

## **Estonian Rural Development Plan 2007-2013 ex-post evaluation**

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**Good Practice Workshop „Ex-post evaluation of RDPs 2007-2013“**

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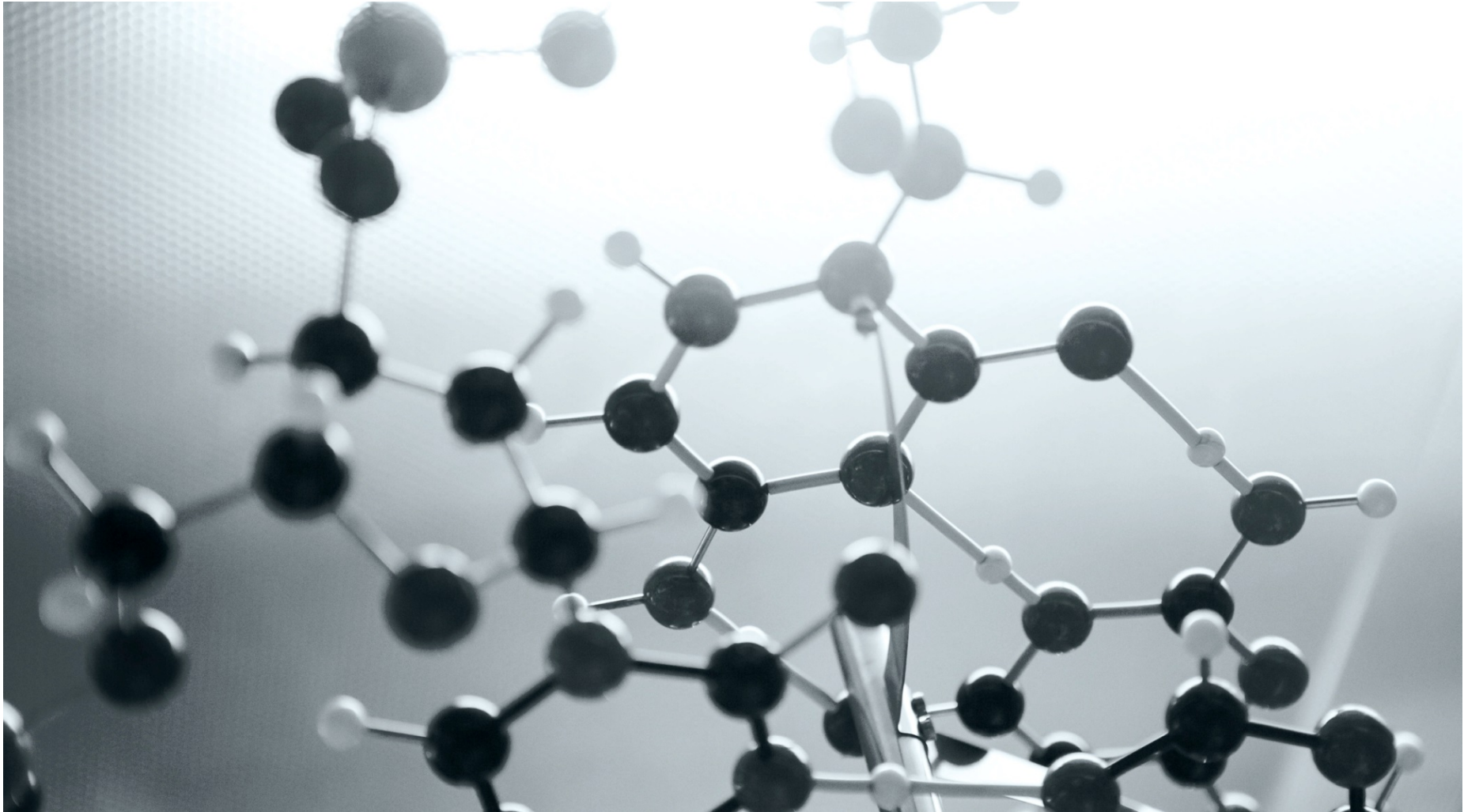
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# Overview

## *Our project in a nutshell.*

- **Study:** Ex-post evaluation of the Estonian Rural Development Plan 2007-2013
- **Period:** 01.01.2007-31.12.2015
- **Focus:**
  - Evaluating the appropriateness, efficiency and effectiveness of the measures implemented and ERDP as a whole
  - Assessing the intervention logic of the programme, axes and measures
  - Providing an expert opinion on the impact of ERDP
  - Carrying out analysis necessary to reply to the evaluation questions
  - Presenting conclusions and recommendations for rural policy development
- **Duration:** 01.05.2016-30.12.2016
- **Status:** ongoing, launching primary data collection
- **Our roles:** Civitta Estonia AS in cooperation with the ongoing evaluator Estonian University of Agriculture is carrying out the ex-post evaluation on request of the Estonian Ministry of Rural Affairs.

# Methodological approach



# Our key to success!

## Can you guess what it is?

Telg		1. telg – Põllumajandus- ja metsandussektori konkurentsivõime parandamine			
Meede		1.1 – Koolitus ja teavitus	MEMI kommentaar	1.2 – Noored põllumajandustootjad	MEMI kommentaar
Hindaja ja ekspert	Civitta, kõik eksperdid vastavalt oma valdkonnale		Hanna Kreen	EMÜ	
Andmekogumistoodika (esialgne)		Sekundaarandmed (taotlusstatistika, indikaatorid, koolituste informatsioon teemade jms kohta)	Etepanek lisada teenuse osutajate/koolitajate küsitlus	Lõppkasusaajate majandusnäitajad, sekundaarandmed (Statistikaamet andmed sektori vanuselise jaotuse kohta, indikaatorid, taotluste statistika), teiste meetmete (1.1 ja 1.3) raames läbiviidavasse küsitlusesse lisaküsimused	1.3.1 – Põllumajandustootjate ja erameetava valdajate nõuandeteenus Civitta
Anaaliisimeetodid (esialgne)	Enne-pärast hinnang (before-after estimator), mixed methods		Etepanek lisada veebiküsitlus. MAK pushihindamise aruandest tuleb välja, et ca 10% betuse saajatest ei viinud tegevusi ellu (need kes ütlesid oma taotluste et ellu ei viinud). Meetme rakendamise hindamiseks on oluline vaadata lisaks toetuse väijamaksetele nii toetust mitte saanud ja neid, kes määratud toetust ära ei kasutanud. Toetuse saajaid on alla 100, küsitlus võiks anda hea pildi	Kvaasi-eksperimentaalne, DiD meetod. Reservatsioonid seab alustamise ja tegutsemise aeg, mistõttu analüüsiv grupp on piirangutega	Lõppkasusaajate küsitlus, lõppkasusaajate majandusnäitajate analüüs, sekundaarandmed (taotlusstatistika, indikaatorid jms) Täiendav: fookusgrupp
<b>MAKI eripärast lähtuvad hindamisküsimused</b>					
Mil määral on koolituse, teavitamise ja teadmiste ja uuenduslike tavade levitamise seonduv tegevus parandanud töövõimust ja/või muid konkurentsivõimega seonduvaid elemente põllumajandus-, toidu- ja metsandussektoris?	Koolituste ja teavitustegevuste pakkumine erinevates valdkondades Tööjõu tootlikkuse kasv Planeeritud koolitus- ja teavitustegevuse teemade kattuvus koolitusvajaduse uuringus välja toodud teemadega (dokumendianalüüs) Koolitus- ja teavitustegevuse raames tutvustatakse teiste meetmete toetustega seotud aspekte	Teadmised peaks olema aluseks töövõimuse kasvaks. Kuigi võimatu on otseseid saada, võiks tootlikkust analüüsida	Lisaks õnnestunud tegevustele, ettepanek analüüsida teemasid, mis rahastamata jäid ning teemasid, mida ellu ei viidud	Noorte põllumajandustootjate arv ja osakaal sihtasemetest, kes on alustanud majandustegevust Naiste osakaal noorte põllumajandustootjate seas; MAK-i tulemusel on majandustegevuse alustamine lihtsustatud olnud (küsitlus)	
Mil määral on toetust saavad koolituskursused vajadustega kooskõlas ja sidusad programmi teiste meetmetega?				Toetatud noorte põllumajandustootjate juurdekasvu tempo on piisav sihtselle saavutamiseks; vanemate ettevõtete või talu üle võtnud noorte põllumajandustootjate osakaal; kui palju mõjutas vana struktuur (vanemad) noortel talu tegevust peale tegevuse alustamist (küsitlus).	
Mil määral on abi lihtsustanud mõlemast soost noorte põllumajandustootjate pikajärgelise tegevuse alustamist?				Põllumajandusliku ettevõtmisega noorte ettevõtjate osakaal; varasema põllumajandusliku tegevusega noorte põllumajandustootjate osakaal; kõrgharidusega noorte põllumajandustootjate osakaal; sektori vanuseline struktuur	
Mil määral on abi lihtsustanud ettevõtete struktuurilist kohandamist pärast noorte põllumajandustootjate esialgset tegevuse alustamist?					
Mil määral on abi kaasa aidanud inimpotentsiaalide parandamisele põllumajandussektoris?					

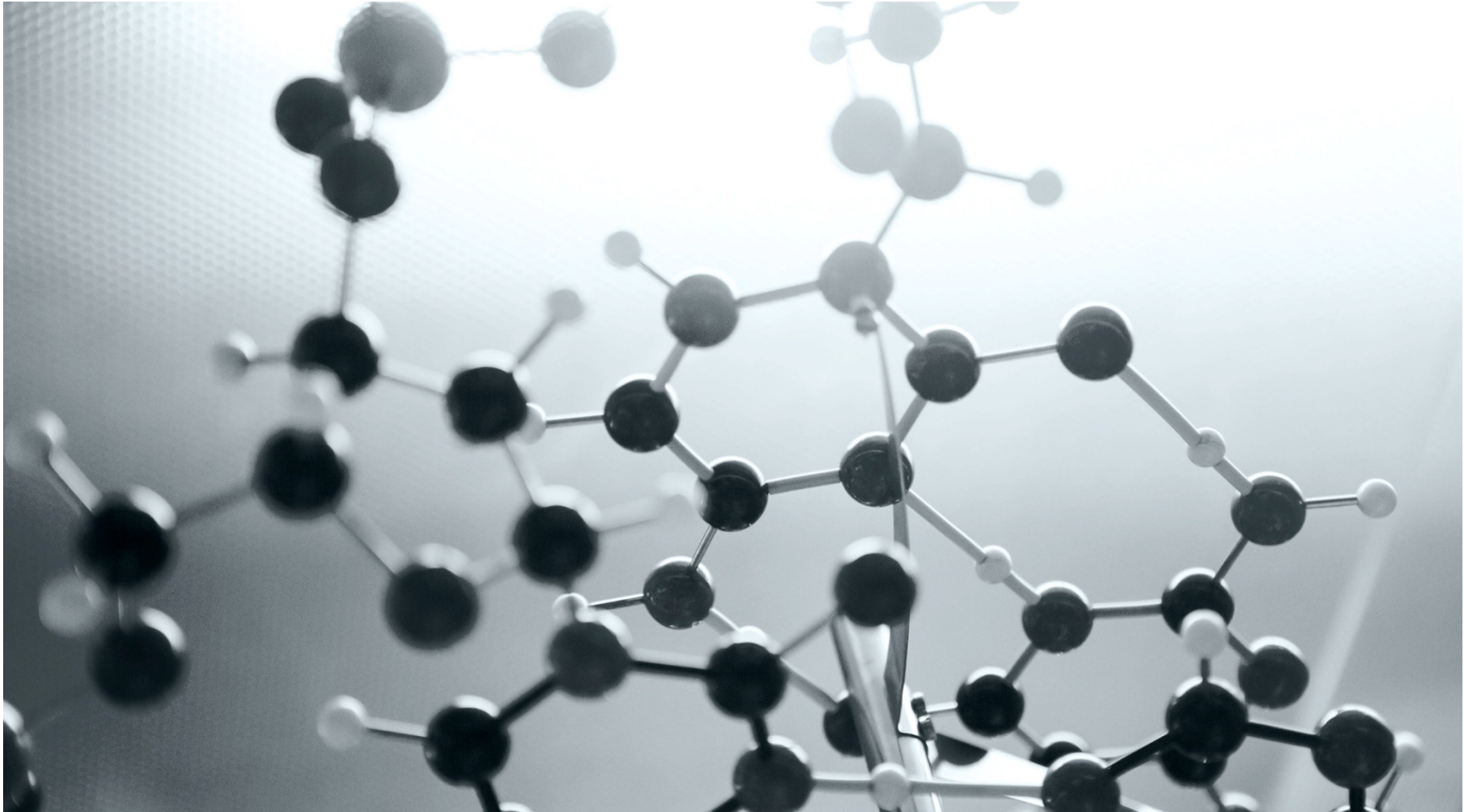
# Methods used

*We combine different methods for evaluation of each measure.*

Axes	Quantitative methods	Qualitative methods
<b>Axis 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Descriptive statistics</li><li>• Before-after estimator</li><li>• DiD (M12, M161, 141)</li><li>• Input-output (M16)</li><li>• Web-based survey (M12, M13, M15+M18)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Literature review</li><li>• Focus group</li></ul>
<b>Axis 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Descriptive statistics</li><li>• Before-after estimator</li><li>• Web-based survey</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Literature review</li><li>• Focus group</li></ul>
<b>Axis 3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Descriptive statistics</li><li>• Before-after estimator</li><li>• DiD (M311)</li><li>• Web-based survey (M31, M32)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Literature review</li><li>• Focus group</li><li>• Case study (M322)</li></ul>
<b>Axis 4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Descriptive statistics</li><li>• Before-after estimator</li><li>• Web-based survey (M41 together with M32)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Literature review</li><li>• Focus group</li><li>• Case study (M322)</li></ul>



# Data sources



# Data sources by axes

*The available data dictates the method used.*

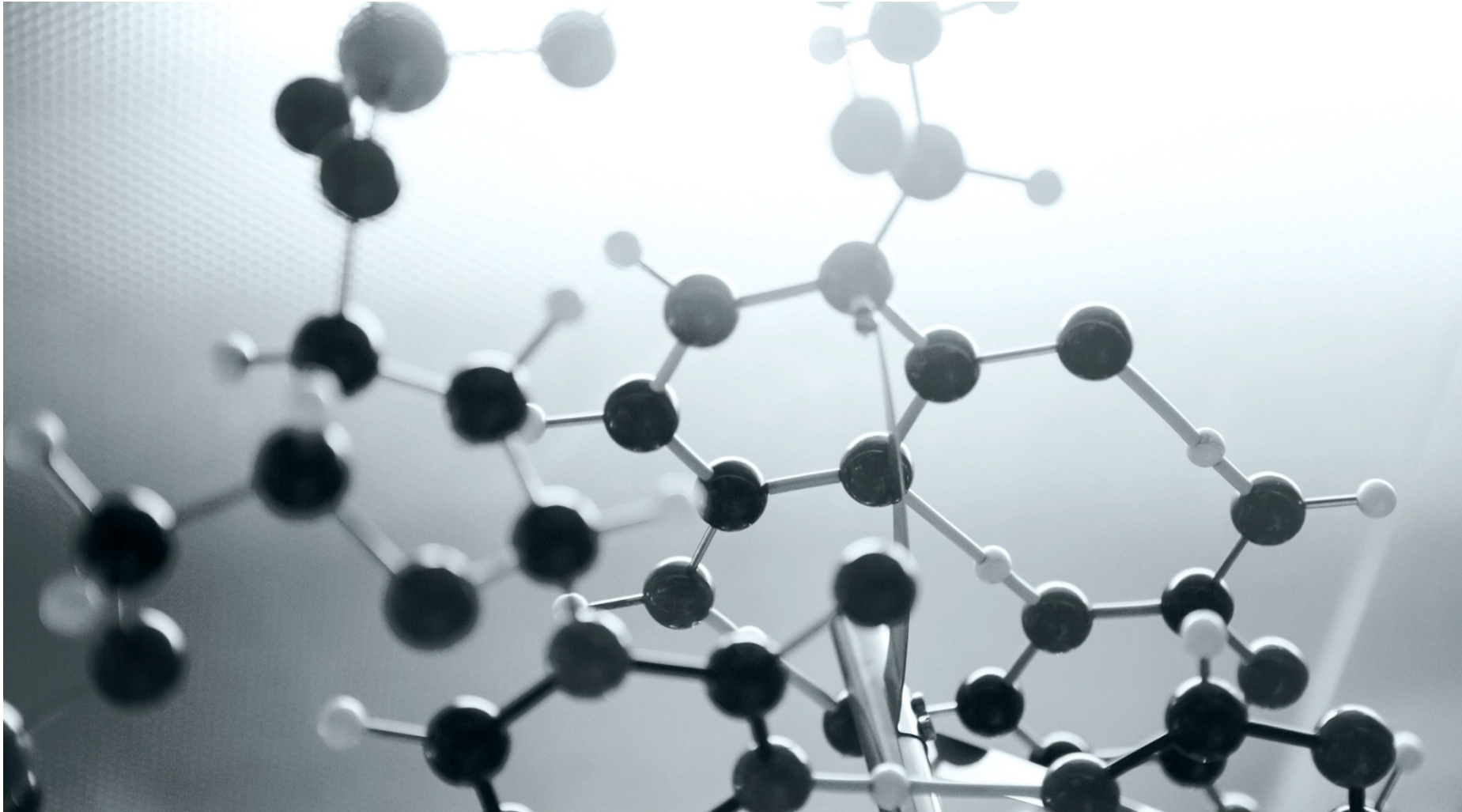
## General data sources

- Input, output and result indicators
- Statistics, analysis results and surveys carried out by the ongoing evaluators
- Other relevant industry-specific surveys and studies
- Statistics Estonia database on general regional industry statistics (e.g. no of inhabitants in rural areas, average salary by sector, net added value)

Axes	Specific data sources
<b>Axis 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Economic indicators of the beneficiaries (annual reports, e-Business Register)</li><li>• Amelioration by region (M18; special national registry)</li><li>• Survey results</li></ul>
<b>Axis 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Environmental monitoring data (KESE Database)</li><li>• Survey results</li></ul>
<b>Axis 3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Economic indicators of the beneficiaries (annual reports, e-Business Register)</li><li>• Survey results</li></ul>
<b>Axis 4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Development plans of NRNs</li><li>• Survey results</li></ul>



# Practical example: measure M12 “Setting Up Young farmers”



# Focus and results

## *Briefly about the measure.*

### Background

Support shall be granted to persons who (EC No 1698/2005 Article 22):

(a) are less than 40 years of age and are setting up for the first time on an agricultural holding as head of the holding;

(b) possess adequate occupational skills and competence;

(c) submit a business plan for the development of their farming activities.

Type	Indicator	Objective 2013	Result	%
Output indicators	Number of assisted young entrepreneurs	631	846	134%
	Aid total	24,5 M€	32,9 M€	152%
Result indicators	Increase in agricultural gross value added at the supported enterprises	3,8 M€	13M€	346%
Impact indicators	Net additional value added expressed in PPS (% of the average level of EU-25)	65	76	116%
	Change (growth) in gross value added per annual labour unit	10–15%	11%	n/a

# Measure-related CEQ

*Basis for analysis of evaluation questions.*

Evaluation question	Basis for the evaluation
How and to what extent has the measure contributed to improving the competitiveness of the beneficiaries?	Improvement in the competitive situation of the beneficiary (productivity, change in the structure of assets) * Analysed in different segments: new farmers, taking over from parents, taking over from companies)
What other effects, including those related to other objectives/axes, are linked to the implementation of this measure (indirect, positive/negative effects on beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, local level)?	Effect achieved with the measure (survey) Linkages of measure objectives with other measures

# Measure-specific evaluation questions (1)

*Basis for analysis of evaluation questions, continued.*

Evaluation question	Basis for the evaluation
Code 112. 1. To what extent has the aid facilitated the enduring setting-up of young farmers of either sex?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number and share of young agricultural entrepreneurs who have started economic activity</li><li>• Share of women among young agricultural entrepreneurs</li><li>• Impact of aid to the facilitation of setting-up young farmers (survey)</li></ul>
Code 112. 2. To what extent has the aid facilitated the structural adjustment of the holdings after the initial establishment of young farmers?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Growth rate of the supported young agricultural entrepreneurs is sufficient (for achieving the target level)</li><li>• Share of young agricultural entrepreneurs who have taken over the farm from enterprise or their parents</li><li>• The influence of the previous structure / predecessor on the young farmer after the takeover (survey)</li></ul>

# Measure-specific evaluation questions (2)

*Basis for analysis of evaluation questions, still continued.*

Evaluation question	Basis for the evaluation
Code 112. 3. To what extent has the aid contributed to improving the capability of the human potential (the applicant) in the agricultural sector?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Share of young entrepreneurs with agricultural training</li><li>• Share of young agricultural entrepreneurs with previous relevant working experience</li><li>• Share of young agricultural entrepreneurs with higher education</li><li>• Age structure in the sector</li></ul>
Code 112. 4. To what extent has the aid contributed to improving the competitiveness of the agricultural sector?	Growth rates of the economic indicators of the agricultural supported enterprises are on the same level with the average indicators in the sector or higher.



# Analysis input and process

*Our approach step-by-step.*

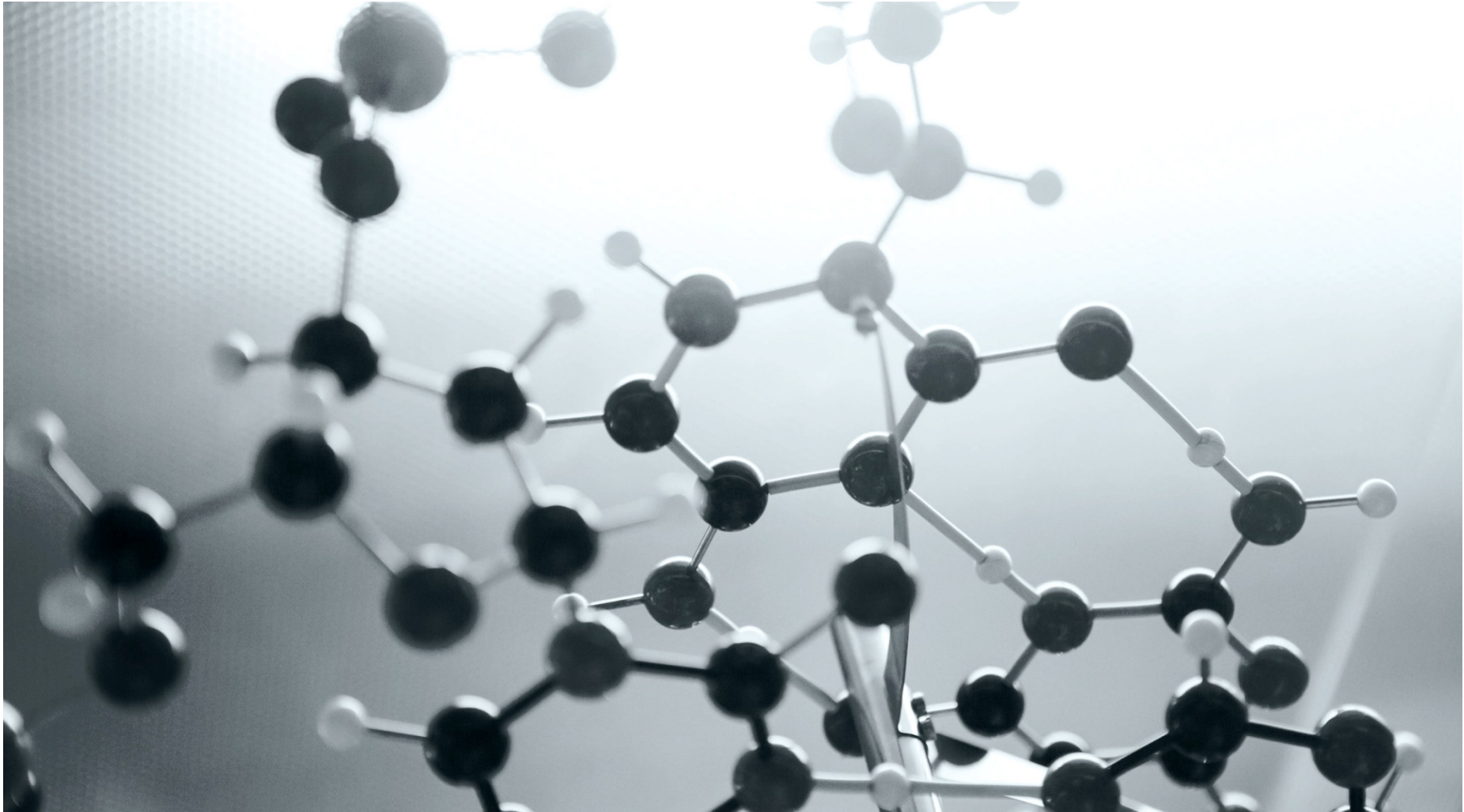
<b>Data sources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Economic indicators of the beneficiaries (annual reports, e-Business Register)</li><li>• Secondary data (indicators, general regional statistics concerning average age in the industry, no of agriculture companies per region, etc.)</li><li>• Web-survey carried out for measure 1.3 “Advisory services“</li></ul>
<b>Evaluation process</b>	<p><b>Step 1.</b> Secondary data analysis focusing on the indicator analysis and general regional statistics.</p> <p><b>Step 2.</b> DiD analysis. Comparison of two groups of beneficiaries. We analyse the changes over time in economic indicators. Reservation is caused by the different starting time and duration of the activity.</p> <p><b>Step 3.</b> Analysis of beneficiaries responses concerning M12 collected with the web-survey carried out for 1.3.</p>

# Strengths & Weaknesses

*The pros and cons of our methodological approach*

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Triangulation thanks to combination of data sources</li><li>• Detailed secondary data available from the ongoing evaluations</li><li>• Usage of quasi-quantitative methods, which reduce the subjectivity</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Need for attention when combining the data sources in order to achieve integral results</li><li>• Limited primary data collection due to which some evaluation aspects might be covered in more general terms</li><li>• Web-survey targeted only to beneficiaries who have received also aid from M13</li></ul>

# Lessons learned



# Lessons Learned

*Our tips for you based on our current work.*

1. The involvement of **the ongoing evaluator** is crucial.
2. **Detailed planning** at the beginning gives the necessary understanding of data collection and analysis activities to be carried out and sets the focus.

## **Risks** *(that might turn to lessons learned)*

1. Lack of necessary secondary data for the providing a comprehensive assessment, as primary data collection is not planned for all measures.
2. Before-after estimations are not reliable due to unmeasurable external impact.



We look forward to working with you!

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