

**ENVIEVAL**

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**DEVELOPMENT AND APPLICATION OF NEW METHODOLOGICAL  
FRAMEWORKS FOR THE EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES IN THE EU**

**Assessment of stakeholder expectations:  
Results of the first stakeholder consultation**

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## Outline

- General information
- Summary of key problems identified
- Stakeholders expectations
  - Methodology and indicators
  - Approach
- Acknowledgments

## General information

- Assessment performed – June 2013
- Interviews: 25 stakeholders in 8 countries plus ENRD
- Structured guidelines for interviews, in 3 parts:
  - Part 1 Stakeholder description
  - Part 2 Current approaches and gaps
  - Part 3 Expectations and requirements for future indicators and methods

## Summary (data used)

- Additional data collected in UK (interviews of applicants)
- Focus group interviews – Finland
- Data by revision of the applications – Finland
- Additional data collected in many countries for a bird index

## Summary (key indicated problems 1)

- Socio-economic data not considered when evaluating AEM
- Difficult to merge data on payments with environmental performance (public goods)
- Automatic linking of different databases is not possible, because:
  - Different coding systems
  - Need for understanding on causal relationships between different data to enable generation of expected result
  - Analytical and programming skills needed to support modelling
  - Large diversity in data available

## Summary (key indicated problems 2)

- Environmental monitoring data do not reflect needs of RDP
- HNV data at farm level is needed but currently available only in UK
- Experience of public good assessments is most developed for climate change and biodiversity
- Limitations of data on water at the farm level; lack of links with data from other sectors which impact on water quality

## Summary (key indicated problems 3)

- Major challenges in all countries to assess impacts on landscapes
- Not possible to prove impacts of measures at farm level (due to lack of baseline data)
- Individual measures are not well represented in models, which otherwise could be suitable tools for impact assessment
- Links between different levels, and appropriateness of scales

## Expectations (indicators and methodology 1)

- A need for indicators to be grouped according to biogeographical regions, and to account for local circumstances
- Provide a set of biodiversity indicators and methodology for overall assessment of biodiversity
- Baseline indicators should link with impact indicators
- Align financial contributions with AE objectives
- Identify and propose relevant methods for environmental indicators and issues



## Expectations (indicators and methodology 2)

- Provide arguments for EC to make impact assessments obligatory for Member States
- Use case studies to evaluate single measures or combination of measures in specific regions
- Provide guidelines for segregation of exogenous effects impacting on RDP areas, including impact of exogenous funds
- Discuss relevance of the Birds Index
- Provide a methodological framework to assess public goods
- Assess farmer attitudes toward participation in AEM

## Expectations (approaches)

- Data on environmental outcomes and indicators should be adapted to evaluator's needs
- Provide recommendations for harmonizing the timing of evaluation reports
- Provide methodological support to assess cumulative effects of several measures simultaneously implemented in the same region
- Promote sharing experiences of evaluation methods
- Encourage the EU to mainstream the public goods in RDP goals
- Provide recommendations for relevant data base standardization and harmonization
- Need for innovative designs of control groups for counterfactuals

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