

Preparing the evaluation – What makes the evaluators happy?

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Evaluations are for the better!

- The evaluation is NOT a stone in the shoe – On the contrary:
- It is an effort to learn in order to be *better*:
- Contribute *better* to LDS objectives
- Contribute *better* to improvement of life for dwellers in rural and coastal areas

It makes the evaluator happy if:

- The FLAG knows what to evaluate (and why)
- Has prepared the essential Evaluation Questions, the FLAG wants answered
- Has made data available for answering the Evaluation Questions
- Has considered to what extent additional data collection is needed for answering the EQ
- Has made resources available in balance with the evaluation ambitions of the FLAG
- Will be active and participatory in the discussion of evaluation results and will use them afterwards



Knows what to evaluate

- Projects: Inputs, outputs, results and impacts
- Local development strategy (LDS): Fulfillment of the objectives hierarchy of the LDS
- Contribution of projects to the wider objectives of the LDS and the OP/EU 2020: For example improved quality of life in rural and coastal areas
- FLAG implementing procedures: Activities, administration, tasks and responsibilities

Evaluation questions prepared

- To what extent have the projects been effective and efficient?
- To what extent have the LDS objectives been fulfilled?
- To what extent have the LDS implementation contributed to improved quality of life in the area?
- To what extent has the administration and the activities of the FLAG been effective and efficient?

Data sources are identified and ready to be used

- Project database and access to beneficiaries
- Data and documentation on decisions in the FLAG about activities and administration, for example prioritization of projects in compliance with objective criteria
- Additional data collection for example through surveys/interviews in the area is considered

Make resources in balance with evaluation demands

- Balance money with ambitions
- Be realistic in the timing: Things take time, and sometimes they take longer time
- Decide on scale and scope of data collection through interviews and surveys
 - statistical validity of data,
 - establishment of control groups,
 - counterfactual analyses etc.)



Take advantage of evaluation reports: Use recommendations

- The FLAG reads the draft report
- Comments the draft report
- Uses the lessons learned and the recommendations in the final report

- All in all to be *better!*
- To the benefit of the local areas





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