

South Eastern Europe

SWG *RRD*

Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group



Monitoring and Evaluation of Rural Development Programs

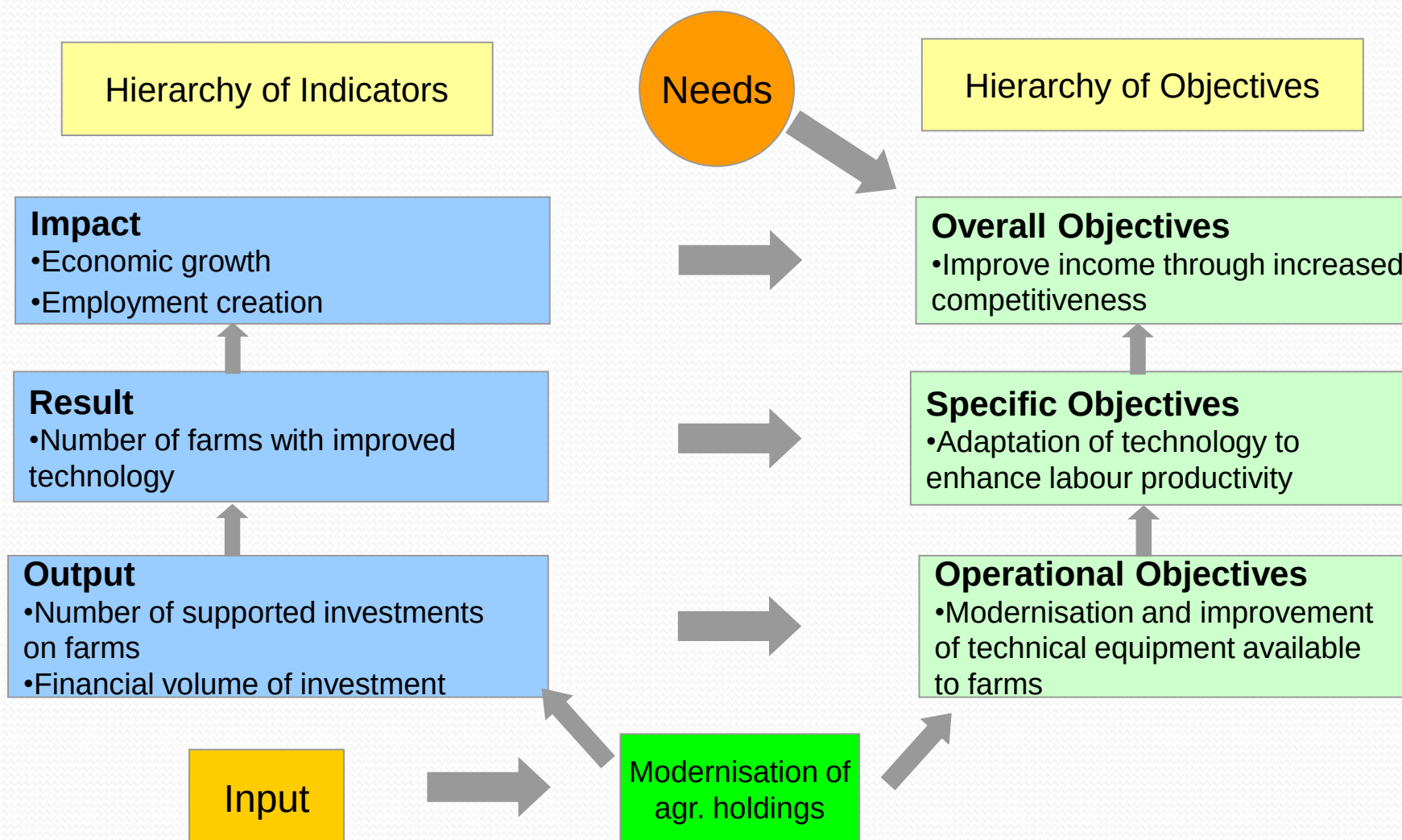
Tomaž Cör, 18th September 2012

Why Monitoring and Evaluation and how?

- ❖ Importance of knowing if our policy or in our case Rural Development Programme is going the right way
 - by using certain indicators.

INTERVENTION LOGIC

- ❖ A key-tool for programming, monitoring and evaluation is so-called “**intervention logic**”, which establishes the causal chain from the budgetary input, via the output and the results of measures, to their impact.
- ❖ The intervention logic guides the progressive assessment of a measure’s contribution to achieving its objectives.



WHY INDICATORS?

- ❖ Indicators are used as a tool to assess different effects on particular level (output, result, impact):
 - how far the expected objectives have been achieved by measures or whole programme
 - indicators should be specific, measurable, available/achievable in a cost effective way, relevant for the programme and timely available
 - indicators can not always be filled with quantitative statistical data; in some cases, indicators might also include qualitative assessments or logical assumptions
- ❖ Indicators are common (proposed by EC) and additional/national. Each MS can define additional indicators due to program's speciality or monitoring improvement.

TYPES OF INDICATORS

- ❖ **Baseline indicators:** important reference points.
- ❖ **Input indicators:** they refer to the budget or other resources allocated at each level of the assistance.
- ❖ **Output indicators:** they measure activities directly realized within programs.
- ❖ **Result indicators:** they measure the direct and immediate effects of the intervention.
- ❖ **Impact indicators:** they refer to the benefits of the program both at the level of the intervention but also more generally in the program area.

DATA GATHERING

Data sources:

- ❖ statistical data (SORS)
- ❖ approved applications by different measures (IT support; AAMRD)
- ❖ economic and other results: FADN reports (holdings), accountancy reports-AJPES (enterprises) and other reports



impact assessment of different measures on economic operations of beneficiaries

- ❖ cooperation with other institutions (Agricultural Institute, Environmental agency, DOPPS - BirdLife Slovenia)

DIFFICULTIES?

- ❖ collection of data related to environmental area (national level):
 - water quality (gross nutrient balances: N & P, pollution by nitrates and pesticides)
- ❖ interpretation of indicators:
 - GVA: wrong methodology proposed by EC (depreciation included!);
 - increase of GVA in supported holdings/enterprises.
- ❖ monitoring of Agri-environmental measures:
 - possibility of implementing more than one sub measures on the same plot – double counting of ha.
 - payments N+2 create confusion.

Annual Progress Report

Annual Programme Report is showing to the European Commission (and to local taxpayers) that:

- Programme is moving in the right direction and reaches the targets,
- EU money is spent on right measures for right beneficiaries,
- EU money is spent in accordance with EU and national legislation.

Annual Progress Report

Legal basis for preparation of Annual Progress Report:

- ❖ Council Regulation (EC) 1698/2005
- ❖ Commission Regulation (EC) 1974/2006
- ❖ Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (CMEF); data collection requirements

Annual Progress Report contains:

- ❖ Written progress report
- ❖ Set of monitoring tables

RECOMMENDATIONS

Set the system for exchanging data and informations about program (some kind of operational chart or ordinance):

- Define who is doing what in the process of providing data for indicators and reporting at the Ministry and Paying agency.
- Define personal responsibility for gathering data needed for reporting and ad hoc analyses.
- Define tasks periodically.
- Define the simplest possible way of communication with all institutions involved – keep it on the operational level.

RECOMMENDATIONS (2)

Prepare the Manual for the indicators which will define:

- The name of the indicator,
- What is this indicator measuring,
- How is indicator calculated,
- Measurement units,
- Who is gathering the data the data and how.

RECOMMENDATIONS (3)

- ❖ Good IT support is necessary - precise planning during the preparation of IT adjustments (automatic collection and processing of incoming data from the applications).
- ❖ Person(s) responsible for Annual Progress Report need very broad range of knowledge (agriculture, economics, statistics, IT programs...), so they should get adequate training.
- ❖ Use the indicators and data not only for your reporting to EC but also for your decision making process in Rural Development.
- ❖ Collect all ad hoc analyses on one place.

Evaluation of Rural Development Programme

- ❖ Evaluating RDP is a legal requirement (Council Regulation 1698/2005 - the management and the functions of evaluation):
 - Member States shall establish a system of ongoing evaluation for each rural development program.
- ❖ The Managing Authority for the program and the Monitoring Committee shall use ongoing evaluation to:
 - a) examine the progress of the program in relation to its goals by means of result and, where appropriate, impact indicators;
 - b) improve the quality of programs and their implementation;
 - c) examine proposals for substantive changes to programs;
 - d) prepare for mid-term and ex post evaluation.

General principles of evaluation

- ❖ **Evaluation** is a process of judgment of measures according to their results, impacts and the needs they aim to satisfy.
- ❖ Evaluation looks at:
 - **the effectiveness** (the extent to which objectives are achieved)
 - **the efficiency** (best relationship between resources employed and results achieved)
 - **the relevance of measures** (the extent to which an measure's objectives are proper to needs, problems and issues)
 - **sustainability**

Ongoing Evaluation Reports

- ❖ From 2008, the Managing Authority shall report each year on the ongoing evaluation activities to the Monitoring Committee. **A summary of the activities shall be included in the annual progress report** which has to be send to EC every year.
- ❖ In 2010, ongoing evaluation took the form of a separate **mid-term evaluation report**. That mid-term evaluation proposed measures to improve the quality of programs and their implementation. A summary of the mid-term evaluation reports was undertaken on the initiative of the Commission;
- ❖ In 2015, ongoing evaluation shall take the form of a separate **ex post evaluation report**.

What problems are we facing?

- ❖ selection of the independent evaluator
 - public procurement
 - connection between price and quality of the evaluations

- ❖ absence of methodological solutions for:
 - how to capture the impact on quality of life and of LEADER
 - how to determine gross and net effects of interventions and how to determine synergy effects of policies.

**IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU
ARE, EVERY PATH IS RIGHT AND
EVERY WIND IS GOOD!**

Thank you for your attention!