

Quality Assessment for Final Report

DG AGRI/Unit D.1 ‘Rural Areas & Networks’

Assessment carried out by(*):

Steering group []

Evaluation Function []

Other (please specify) [Unit D1 assisting the technical manager on this additional deliverable to the mapping of CAP plans, with contribution of Unit B3]

(*) Multiple crosses possible

Date of assessment 17 July 2023

CHECKLIST – Quality Assessment for Final Study Reports

Objective of the assessment	Aspects to be assessed	Fulfilled? Y, N, N/A	Comments
1. Scope of evaluation	Confirm with the Terms of Reference and the work plan that the contractor :		
	a. Has addressed the study issues and specific questions	Y	
	b. Has undertaken the tasks described in the work plan	Y	
	c. Has covered the requested scope for time period, geographical areas, target groups, aspects of the intervention, etc.	Y	Comprehensive overview of how Member States are planning to support rural areas beyond farming through their CAP strategic plans
2. Overall contents of report	Check that the report includes:		
	a. Executive Summary according to an agreed format, in the three required languages (minimum EN and FR)	N/A	
	b. Main report with required components	Y	The report answers the evaluation study question within the limits of available data. Good description of interventions and detailed information on the relevant financial allocations of the relevant interventions.
	▪ Title and Content Page ▪ A description of the policy being evaluated, its context, the purpose of the evaluation, contextual limitations, methodology, etc. ▪ Findings, conclusions, and judgments for all evaluation issues and specific questions ▪ The required outputs and deliverables ▪ Recommendations as appropriate		
	c. All required annexes	N/A	
3. Data collection	Check that data is accurate and complete		
	a. Data is accurate	Y	Data is sourced from the larger “mapping CAP plans” study, the quality of which is assessed in the quality assessment for the main
	▪ Data is free from factual and logical errors ▪ The report is consistent, i.e. no contradictions ▪ Calculations are correct		

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			deliverable.
	b. Data is complete	Y	Same as above.
	- Relevant literature and previous studies have been sufficiently reviewed - Existing monitoring data has been appropriately used - Limitations to the data retrieved are pointed out and explained. - Correcting measures have been taken to address any problems encountered in the process of data gathering		Good use of data and any limitations have been properly addressed.
4. Analysis and judgments	Check that analysis is sound and relevant		
	a. Analytical framework is sound	Y	The process did not involve stakeholder consultations.
	- The methodology used for each area of analysis is clearly explained, and has been applied consistently and as planned - Judgements are based on transparent criteria - The analysis relies on two or more independent lines of evidence - Inputs from different stakeholders are used in a balanced way - Findings are reliable enough to be replicable		
	b. Conclusions are sound	Y	
	- Conclusions are properly addressing the evaluation questions and are coherently and logically substantiated - There are no relevant conclusions missing according to the evidence presented - Findings corroborate existing knowledge; differences or contradictions with existing knowledge are explained - Critical issues are presented in a fair and balanced manner - Limitations on validity of the conclusions are pointed out		Conclusions are cautious and of a quite neutral tone considering that this deliverable does not include analysis and assessment of CAP Strategic Plans (CSPs)' interventions but simply their mapping.
5. Usefulness of recommendations	a. Recommendations are useful	N/A	There are no recommendations
	Recommendations flow logically from the conclusions, are practical, realistic, and addressed to the relevant Commission Service(s) or other stakeholders		
	b. Recommendations are complete	N/A	There are no recommendations
	Recommendations cover all relevant main conclusions		
6. Clarity of the	a. Report is easy to read	Y	In certain sections

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report	- Written style and presentation is adapted for the various relevant target readers - The quality of language is sufficient for publishing - Specific terminology is clearly defined - Tables, graphs, and similar presentation tools are used to facilitate understanding; they are well commented with narrative text		the language is quite technical, but this is due to the scope of the study. Graphs and tables summarise well the provided information.
	b. Report is logical and focused	Y	The report is well structured and it highlights gaps and opportunities in the CSPs. There is no appendix, however the report is sufficiently argued with detailed and technical analysis.
	- The structure of the report is logical and consistent, information is not unjustifiably duplicated, and it is easy to get an overview of the report and its key results. - The report provides a proper focus on main issues and key messages are summarised and highlighted - The length of the report (excluded appendices) is proportionate (good balance of descriptive and analytical information) - Detailed information and technical analysis are left for the appendix; thus information overload is avoided in the main report		

Overall conclusion		
The report could be approved in its current state, as it overall complies with the contractual conditions and relevant professional evaluation standards	Y	The report is well-elaborated, with a wide range of examples on how Member States plan to make use of the CAP to support rural areas beyond farming in diverse ways. It was meant to be a mapping of what actions have been programmed under the CAP and fulfilled this goal.