





ENVIEVAL - Development and application of new methodological frameworks for the evaluation of environmental impacts of EU RDPs

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Context and Objectives

Evaluations of environmental impacts of RDPs are characterized by a number of methodological challenges:

- the complexity and data
 requirements of existing and
 additional impact indicators;
- lack of robust causal linkages
 between rural development
 measures and observed
 changes in indicators;
- counterfactual development
 for measures implemented

Recent methodological developments have improved the capacity of analysing the impacts of farming on the provision of public goods. Advances in indicators, data availability and geographic analysis provide new opportunities to address the challenges.

Against this background, the main aim of the ENVIEVAL project is to develop and test improved tools for a consistent and cost-effective evaluation of

Some First Results

Examples of selected methods for case study testing

Micro level					
Public good	Indicator	Method			
Climate stability	Emissions from agriculture	Carbon footprint			
Water quality	GNB	Structural and biophysical models			
Biodiv. wildlife	Species abundance and diversity	Statistical sampling and GIS			
Animal welfare	Resource-based Problem-oriented	Advanced eco- nometric methods			

Macro level				
Public good	Indicator	Method		
Climate stability	Emissions from agriculture	General equilibrium model		
Water quality	GNB	Hierarchical sampling & scaling methods		
Soil quality	Soil organic matter Soil erosion	Spatial land use and soil models		
Landscape	Land use change /	Landscape character		

Consultation on stakeholder requirements and expectations

Selected key aspects:

- Data availability (e.g. nonparticipants)
- Improved environmental monitoring
 → expensive but essential
- Suitable indicators for local and regional impacts
- Innovative approaches for comparison groups required
- Methods to assess environmental impacts

across large areas;

- the quantification of net impacts of the RDPs at the macro-level;
- the influence of site-specific circumstances and other intervening factors.

environmental impacts at micro and macro levels.



 TAB 2: Examples of selected indicators and

methods for case study testing

across different levels required

Key questions for the case studies

- How suitable are the methods in the context of different data availabilities and stakeholder aspirations and abilities?
- How do the methods establish robust causal linkages between the measure / programme and environmental impacts?
- To what extent contribute the methods to a consistent assessment of environmental impacts at micro & macro levels?

The Process

- Review of past RDP evaluations, monitoring systems and new methodological advances in environmental policy evaluation
- Selection of suitable indicators and new methodological developments for counterfactual evaluations of environmental impacts at micro and macro levels

MS	Climate stability	Water quality	Biodiv. wildlife	HNV	Soil quality	Land- scape	Animal welfare
DE		✓					✓
UK					✓	✓	✓
EL		✓				✓	
IT	✓			✓			
FI	✓	✓					

Towards a Methodological Framework

The results from the review inform the development of a set of nested logic models covering general evaluation process, counterfactual, micro and macro parts.



т	✓	✓	
IU	✓		\checkmark

- Assessment of data requirements of the selected evaluation methods & and selection of case study regions
- Test and validation of a cost-effective application of the new evaluation methods in different public good case studies
- Development of a logic model based methodological framework for a consistent assessment of environmental impacts at micro & macro levels
- Development of methodological handbook for environmental evaluations of RDPs

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