

MONITORING AND EVALUATION STRATEGY

European Social Fund
2014-2020

Monitoring Committee
26th February 2016



European Union
European Structural and Investment Funds



Regulatory Requirements

Main Legal Requirements

- Articles 47-49 indicates the role and functions of the Monitoring Committee
- Articles 50 and 53 indicates the reporting requirements of both the European Commission and the MA
- Article 54(9) of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 obliges both the European Commission and its Member States to ensure the effectiveness of monitoring, reporting and evaluation during the preparation and implementation of the ESIF
- Articles 54-57 outline the provisions relating to evaluation and briefly describe the various forms of evaluations that need to be carried out by the MA

Past Experience: 2007-2013 Programming Period

- Following the 2007-2013 programming period, a number of challenges are foreseen during the 2014-2020 programming period, being:
 - The requirement to evaluate regularly and systematically the impact of ESIF
 - The need to apply rigorous evaluation approaches (counterfactual impact evaluation, theory-of-change evaluation, etc.)
 - Provisions on the involvement of stakeholders into the whole ESIF process, including monitoring and evaluation
 - Participatory evaluation as a possibility for the involvement of stakeholders into the evaluation process
 - The need to collect, monitor and administrate the necessary data requirements for evaluations in a timely and coherent manner

Monitoring

- During the 2014-2020 programming period, the MA has embarked on setting up a results-based monitoring and evaluation system as a tool to track progress and demonstrate the impact of a programme
- Elements of the results-based monitoring and evaluation system at an Operational Programme level include:
 - Baseline data to describe the problem or situation before the intervention
 - Data collection on results and whether they contribute towards the achievement of the outcomes stated in the Grant Agreement
 - Systemic reporting with more qualitative and quantitative information on the progress toward outcomes
 - Capture information on success or failure of strategy/programmes in achieving desired outcomes

Channels for Monitoring

- Channels to monitor the results include:
 - Structural Funds Database 2014-2020
 - Project Progress Reports
 - *Ad hoc* monitoring requirements for the achievement of the Performance Framework
 - Ministerial/Intermediate Bodies Project Steering Committee
 - High Level Monitoring Meetings
 - Cabinet
 - Meetings with the National Statistics Office for data collection purposes

Monitoring of Indicators

- The MA will assess, collect and verify at two (2) different stages:
 - At **application stage**, the MA will assess what the project is committing to
 - During **implementation stage**, the MA will verify and validate data collected by the beneficiary through desk research and on-the-spot checks
- A Guidance Document will be drafted by the MA highlighting the methodology to be used, how data will be gathered and measured, the sources and channels to be used, etc.

Evaluation

- The evaluation functions include:
 - A combination of top-down and bottom-up evaluation methods
 - Incorporating key evaluation issues and horizontal themes into the proposed research activities
 - An enhancement of the current monitoring system
 - *Ad hoc* evaluations triggered by under-performance against the Operational Programme or Performance Framework targets

Qualitative Criteria

- Evaluations during the 2014-2020 programming period will be:
 - Independent
 - Intentional
 - Impartial
 - Robust
 - Timely
 - Evidence-based

Evaluation Objectives and Criteria

- Evaluation objectives are based on careful consideration of: the types of decisions evaluation users will make, the issues they will need to consider in making those decisions, and what the evaluation will need to achieve in order to contribute to these decisions
- The evaluation criteria defines the standards against which the initiatives will be assessed
- The evaluation criteria which will be used during this programming period are: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and impact

Evaluations to be carried out during the 2014-2020 programming period

PART A: Evaluations to be carried out during 2016-2019

- Counterfactual Feasibility and Pilot Study
- Tracking System of ESF Participants
- Assessment of how support from the ESIF has contributed to the objectives for each priority
- Assessment of how the effectiveness and efficiency of the Programme
- The communication activities held in line with the ESIF Communication Strategy 2014-2020

Evaluations to be carried out during the 2014-2020 programming period

PART B: Evaluations to be carried out between 2020 and 2023

- All the Programme's objectives will be covered by an evaluation
- It is being foreseen that the thematic evaluations will cover the following areas:
 - Access to employment and adaptability of the workforce
 - Social inclusion
 - Investments in human capital

Evaluations Steering Group 2014-2020

- The remit of the group is as follows:
 - Advise on the specific monitoring and evaluation activities to be undertaken during the course of the programme, including quality assuring external evaluations undertaken
 - Provide input to on-going monitoring and evaluation activities where appropriate, drawing on the expert knowledge on the members of the Group
 - Assist in identifying and agreeing how some of the gaps in the reporting data can be best addressed
 - Advise and assist in the dissemination of the key results from the monitoring and evaluation activities in order to inform stakeholders of the performance of the programme
- The Steering Group will be made up of representatives from the line ministries (both from a project implementation and policy aspect), National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE), National Commission for Persons with a Disability (NCPD), Economics Policy Division within the Ministry for Finance, Malta Council for Economic and Social Development

Evaluation Process

- Involvement and ongoing discussions with stakeholders will play an important aspect of the evaluation process from an early stage (i.e. from drafting of the Terms of Reference to the follow-up and implementation of recommendations once the evaluation studies are completed)
- Key follow-up actions will be followed up with the Ministry/Entity targeted in each recommendation within the framework of the ESG.
- This will ensure timely implementation of the recommendations through an action plan designed for the recommendations of each study.
- Monitoring Committee will be kept informed of the follow up in relation to such recommendations.

Contact Details

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