



# **Selection criteria: towards a more performant RD policy**

**Workshop for MA and PA**

**DG Agriculture and Rural Development**

**15 March 2016**

# Objectives of the workshop

*Capacity building for MA and PA*

*Provide further guidance on selection criteria*

*Exchange of good practices*

***Feedback from the MA and PA (elements for discussion)***



# **Introduction and regulatory framework**

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# What are selection criteria?

*Elements to assess quality/relevance of projects*

## Why are they important?

- 1. Ensure equal treatment of applicants.*
- 2. Better use of financial resources.*
- 3. Targeting of the measure in accordance with Union priorities for RD.*

**→ more performant RD policy**

# Step 1: information included in the RDP

*Art. 8 of R. 1305/2013 Content of the Rural Development Programmes*

*Art. 2 R.808/2014 (IA) and Annex I:*

*"Description by measure including [...] and principles with regard to the setting of selection criteria"*

## Step 2: definition of selection criteria

*Art. 49 of R. 1305/2013 Selection of operations*

*"...the Managing Authority of the rural development programme shall define selection criteria for operations..."*

*"...with the exception of operations under Articles 28 to 31, 33 to 34 and 36 to 39..."*

# Measure exempted

Measure	Legal reference	Measure code
Agro-environment-climate	Art. 28	M10
Organic farming	Art. 29	M11
Natura 2000	Art. 30	M12
Payment to areas facing natural or other specific constraints	Art. 31	M13
Animal welfare	Art. 33	M14
Forest-environmental and climate services and forest conservation	Art. 34	M15
Risk management	Art. 36 to 39	M17

# M10

*Art. 28 of R. 1305/2013 Agri-environment-climate*

*7. "Where required in order to ensure the efficient application of the measure, Member States may use the procedure referred to in Article 49(3) for the selection of beneficiaries".*

*Art. 49(3) of R. 1305/2013 Selection of operations*

*"Where appropriate, the beneficiaries may be selected on the basis of calls for proposals, applying economic and environmental efficiency criteria"*



## **M13 and M17**

*Selection criteria NOT applicable:*

*payment should be available to all beneficiaries in order to be compliant with WTO provisions.*

## Step 3: consultation with the MC (I)

*Art. 49 of R.1305/2013 Selection of operations  
"...following consultation with the Monitoring  
Committee."*

*Art. 74 of R.1305/2013 Responsibilities of the MC  
"...be consulted and issue an opinion, within four  
months of the decision approving the  
programme, on the selection criteria for financed  
operations, which shall be revised according to  
programming needs."*

## Step 3: consultation with the MC (II)

*Art. 11 of R.240/2014 (European Code of Conduct)  
Rules of procedure of the monitoring committee*

*(b) the notice given of meetings and the  
transmission of documents, which, as a general  
rule, shall not be less than 10 working days;*

*Art. 48 of R. 1303/2013 Composition of the MC*

*(3) The Commission shall participate in the  
work of the MC in an advisory capacity.*

## Step 4: information to the potential beneficiaries

*Art. 66 of R.1305/2013 Managing Authority*

*"...ensuring publicity of the programme..."*

*Art. 13 of R.808/2014 (IA) and Annex III*

*"The Managing Authority shall ensure that potential beneficiaries have access to the relevant information[...] on at least the following:[...] the eligibility conditions and/or criteria for selecting and evaluating the projects to be financed".*

## Step 5: application

*Art. 49 of R.1305/2013 Selection of operations*

*(2)"The Member State authority responsible for the selection of operations shall ensure that operations[...]are selected in accordance with selection criteria[...]an according to a transparent and well documented procedure".*

## Step 6: administrative checks

*Art. 48 of R. 809/2014 (IA-HR) Administrative checks*

*(2) "Administrative checks on applications for support [...] shall in particular include verification of:*

*(c) Compliance with the selection criteria"*

"The decision referred to in the second subparagraph and its justification shall be recorded".

# Definition of selection criteria

## DOs

- In line with the principles included in the RDP*
- Relevant to attain the purpose of the measure*
- Coherent with the SWOT and the RDP strategy*
- Clear and Transparent*
- Weighting and thresholds*

# Definitions of selection criteria DON'Ts

- Selection is not eligibility.*
- Criteria easily meet by all applicants.*
- Discriminatory.*
- Complex (avoid ambiguities and goldplating).*



# Good practices

*Table linking principles with criteria.*

*Justification of the criteria proposed.*

*Annual timetable of calls for proposal.*

*Thematic discussion within the MC.*

# Practices to be avoided

*Lottery system.*

*First-come first served principle.*

*Permanently open calls for proposal.*

*General criteria: "special interest for the region".*

# Elements for discussion

*Difficulties to define selection criteria for:*

- **Collective investments**
- **Non-productive investments**
- **Only one (or very few) potential beneficiaries**
- **Preparatory support for LEADER**
- **Final recipients**
- **Small scale infrastructure based on development plans**
- **Restoration measures**
- **Selection criteria and public procurement**

# Elements for discussion

## *Flexibility to:*

- **Include SC with other objectives than those of the measure concerned (economic or environmental efficiency)**
- **Not using all or add new principles than those included in the RDP**

## *Audit related issue:*

- **Risk of re-interpretation or questioning of SC by the Auditors in the implementation phase**



*Thanks you for your attention!*