

EVALUATION CHALLENGES AND STAKEHOLDER EXPECTATIONS



SOME KEY POINTS FROM AN ENVIEVAL CONSULTATION

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Background: Objective(s) of the ENVIEVAL project

Main objective of the ENVIEVAL project:

- To develop new methodological frameworks for the evaluation of environmental impacts of rural development measures and programmes.

General approach applied:

- Public good case study based testing of evaluation approaches
- Logic models as the conceptual basis for developing a methodological handbook



But first, clear idea of stakeholder needs and expectations required:
→ Consultation to review challenges from the stakeholder point of view

Background: Stakeholder consultation

Consultation:

- 31 interviews carried out with evaluators, managing authorities and evaluation experts in the EU
- Thematic focus of the consultation on:
 - Current approaches and challenges
 - Expectations and requirements for future indicators and methods
- Summary report available on the project website (www.envieval.eu)
- Highlighting some key challenges and expectations as background to the case study and good practice presentations

Challenge: Lack of environmental monitoring data

Challenge:

- Existing environmental monitoring data not compatible with RDP uptake
- Lack of data for non-participants
- Lack of strategic sampling

Expectations:

- To identify the main data gaps for the different public goods
- To suggest a concept for (additional) environmental monitoring and suitable indicators at local and regional scales to bridge gaps to impact indicators.
- Such a concept could help to plan, develop and manage relevant databases for impact indicators
- Concrete examples for revised monitoring concepts and programmes required

Challenge: Evaluations across scales and levels

Challenge:

- Bottleneck is the question of scale and the gap between effects of individual agreements and (potential) impacts at the regional or the national level
- Limited experiences with upscaling as it is difficult and increases uncertainty ('extrapolation of assumptions').

Expectations:

- To achieve better understanding of the linkages between different scales and levels to overcome a challenge to evaluate impacts across different scales and levels.

Challenge: Counterfactual development and application

Challenge:

- Area-wide uptake of policy measures – lack of non-participants (control group)
- To find matching samples at macro level
- Consideration of other intervening factors in the design of comparison groups

Expectations:

- Solutions for methods which deal with lacking control groups
- Examples for the application of matching with limited data availability
- Guidance on the design of evaluation approaches

Challenge: Complexity of environmental impacts

Challenge:

- Complexity of environmental public goods and related indicators requires specific evaluation methods to be applied
- Applying more elaborated methods in the time-frame of evaluations
- Applying specific methods in combination with existing databases such as FADN
- Specific expertise required to apply methods

Expectations:

- Show-casing examples for the application of particular methods addressing the complexity of specific public goods
- Guidance on the selection of methods required

Case studies and good practices to address challenges

In summary

- Wide range of complex challenges for evaluations of environmental results and impacts of RDPs
- Not one solution to address all challenges – different approaches will provide different methodological contributions
- Importance of stakeholder priorities and cost-effective applications in the context of available data

Key questions for today and tomorrow:

- 👉 What lessons can be learnt from the following case studies and good practices?
- 👉 How can practical solutions and recommendations be derived to improve the ex-post assessment of environmental results and impacts?
 - And what could those be in your context?

Thank you for your attention

More information on the project on:
www.envieval.eu



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