A picture of the evaluation activities in the Member States:

First outcomes of the screening of chapter 2 and 7 of the AIRs submitted in 2017

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Content

Introduction

- **Information basis :**
  - **evaluation sections of 118 AIRs** submitted in 2017
    → *chapters 2 and 7 = more than 11,000 pages!*

- **Evaluation Helpdesk AIR screening tool**
  - extracted **more than 600 variables per AIR (!)** covering
    - RDP' achievements,
    - judgement criteria, indicators, data sources
    - current and future evaluation methods,
    - problems encountered etc.

- **Use of AIR screening information:**
  - **Synthesis of RDP achievements** feed into EU level reporting (Staff Working Document of EC to EP and Council)
  - **Input for EC feedback** to Member States (9 selected criteria, also as background for annual review meetings)
  - **Input for future CMES review** and further support activities (e.g. yearly capacity building in the Member States).

Modifications of the EPs

The number of modifications of the EPs has tripled compared to the last reporting period!

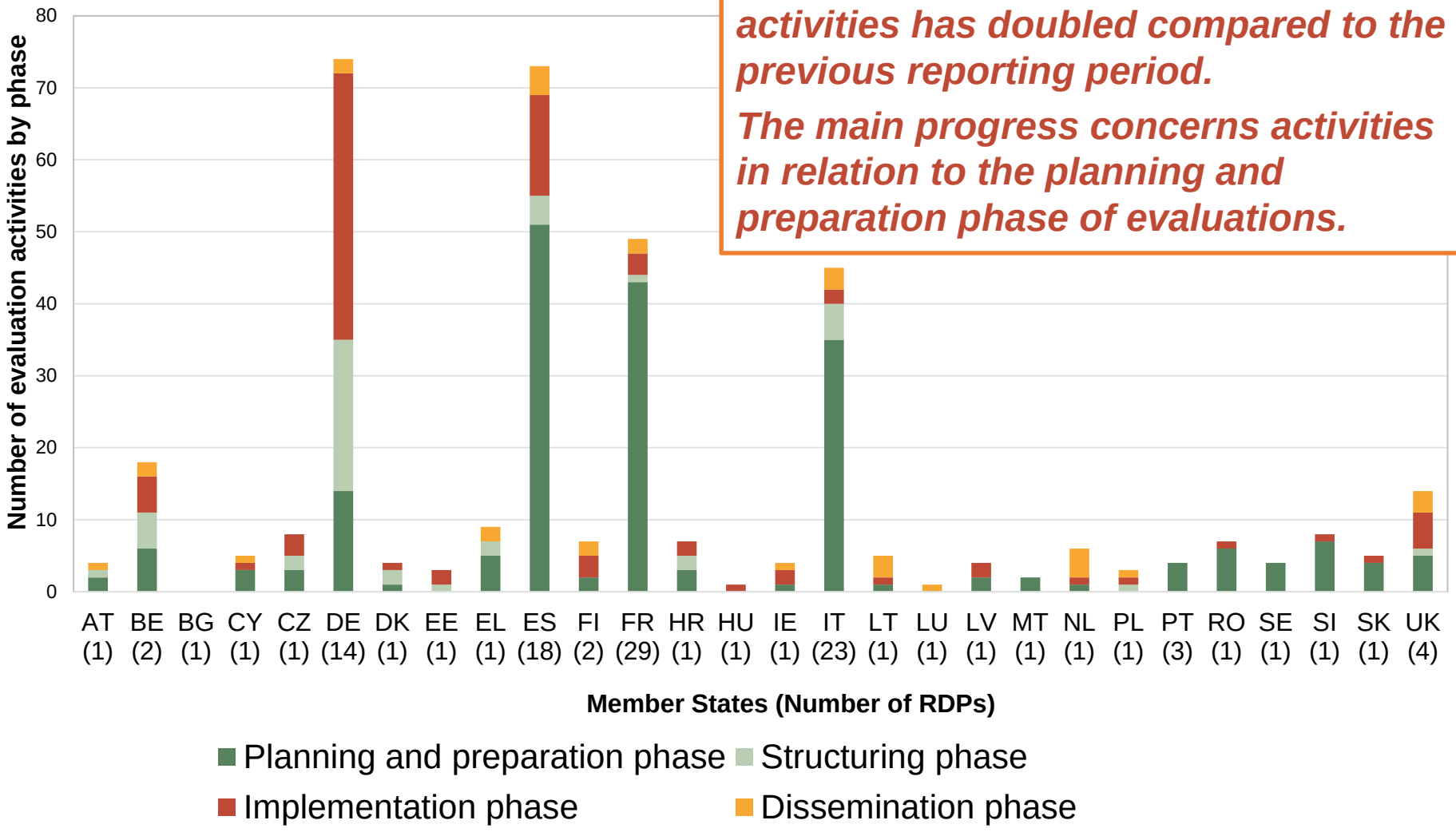
The modifications concerned

- Changes/updates in the **evaluation timeline**, e.g. due to delays in the implementation of the programme.
- **Update / changes / correction** in units, procedural changes, additional human resources
- Updates of **judgement criteria, indicators**, development of a detailed evaluation concept
- **Selection and contracting** of RDP evaluators

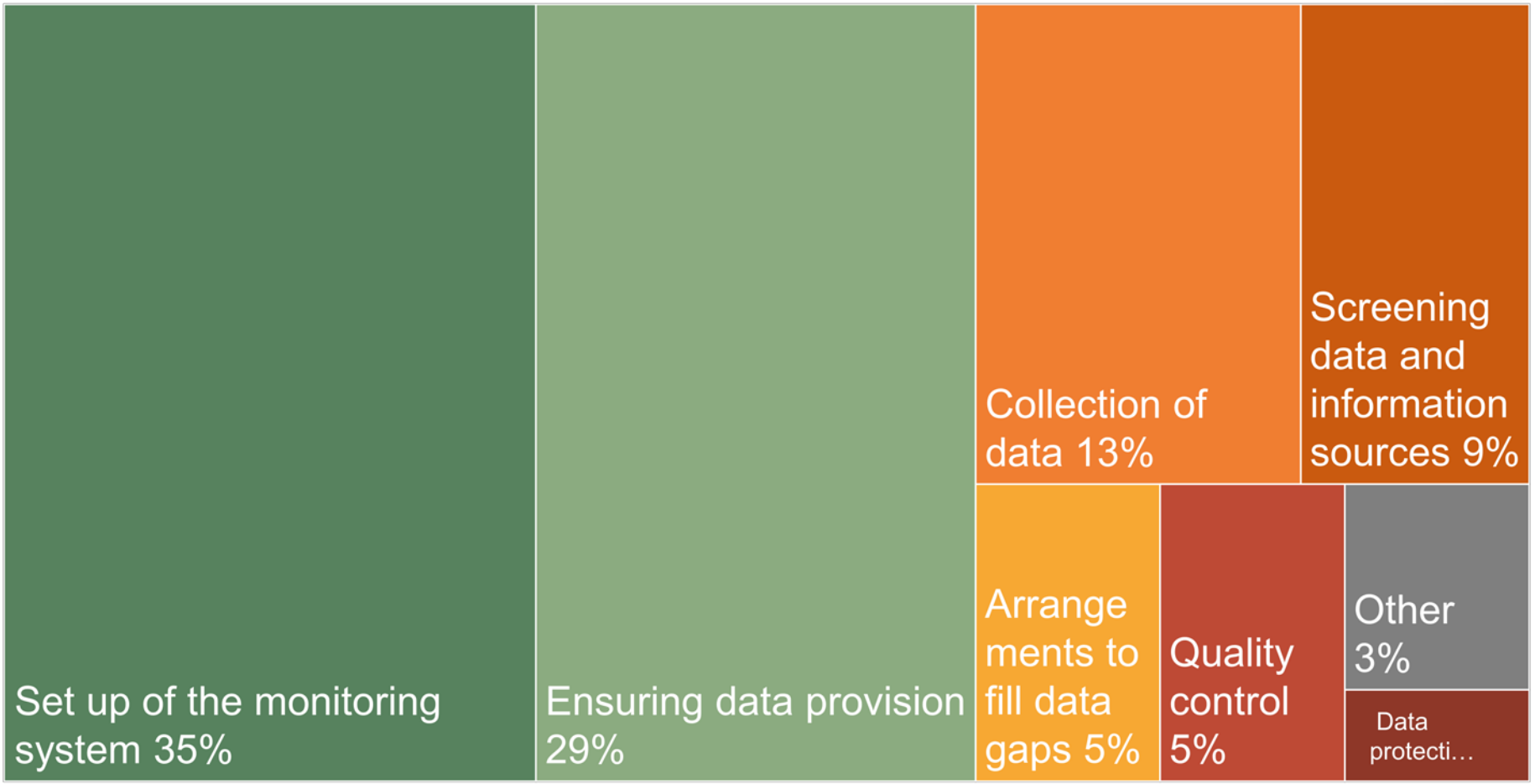
Evaluation activities

The number of reported evaluation activities has doubled compared to the previous reporting period.

The main progress concerns activities in relation to the planning and preparation phase of evaluations.

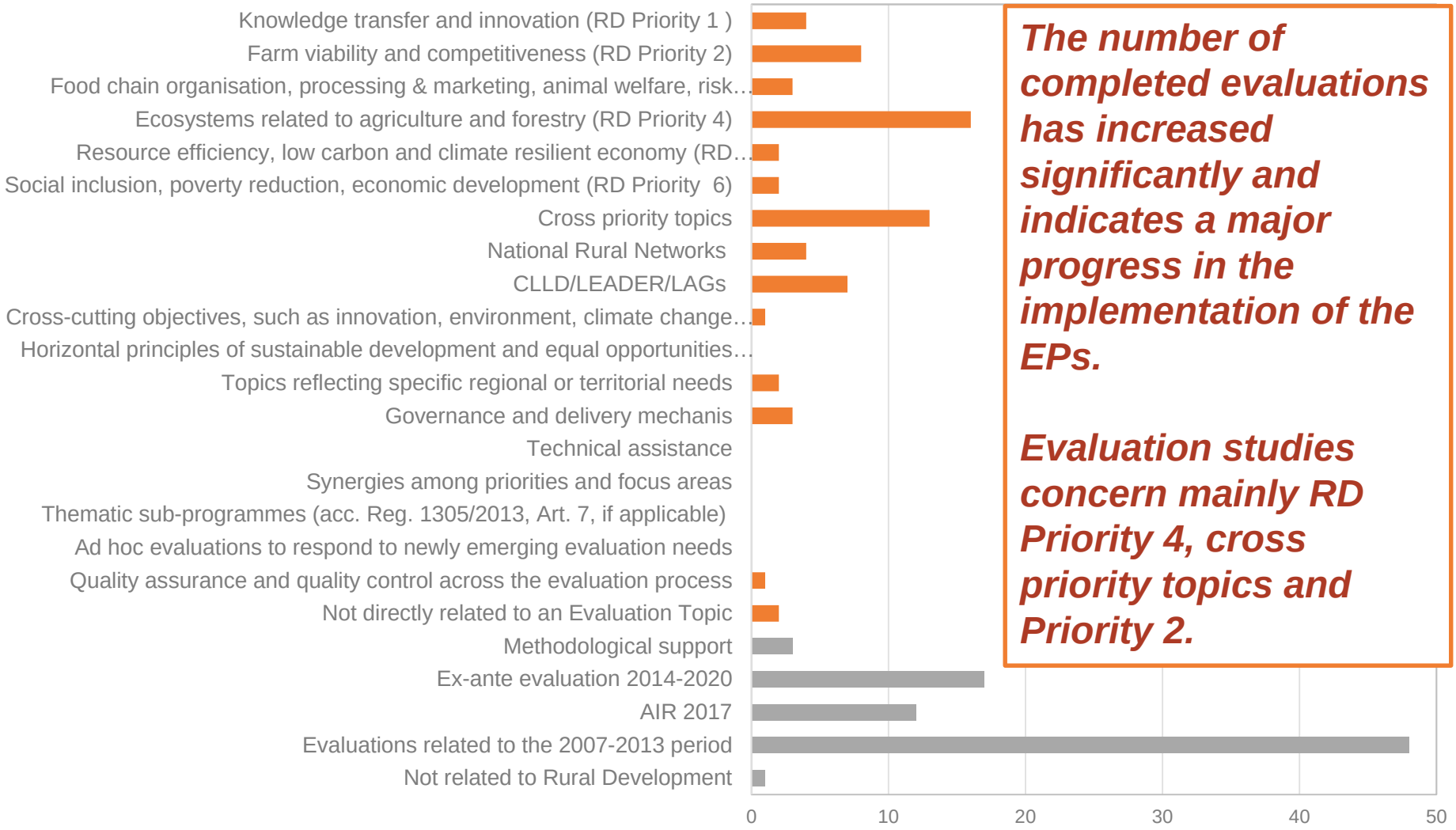


Data management activities



The reported monitoring and data management activities indicate that RDPs are still setting up and adapting their monitoring systems.

Completed evaluations



The number of completed evaluations has increased significantly and indicates a major progress in the implementation of the EPs.

Evaluation studies concern mainly RD Priority 4, cross priority topics and Priority 2.

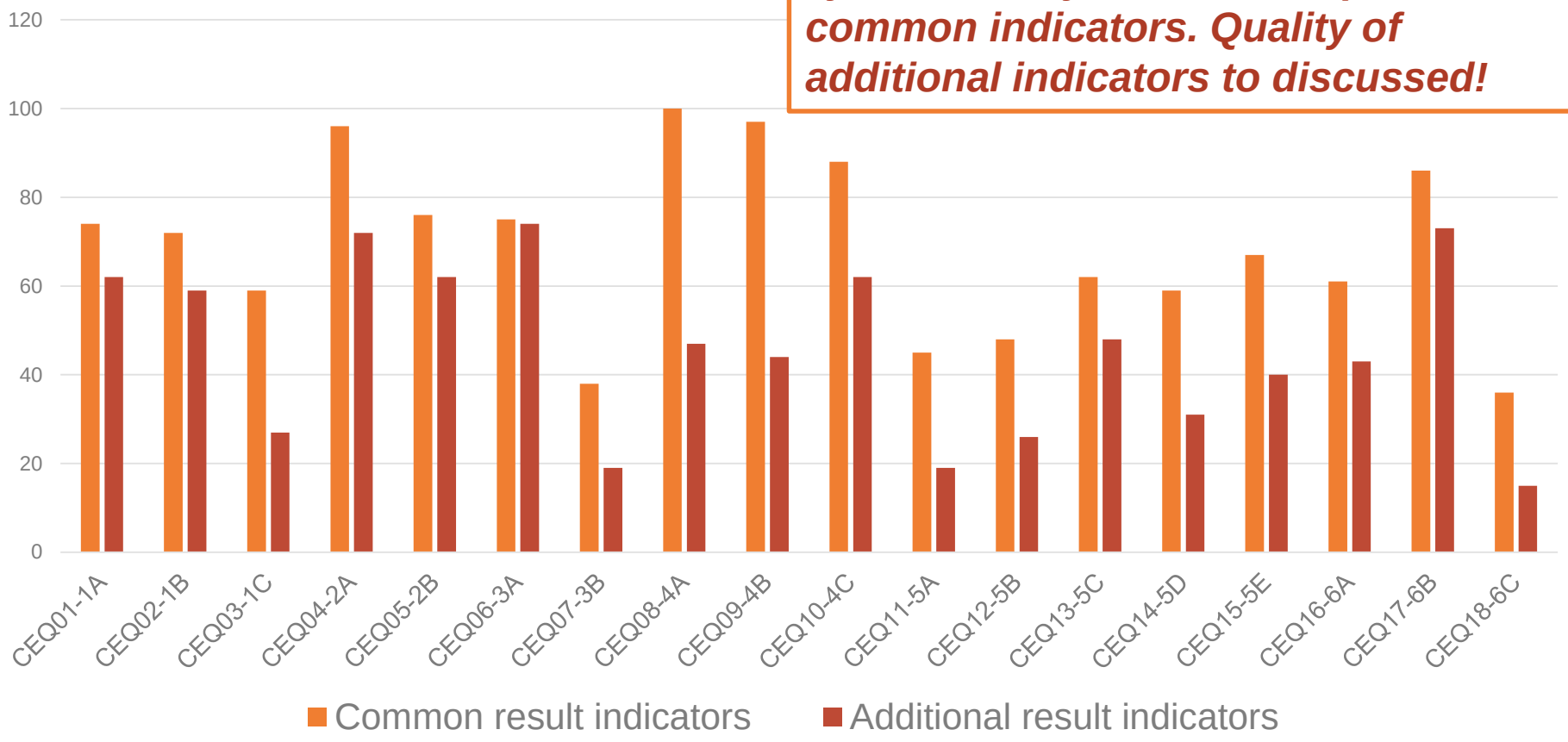
Evaluation related communication activities

Evaluation-related communication activities have tripled in number compared to the previous reporting period.

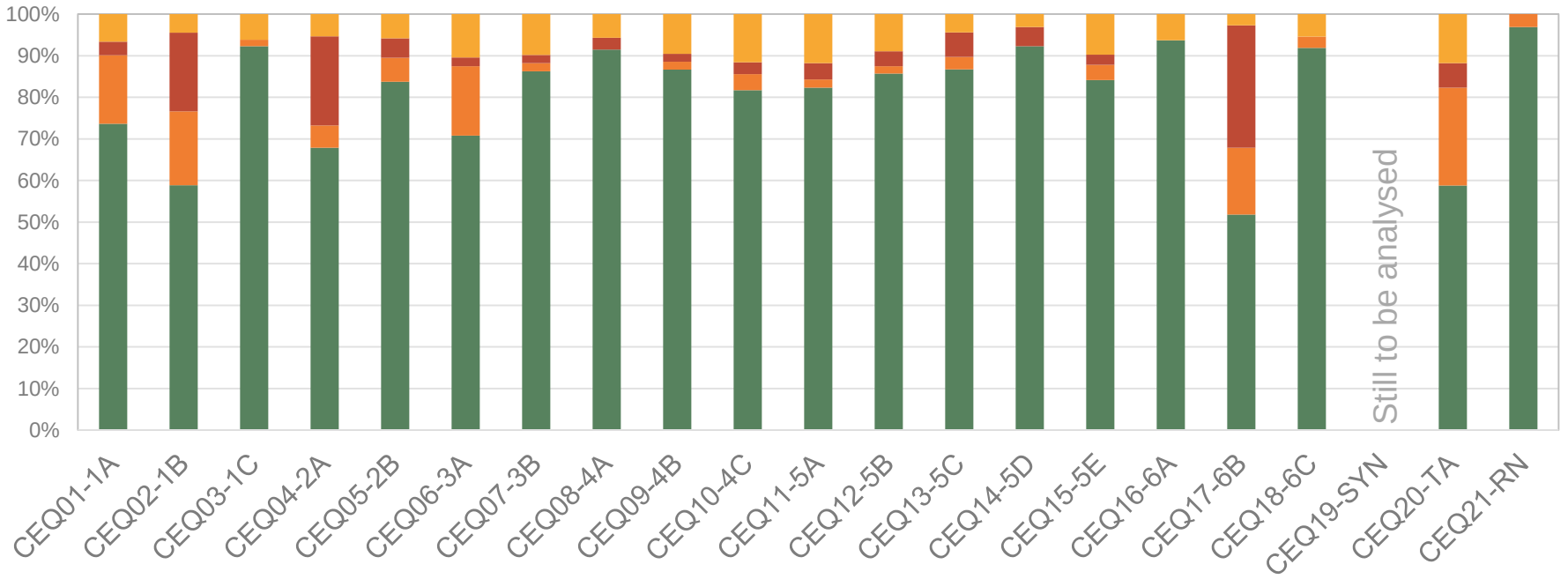
800,000 stakeholders have been directly reached!

Use of common versus additional indicators

Additional indicators were systematically used to complement the common indicators. Quality of additional indicators to discussed!

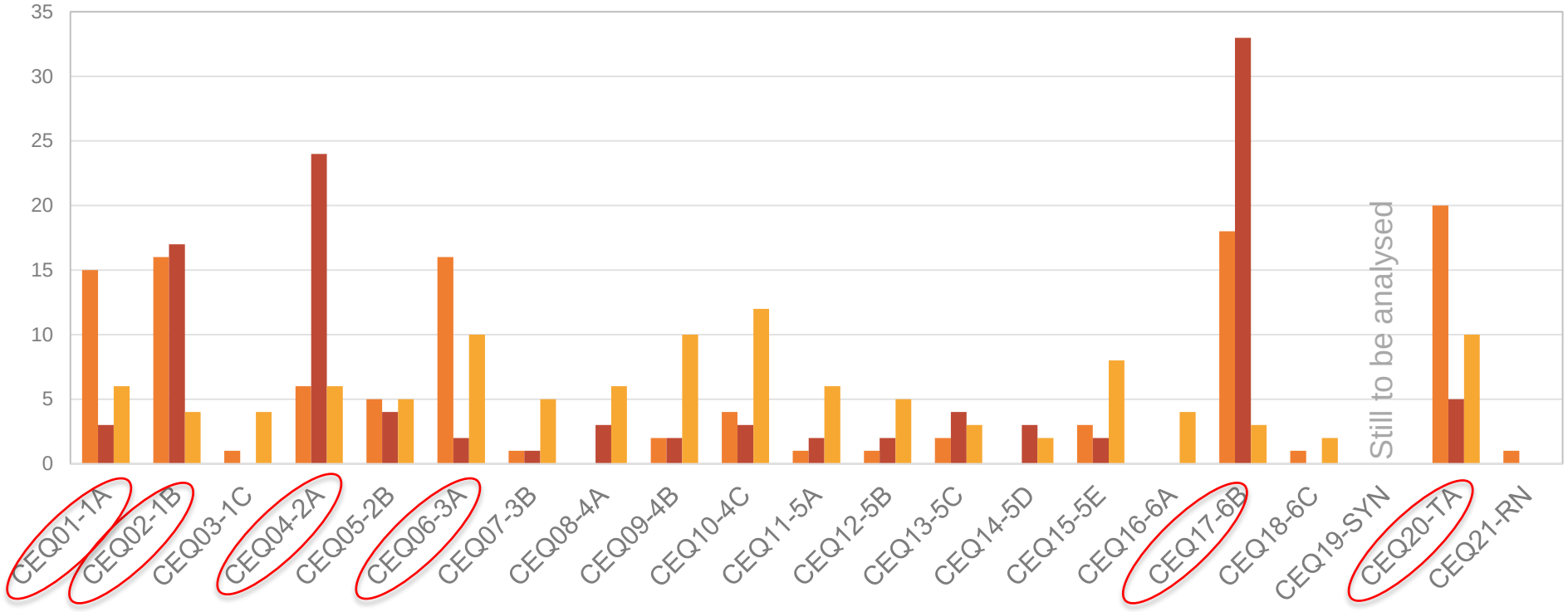


Consistency of evaluation elements



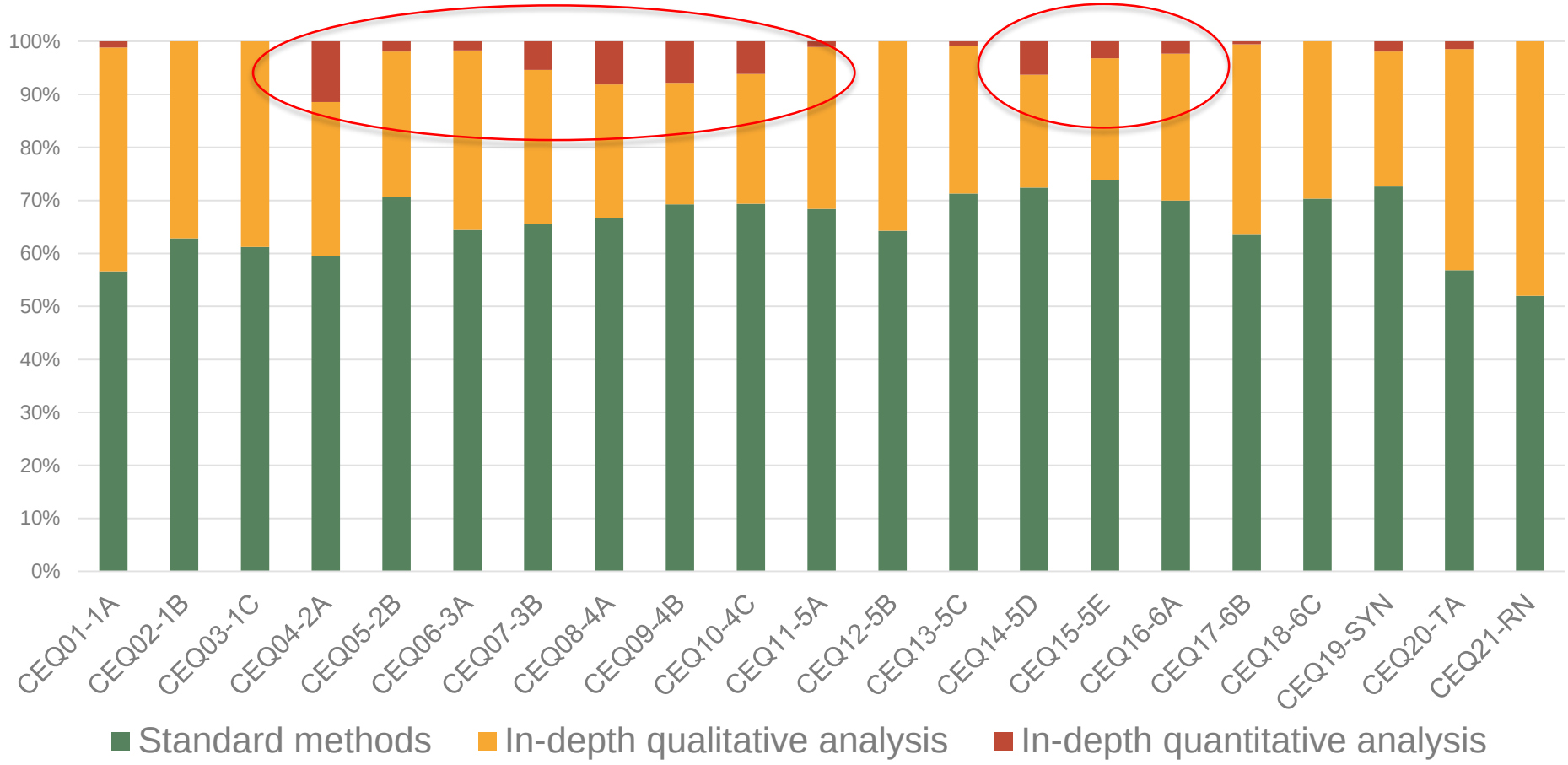
Evaluation elements were overall logically linked. However…

Consistency of evaluation elements



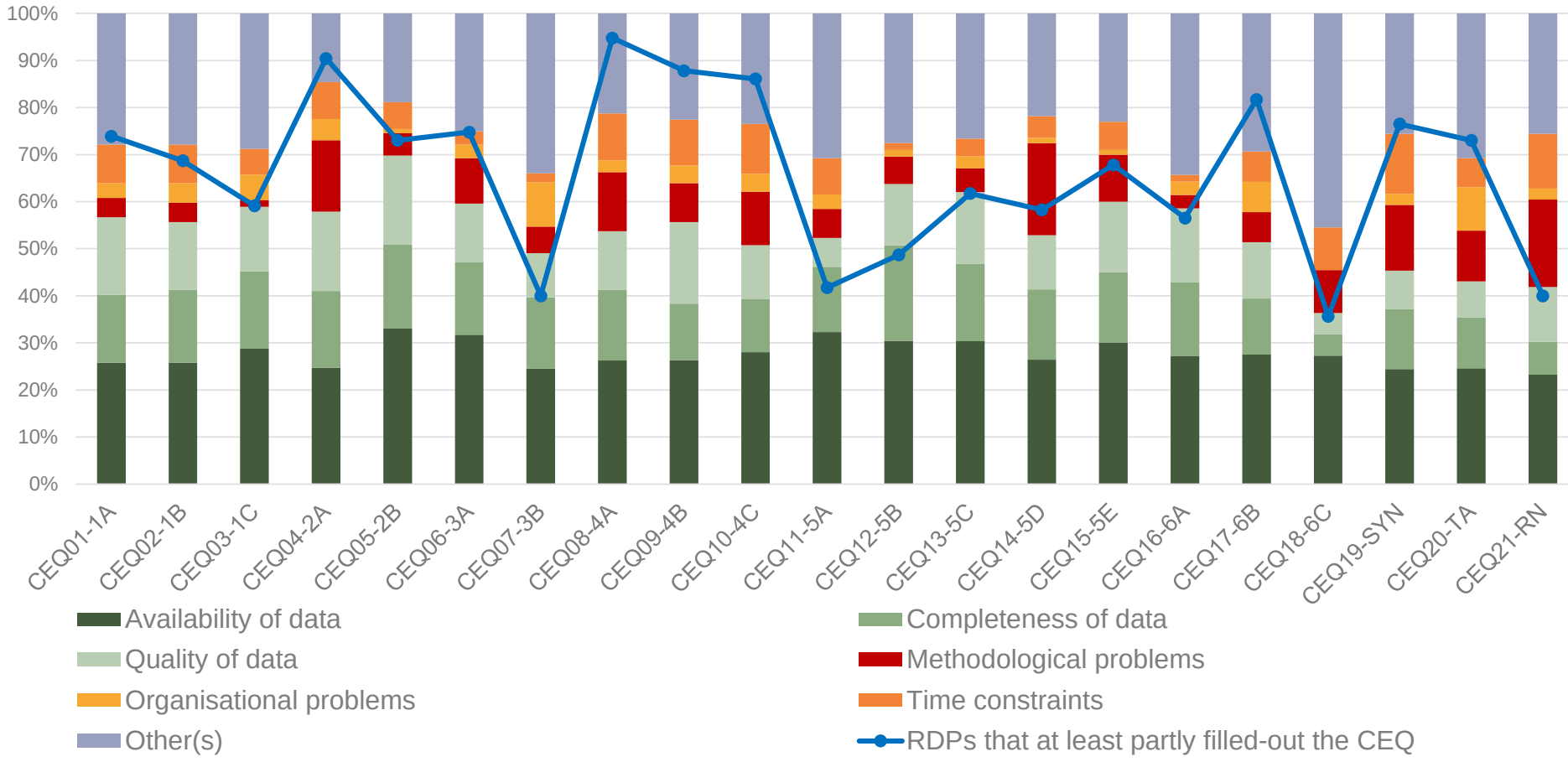
… some inconsistencies were observed, e.g. in CEQ 1, 2, 4, 6, 17, 20!

Evaluation methods



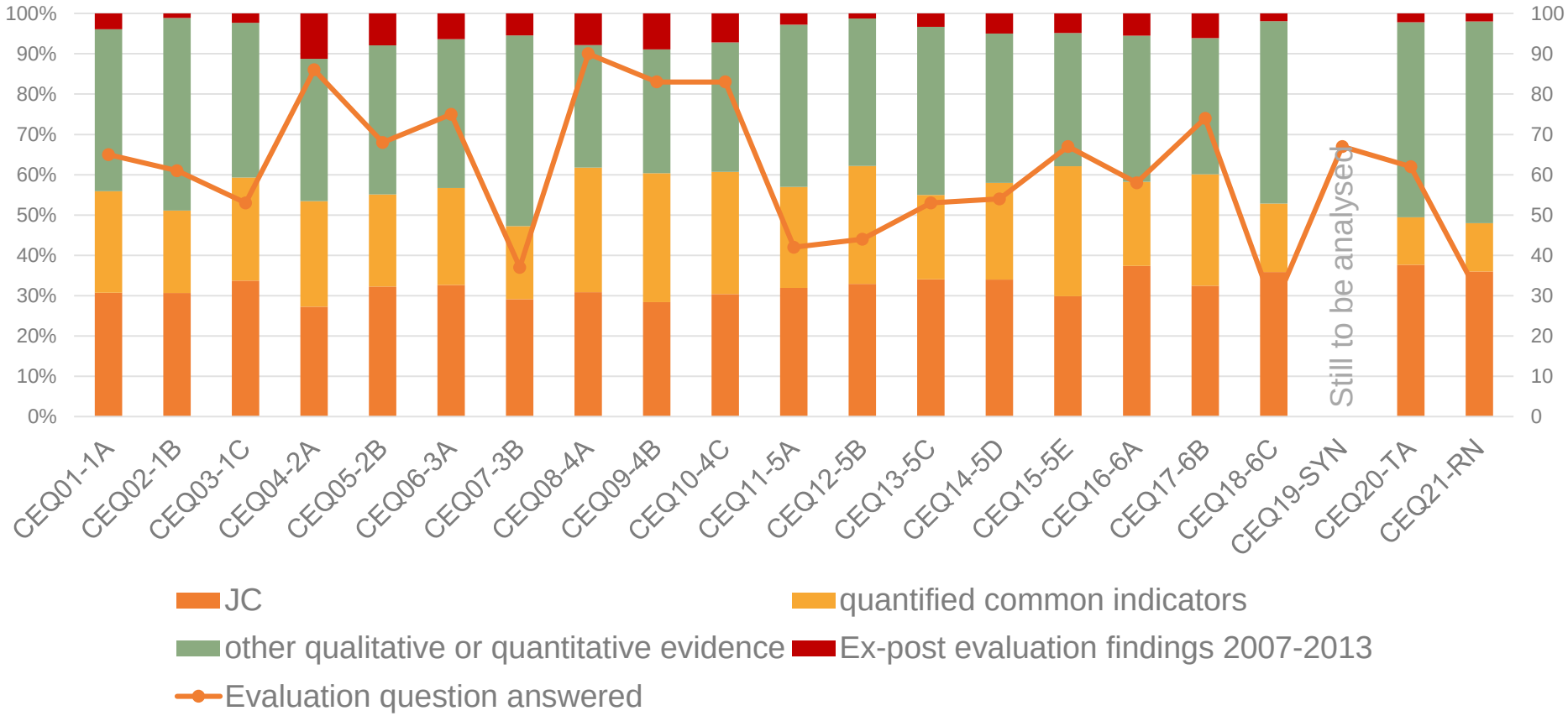
Standard evaluation methods were prevailing, but also more in-depth methods were also used (e.g. CEQ 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15 etc.)

Problems encountered



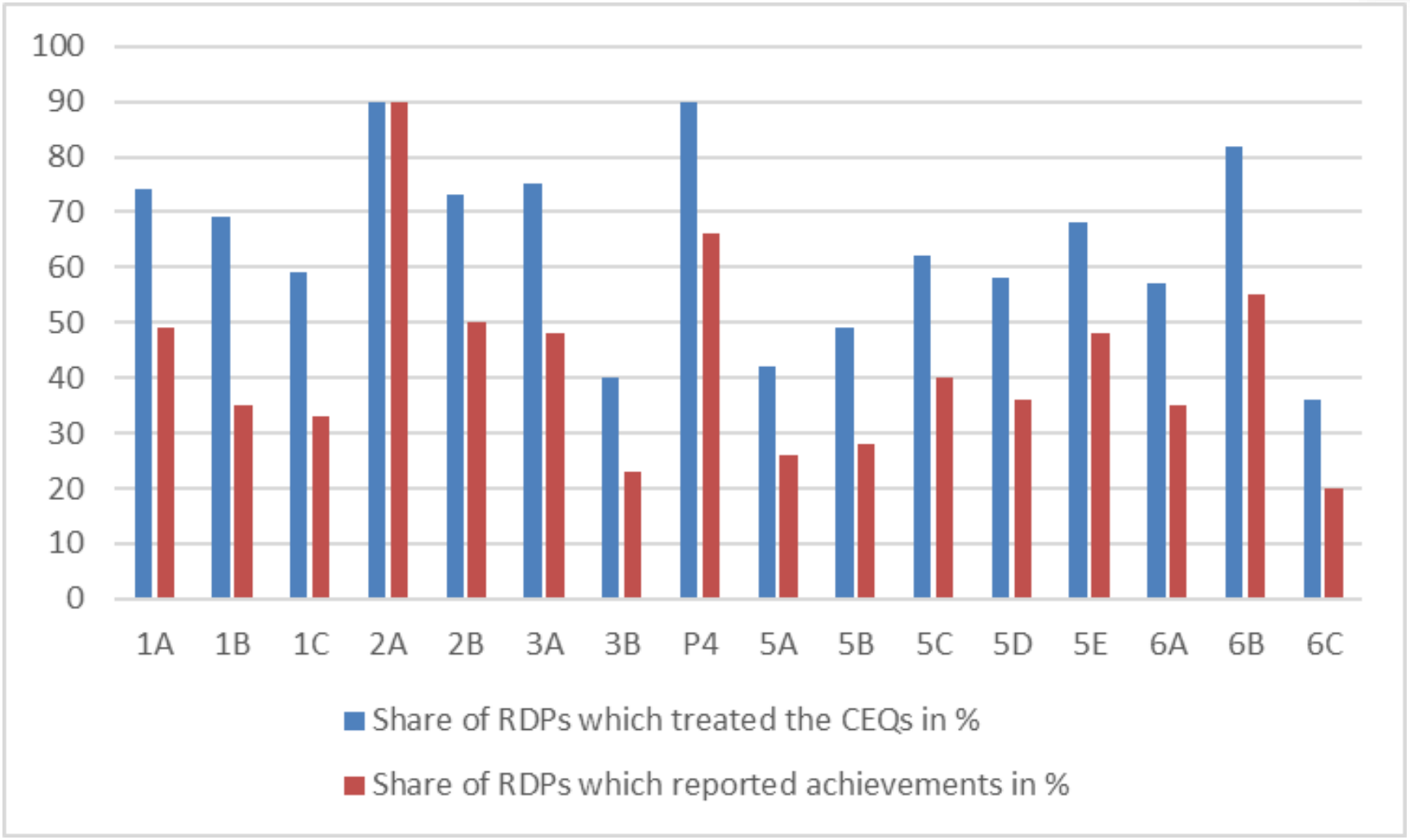
Data-related problems were mostly reported for CEQ 3, 5, 6, 12, 13, 15, 16
Methodological problems mostly for CEQs 4, 6, 8, 10, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21.

Evidence basis for answer to CEQs



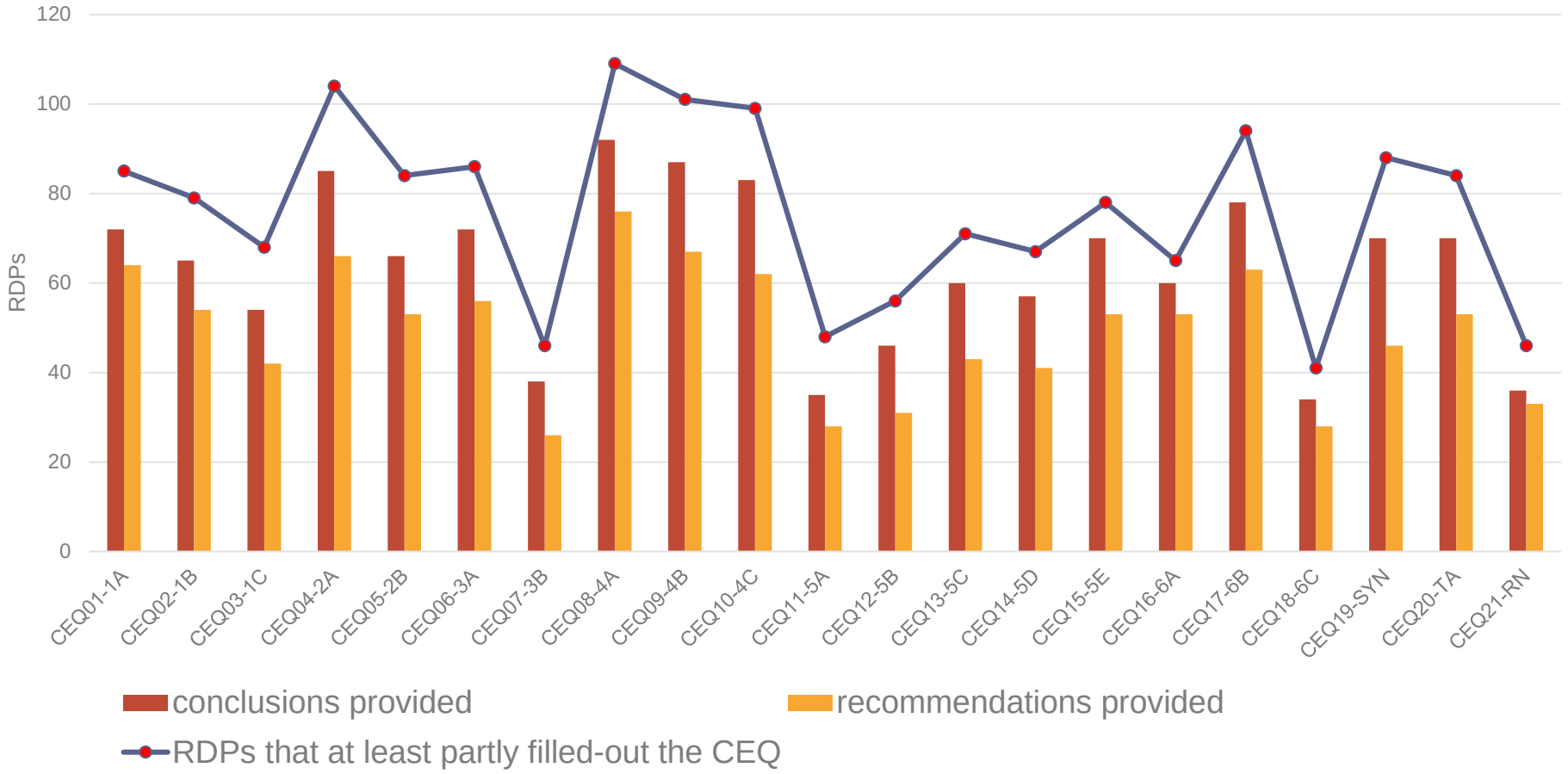
JC and quantified indicators were the main evidence basis for answering the CEQs in 2017.
Other evidence (incl. Ex-post) were complementarily used.

RDP achievements assessed



Assessment of RDP achievements varies across the CEQs… *(Analysis still under development) → Final results available in Q4 2017!)*

Conclusions & recommendations



Some gaps in conclusions observed.
Recommendations (not mandatory) were provided to a lower extent.

Conclusions on **strengths**

1. **Overall majority of CEQs have been addressed:** Evaluation activities have been carried out in MS even for those FAs with a low level of uptake.
2. **Good understanding and use of the common evaluation elements** –> overall very high compliance with CMES, less errors, good understanding of primarily/secondarily contributing measures etc.
3. **In many cases additional indicators were developed** to complement the common ones (however, some problems observed in their consistency).
4. **Evaluation methods were overall adequate** given the level of uptake (however with future improvements needed!)
5. **Problems encountered were consistently reported,** including improvements.
6. **The evidence-basis for the replies to EQs** was very clear (incl. ex post)
7. **RDPs started to quantify the common result indicators to demonstrate evidence-based achievements.** A higher rate was achieved in the FA areas 2A , 4A, 4B, 4C, and 6B.
8. **For the assessment of the net effects** it was usually too early.

Conclusions on **weaknesses**

1. **CEQs on TA, synergies, National Rural Networks** were poorly addressed**.**
2. **Methodological bottlenecks:** Methodological challenges (sub-section 3) are mentioned in about one third of the AIRs submitted in 2017 that were at least partly filled-out.
3. **Advanced quantitative in-depth methods** were used in few cases due to an overall rather low level of uptake
4. **Distinction between current or future use of evaluation methods** was not always clear
5. **Quantification of common result indicators** was difficult in cases of low uptake, not always consistent between chapters.
6. **Calculation of the net-value of the R2 indicator** was possible in only a small number of AIRs
7. **The answers provided to CEQs** were sometimes not structured by JC but by e.g. measures, sometimes not focused on the RDP achievements (but rather on implementation issues)
8. **Recommendations** were missing in about one fourth to one third of the RDPs

Thank you for your attention!

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