Additional information on  
Issues to be covered in 2017 by the Evaluation Network

Background

The evaluation network meets on average 3 times per year with representatives from the MS in charge of evaluation issues. We use this platform for exchange of experience as well as new ideas and to further promote the notion of evaluation culture across the EU. What makes this network a success is the "informal" character of the meetings, the interaction we have with them and the readiness many MS show to come and present their activities and their evaluations/studies to the network. We very rarely "name and shame" - on the contrary, we are more than willing to "name and praise". This helps in spreading the information and contributes towards the improvement in many aspects of the result orientation (we carried out pilots when we first tested the result orientation, we have MS present findings of their evaluations which can be relevant for other MS as well, we have presented first versions of performance frameworks – without naming - and were able to explain how and why modifications were necessary etc.)

In this context, we want to present to the network some of the issues we see as important to cover in 2017. Would they like us to include other issues of importance? Would they regard any as non-important – and why? For those topics mentioned, would they be in a position to provide us with further information / come to the network to present state of play and/or findings – they or their consultants? Would they have a regional MA as a good example in one of the topics that could come and participate? Would a separate ministry (if roles are divided) be interested to provide us with such a presentation? To remember, we not only want success stories that can duplicated elsewhere – we are equally (or even more) interested to know about the challenges, as resolving these will help other members as well, and improve the overall level.

First reactions are welcome after the presentation – we are looking for volunteers to present their experience to the other members of the network. We will follow this up with a reminder in the beginning of the year so that we can incorporate the information in the agenda of the coming meetings.

• Ex post evaluation 2007-2013 – Member States

The regulation foresees that the European Commission carries out the ex post evaluation of the Cohesion policy, focusing on the ERDF/CF. We know, however, that several MS have undertaken ex post evaluations of their own – either at sectoral, national or regional level. Who has already started? What stage are they at? What are they looking into? Have first findings emerged? Have results been published? In what language? Would they be willing to provide an executive summary in EN? Can they send any reports to our Evalsed Library?

• 2014-2020 evaluations: Pilots / Synergies - Evaluations across programmes / regions

In the 2014-2020 evaluation plans, MS have identified several thematic evaluations they plan to carry out. What is the experience to date? Who has already started on what topics? Are there any implementation evaluations? Have any proceeded to assessments of pilot evaluations that they then plan to use to see whether implementation has been effective? Do
they plan to use evaluation across programmes or across regions? If yes, in general or for specific issues – which? What about synergies with other instruments?

- **Update on Performance Framework & Evaluation plans (2018 review)**

In view of the 2018 review (release of the performance reserve), we want to check that the performance framework remains an important tool in the result orientation exercise. We (the evaluation unit) are always there to discuss with them if any challenge appears. (As a general note, however, we have the position that changes to PF just to reflect actual implementation is not justified and that requests for changes will be presented to the scrutiny board). We want to hear from the members how they've tackled any such challenges to their PF. Also, this is a mid-point for the evaluation plans. Have the MS made any substantial modifications? Have they further clarified early evaluations? Has the experience to date made them introduce further evaluations? Or modify methodology? Have they undertaken any additional studies as background for future evaluations?

- **Ex ante evaluations for post 2020**

Late 2017/2018 we will start thinking about the post-2020 period. As a lot of elements may change, this will entail a lot of diverse thinking taking place. How have MS envisaged this? (yes, we know it is still too early, but surely their administrations must have started having first ideas). If they have absolutely nothing, when do they plan to start thinking about it? What type of evaluations would they foresee? Would they require the help of the Commission?