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Evropský námořní a rybářský fond
Operační program Rybářství



Process evaluation OP Fisheries 2014 – 2020

Ministry of Agriculture, Managing Authority for OP Fisheries
The Czech Republic





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Process evaluation OP Fisheries 2014 - 2020

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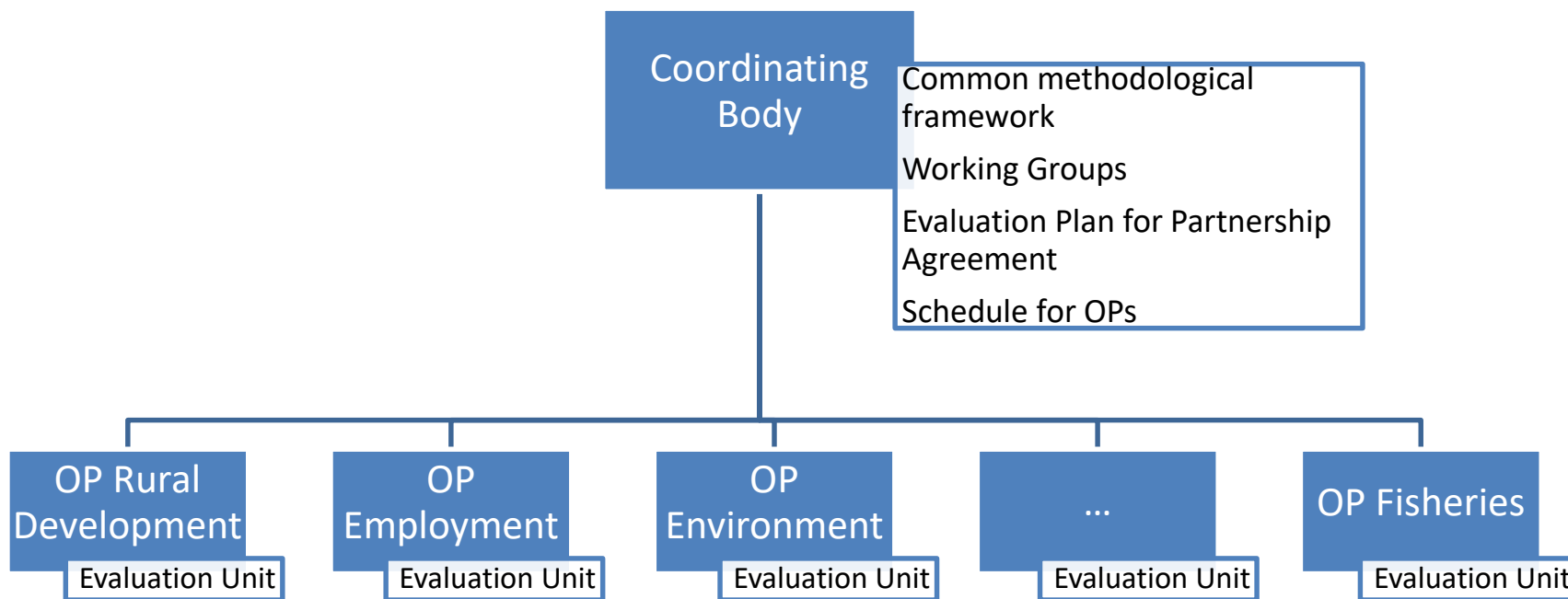
Evaluations OP Fisheries 2014-2020

1. National Framework for ESI funds evaluations
2. Process and Result evaluation 2016/2017
3. Process evaluation
4. Recommendations and actions taken





National framework





Process and Result Evaluation 2016/2017

- Legislation requirements (CPR)
 - Relevance of development needs (Article 52 a))
 - Relevance of complementary and synergy links (Article 52 d))
 - AIR 2016 (part B)
 - 1st Progress Report of PA
- Duration of evaluation: November 2016 – April 2017
- Contracted external evaluator: 35 650 EUR





Process and Result Evaluation 2016/2017

- **Inception report**
 - Detailed plan of evaluation (methodology, data, stakeholders...)
- **Verification study**
 - Relevance of complementary links and development needs (SWOT, theory of change)
 - Verification of monitoring system (indicators)
- **Pre-evaluation study**
 - Definition of methodology for evaluation in 2019 (before FAME guidelines)





Process and Result Evaluation 2016/2017

- **Result evaluation**
 - No results achieved – no evaluation
 - Assessment of potential to meet milestones and specific objectives (analysis based on registered projects)
- **Process evaluation**





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PROCESS EVALUATION 2016/2017

Reasons why:

- Low absorption capacity in first calls
- To avoid implementation failure
- To find bottlenecks
- To improve the implementation





PROCESS EVALUATION 2016/2017

Process areas

- Call preparation
- Announcement of the call, preparation and registration of applications
- Acceptation of aid applications, check of admissibility and formal requirements
- Evaluation and selection of projects
- Control of tendering procedures
- Issuance of a legal act / rejection letter
- Project implementation
- Request for payment and reimbursement to the beneficiary
- Sustainability of projects
- Interest in planned calls (measures)
- Evaluation of communication activities





PROCESS EVALUATION 2016/2017

Methodology used

- Analysis of internal management documentation
- Content analysis of calls, rules and other related documents addressed to clients (applicants, potential applicants, beneficiaries = OP clients)
- On-line survey among clients
- Quantitative and qualitative data analysis of information system
- Interviews with project managers of managing authority and intermediate body.
- Interviews with representatives of clients





PROCESS EVALUATION 2016/2017

Process areas were assessed from the perspective of:

- Management Authority
- Intermediate body
- Clients
- Data analysis from information system

Principle of triangulation = whenever possible, evaluation questions should be looked at from different viewpoints and by different methods.

(Guidance Document on Monitoring and Evaluation, European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund)





PROCESS EVALUATION 2016/2017

Electronic on-line survey

- Anonymous
- Three groups of clients: potential applicants, applicants/beneficiaries
- Preparation of questionnaire
 - caution when choosing evaluation questions
 - pilot survey after programming the questionnaire





PROCESS EVALUATION 2016/2017

Conclusions:

Preparation of calls and project registration

- No significant discrepancy between needs of clients and conditions and content of calls
- $\frac{3}{4}$ of clients assessed calls conditions positively
- Information is available, in time and sufficient
- Quality and clarity of the information is rather low





PROCESS EVALUATION 2016/2017

Conclusions:

Projects acceptance, selection and evaluation of projects

- Process effectiveness is lower due to high rate of returned applications (to correct mistakes) - time consuming for clients and IB
- High rate of cancelled applications – low effectiveness of process
- Inappropriate term for call realization (harvesting period)
- Requests for correction of applications were delivered in X-mass period (the applications were terminated)
- Significant part of clients (more than 1 third) believed that selection criteria were not understandable and concrete
- Lack of sophisticated evidence of good and bad practice was mentioned





PROCESS EVALUATION 2016/2017

Conclusions:

Project implementation

- Not enough time for tendering procedure
- Process can be considered as effective
- No significant barriers were detected

Early stage of implementation - only a few projects had been already paid





PROCESS EVALUATION 2016/2017

Weak interest in following measures:

- Diversification of aquaculture
- New farmers
- Creation of producers organisation
- Marketing and production plans





PROCESS EVALUATION 2016/2017

- Image of Managing Authority and Intermediate body is positive
- OP Fisheries is focused on narrow and homogeneous target group (about 500 potential clients knowing each other)
- Any negative experience or obstacle can have a serious impact on the whole target group

 RISK for OP implementation





EVALUATOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- Increase of absorption capacity
- Increase of communication activities (newsletters, brochures)
- Simplify rules and documentation
- Change evaluation and selection criteria
- Make an overview of good and bad practice
- Reduce the error rate in applications
- Include new indicators (coming from 1st OP revision)
- Up-date complementary links (in OP document)





ACTIONS TAKEN

- Each recommendation was inserted into the information system (MS2014+)
- Drawing up a list of recommendation use:
 - Detailed description of each action (task)
 - Task schedule
 - Responsible person or department





ACTIONS TAKEN

- Simplification of rules, applications and other forms
- Extension of period for the application submission and for the tendering procedure
- Adjustment of some evaluation and selection criteria
- Change in the eligibility of certain expenditures (at the request of respondents)
- Including new indicators into the monitoring system
- Increase of calls frequency (twice a year)
- Developing an overview of good and bad practice
- Drawing up a communication strategy and realization of communication activities





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ACTIONS TAKEN

- Organisation of seminars for applicants
 - Calls
 - Tendering procedure in OP Fisheries
 - Producers organisations (representatives of the Commission and POs)

Action planned

- Revision of OP – on the agenda of Monitoring Committee 22. 11. 2018





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ACTIONS TAKEN

Report on the progress of the Evaluation Plan

- Presentation to the Monitoring Committee once a year
- Providing basic information on evaluations
- List of recommendations from evaluations and their use
- Report is generated from the coordinating's body information system





LESSONS LEARNT

Recommendations

- Not to rely on external company (many mistakes, permanent control)
- Set up regular meetings (monthly) and process minutes from the meeting
- More time for approval of the outputs
- Set minimum level of methodology in contract
- Ask in advance for questionnaires and interviews scenarios (approval procedure)
- Building your own capacity (training at methodology, data collection and analysis)





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Thank you for your attention

[www.eagri.cz/Dotace/Operační program Rybářství 2014 - 2020](http://www.eagri.cz/Dotace/Operační_program_Rybářství_2014_-_2020)

