

Experiences from the ex ante evaluation of regionalised RDPs 2014 – 2020 in France and lessons for the next period

JACQUES CARRILLO
EDATER



General Outline

- Introduction
- The interaction process between the MA and the evaluator ...
- Analysis of the intervention logic
- Analysis of target and milestones setting
- Conclusions and recommendations

Introduction

France : 2014-2020

- 29 Rural Development Programmes and 11,4 €Billion, with 29 ex ante evaluation
- 27 Regions as new Managing Authorities, in a context of an institutional decentralisation
- An important methodology evaluation challenge but also in terms of organisation and skills

Versus

France : 2021-2027

- 1 CAP Strategic Plan, with 1 national ex ante evaluation
- 16 regional SWOTs and 16 regional assessment of needs

Introduction

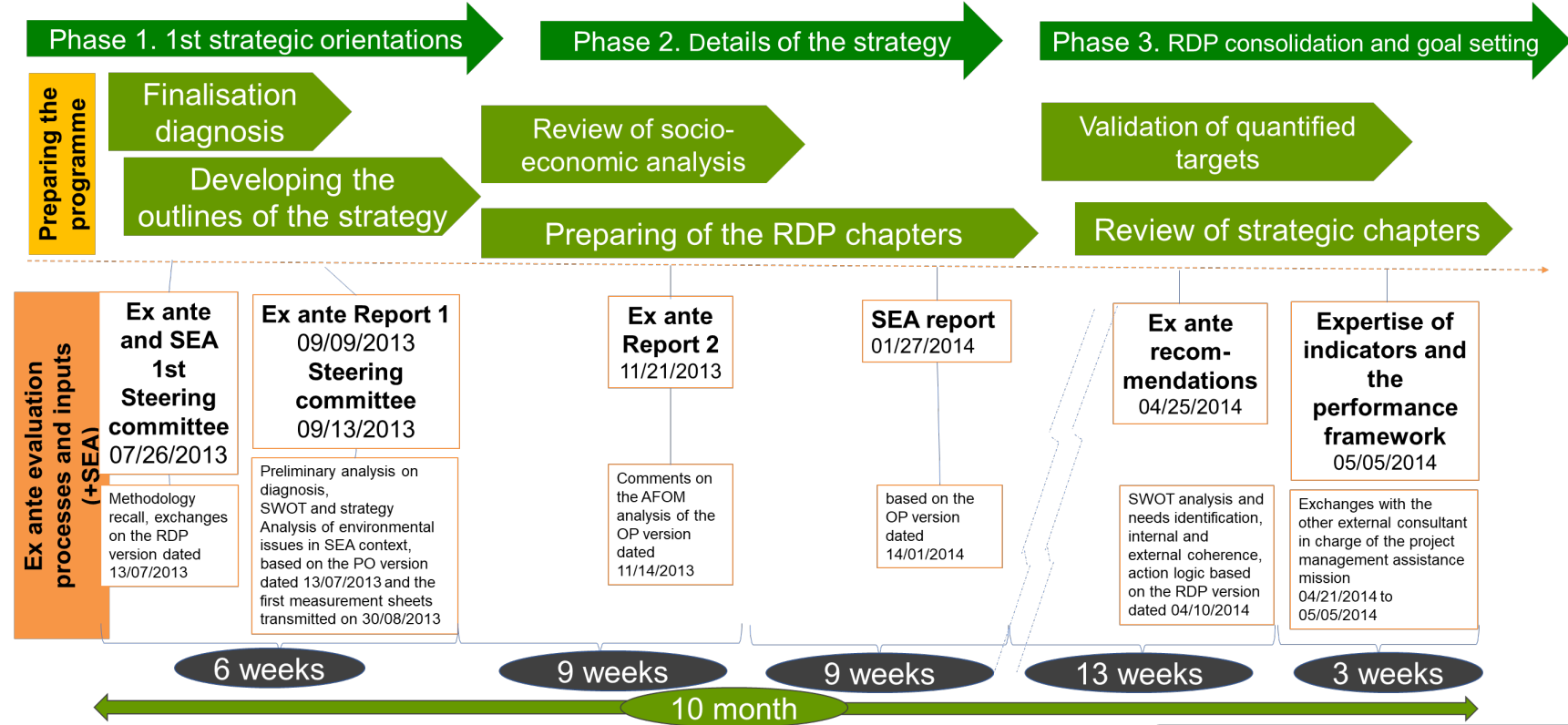
What challenges in 2013-2014 ? What practices ?

What lessons learnt for 2021-2027 ?

Experiences from the ex ante evaluation of regionalised RDPs 2014 – 2020 in France.

It focuses on the approaches implemented (Edater-AND International as an ex ante evaluator) to appraise various elements of regional RDPs, focusing on the Centre Val de Loire region and Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur region

The interaction process between the MA and the evaluator



40 weeks of work needs :

- Strong anticipation : EA as a process to help for the design (strategy, target, financial plan, stakeholders involvement, partnership ...) and not only as a final appraisal tool
- Time optimisation and complementary analysis (Ex ante and SEA)
- Frequently interactions between MA and evaluator : both are in the "same boat" and shared a common schedule,

EG : PACA and Centre Val de Loire Regions

Analysis of the intervention logic

2.1 - The links between the diagnosis and needs

A matrix to assess the quality of the diagnosis

The colour codes used in all analyses correspond to the following scale :

	The section or theme is well treated, no specific recommendations
	The section or theme is generally well treated but there are still some possible points of improvement
	Recommendations focus on significant areas for improvement for the relevant section or theme
	Major revisions are required despite some positives
	The section or theme concerned must be completely reviewed

2.1 - The links between the diagnosis and needs

Matrix 1 - A matrix to analyse the justification of the measures (regard to the needs)

Focus areas	Needs identified	Proposed measures	Strategy response: are the selected measures and justifications consistent with identified needs?
1A) Encouraging innovation, cooperation and the development of the knowledge base in rural areas	1 - knowledge transfers between farmers 2 - innovation in agri-food SMEs 6 - transmission/installation 8 - support for farmers 11 - official signs of quality 14 - biodiversity and natural resources 22 - biomass and forest resources 23 - cooperation in the forest sector	M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14) M02 - Advice services, agricultural management assistance and farm replacement (art 15) M16 - Cooperation (art 35)	<p>The measures presented may in theory meet the identified needs, but the results will largely depend on the selection criteria chosen, which are not specified.</p> <p>In general, the link between identified needs and selected measures remains too vague for this sub-priority.</p> <p>It is noted, however, that the use of IEP task groups is consistent with highlighting environmental issues in the various needs identified here.</p>

Criteria for answering the question :

Relevance : measures cover entirely / mostly / partly/ marginally the needs

Utility : considering the type of actions eligible (and feedback from previous EARDF evaluation) the added-value of the measure is: high/medium/low, certain or uncertain

Internal coherence : complementarity or even better synergies are pursued

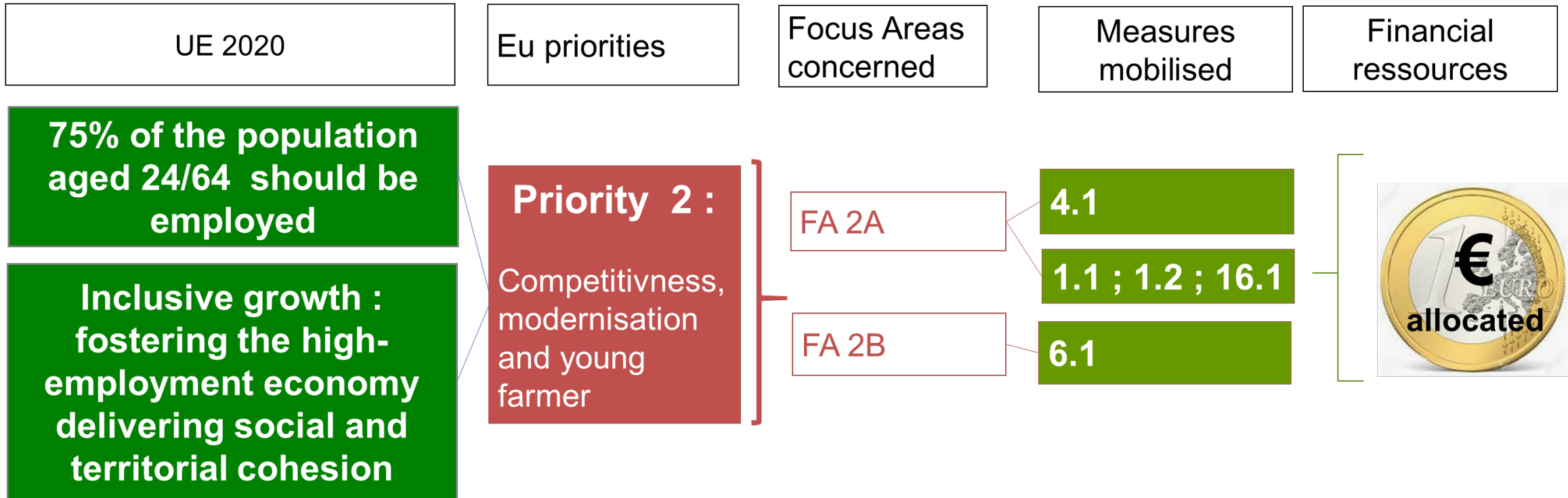
EG : Regions of Centre Val de Loire and PACA

2.2 – A matrix to verify the coherence between the strategy of the RDP and the EU/FR targets and issues

EG : PACA and Centre Val de Loire Regions		EU 2020 targets							National Issues (Partnership Agreement - June 2013)			
		Employment rate of 75% of 20-64 year olds	R&DI investment of 3% of GDP	Less than 20% of GHG emissions compared to 1990	20% use of renewable energy	20% increase in energy efficiency	School dropout rate below 10%	40% of 30-34 year olds with higher education.	Reducing poverty and social exclusion	Increased techno research effort, not techno. for the agriculture, aquaculture, forestry and emerging sectors (bio/nanotechnology)	Expansion of digital services and HRT throughout the country (100% coverage within 10 years), particularly in rural and peri-urban underserved areas	Improved access to advanced financing and services for SMEs, diversifying industry sectors, and supporting HR-knowledge investments
Strategy and actions envisaged in the Region Centre Val de Loire for EARDF	Contribution of the RDP of Region Centre to the EU's strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and consistent with the strategic objectives of the future 2014-2020 partnership agreement <i>The coloured boxes refer to the EU 2020 strategic objectives and national issues to which the PDR contributes. Color gradation according to contribution level.</i>											
Priority 1 [...]	[...]											

1. a relevant, but mainly qualitative exercise (first, via colour code and qualitative analysis)
2. an attempt at quantification (see next slide).
3. but difficulty to measure the RDP's contribution (to the EU targets or national objectives).
4. moreover, "partnerships agreement priorities" should be replaced by "2027 CAP priorities"

2.2 – A matrix to verify the coherence between the strategy of the RDP and the EU/FR targets and issues



Need to introduce a quantified approach (example)

EG : PACA and Centre Val de Loire Regions

Analysis of target and milestone setting

3.1 – The relevance of indicators and targets

Tools used (focus group, matrix, ...)

Example of a the utility of a analysis matrix (following slide) :

- 1. Captures the target values of the projected 2019 and 2023 achievement indicators (sub-measure or type operations, by focus area)
- 2. Verification of the methodological hypothesis
- 3. Policy rational for adopting the target
- 4. Definition of recommendations and solutions to improve the quality of targets

Focus area 2A – Centre Val de Loire

	Type of operations 2014-2020	Amounts made up	Targets set for 2023	How targets are calculated / hypothesis	Evaluation of the strength of the calculation method and recommendations
14	111 - Training and Skills Training	4 M€	6 579 participants	<p>1/ Quality of the selected indicator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is the indicator covering all the types of operations? - Is the indicator sensible (elasticity) to the type of operation (value will evolve proportionally to the programming) 	<p>The calculation of the indicators is based on :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - observation that the number of trainees is strongly correlated with the amounts of EARDF aid. - feedback on the average cost of support. <p>The method seems to us to be suitable for calculating the target value)</p>
	121–Encouraging the emergence and transfer of reference acquisition networks		3 400 people addressed	<p>2/ Witch method was used (combined of possible) ? Different criteria :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Retrospective approach / empiric Prospective 	<p>The quantification of targets is based :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the balance sheet of the main training schemes in the regions - valuing experts (focus group, statistics)
	122 - Encouraging the dissemination of experimentation		(beneficiaries)	<p>3/ Is the target value coherent with the strategic objective / context ?</p> <p>Finally is the target value coherent with the priority and</p>	<p>Taking into account the concept of double counting for sub-measure 1.2 (type of operations 121 and 122) seems to us to be adequate for the calculation of this target.</p>

Conclusions and recommendations

Lessons about the key success factors of RDP ex ante evaluation

1. Planification

- One should **start the ex ante work very early** in order to influence structural arbitration especially considering that some choice cannot be reconsidered once announced politically (consultation / dialogue with stakeholder)
- **Mutual road map** to check the recommendations and decision of the MA as regard the calendars (French calendar and EU calendar)
- **The EA could be used to prepare the evaluation plan** : for a more relevant, balanced and feasible plan
- In the case of regionalised country, **mutualisation of regional experiences** (about EA) could be a good practice
- **A strong link between the EEA and the SEA (needing an early work)** allows a more in-depth environmental analysis (to help the MA to define high environmental objectives results)

Lessons about the key success factors of RDP ex ante evaluation

2. Quantitative approach :

- **Lesson learned about tools** : adapt them with the context and to be mix with quantitative approach
- **Importance of the budget analysis** : intervention logic should be appraised as regard financial allocation and priorities
- **Availability of data from 2007-2013** programming for indicators' values calculation had been anticipate
- **But do not rely solely on retrospective analysis** : change of regulatory framework (eligibility, co-financing rates..) and strategies, example from 2014-2020 exercise (integrated projects on M4, Change in agro-environmental approaches on M10, organic farming...)
- **The exercise on targets' value** did lead to reconsidering the strategy / budget allocation : inconsistency between targets and objective or potential. This is why this exercise should not be carried out at the end
- In the case of regional or small RDPs, **how to deal with the size of territory to assess the results expected** (result indicator not adapted). A reflexion could be started about the Strategic National Plan for CAP evaluation and the specific regional contribution to the national targets (sample or totality of regions)

10 lessons about the key success factors of RDP ex ante evaluation

3. Interaction between the evaluator and the MA allows

- **transfer of knowledge from the evaluator to the public servant** of the Region is a key of success because they did not have previous experience (new responsibilities as managing authority in France)
- **interaction with public servant of the Region** improve the ability to justify the priorities during the implementation of the programme

→ both ensure **a better ownership of the Ex ante evaluation recommendations along the process** by the Managing authority



Thank you

Jacques CARRILLO

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