



Process of ex-ante evaluation for RDP 2014-2020 in Latvia

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Outline – Preparing the ex ante evaluation

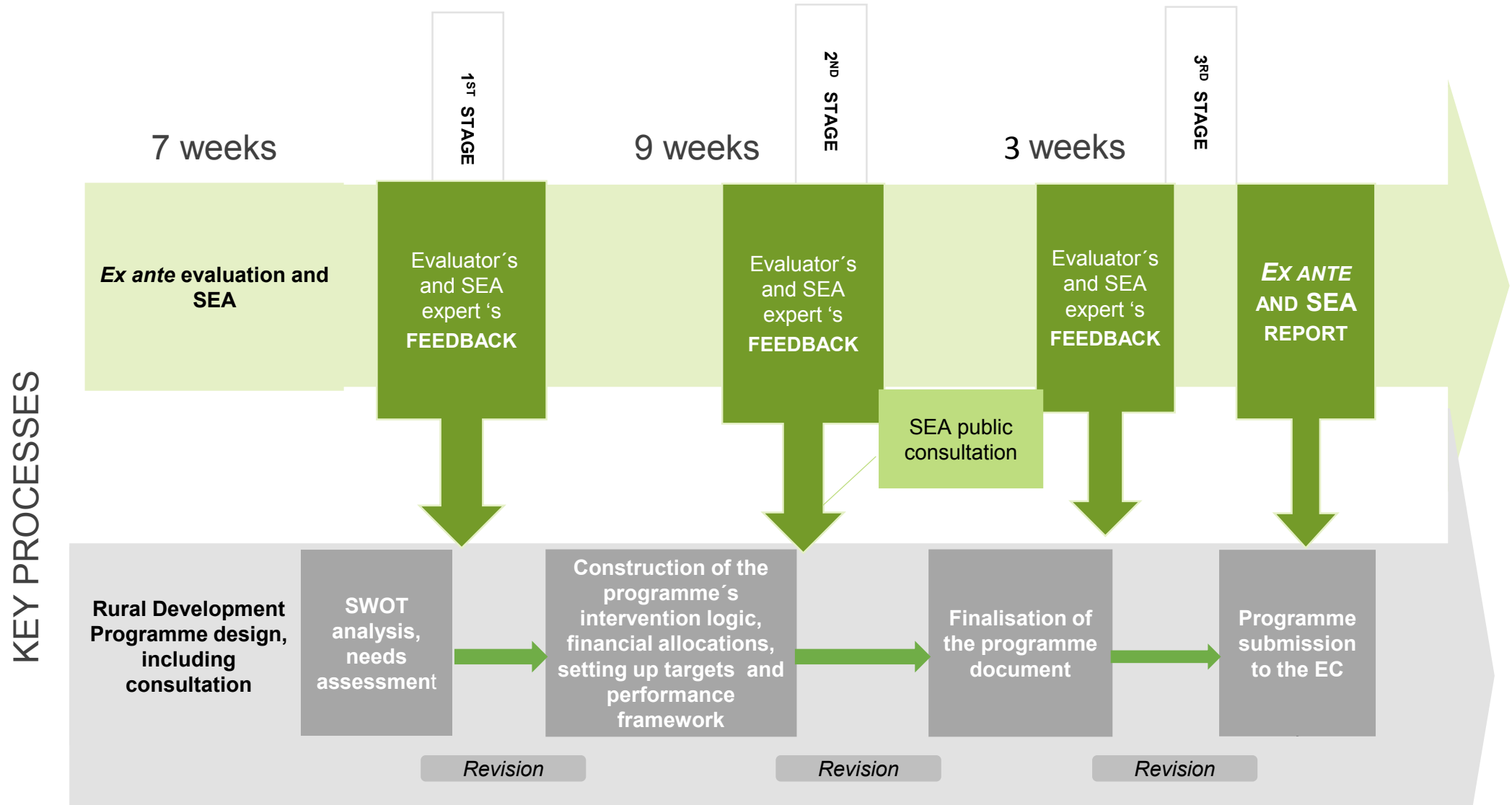
- Process and steps
- Stakeholders involved including roles and responsibilities
- Resources (human, financial)
- Methodologies, data, and indicators
- Using available evaluations findings for an informed policy making - Lessons learned

Introduction

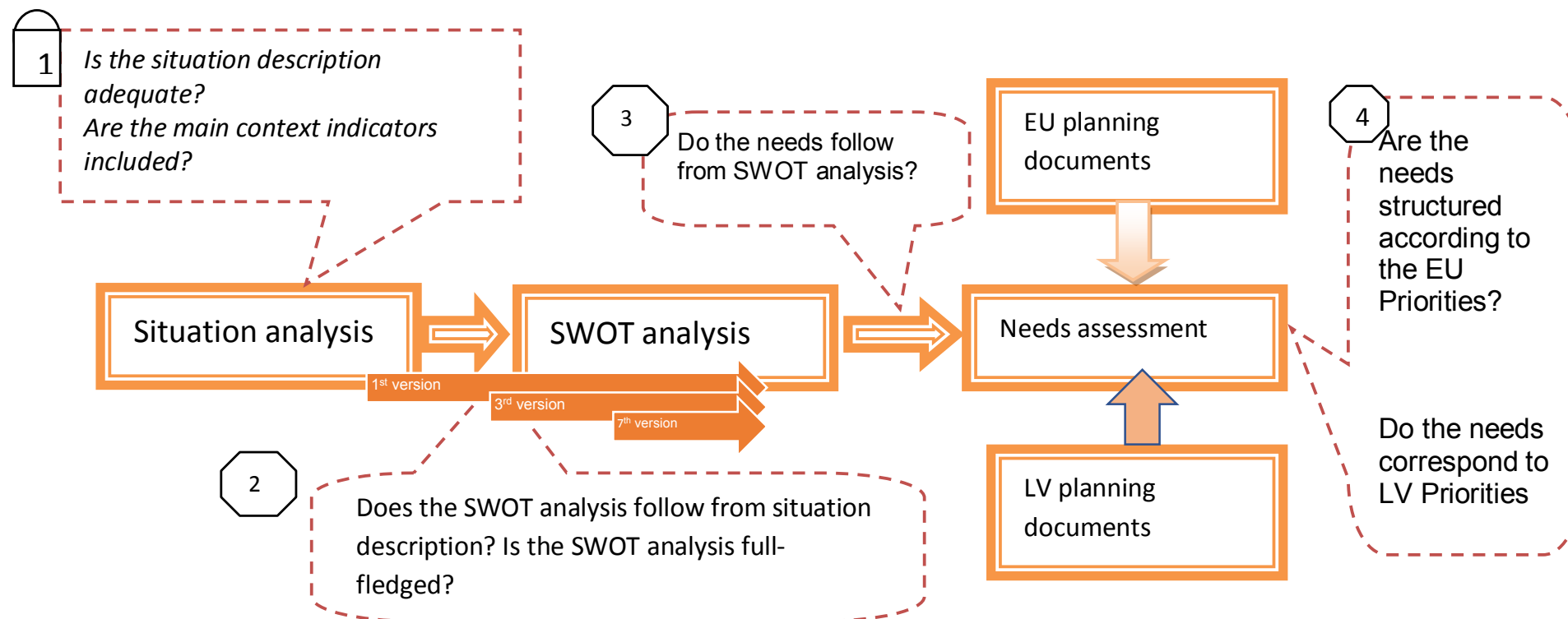
Ex-ante evaluation of Latvian RDP 2014-2020

- The ex-ante evaluation started *September 2012* and ended *December 2013*
- Contracted evaluator: *Institute of Agroresources and Economics* (engaging experts from other institutions) → the same institution as for ongoing evaluation
- Important – Ex-ante evaluation project manager, as well as experts, are familiar with RDP structure and substance
- The ex-ante evaluation was done according to the ‘Guidelines for the ex-ante evaluation of RDP 2014-2020’
- The ex-ante evaluation included also the SEA

Process and steps



Appraisal of SWOT and needs



Challenges:

- Volumes of the situation description and SWOT analysis to align with the importance of each field
- Needs assessment to align with RDP budget

Lessons learned:

Understanding of necessity of:

- Explanation of experts approach to MA
- Discussions with the MA to explain the evaluation findings

Resources for the ex-ante evaluation of RDP 2014-2020

Financial resources available

- For ex-ante evaluation
- For SEA

Human resources

- 10 researchers from different Universities and research institutions in Latvia (9 of them with Dr. degree)
- Time spent varies greatly between experts

Evaluation skills

- Some experts have been involved in evaluation processes before for ongoing evaluation
- Some have experience in the specific field (agricultural economics, sociology, climate change, environmental analysis, etc.)

Methodology, data and indicators

Mixed-method approach used:

Triangulation of methods – descriptive and qualitative (focus group)

Data : Public databases (CSB, Eurostat, FADN) and Paying Agency - PA (Rural Support Service information system)

Indicators:

- ✓ A common understanding of the breakdown of indicators: outcome, result, impact, context
- ✓ Indicator fiches
- ✓ Linking with measures objectives

Using available evaluation findings for an informed policy making

Reflections from the 2014-2020 period:

- More precise context indicators were suggested
- Criteria for beneficiaries were specified
- Separate financial envelopes for small and medium sized farms were created
- Indicators were collected through the PA information system and discussed with evaluators
- There was close co-operation between MA, PA and evaluators

Lessons for the future:

- MA resistance to lobby pressure is crucial
- Measures and activities selected should be more focused on needs
- Common understanding of the breakdown of indicators and linking them to measures and objectives
- Criteria for beneficiaries to be elaborated very carefully
- PA should collect all necessary indicators in the data system before launching the programme
- Maintain iterative process between NGOs, MA, evaluators
- Evaluators should have appropriate qualifications and understand the industry/sectors and structure of the programme

State of play of the ex-ante evaluation of the CAP Strategic Plan in Latvia

- A working group (WG) has been created to describe the situation, and to carry out the SWOT analysis and assessment of needs
- The WG involves: staff from MA, PA, Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre, researchers
- Ongoing discussions within the MA and between stakeholders
- *There is no contract signed yet, only mutual agreement with evaluators*

Support needed:

- to specify the difference between the ex-ante evaluation of the CAP and the RDP, taking into account the inclusion of Pillar I in terms of indicators, measures, special objectives
- a brief guidance on how to link each proposed indicator (result and context) to the measure and the special objective would be useful



Thank you

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Further information:

- www.arei.lv
- Ex-ante evaluation of RDP 2014 – 2020: <https://www.zm.gov.lv/lauku-attistiba/statiskas-lapas/lap-2014-2020-sakotnejais-novertejums-ex-ante-un-strategiskais-ietekme?id=2533#jump> (summary in English) or <http://www.arei.lv/lv/lauku-attistibas-programma>