervention within Natura2000 in terms of percentage of agricultural or forest land supported by the RDP for biodiversity management. Natura2000 areas also are classified as Habitats or Birds Directives areas. An overlay can produce the percentage of agricultural and forest areas that are supported by each type (Habitats or Birds) of Natura2000 site.

Use a case study to show how agri-environmental programmes have affected fragmented landscapes and have supported/not supported the continuation of the landscape. Remember that cover crops, and residue management avoid landscape fragmentation during the year by preventing large pieces of land in bare state. Also, you may be able to refer to situations where the RDP affected positively or negatively the continuation between farmland and forest land or land fragmentation. Finally, there may be cases where the RDP or the CLLDs promoted the local and/or regional synergies among farmers and farm cooperatives, forest owners, conservation NGOs, municipal authorities, etc for restoring landscape fragmentation.

The RDPs that make use of M10.2 'support for conservation and sustainable use and development of genetic resources in agriculture' and 15.2 'support for the conservation and promotion of forest genetic resources' will have a list of local breeds that are in danger of being lost or in threat of genetic erosion. The evaluator can calculate how many of the species on the RDP's list have been protected.

Methodology for the assessment of CAP common impact indicator I.08 and I.09 and of the other indicators related to CEQ 28 (I.10 and I.11 on water and I.12 and I.13 on soil resources) can be found in the PART II of the Guidelines Chapters, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8.

## 4. IDENTIFICATION OF DATA NEEDS AND SOURCES FOR COMMON AND SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL IMPACT INDICATORS

| Indicators | Data needs and links to data sources |
|---|---|
| Farmland Bird Index (I.08). | See Chapter 2.4 of PART II and Chapter 4.3.2 and 4.3.3 of the Technical Annex of the Guidelines. |
| High Nature Value farming (I.09). | See Chapter 2.5 of PART II and Chapter 4.3.2 and 4.3.3 of the Technical Annex of the Guidelines. |
| Number of flora and fauna species on contracted land. | See Chapter 2.4 of PART II and Chapter 4.3.1 of Technical Annex of the Guidelines. |
| Number of farmland bird individuals. | |
| Singing males of corncrakes (example of individual bird species indicator). | |
| Bumblebee indicator. | |
| Population trends of agriculture related butterfly species. | |
| Water abstraction (I.10).<br>Water Quality – Gross Nutrient Balance (I.11).<br>Water Quality – Nitrates Pollution (I.11).<br>Ammonia emissions from agriculture (I.07). | See CEQ 28 and Chapters 2.6 and 2.3 of PART II and Chapter 4.4.2 and 4.4.3 of Technical Annex of the Guidelines. |
| Soil organic matter in arable land (I.12).<br>Soil erosion by water (I.13). | See CEQ 28 and Chapter 2.7 of PART II, and Chapter 4.5.2 and 4.5.3 of Technical Annex of the Guidelines.<br>See CEQ 28 and Chapter 2.8 of PART II, and Chapter 4.6.2 and 4.6.3 of Technical Annex of the Guidelines. |
| List of local breeds in danger of being lost.<br>List of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion. | RDP content. |
| EU Biodiversity Indicators linked to Target 3A – Agriculture. | Biodiversity system for Europe |
| EU Biodiversity Indicators linked to Target 3B – Forestry. | Biodiversity system for Europe |

## 5. PROVISION OF SOLUTIONS TO POSSIBLE CHALLENGES/RISKS/ISSUES

| Challenges/risks/issues | Solutions: |
|---|---|
| Challenge is to combine RDP and Biodiversity Indicators especially SEBI, to address the evaluation questions. Most SEBI indicators are available only at a national level. | The national authorities and other national agencies responsible for collecting and reporting SEBI data usually aggregate regional data or have an informed guess of whether a region converges or diverges from its national average. Look for unpublished biodiversity records from academic and research institutions or NGOs.<br><br>Use georeferenced RDP monitoring data with simple GIS methods to address biodiversity related questions not addressed by RDP indicators. For example, percentage of agricultural area supported within Habitats Directive or Birds Directive sites. |
| Challenge is to highlight and reveal how the RDP confronts fragmentation and develops synergies for biodiversity among stakeholders. | There are no data to address this question. It is better to describe a 'case study' irrespective of success or failure. Focus on the factors that contributed to the case being a success and those that confronted the case from being a success. How should the RDP coordinate its efforts internally and externally in order to increase its impact in confronting fragmentation of biotopes. |
| Issue is to highlight how RDP activities acted to change the paradigm of biodiversity management and of the sound management of natural resources, especially water and soil. | RDP activities per se (training, advice, support, etc) are not sufficient to support the whole territory or all agricultural holdings. It is important that supported activities (HNV, cover crops, etc.) serve in demonstrating and in raising awareness among resource owners. Biodiversity activities and especially Natura2000 already have a problem of low awareness and recognition among the general public. Raising awareness among farmers and forest owners is extremely important. |
| Restricting the evaluation to purely quantitative data of indicators risks that you may miss the connections, linkages and synergies developed throughout the RDP. | Try to highlight and reveal the linkages and the multi-purpose design of environmental and climate change measures. Providing 'WFD payments' for reducing water abstraction is a resource management tool. However, if this water supports the ecological flow requirements of a river the water of which feed a lagoon then, this also is a primary biodiversity tool. If an agro-environmental area connects two fragmented forest areas or a forest with a lagoon or with a lake, then it is even more important. If the same agro-environmental area lies on a major bird migration corridor serves even more important biodiversity purposes. |

## 6. PROVISIONS OF ANSWER TO CEQ

| Judgment criteria[30] | Answer[31] |
|---|---|
| Biodiversity and ecosystems services have been restored. | … |
| Freshwater, riparian and coastal ecosystems are protected from agricultural activities as concerns abstraction (ecological flows) and pollution (GES - Good Ecological Status). | … |
| Soil resources that are vital for ecosystem operation are protected and loss of soil resources is halted. | … |
| Fragmentation has been halted and continuation of landscape features has been promoted. | … |
| Genetic resources in agriculture and forestry are protected from lost and conserved from genetic erosion. | … |
| … | … |

[30] Additional judgment criteria developed in Member States (see also Step 2).
[31] Answers are structured according to the judgement criteria. Limitations can also be described in the answers.

## 3.6 Common Evaluation Question 27

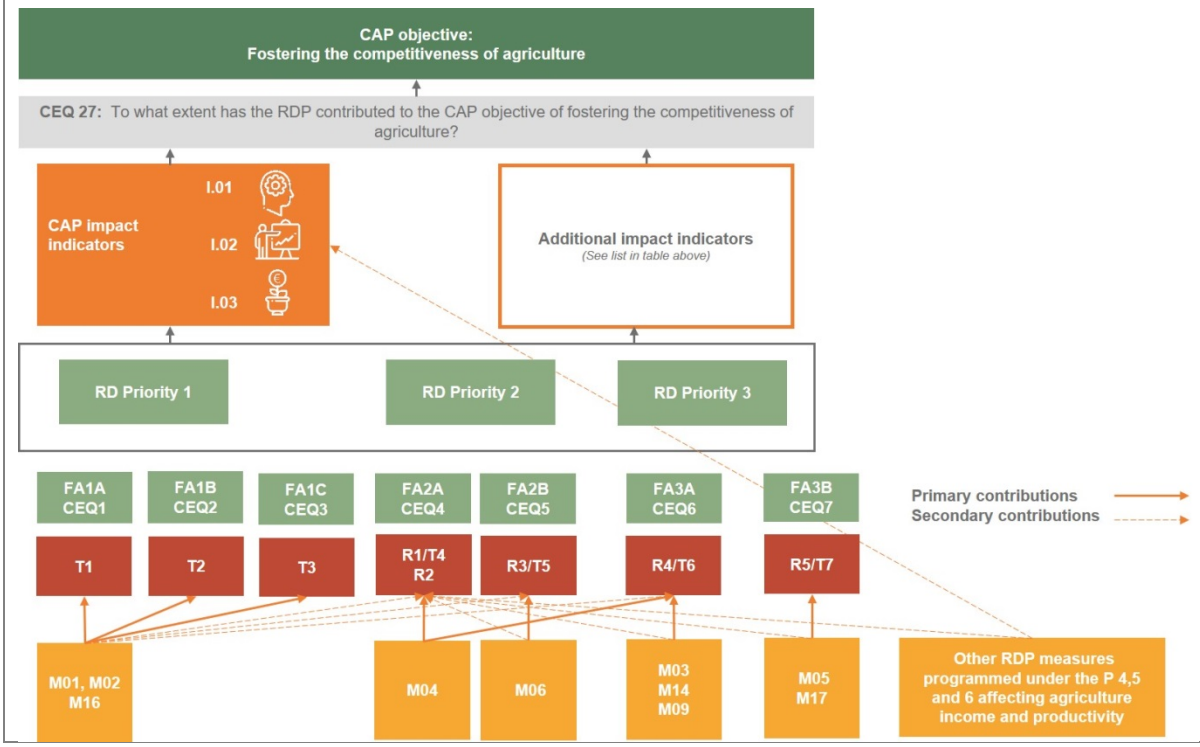
To what extent has the RDP contributed to the CAP objective of fostering the competitiveness of agriculture?

### 1. CLARIFICATION OF GENERAL INTERVENTION LOGIC LINKED TO THE CEQ

**Example** (table)

| | |
|---|---|
| CAP overall objective | Fostering the competitiveness of agriculture |
| Impact indicators: | Common CAP impact indicators:<br>• Agriculture entrepreneurial income (I.01);<br>• Agriculture factor income (I.02);<br>• Total factor productivity in agriculture (I.03).<br><br>Additional impact indicators (examples):<br>• Family farm income per family work unit = Family Agriculture holding Income/FWU;<br>• Farm net value added per Annual Work Unit = Agriculture holding net value added/AWU;<br>• Total output per work unit = Total Output/AWU;<br>• Total output per unit of land = Total Output/land area;<br>• Costs as % of output;<br>• Subsidies as % of farm net income;<br>• Yields of major agric. products and various productivities. |
| RD priorities and FAs: | RD priorities 1, 2 and 3, focus areas 1A, 1B, 1C, 2A, 2B, 3A, 3B. |
| Target and result indicators: | T1: percentage of expenditure under Articles 14, 15 and 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 in relation to the total expenditure for the RDP (focus area 1A).<br>T2: Total number of cooperation operations supported under the cooperation measure (Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013) (groups, networks/clusters, pilot projects…) (focus area 1B).<br>T3: Total number of participants trained under Article 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 (focus area 1C).<br>R1/T4: percentage of agricultural holdings with RDP support for investments in restructuring or modernisation (focus area 2A).<br>R2: Change in Agricultural output on supported agriculture holdings/AWU (Annual Work Unit) (focus area 2A) (*).<br>R3/T5: percentage of agricultural holdings with RDP supported business development plan/investments for young agriculture holdings (focus area 2B).<br>R4/T6: percentage of agricultural holdings receiving support for participating in quality schemes, local markets and short supply circuits, and producer groups/organisations (focus area 3A).<br>R5/T7: percentage of agriculture holdings participating in risk management schemes (focus area 3B). |
| RD measures: | Primary: M01, M02, M03, M04, M05, M06, M09, M14, M16, M17 and<br>Secondary: Other RDP measures affecting income and productivity. |

**Example** (figure)




## 2. CONSISTENCY CHECK BETWEEN CEQ, JUDGEMENT CRITERIA AND INDICATORS

| **Judgment criteria**[32] ⟷ **Common indicators** ⟷ **Additional impact indicator**[33] | | |
|---|---|---|
| [34]The agricultural entrepreneurial income has increased as a result of RDP programme (2014-2018). | Agriculture entrepreneurial income (I.01). | Subsidies as % of farm net income. |
| Family farm income has increased as a result of RDP programme (2014-2018). | | Family farm income per family work unit = Family farm Income/FWU. |
| The agricultural factor income has increased as a result of RDP programme (2014-2018). | Agriculture factor income (I.02). | |
| Agricultural productivity has increased as a result of RDP programme (2014-2018):<br>• TFP in agriculture has increased;<br>• Labour productivity has increased;<br>• Land productivity has increased. | Total factor productivity in agriculture (I.03). | Total output per work unit = Total Output/AWU<br>Total output per unit of land = Total Output/land area<br>Yields of major agric. products and various productivities. |

[32] Judgment criteria proposed by the WP: Common evaluation questions for RDPs 2014-2020. Furthermore, Member States may add their own judgment criteria.
[33] Additional indicators developed in Member States may be added.
[34] Judgment criteria proposed by the WP: Common evaluation questions for RDPs 2014-2020

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Cost efficiency of agric. production has increased as a result of RDP programme (2014-2018). | | Costs as % of output (a decrease is expected). |
| The net value added of the agriculture holding per AWU has increased as a result of RDP programme (2014-2018). | | Farm net value added per Annual Work Unit =<br>Farm net value added/AWU. |
| … | … | … |

## 3. DESCRIPTION OF METHODOLOGY TO ANSWER THE EVALUATION QUESTION

*(quantitative if using common and additional indicators or other data available, qualitative, if using available qualitative information and mixed if using both).*

The evaluation question CEQ 27 is answered with the means of common CAP impact indicators I.01 'Agriculture entrepreneurial income', I.02 'Agriculture factor income' and I.03 'Total factor productivity in agriculture' and additional impact indicators as suggested in Step 1. Description of the methodological approach based on application of quantitative quasi-experimental framework for the assessment of effect of RDP on competitiveness of agriculture using CAP common impact indicators I.01, I.02 and I.03 and additional indicators and information on the use of qualitative methods can be found in the PART II of the Guidelines Chapter 2.2.

## 4. IDENTIFICATION OF DATA NEEDS AND SOURCES FOR COMMON AND SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL IMPACT INDICATORS

| Indicators | Data needs and links to data sources |
|---|---|
| Agriculture entrepreneurial income (I.01). | See Chapter 2.2 of PART II and Chapters 4.1. 2 and 4.1.3 in the Technical Annex of the Guidelines. |
| Agriculture factor income (I.02). | |
| Total factor productivity in agriculture (I.03). | |
| Family agriculture holding income per family work unit = Family Agriculture holding Income/FWU. | See Chapter 2.2 of PART II and Chapter 4.1.1 in the Technical Annex of the Guidelines. |
| Total output per work unit =<br>Total Output/AWU. | |
| Total output per unit of land =<br>Total Output/land area. | |
| Costs as % of output. | |
| Agriculture holding net value added per Annual Work Unit =<br>Agriculture holding net value added/AWU. | |
| Subsidies as % of farm net income. | |
| Yields of major agric. products and various productivities. | |

## 5. PROVISION OF SOLUTIONS TO POSSIBLE CHALLENGES/RISKS/ISSUES

| Challenges/risks/issues | Solutions: |
|---|---|
| RDP effects on values of sector impact indicators cannot be directly observed.<br><br>The values of indicators provided by Eurostat are for the entire agriculture sector and includes both RDP supported- and non-supported agriculture holdings. Therefore, the change in time of indicators presents a gross effect caused by a number of factors (not only RDP), including influence of other exogenous, i.e. RDP independent factors. | To see real RDP effects, it is necessary to apply the comparison of the situation with and without the programme involving the counterfactual analysis, through constructing the group which is as similar as possible (in observable and unobservable dimensions) to those receiving the intervention. Chapter 2.2 of PART II and Chapter 4.1.2 of the Technical annex describe the proposed analytical approach. |
| Up scaling the assessment findings from micro (single agriculture holdings) to macro level (all agriculture holdings/ agriculture sector). | While at the micro-level the unit of the analysis is the agriculture holding which received support and its non-supported counterpart, at the macro- (or programming area) level the unit is the sector.<br><br>To be able to up-scale the findings obtained at the micro level to the macro level the characteristics and statistical distribution of agriculture holdings included in the sample should be compared with the corresponding distribution of agriculture holdings representing the whole agriculture sector at programming area level. In case of inconsistencies, specific weights should be applied. The consistency of evaluation findings at micro- and macro- (programming area) should be always checked and verified. |
| Aggregated micro-level findings on supported and non-supported agriculture holdings at macro level can only roughly approximate the scale of all possible indirect RDP effects (incl. those computed using sectoral models). The main reason is a difficulty to explicitly and separately model all potential indirect effects which supported and non-supported units could <at least theoretically> have been confronted with. | One of possible alternative approaches enabling calculation of RDP impacts at a macro- or programming area level could be an application of a sectoral model in which the respective sectoral impact indicators would be presented as respective model endogenous variables, containing explicit links to all individual effects originated from the RDP policies. |
| Although the range of methodologies that can be applied to evaluation of RDP using above impact indicators exists, choosing a particular method in a specific context is not an easy task, especially because the results may be sensitive to the context, assumptions and methods applied. | Separation of RDP effect from observable changes of respective indicators I.01, I.02 and I.03 between years 2013 (i.e. prior to RDP support) and 2018 or 2017 (using the most recent year for which data is available) has to be carried out using advanced quantitative evaluation methodologies which require availability of time series of cross-sectional units or panel- micro-economic agriculture holding data. |
| Availability of data for regional RDPs. Some statistical data for I.01, I.02 and I.03 is available from the Eurostat at a country level (one value per calendar year), but not for a given programming area. | In order to net out the values of indicators as provided by Eurostat at the level of regional RDPs, a two-stage process is suggested in the following:<br>• First, the changes of the indicators due to the policy intervention are assessed at micro level.<br>• Second, the estimated effects from the micro level are up-scaled to the sector level (referred as macro level). |
| The proposed evaluation methods assume availability of a panel data for the investigated period. Panel data | The most appropriate is to use as panel data the FADN database or <in general> records on bookkeeping |

| | |
|---|---|
| requires replication of the same units over time, ideally prior to and after the implementation of the given measures of a RDP. | agriculture holdings, including data on agriculture holdings supported from RDP (2014-2020) and non-supported agriculture holdings. There should be no problem with the quality of data in FADN in terms of completeness and time consistency since a sophisticated quality check is done regularly. Yet, available FADN data or agriculture holding bookkeeping data has to be combined with information on programme beneficiaries from the Paying Agency. |
| There can be **insufficient number of observations on non-supported holdings** from which a control group can be constructed | In case of insufficient number of observations on non-supported agriculture holdings a binary (1-0) matching analysis cannot be applied. In such situation the direct and indirect effects of the RDP on three impact indicators (I.01, I.02 and I.03) can be alternatively analysed by means of a dose-response function and derivative dose-response function, see: Generalised Propensity Score Matching (GPSM) |
| … | … |

## 6. PROVISIONS OF ANSWER TO CEQ

| **Judgment criteria**[35] | **Answer**[36] |
|---|---|
| The agricultural entrepreneurial income has increased as a result of the RDP programme (2014-2018). | |
| Family farm income has increased as a result of the RDP programme (2014-2018). | |
| The agricultural factor income has increased as a result of the RDP programme (2014-2018). | |
| Agricultural productivity has increased as a result of the RDP programme (2014-2018):<br>• TFP in agriculture has increased;<br>• Labour productivity has increased;<br>• Land productivity has increased. | |
| Cost efficiency of agric. production has increased as a result of the RDP programme (2014-2018). | |
| The net value added of the agriculture holding per AWU has increased as a result of the RDP programme (2014-2018). | |
| … | … |

[35] Additional judgment criteria developed in Member States (see also Step 2).
[36] Answers are structured according to the judgement criteria. Limitations can also be described in the answers.

### 3.7 Common Evaluation Question 28

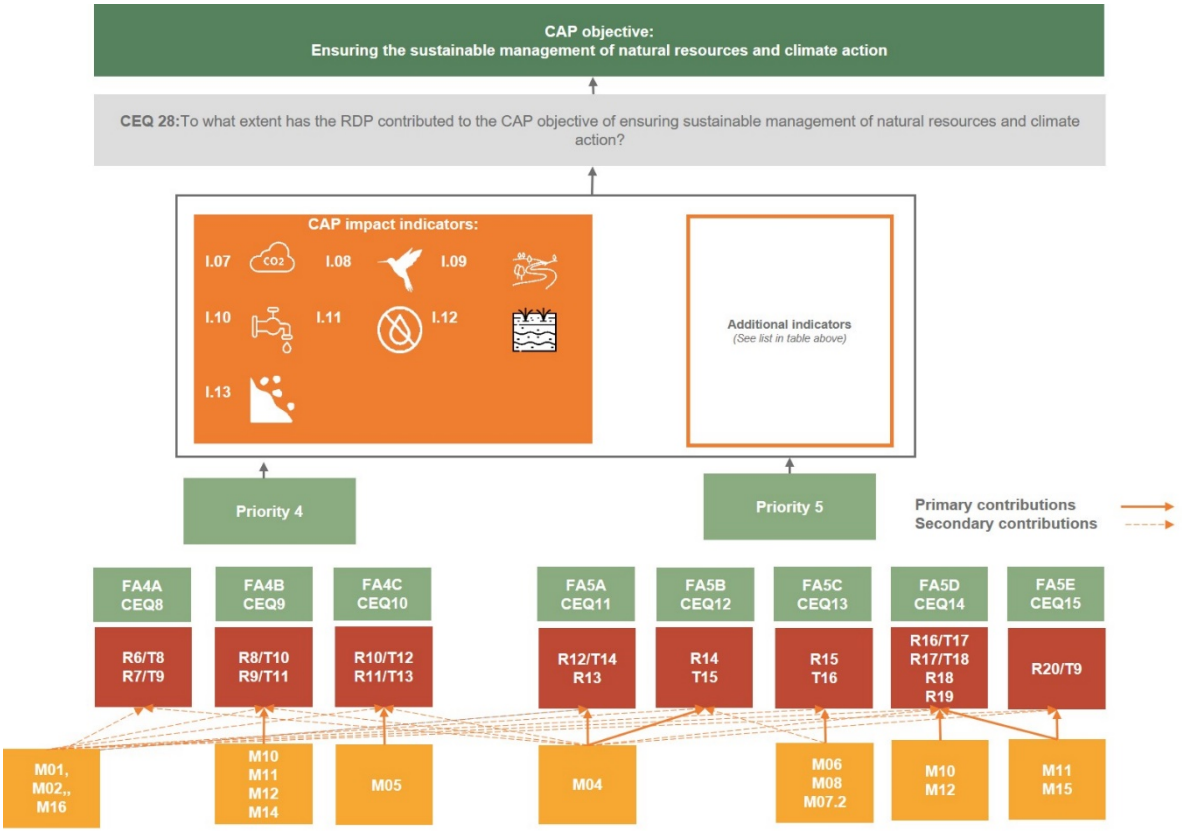
To what extent has the RDP contributed to the CAP objective of ensuring sustainable management of natural resources and climate action?

#### 1. CLARIFICATION OF GENERAL INTERVENTION LOGIC LINKED TO THE CEQ

**Example** (table)

| | |
|---|---|
| CAP overall objective | Ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources and climate action |
| Impact indicators: | Common CAP impact indicators:<br>• GHG emissions from agriculture (I.07);<br>• Farmland Bird Index (I.08);<br>• High Nature Value (HNV) farming (I.09);<br>• Water abstraction in agriculture (I.10);<br>• Water quality (I.11);<br>• Soil organic matters in arable land (I.12);<br>• Soil erosion by water (I.13).<br>Additional impact indicators (examples): see Step 2, below. |
| RD priorities and FAs: | RD priorities 4 and 5, focus areas – 4A, 4B, 4C, 5A, 5B, 5C, 5D and 5C. |
| Target and result indicators: | R6/T8 - percentage of forest/other wooded area under management contracts supporting biodiversity (focus area 4A).<br>R7/T9 - percentage of agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscapes (focus area 4A).<br>R8/T10 - percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B).<br>R9/T11 - percentage of forestry land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B).<br>R10/T12 - percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C).<br>R11/T13 - percentage of forestry land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C).<br>R12/T14 - percentage of irrigated land switching to more efficient irrigation system (focus area 5A).<br>R13 - Increase in efficiency of water use in agriculture in RDP supported projects (focus area 5A).<br>R14 - Increase in efficiency of energy use in agriculture and food-processing in RDP supported projects (focus area 5B).<br>T15 - Total investment for energy efficiency (focus area 5B).<br>R15 - Renewable energy produced from supported projects (focus area 5C).<br>T16 - Total investment in renewable energy production (focus area 5C).<br>R16/T17 - percentage of LU concerned by investments in live-stock management in view of reducing GHG and/or ammonia emissions (focus area 5D).<br>R17/T18 - percentage of agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions (focus area 5D).<br>R18 - Reduced emissions of methane and nitrous oxide (focus area 5D).<br>R19 - Reduced ammonia emissions (focus area 5D).<br>R20/T19 - percentage of agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration and conservation (focus area 5E). |
| RD measures: | M01, M02, M4, M05, M06, M07.2, M08, M10, M11, M12, M14, M15. |

**Example** (figure)




## 2. CONSISTENCY CHECK BETWEEN CEQ, JUDGEMENT CRITERIA AND INDICATORS

| **Judgment criteria**[37] ⟷ | **Common indicators** ⟷ | **Additional impact indicator**[38] |
|---|---|---|
| [39]GHG and ammonia emission from agriculture have been reduced. | GHG emissions from agriculture (I.07). | GHG from Livestock.<br>GHG from Managed Soils.<br>Ammonia emissions.<br>Manure storage.<br>Livestock trends.<br>Tillage practices. |
| Farmland Bird Index has increased or maintained. | Farmland Bird Index (I.08). | Number of flora and fauna species on contracted land.<br>Number of farm bird individuals.<br>Singing males of corncrakes (example of individual bird species indicator).<br>Bumblebee indicator.<br>Population trends of agriculture related butterfly species. |
| The % of HNV farming land has increased or maintained. | High Nature Value (HNV) farming (I.09). | Number of flora and fauna species on contracted land.<br>Bumblebee indicator.<br>Population trends of agriculture related butterfly species. |

[37] Judgment criteria proposed by the WP: Common evaluation questions for RDPs 2014-2020. Furthermore, Member States may add their own judgment criteria.
[38] Additional indicators developed in Member States may be added.
[39] Judgment criteria proposed by the WP: Common evaluation questions for RDPs 2014-2020

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Water abstraction in Agriculture has been reduced. | Water abstraction in agriculture (I.10). | Water abstraction in agriculture (total).<br>The Water Exploitation Index (WEI)<br>The Regional Water Exploitation Projection.<br>Efficiency of the water logistics network.<br>Sustainably irrigable areas. |
| Water quality has improved. | Water quality (I.11). | Mineral fertilizer consumption.<br>Pesticide pollution of water.<br>Risk of pollution by phosphorus. |
| The content of organic carbon in soils has increased. | Soil organic matters in arable land (I.12). | Soil organic carbon 0 – 60 cm.<br>Soil organic carbon change.<br>Soil organic carbon bio. |
| The share of agricultural area affected by soil erosion by water has been reduced.<br>Soil loss by water erosion has been reduced. | Soil erosion by water (I.13). | Wind erosion.<br>Soil Erodibility factor (K-factor).<br>Cover-management factor (C-factor).<br>Support practice factor (P-factor). |
| … | … | … |

## 3. DESCRIPTION OF METHODOLOGY TO ANSWER THE EVALUATION QUESTION

*(quantitative if using common and additional indicators or other data available, qualitative, if using available qualitative information and mixed if using both).*

| |
|---|
| The methodology is primarily based on the quantitative analysis of the net effects of the corresponding impact indicators. Additional indicators should be used to explain either the trend, or the quantitative results of the impact indicators or to provide insights that are not provided by the impact indicators. Quantitative analysis of common impact and additional indicators is complemented by qualitative information that is crucial to explain the quantitative findings and also provide information that is not covered by the analysis of indicators. |
| The question is answered with the means of common CAP impact environmental indicators and additional indicators (as suggested by these Guidelines or proposed in Member States). Methodology for the assessment of CAP common impact indicator I.07, I.08, I.09, I.10, I.11, I.12 and I.13 and additional indicators and information on the use of qualitative methods can be found in the PART II of the Guidelines: introductory text for environmental indicators and Chapters 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8. |

## 4. IDENTIFICATION OF DATA NEEDS AND SOURCES FOR COMMON AND SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL IMPACT INDICATORS

| Indicators | Data needs and links to data sources |
|---|---|
| GHG emissions from agriculture (and related additional indicators) (I.07). | See Chapter 2.3 of PART II and Chapter 4.2.2 and 4.2.3 of Technical Annex of the Guidelines. |
| GHG from Livestock.<br>GHG from Managed Soils.<br>Ammonia emissions.<br>Manure storage.<br>Livestock trends.<br>Tillage practices. | See Chapter 4.2.1 of the Technical Annex. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Farmland Bird Index (and related additional indicators) (I.08). | See Chapter 2.4 of PART II and Chapters 4.3.2 and 4.3.3 of the Technical Annex of the Guidelines. |
| Number of flora and fauna species on contracted land.<br>Number of farm bird individuals.<br>Singing males of corncrakes (example of individual bird species indicator).<br>Bumblebee indicator.<br>Population trends of agriculture related butterfly species. | See Chapter 4.3.1 of the Technical Annex. |
| High Nature Value (HNV) farming (and related additional indicators) (I.09). | See Chapter 2.5 of PART II and Chapter 4.3.2 and 4.3.3 of Technical Annex of the Guidelines. |
| Number of flora and fauna species on contracted land.<br>Bumblebee indicator.<br>Population trends of agriculture related butterfly species. | See Chapter 4.3.1 of the Technical Annex. |
| Water abstraction in agriculture (and related additional indicators) (I.10). | See Chapter 2.6 of PART II of the Guidelines. |
| Water abstraction in agriculture (total).<br>The Water Exploitation Index (WEI)<br>The Regional Water Exploitation Projection.<br>Efficiency of the water logistics network.<br>Sustainably irrigable areas. | See Chapter 4.4.1 of the Technical Annex. |
| Water quality (I.11). | See Chapter 2.6. of PART II of the Guidelines. |
| Mineral fertilizer consumption.<br>Pesticide pollution of water.<br>Risk of pollution by phosphorus. | See Chapter 4.4.1 of the Technical Annex. |
| Soil organic matters in arable land (and related additional indicators) (I.12). | See Chapter 2.7 of PART II of the Guidelines. |
| Soil organic carbon 0 – 60 cm.<br>Soil organic carbon change.<br>Soil organic carbon bio. | See Chapter 4.5.1 of the Technical Annex. |
| Soil erosion by water (and related additional indicators) (I.13) | See Chapter 2.8 of PART II of the Guidelines. |
| Wind erosion.<br>Soil Erodibility factor (K-factor).<br>Cover-management factor (C-factor).<br>Support practice factor (P-factor). | See Chapter 4.6.1 of the Technical Annex. |
| … | … |

## 5. PROVISION OF SOLUTIONS TO POSSIBLE CHALLENGES/RISKS/ISSUES

| Challenges/risks/issues | Solutions: |
|---|---|
| Challenge is to assess the common and additional impact Indicators at a regional level due to the low data availability. | The statistical authorities and other national agencies responsible for collecting and reporting the data usually aggregate regional data and thus keep unpublished records.<br><br>The use of good proxy indicators or of a sound method to regionalise the national indicator can substitute for the lack of regional data. |
| Challenge is to reveal the synergies between employed measures towards the one common goal of 'sustainable management of natural resources' and, conversely, the multifaceted operation of certain measures that target different problems. | Refer to examples where a complicated 'management' issue was addressed with the coordinated use of more than one measures.<br><br>For example, the coordination of investments for water abstraction reduction (M04) together with 'agro-environment-climate payments' () in a watershed that is water deficient with water quality risks that feeds a Natura2000 lagoon where agriculture was managed by 'Natura2000 payments' ().<br><br>From georeferenced monitoring data show the spatial overlay between certain recorded risk issues, e.g. a map of soil erosion, of biodiversity loss, or of water shortages, and beneficiaries or benefited land from various measures that spatially coincided with the 'issue' under consideration. |
| Highlight how RDP activities acted to change the paradigm of natural resource utilisation and of environmental resource management is the issue. | RDP activities per se (training, advice, support, etc) are not sufficient to support the whole territory or all agricultural holdings. In natural resource management, it is important that supported activities serve a demonstration mission and raise awareness among resource owners that conservation is not only a public good but also pays off by securing the value of the resource.<br><br>In areas where there are continuing environmental conservation programmes from the previous programming period one can examine if the demand for the programmes has increased. |

## 6. PROVISIONS OF ANSWER TO CEQ

| Judgment criteria[40] ⟷ | Answer[41] |
|---|---|
| GHG and ammonia emission from agriculture have been reduced. | … |
| Farmland Bird Index has increased or maintained. | … |
| The % of HNV farming has increased or maintained o Water abstraction in agriculture has been reduced. | … |

[40] Additional judgment criteria developed in Member States (see also Step 2).
[41] Answers are structured according to the judgement criteria. Limitations can also be described in the answers.

| | |
|---|---|
| Water abstraction in Agriculture has been reduced. | … |
| Water quality has improved. | … |
| The content of organic carbon in soils has increased. | … |
| The share of agricultural area affected by soil erosion by water has been reduced. | … |
| Soil loss by water erosion has been reduced. | … |
| … | … |

### 3.8 Common Evaluation Question 29

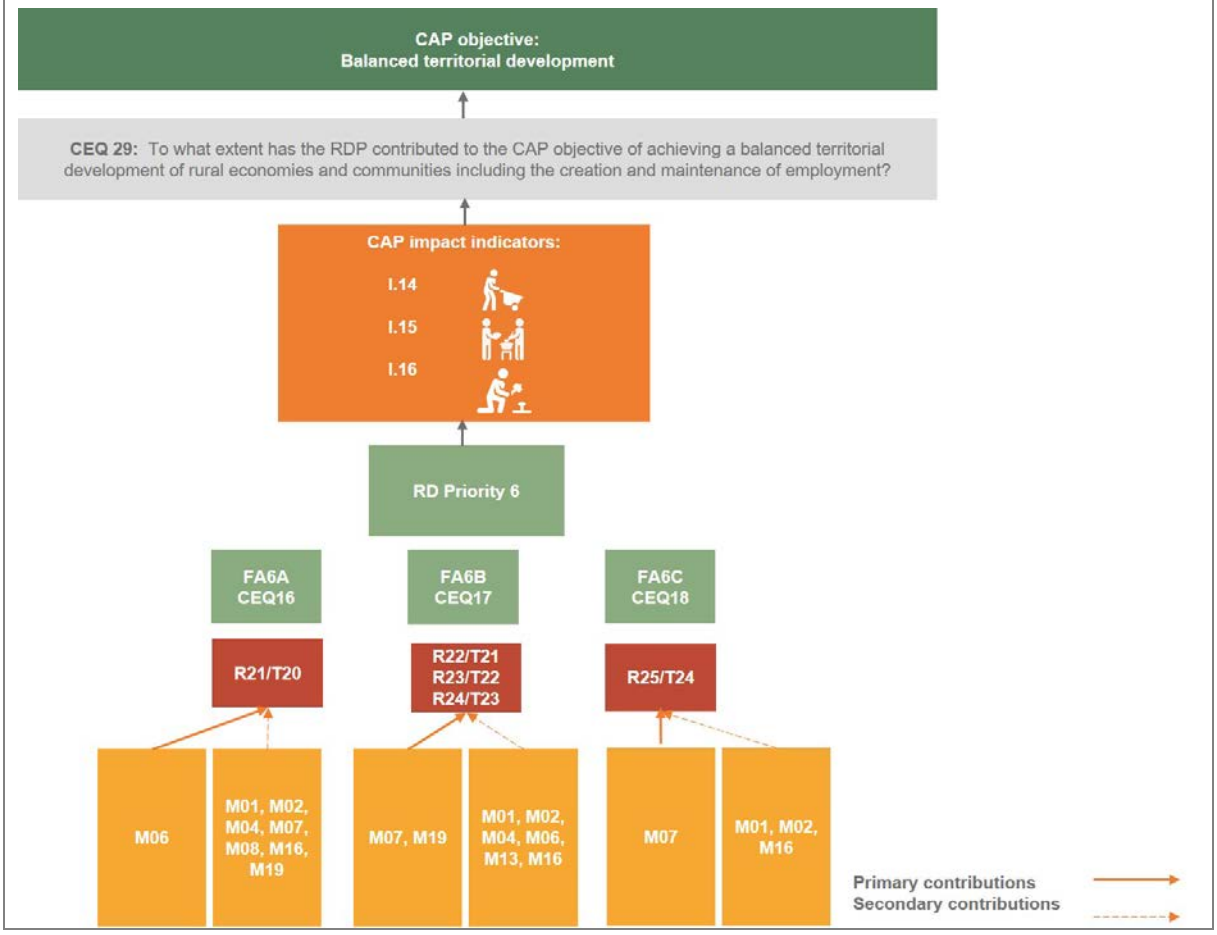
To what extent has the RDP contributed to the CAP objective of achieving a balanced territorial development of rural economies and communities including the creation and maintenance of employment?

#### 1. CLARIFICATION OF GENERAL INTERVENTION LOGIC LINKED TO THE CEQ

**Example** (table)

| | |
|---|---|
| CAP overall objective | Achieving a balanced territorial development of rural economies and communities including the creation and maintenance of employment |
| Impact indicators: | Common CAP indicators:<br>• Rural employment rate (I.14);<br>• Degree of rural poverty (I.15);<br>• Rural GDP per capita (I.16). |
| RD priorities and FAs: | RD priority 6, focus areas: 6A, 6B and 6C |
| Target and result indicators: | R21/T20: Jobs created in supported projects (focus area 6A).<br>R22/T21: percentage of rural population covered by local development strategies (focus area 6B).<br>R23/T22: percentage of rural population benefiting from improved services/infrastructures (focus area 6B).<br>R24/T23: Jobs created in supported projects (Leader) (focus area 6B).<br>R25/T24: percentage of rural population benefiting from new or improved services/infrastructures (Information and Communication Technology — ICT) (focus area 6C). |
| RD measures: | Primary contribution: M06, M07, M19.<br>Secondary contribution: M01, M02, M04, M06, M07, M08, M13, M16, M19. |

**Example** (figure)



## 2. CONSISTENCY CHECK BETWEEN CEQ, JUDGEMENT CRITERIA AND INDICATORS

| Judgment criteria[42] ⟷ | Common indicators ⟷ | Additional impact indicator[43] |
|---|---|---|
| [44]Rural employment rate has increased. | Rural employment rate (I.14). | None. |
| Degree of rural poverty has decreased. | Degree of rural poverty (I.15). | None. |
| Rural GDP per capita has increased. | Rural GDP per capita (I.16). | None. |
| … | … | … |

## 3. DESCRIPTION OF METHODOLOGY TO ANSWER THE EVALUATION QUESTION

*(quantitative if using common and additional indicators or other data available, qualitative, if using available qualitative information and mixed if using both).*

The question is answered with the means of common impact indicators and additional indicators (as suggested by these Guidelines or proposed in Member States). Methodology for the assessment of CAP Common Impact Indicator I.14, 15, I16 and information on the use of qualitative methods can be found in the PARTII of the Guidelines Chapter 2.9.

## 4. IDENTIFICATION OF DATA NEEDS AND SOURCES FOR COMMON AND SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL IMPACT INDICATORS

| Indicators | Data needs and links to data sources<br><br>Links to data sources |
|---|---|
| Rural employment rate (I.14). | See Chapter 2.9. of PART II and Chapters 4.7.2 and 4.7.3 of Technical Annex of the Guidelines. |
| Degree of rural poverty (I.15). | See Chapter 2.9 of PART II and Chapters 4.7.2 and 4.7.3 of Technical Annex of the Guidelines. |
| Rural GDP per capita (I.16). | See Chapter 2.9 of PART II and Chapters 4.7.2 and 4.7.3 of Technical Annex of the Guidelines. |

## 5. PROVISION OF SOLUTIONS TO POSSIBLE CHALLENGES/RISKS/ISSUES

| Challenges/risks/issues | Solutions: |
|---|---|
| *A. Recursive-Dynamic CGE Model* | |
| Difficulties in the structure of the Social Accounting Matrix (SAM) database and the calibration of the CGE model. | Be pragmatic and do not be over-ambitious in pursuing a highly disaggregated model.<br><br>Check data availability on economic sectors and types of factors/households before deciding on the exact structure of the SAM accounts.<br><br>Determine the structure of the SAM taking also into account information by relevant recent studies on model parameters (various types of elasticity, closure rules, etc.). |

[42] Judgment criteria proposed by the WP: Common evaluation questions for RDPs 2014-2020. Furthermore, Member States may add their own judgment criteria.
[43] Additional indicators developed in Member States may be added.
[44] Judgment criteria proposed by the WP: Common evaluation questions for RDPs 2014-2020

| | |
|---|---|
| Difficulties with specification of exogenous parameters for the dynamic model. | Use real data for past years and official projections for future years.<br><br>Use existing bibliography on recursive-dynamic CGE models to specify the trajectory variables. |
| Difficulties in obtaining RDP measures information, especially on sectoral targeting of support. | Consult policy experts (according to the type of measure) and determine sectoral targeting. In case of severe difficulties, use assumptions to specify the allocation. State these assumptions clearly and justify them. |
| Difficulties in modelling RDP measures, especially 'soft' ones. | Study the literature to identify modelling routes. In case of severe difficulties, make assumptions and state them in a clear and transparent manner. |
| Difficulties in the interpretation of model output. | Carry out sensitivity analysis tests, to ensure model robustness and facilitate the thorough interpretation of model results. |
| Risk of naive interpretation of assessed impacts. | Decompose indicator estimates (see Step 6, below). |
| *B. Propensity Score Matching* | |
| Data availability and model choice. | Investigate data availability on regional characteristics at the rural LAU2 level and **only** if data is not available at this level, proceed with data collection and analysis at the rural NUTS 3 level. |
| Risk of mis-specification of control regions. | Elaborate thoroughly and justify the threshold of support intensity per measure which defines a control (non-participant) region. |
| *C. Input-Output Analysis* | |
| Risk making a naive impact analysis. | Make sure that counterfactual data on measure-specific adjustment of productive capacity is available. Use this data for model analysis of policy impacts. |
| Difficulties in obtaining RDP measures information, especially on different types of investment. | Consult policy experts (according to the type of measure) and determine sectoral targeting of extra demand caused by investment shocks. In case of severe difficulties, use assumptions to specify the allocation. State these assumptions clearly and justify them. |
| Overestimation of findings problem. | Treat findings with caution and perhaps focus on the comparative impacts of different RDP measures. |
| Risk of naive interpretation of assessed impacts. | Decompose indicator estimates (see Step 6, below). |

## 6. PROVISIONS OF ANSWER TO CEQ

| Judgment criteria[45] | ⟷ | Answer[46] |
|---|---|---|
| Rural employment rate has increased. | | … |
| Degree of rural poverty has decreased. | | … |
| Rural GDP per capita has increased. | | … |
| … | | … |

[45] Additional judgment criteria developed in Member States (see also Step 2).
[46] Answers are structured according to the judgement criteria. Limitations can also be described in the answers.

## 3.9 Common Evaluation Question 30

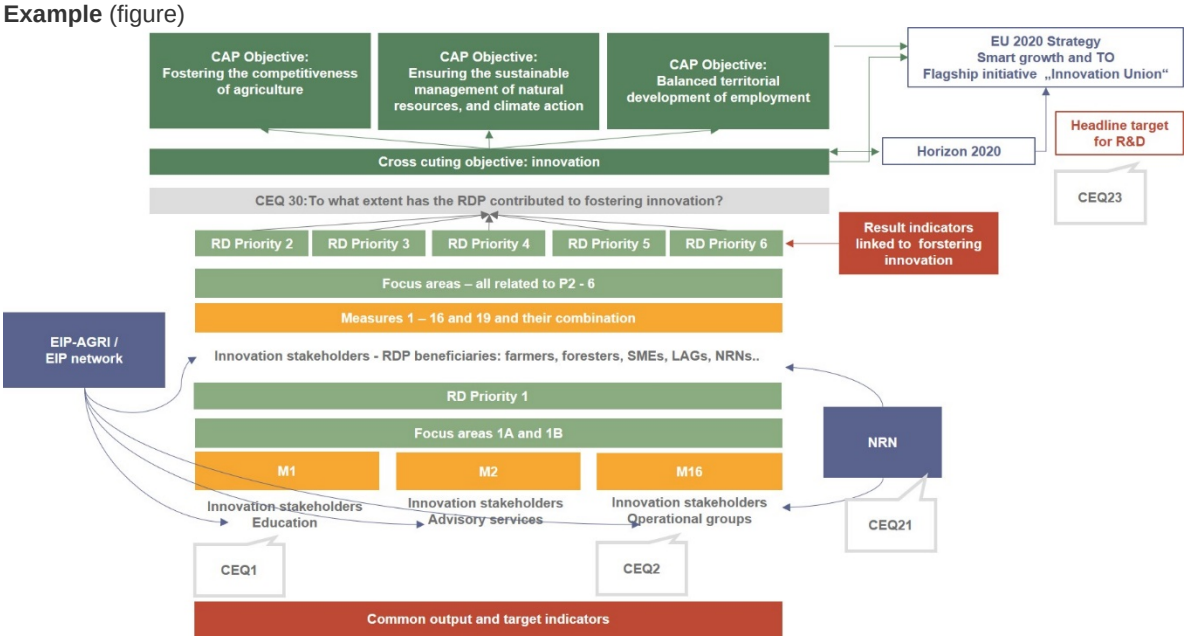
To what extent has the RDP contributed to fostering innovation?

### 1. CLARIFICATION OF GENERAL INTERVENTION LOGIC LINKED TO THE CEQ

**Example** (table)

| | |
|---|---|
| CAP overall objectives | All three CAP overall objectives and cross cutting objective on innovation. |
| Impact indicators: | No additional impact indicators. |
| RD priorities and FAs: | All RD priorities and focus areas. |
| Target and result indicators: | T1: % of expenditure under Art. 14,15 and 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 in relation to the total expenditure for the RDP.<br><br>Additional indicators as suggested by WP: Common evaluation questions for RDPs 2014-2020 and by Guidelines 'Evaluation of innovation in RDPs 2014-2020 |
| RD measures: | All RDP measures with the potential to foster innovation if taking in consideration the pathways as specified by Guidelines 'Evaluation of innovation in RDPs 2014-2020 |

**Example** (figure)




### 2. CONSISTENCY CHECK BETWEEN CEQ, JUDGEMENT CRITERIA AND INDICATORS

| Judgment criteria[47] ⟷ Common indicators ⟷ Additional impact indicator[48] | | |
|---|---|---|
| Innovation in rural areas and sectors has been fostered. | T1 % of expenditure under Articles 14,15 and 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 in relation to the total expenditure for the RDP. | Definition of innovation • Quantitative and qualitative information on innovation[49]. |
| Adoption of innovative ideas, processes, models and/or technologies introduced by the RDP. | T1: % of expenditure under Art. 14,15 and 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 in relation to the total expenditure for the RDP. | Number of supported innovative actions implemented and disseminated by EIP OGs (additional information - WP on CEQ for RDP 2014-2020). |

[47] Judgment criteria proposed by the WP: Common evaluation questions for RDPs 2014-2020. Furthermore, Member States may add their own judgment criteria.
[48] Additional indicators developed in Member States may be added.
[49] Innovation is defined at the RDP level by the Managing Authorities, also taking into account the programme context. Managing authorities identify the additional information needed to answer CEQ 30 according to their specific definition of innovation.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | Level of adoption of new ideas, processes, models and/or technologies introduced by the stakeholders. |
| The RDP increased functional linkages between different types of actors. | | Number of formal partnerships brokered by the RDP as linked to the changes within the rural development priorities to which the RDP has contributed.<br>% increase in number and types of partners involved in cooperation projects (additional information - WP on CEQ for RDP 2014-2020). |
| Learning platforms and other types of institutional space that allows for sharing, reflection and learning have been created and strengthened. | | Number and quality of platforms and 'spaces' supporting innovation that the RDP has set up or strengthened, e.g. communities of practice, innovation platforms, events held to reflection and learning. |
| Flow of information between diverse actors in the innovation system in which the change happened has improved. | | Decrease in the average network path length and in network diversity (Social Network Analysis measures). |
| The RDP has informed policies that support the changes to which the RDP has contributed. | | Number and type of policies that the RDP has influenced at the level of participating organisations and the broader enabling environment. |
| The RDP has enabled opportunities for training and exchange of innovative practices. | | Number of trainings and events to exchange innovative practices and their share in the total number of trainings/events supported by the RDP. |
| The RDP has enabled interactions among actors (national/cross border) to foster innovations. | | Number of events focused on the establishment of contacts between innovation actors supported by the RDP. |
| The RDP has supported the new technologies in rural areas. | | Number of new technologies in rural areas supported by the RDP, broken down by type. |
| … | … | … |

## 3. DESCRIPTION OF METHODOLOGY TO ANSWER THE EVALUATION QUESTION

*(quantitative if using common and additional indicators or other data available, qualitative, if using available qualitative information and mixed if using both).*

The question is answered with the means of common and additional indicators (judgment criteria, result indicators, data needs and sources are in Table 9 of Chapter 2.4.5) as suggested by Guidelines 'Evaluation of innovation in RDPs 2014-2020 or proposed in Member States. The methodology is described in detail in above the Guidelines, in Chapter 2.4.5.

## 4. PROVISION OF SOLUTIONS TO POSSIBLE CHALLENGES/RISKS/ISSUES

| Challenges/risks/issues | Solutions: |
|---|---|
| Risks and solutions are described in Chapter 2.4.5 of Guidelines 'Evaluation of innovation in RDPs 2014-2020 | |

## 5. PROVISIONS OF ANSWER TO CEQ

| Judgment criteria[50] | Answer[51] |
|---|---|
| Innovation in rural areas and sectors has been fostered. | … |
| … | … |
| … | … |
| … | … |

[50] Additional judgment criteria developed in Member States (see also Step 2).
[51] Answers are structured according to the judgement criteria. Limitations can also be described in the answers.

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