Impact analysis: study on baseline and impact indicators for rural development programming 2007-2013

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Executive Summary

Introduction

For the 2007-2013 programming period the EU-member states will have to produce new Rural Development Programmes. In order to assist everybody involved (programme managers, evaluators, desk officers etc.) the European Commission, DG AGRI, has commissioned several studies to give guidance and explanation on the new requirements. This study deals with the subject of baseline indicators, and its goal is formulated as:

> *"…provide draft guidance as an input to the Commission on the use of baselines and baseline indicators in rural development programmes in the new programming period from 2007-2013. In addition, it will provide a first assessment of baseline conditions in the member states. This guidance and assessment will be used as a basis for guidelines to Member States on programme development and evaluation corresponding to the increased focus on programme strategies in the proposed Rural Development regulation."*

In line with this goal, the study and this summary have the following structure:

1 Explanation of key concepts;
2 Definition of common baseline indicators that correspond to the hierarchy of objectives;
3 Treatment of additional baseline indicators.

In the following paragraphs, the main results of this study are presented.

Explanation of key concepts

In order to provide the reader with the same information and definitions, the first step is to explain the key concepts of programming and evaluation. We will concentrate on the topics that are most relevant for baseline and impact indicators. This starts with the programme life cycle.

Rural Development Programmes are instrumental to achieve certain policy objectives, that are relevant on the EU-level, the national level and the regional level.

The programme life cycle

The programme life cycle is a term used to describe the lifespan of a specific (rural development) programme, from its formulation to the review of the different parts of the programme:

- The assessment of the needs: the assessment of the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT-analysis).
- Programme development: prioritisation of the needs and opportunities determines the hierarchy of objectives in the strategy, and the formulation of the objectives of the programmes.

- Implementation of the programme through projects
- Monitoring, based on the objectives, redefined as indicators
- Periodic evaluation
- Programme revision and adaptation.

For most of these stages it is essential to use indicators, as the indicators form the basis of a good analysis (and thus the programme), the monitoring and the evaluation. Baseline indicators are especially important for analysis (and thus setting of objectives), periodic evaluation and programme revision.

Hierarchy of Objectives

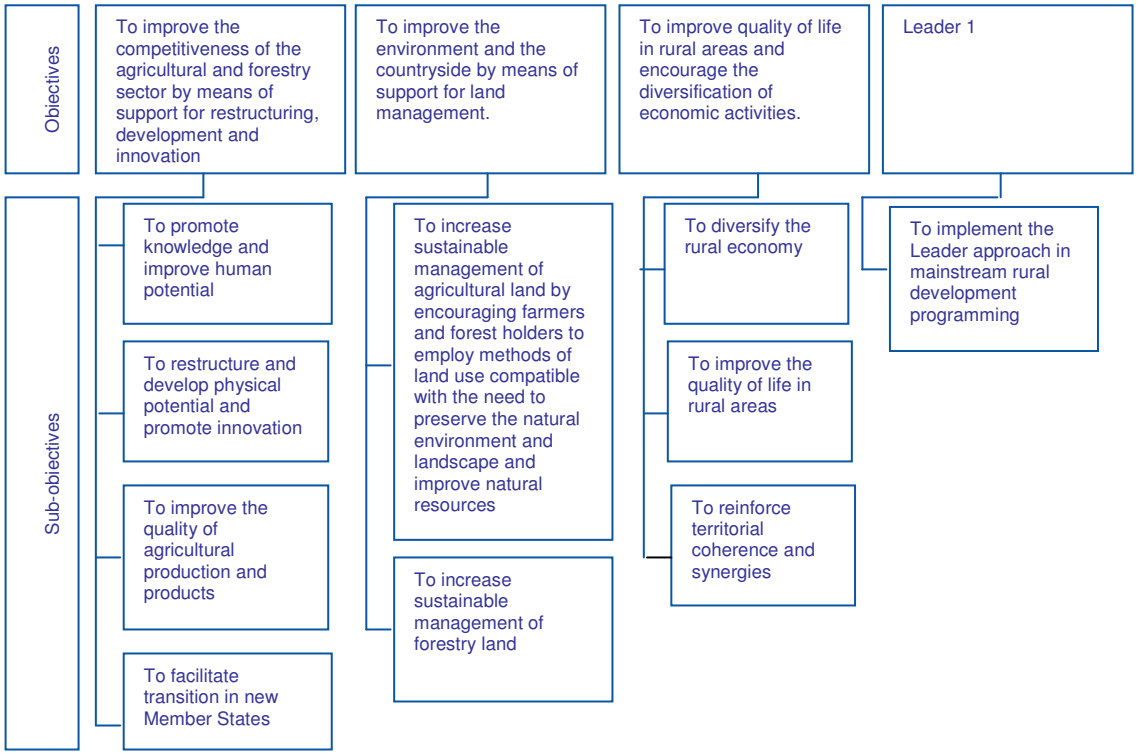
For the next programming period the following structure is applicable:

- The Council Regulation, in which the objectives, sub-objectives and measure objectives are defined;
- The Community Strategic Guidelines, which defines the priorities;
- The National Strategies for each member state, in which the specific needs and objectives of the country and its regions are specified.

The new **Council Regulation** on the EU's rural development policy envisages reinforcing the current rural development policy and a simplification of its implementation. In order to ensure that EU's rural development policy stays focussed on the most important and urgent rural development issues, the propose reform is structured along three major policy objectives, that are further detailed in sub-objectives and measure objectives. Together this forms the **Hierarchy of Objectives** (HoO). This HoO is crucial for programme development and indicator development as it highlights the logic of interventions (see below). The individual member states should base their national strategies on the HoO, but of course taking into account the specific needs and objectives of the country and its regions. Thus, based on the analysis of the own situation, the choice can be made as to which measures are most important, or whether there are additional objectives to be set.

For the baseline indicators and the impact indicators, the objectives and sub-objectives are the relevant levels in the Hierarchy of Objectives. These are presented in Figure 0.1. It should be noted that Leader is actually not an objective but an axis. It contributes to the achievements of the objectives of one or several of the three thematic axes (these are directly linked to the objectives), in addition to support the capacity building and working of the local action groups.

Figure 0.1 The hierarchy of objectives for the rural development policy 2007-2013

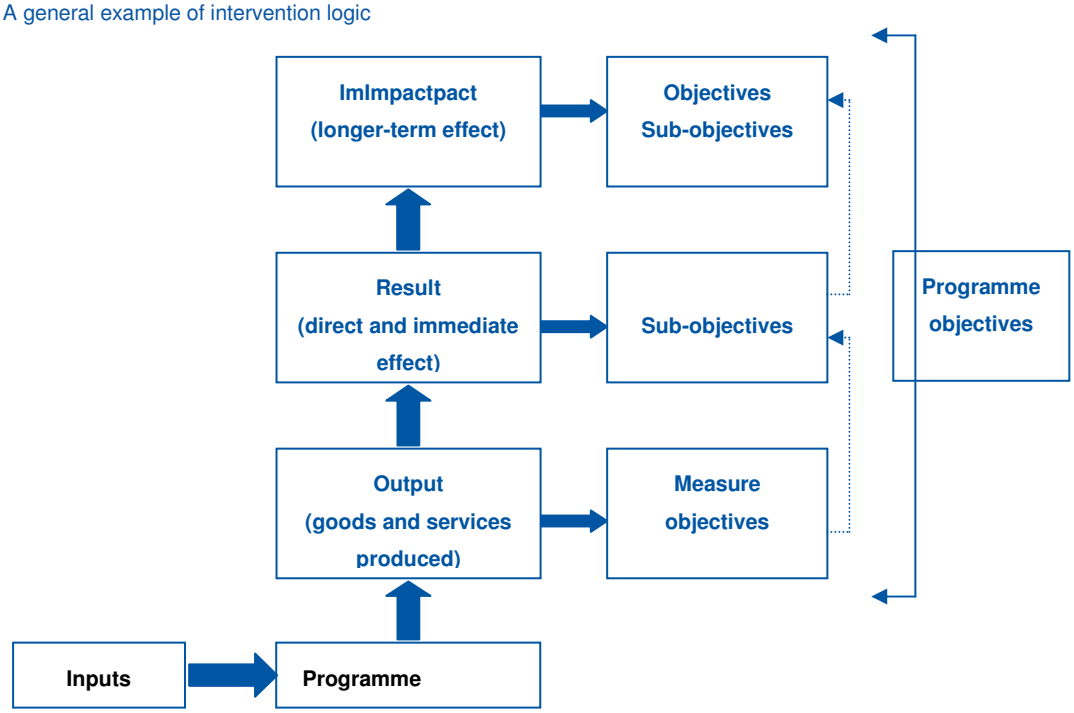


1 Leader is not an Objective but an axis that contributes to the achievement of the objectives of one of several of the three thematic axes, in addition to support the capacity building and working of local action groups.

Intervention logic

The intervention logic is a tool used to relate the implementation of a public intervention to its objectives, based on a schematic presentation of the chain of causality between programme (measures) and expected effects. Schematically, this intervention logic is presented in the following figure.

Figure 0.2 A general example of intervention logic



Source: Commission methodological working paper

- Inputs: financial and administrative means mobilised (e.g. EAFRD-funding per RDP measure, number of administrative staff involved in the implementation of a measure);
- Outputs: what is accomplished with the means mobilised (e.g. farm investment financed by EAFRD-funds; organisation of training sessions about sustainable agriculture);
- Results: the initial benefits arising from the programme, normally measurable at the level of the project (e.g. GVA of supported farmers, better skilled farmers);
- Impacts: the indirect effects at the level of the programme (e.g. Improvement of the environment in rural areas, higher revenue of farmers).

In order to judge whether the intervention logic in practice will bring the benefits as are intended, it is necessary to define and use indicators.

An indicator can be defined as a measurement, it can measure an objective to achieve, a resource mobilised, an output accomplished, an effect obtained or a context variable.

Use of indicators in the programme life cycle.

Defining and using the appropriate indicators is an integral and necessary part of programming. Indicators are used in all stages of the programme life cycle. For the various aspects of programming, various types of indicators are relevant:

- Analysis and defining and quantifying objectives: baseline and input indicators
- Monitoring: input, output and result indicators
- Evaluation: as above and impact indicators, depending on the type of evaluation (ex ante, mid term, ex post)

Indicators play a crucial role in the programme life cycle and well-defined set of indicators is essential to construct and implement a good (rural development) programme.

Baseline indicators in more detail

In this study a distinction is made between context baseline indicators and impact related baseline indicators. Both types of indicators reflect the situation at the start of a programme against which changes over time can be measured.

1. *Context baseline indicators* provide information on the relevant aspects of the general context in which a programme is implemented and that ate likely to have an influence on the performance of the programme, but at the same time will not be targeted (directly) by the programme. The context baseline indicator serves two purposes:
   - Identifying strengths and weaknesses within the region;
   - Explanation for impacts achieved within the programme, as these changes in factors can work counterproductive or supportive in achieving the objectives.
2. *Impact related baseline indicators* will be influenced by the programme and are the basis for measuring effectiveness. They are the baseline (or reference) of the programmes' impact.

Impact indicators

Impact indicators represent the consequences of the programme beyond its direct and immediate interaction with addressees or recipients; they represent the policy goals of a programme and relate to the general objectives and indirect effects.

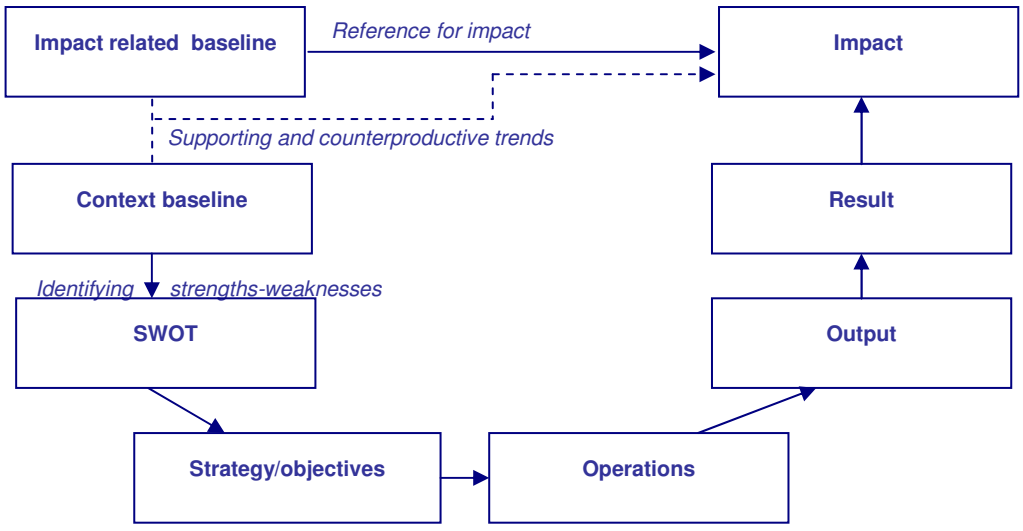
Relation impact and baseline indicators

Where baseline indicators reflect a situation in a certain moment of time, the impact indicators reflect the change in the baseline indicator over time. This can be measured in absolute numbers or in percentages.

Context baseline and impact related baseline indicators

In the next figure the relationship between these baseline indicators and the SWOT, strategy and impact is presented.

Figure 0.3 Relation between the baseline indicators, output, result and impact indicators



Source: ECORYS/IDEA consult

Monitoring and evaluation

The indicators are instrumental to both programming and monitoring and evaluation. Monitoring and evaluation serve as an important tool for the management and control for rural development programmes.

Monitoring and evaluation have several functions:

- assessing the progress of a programme;
- assessing the relevancy, effectiveness, efficiency and management of a programme (evaluation);
- deliver input for adjustment of the programme where necessary in order to achieve the objectives
- analyse disparities between expected results and final results
- Dissemination of results to a wider public.

Monitoring is to follow the implementation of the programme on a regular basis through a standardised and transparent system, based on indicators. Evaluation goes more in depth, looking at the (expected) results and impact of the programme and analysing reasons for disparities between expected results and final results. Evaluation activities are therefore performed at several moments in the programming process: before (ex ante, in an interactive way with the programmers), during (on-going) and after (ex post). Without proper indicators it is impossible to conduct good evaluations, which means that programme management losses an important tool in the decision making process (specially ex ante and on-going).

Measuring impact

If the baseline indicator is used as reference for impact indicators, the trend over programme time will be important in measuring the achievement of the targets. Impact indicators will be influenced by more factor than the programme alone, due to their general character. For this purpose a distinction should be made in net and gross effects, in order to determine the contribution of the programme. However, this is often a difficult exercise.

Definition of common baseline indicators

In the context of the next programming period, the Hierarchy of Objectives plays a central role. It is the base for the member states to develop and specify their own national strategy. For the objectives as set in the HoO it is proposed to use a limited set of **common (baseline) indicators**: they reflect these objectives. In addition to this the member states are obliged to define additional indicators, reflecting their specific needs and objectives (see further).

Availability of data

Based on the hierarchy of objectives, the common baseline indicators have been identified for the new rural development programme. Besides the fact that it should be a limited number of indicators, other criteria for selection were availability of data and possibility of aggregation. The base for selection was a long list of indicators, building upon the baseline indicators for the 2000-2006 period. It turned out that the availability of harmonised data on the regional level is a major obstacle. Therefore the possibility is created to use, where necessary, non-harmonised data.

The result of this activity is an overview of common baseline and impact indicators. These indicators are further described in indicator fiches (see 0.5), indicating the essential information like the link to the objective, the unit of measurement, sources, availability, and so on.
Next to this, a dataset for the EU-25 on NUTS 2 level on the indicators is delivered, filled as far as data were available on centralised sources.

In the following figure the indicators are presented, structured on the objectives.

Table 0.1 Common baseline and impact indicators for rural development 2007-2013

AXIS	OBJECTIVES	Status	Baseline Indicator	Impact indicator
Horizontal	General	CR	Economic development	=
		CR	Unemployment	=
		CR	- for female	=
		CR	- for young	=
		CR	Economic development of primary sector	=
		CR	Social development of primary sector	=
		CR	Age structure	=
		CR	Employment structure	=
		CR	Population coverage by LAG's	=
AXIS 1, Competitiveness	Competitiveness in agriculture and food sector	IR	Training and education in agriculture	Increase in training and education in agriculture
		IR	Labour productivity in agriculture	Increase in labour productivity in agriculture
		IR	Age structure in agriculture	Improvement in age structure in agriculture
		IR	Gross fixed capital formation in agriculture	Increase in gross fixed capital formation in agriculture
		IR	Economic development of food industry	Increase in economic development of food industry
		IR	Labour productivity in food industry	Increase in labour productivity in food industry
		IR	Gross fixed capital formation in food industry	Increase in gross fixed capital formation in food industry
		IR	Number of semi-subsistence farms in NMS	=
		CR	Farm structure	=
		IR	Gross fixed capital formation in forestry	Increase in gross fixed capital formation in forestry
		IR	Labour productivity in forestry	Increase in labour productivity in forestry
		CR	Social development of forestry	=
		CR	Forestry structure	=
AXIS	OBJECTIVES	Status	Baseline Indicator	Impact indicator
AXIS 2, Land management	Environment	IR	Agriculture areas under Natura 2000	Increase in agriculture areas under Natura 2000
		IR	Forestry areas under Natura 2000	Increase in forestry areas under Natura 2000
		IR	Population of farmland birds	Increase in population of farmland birds
		IR	High Nature Value farmland areas	Increase in High Nature Value farmland areas
		CR	Areas of extensive agriculture	=
		IR	Water quality	Increase in water quality
		CR	Water quality	=
		CR	Water use	=
		IR	Pollution: by nitrates and pesticides	Decreas in pollution: by nitrates and pesticides
		IR	Climate change: production of renewable energy from agriculture	Climate change: increase production of renewable energy from agriculture
		IR	Climate change: share of agriculture in GHG emissions	Climate change: decrease in share of agriculture in GHG emissions
		IR	Soil: areas at risk of soil erosion	Soil: decrease in areas at risk of soil erosion
		IR	Soil: organic farming	Soil: organic farming
		CR	Land use	=
		CR	Land use	=

AXIS	OBJECTIVES	Status	Baseline Indicator	Impact indicator
AXIS 3, Wider rural development	Diversification	IR	Other gainful activity of farmers	Increase in other gainful activity of farmers
		IR	Employment in non-agricultural sector	Increase in employment in non-agricultural sector
		IR	Micro enterprises	=
		IR	GVA in non-agricultural sector	Increase in GVA in non-agricultural sector
		IR	Tourism infrastructure in rural areas	Increase in tourism infrastructure in rural areas
		IR	Internet take-up in rural areas	Increase in internet take-up in rural areas
		CR	Internet infrastructure	=
		IR	Share of GVA in services	Increase in share of GVA in services
		IR	Net migration	Decrease in net migration
		IR	Training and education in rural areas	Increase in training and education in rural areas
		CR	Educational attainment in rural areas	=
		CR	Importance of rural areas	=
Leader	To implement the Leader approach in mainstream rural development programming	IR	Population coverage by LAG's	Increase in development of LAG's
		IR	GVA in rural areas	Increase in GVA in rural areas
		IR	Employment in rural areas	Increase in employment in rural areas
		CR	Internet infrastructure	

Guidelines on constructing additional baseline indicators

Need for additional baseline indicators

The Council Regulation on support for rural development contains the general EU-objectives for rural development. In order to measure the achievement of these objectives, the common baseline indicators are proposed. The list of common baseline indicators is thus by essence limited. It reflects the general objectives, but it doesn't necessarily reflect specific situations with respect to countries, regions, sectors or social groups. As the RDP's for each member state should of course focus on the country specific or region specific needs and objectives, it is necessary to construct *additional baseline indicators,* reflecting these specific needs and objectives. This is a task for programme management and/or ex ante evaluators.

Additional baseline indicators are necessary when:

- the member state chooses to define an additional objective;
- or, if the common baseline indicator is not specific enough (with respect to the level of detail of the sub-objective, for instance 'training' should be 'training in IT');
- or, if there is no common baseline indicator for a defined sub-objective (like animal welfare);
- or, if a common indicator doesn't cover the specific situation in a country, region or sector.

As there is a wide variety of specific situations and needs throughout the rural areas in the EU it is impossible to produce an exhaustive list of additional baseline indicators.

The report therefore contains examples, by sub-objective (see 1.2), of possible additional baseline indicators. As said before, they can cover a wide variety of situations, ranging from specific natural conditions (mountains, see, climate etc.) to regional structure (islands, remote areas), importance of (sub)sectors, demographic development, environmental conditions and objectives, labour population, infrastructure etc.

EXAMPLE of Sub-objective: to facilitate transition in new member states

Rationale for the sub-objective

Transition in the new Member States, restructuring of the agriculture sector and entrepreneurship are important factors for improving competitiveness of agricultural, forestry and agri-food sectors.

This transition can be realised and stimulated through supporting semi-subsistence farms undergoing restructuring and supporting setting up of producer groups. Especially rural development is a key tool for restructuring.

Common and additional indicators capturing the rural development needs specific to this sub-objective

The common baseline indicators are:

Common baseline indicator	Measure
Labour productivity in agriculture	Labour productivity in agriculture (EU 25 = 100) – total and by sector
Economic development of primary sector	% of GVA in primary sector
Labour productivity in food industry	GVA/employee in food industry
Semi-subsistence farms in NMS	% farms <1 ESU

There are no context indicators defined

This sub-objective refers specifically to the new Member States. The measures are directed towards support for semi subsistence farms to enter the market and setting up of producer groups. For the latter issue no baseline indicator is defined.

These indicators are good for general trends. However, also additional indicators are required for the specific needs of the new Member States. These could be:

- Indicators related to restructuring of farms;
- Indicators related to labour productivity in a certain (sub-)sector;
- Indicators related to setting up producer groups

Key aspects linked to EU priorities and specific national priorities

The new Member States should identify priorities to facilitate their transition. Many New Member States will identify specific national conditions and appropriate policy priorities with corresponding indicators. Such priorities could include:

- Restructuring the agriculture sector;
- Fostering dynamic entrepreneurship including development of strategic and organisational skills;
- Encouraging semi-subsistence farms in the NMS to move into the market;
- Encouraging the setting-up of producer groups.

Checklist

As a next step, a checklist for constructing additional baseline indicators is developed. Programme managers and evaluators can use this checklist to decide whether an additional indicator is necessary and, if so, how to construct it. It should be kept in mind that indicators have to be constructed according to the SMART-principle: Specific, Measurable, Available, Relevant and Timely. The checklist is presented in part C of this report, together with some (hypothetical) examples.

Development of an indicator fiche

If an additional indicator is necessary and defined, a detailed indicator fiche has to be elaborated. This fiche serves a last check on the quality of the indicator, as the logic has to be described. Secondly, the fiche ensures a uniform interpretation of the indicator. The fiche should, among others, contain information on the exact definition of the indicator, its link to the objective, the unit of measurement, the source, the availability and the frequency of collection.

Examples of indicators fiches can be found in several chapters of this report. For all the common baseline indicators fiches are presented in Annex 1. The structure of the indicator fiches for additional baseline indicators is exactly the same.

Recommendations

Training

The construction of indicators is a 'craft' that cannot easily be learned from paper. Especially the construction of additional baseline indicators may require more guidance and training than can be presented in a paper like this. We therefore advice - additional to this guidance - to organise training sessions for programme managers and (potential) evaluators. Furthermore, we suggest setting up a helpdesk within DG AGRI where programme managers and evaluators may receive additional support. This could have the following structure. An idea is to set up one or two day **training sessions** for groups of member states.

This way the participants can learn in a practical way, for instance by using case studies, to construct additional baseline indicators. Moreover, the participants can learn from each other, exchange experiences etc. It also gives DG AGRI the possibility for further explanation (if necessary) on the next programming period. This training doesn't have to limit itself to the additional baseline indicators, but can also be used to train the participants in for instance the additional output indicators.

Help desk

With respect to the **help desk,** we suggest that DG AGRI sets up a contact point for the member states where they can get support on practical issues when working on the additional baseline indicators. This help desk can have the form of one central phone number and mail address, where experts can assist the member states in their day to day work in the programming period. A small survey we carried out in our network shows that there is certainly demand for such sort of assistance, as practice shows that guidance on paper is never able to address all the various questions that arise during the programming process.

Résumé

Introduction

Pour la période de programmation 2007-2013, les États membres de l'UE vont devoir produire de nouveaux programmes de développement rural. Afin d'aider l'ensemble des parties concernées (gestionnaires de programme, évaluateurs, chargés de dossier), la DG AGRI de la Commission Européenne a commandé plusieurs études visant à fournir des orientations et des explications sur les nouvelles dispositions. La présente étude aborde la question des indicateurs de base. Son objectif est formulé comme suit :

> *« …élaborer des projets d'orientations à destination de la Commission relatives à l'utilisation de références et d'indicateurs de situation de départ dans le cadre de programmes en faveur du développement rural, au cours de la nouvelle période de programmation (2007-2013). En outre, elle assurera une première évaluation des situations de départ dans les États membres. Ces orientations et cette évaluation serviront de point de départ pour les lignes directrices qui seront transmises aux États membres concernant le développement et l'évaluation des programmes, correspondant au nouvel accent mis sur les stratégies des programmes dans la proposition de règlement relatif au développement rural . »*

Conformément à cet objectif, l'étude et le présent résumé sont structurés de la façon suivante :

4 Explication des principaux concepts ;
5 Définition des indicateurs de base communs qui correspondent à la hiérarchie des objectifs ;
6 Règles relatives aux indicateurs de base supplémentaires.

Dans les paragraphes suivants, nous présentons les principaux résultats de cette étude.

Explication des principaux concepts

Afin d'offrir au lecteur des informations et des définitions similaires, la première étape consiste à expliquer les principaux concepts liés à la programmation et à l'évaluation. Nous nous concentrerons sur les thèmes les plus pertinents en ce qui concerne les indicateurs de base et d'impact, à commencer par le cycle de vie du programme.

Les programmes de développement rural jouent un rôle important dans la réalisation de certains objectifs stratégiques. Ces objectifs sont importants aux niveaux communautaire, national et régional.

Le cycle de vie du programme

Le cycle de vie d'un programme désigne la durée de vie d'un programme (de développement rural) déterminé, de sa formulation à l'examen des différents volets du programme :

- L'évaluation des besoins : l'évaluation des forces, des faiblesses, des possibilités et des menaces (analyse FFPM) ;
- La formulation du programme : le classement par ordre de priorité des besoins et des possibilités détermine la hiérarchie des objectifs de la stratégie ainsi que la formulation des objectifs du programme ;
- Mise en œuvre du programme par le biais d'opérations ;
- Suivi du programme, sur la base des objectifs, redéfinis sous forme d'indicateurs ;
- Évaluation périodique ;
- Révision et adaptation du programme ;

Pour la plupart de ces étapes, il est essentiel de faire appel à des indicateurs – les indicateurs formant la base d'une bonne analyse (et donc du programme), du suivi et de l'évaluation. Les indicateurs de situation de base sont particulièrement importants à des fins d'analyse (et dès lors de définition des objectifs), d'évaluation périodique et de révision du programme.

Hiérarchie des objectifs

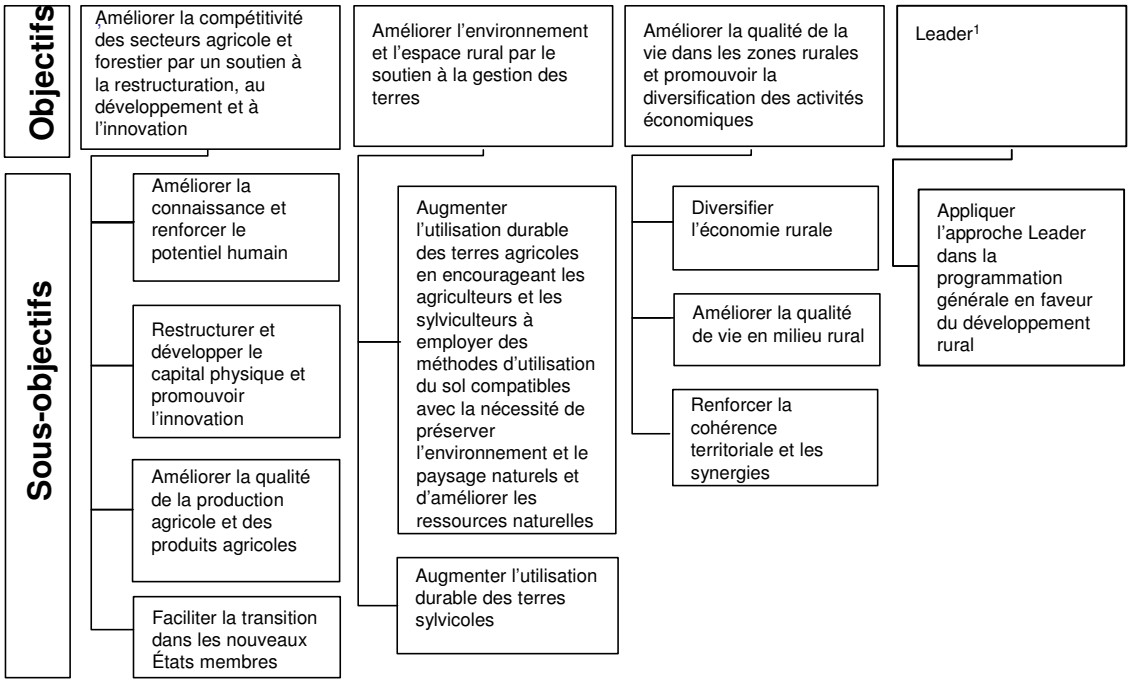
La séquence suivante est d'application pour la prochaine période de programmation :

- Le règlement du Conseil, dans lequel sont définis les objectifs, les sous-objectifs et les objectifs de mesure ;
- Les orientations stratégiques communautaires, qui définissent les priorités ;
- Les stratégies nationales propres à chaque État membre, dans lesquelles sont précisés les besoins et les objectifs spécifiques du pays et de ses régions.

Le nouveau **Règlement du Conseil** relatif à la politique communautaire de développement rural prévoit de renforcer l'actuelle politique de développement rural et de simplifier sa mise en œuvre. Pour s'assurer que la politique communautaire de développement rural privilégie les questions de développement rural les plus importantes et les plus urgentes, la proposition de réforme s'articule autour de trois objectifs stratégiques majeurs, subdivisés en sous-objectifs et en objectifs de mesure. Cet ensemble forme la **hiérarchie des objectifs** (HdO). Cette HdO est déterminante pour le développement du programme et des indicateurs, puisqu'elle fait apparaître la logique d'intervention (voir plus loin). Les différents États membres doivent baser leurs stratégies nationales sur cette HdO mais en tenant compte, bien entendu, des besoins et des objectifs propres au pays et à ses régions. Par conséquent, sur la base d'une analyse de leur propre situation, ils décident des mesures considérées comme les plus importantes ou étudient la nécessité de définir des objectifs supplémentaires.

En ce qui concerne les indicateurs de situation de base et les indicateurs d'impact, les niveaux concernés dans la hiérarchie des objectifs sont les objectifs et les sous-objectifs. Ceux-ci sont présentés dans l'illustration 0.1. Il convient de noter que Leader n'est en réalité pas un objectif mais bien un axe. Il contribue à la réalisation des objectifs de l'un ou de plusieurs des trois axes thématiques (directement liés aux objectifs), en plus de favoriser le renforcement des capacités et le fonctionnement des groupes d'action locaux.

Illustration 0.1La hiérarchie des objectifs de la politique de développement rural 2007-2013

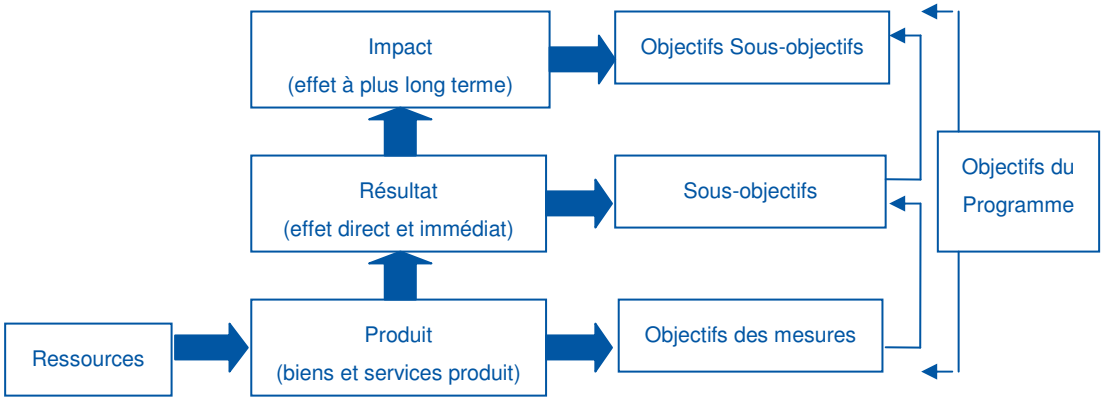


1 Leader n'est pas un objectif mais un axe qui contribue à la réalisation des objectifs de l'un ou de plusieurs des trois axes thématiques, en plus de favoriser le renforcement des capacités et le fonctionnement des groupes d'action locaux.

Logique d'intervention

La logique d'intervention est un outil servant à relier la mise en œuvre d'une intervention publique à ses objectifs, sur la base d'une présentation thématique du lien de cause à effet entre le(s mesures du) programme et ses (leurs) effets attendus. Cette logique est présentée sous forme schématique dans l'illustration suivante.

Illustration 0.2Exemple général de logique d'intervention



Source : document de travail méthodologique de la Commission

- Ressources : moyens financiers et administratifs mobilisés (par ex. financement FEADER par mesure liée au PDR, quantité de personnel administratif participant à la mise en œuvre d'une mesure) ;

- Produits : ce qui est accompli avec les moyens mobilisés (par ex. investissements agricoles financées par le FEADER ; organisation de séances de formation portant sur l'agriculture durable) ;
- Résultats : les premiers avantages découlant du programme, normalement mesurables au niveau du projet (par ex. VAB des agriculteurs aidés, agriculteurs plus compétents) ;
- Impacts : les effets indirects au niveau du programme (par ex. amélioration de l'environnement dans les zones rurales, augmentation du revenu des agriculteurs).

Afin de juger si la logique d'intervention apportera, dans la pratique, les avantages attendus, il convient de définir et d'utiliser des indicateurs.

Un indicateur peut être défini comme un moyen de mesurer un objectif à atteindre, une ressource mobilisée, un résultat atteint, un effet obtenu ou une variable de contexte.

Utilisation des indicateurs dans le cycle de vie du programme.

La définition et l'utilisation d'indicateurs appropriés fait partie intégrante de la programmation et est nécessaire à celle-ci. Les indicateurs sont utilisés à toutes les étapes du cycle de vie des programmes. Les types d'indicateurs pertinents varient selon les aspects de la programmation :

- Analyse et définition de même que quantification des objectifs : indicateurs de situation de base et indicateurs relatifs aux ressources ;
- Suivi : indicateurs relatifs aux ressources, au produit et au résultat ;
- Évaluation : comme ci-dessus plus les indicateurs d'impact du programme, selon le type d'évaluation (*ex ante*, *mi-parcours*, *ex post*).

Les indicateurs jouent un rôle déterminant dans le cycle de vie du programme et un ensemble d'indicateurs bien définis est indispensable si l'on veut formuler et mettre en œuvre un bon programme (de développement rural).

Informations sur les indicateurs de situation de base

Dans la présente étude, nous établissons une distinction entre les indicateurs de situation de base liés au contexte et les indicateurs de situation de base liés à l'impact. Ces deux types d'indicateurs reflètent la situation au début d'un programme par rapport à laquelle on peut mesurer les changements qui surviennent au fil du temps.

3. *Les indicateurs de* situation de *base liés au contexte* donnent des informations sur les aspects pertinents du contexte général dans lequel le programme est mis en œuvre et qui sont susceptibles d'avoir une influence sur la réalisation du programme. Ces aspects ne sont toutefois pas visés (directement) par le programme. Les indicateurs de situation de base liés au contexte visent deux objectifs :
   - Identifier les forces et les faiblesses de la région ;
   - Permettre d'expliquer les impacts observés dans le cadre du programme, étant donné que l'évolution de ces facteurs peut s'avérer soit néfaste, soit bénéfique dans la réalisation des objectifs.
4. *Les indicateurs de* situation de *base liés à l'impact* seront influencés par le programme et servent de point de départ à la mesure de l'efficacité du programme. Ils constituent la référence en ce qui concerne l'impact du programme.

Indicateurs d'impact

Les indicateurs d'impact représentent les répercussions du programme au-delà de son interaction directe et immédiate avec les destinataires ou bénéficiaires du programme ; ils représentent les objectifs stratégiques du programme et sont liés aux objectifs généraux ainsi qu'aux effets indirects.

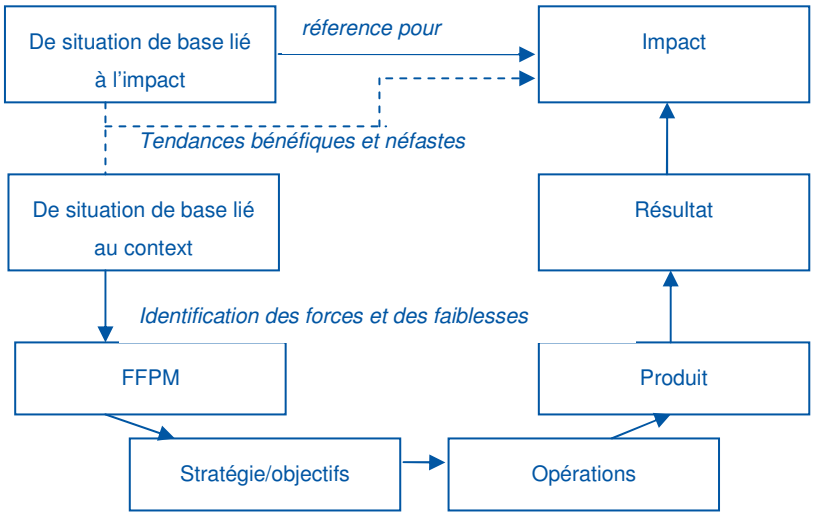
Relation entre les indicateurs d'impact et les indicateurs de situation de base

Tandis que les indicateurs de situation de base reflètent la situation à un moment donné, les indicateurs d'impact reflètent l'évolution au fil du temps de l'indicateur de situation de base. Cette évolution peut se mesurer en chiffres absolus ou en pourcentages.

Indicateurs de situation de base relatifs au contexte et à l'impact

L'illustration suivante présente la relation entre ces indicateurs de situation de base et la FFPM, la stratégie et l'impact.

Illustration 0.3Relation entre les indicateurs de situation de base et les indicateurs relatifs au produit, au résultat et à l'impact



Source : ECORYS/IDEA consult

Suivi et évaluation

Les indicateurs jouent un rôle important tant dans la programmation que dans le suivi et l'évaluation des programmes. Le suivi et l'évaluation constituent un important outil de gestion et de contrôle des programmes de développement rural. Le suivi et l'évaluation ont plusieurs fonctions :

- Évaluer la progression d'un programme ;
- Évaluer la pertinence, l'efficacité, l'efficience et la gestion d'un programme (évaluation) ;
- Fournir des informations concernant l'adaptation du programme, le cas échéant, afin d'atteindre les objectifs ;
- Analyser les écarts entre les résultats attendus et les résultats finaux ;
- Diffuser les résultats à l'ensemble du public.

Le suivi consiste à surveiller la mise en œuvre du programme de façon régulière au moyen d'un système standardisé et transparent, reposant sur des indicateurs. L'évaluation procède de façon plus approfondie, en examinant les résultats (attendus) et l'impact du programme et en analysant les raisons qui expliquent les écarts entre les résultats attendus et les résultats finaux. Les activités d'évaluation interviennent dès lors à plusieurs moments du processus de programmation : avant (*ex ante*, de façon interactive avec les programmateurs), pendant (*mi-parcours*) et après (*ex post*).

De bonnes évaluations sont impossibles si l'on ne dispose pas d'indicateurs appropriés ; un outil important manque alors à la gestion du programme dans le processus décisionnel (en particulier l'évaluation *ex ante* et *mi-parcours*).

Mesure de l'impact

Lorsqu'on se sert de l'indicateur de situation de base comme point de référence pour examiner les indicateurs d'impact, la tendance au fil du temps de programmation sera importante pour mesurer la réalisation des objectifs. Etant donné leur caractère général, les indicateurs d'impact seront influencés par plus de facteurs que le programme à lui seul. Il convient dès lors d'établir une distinction entre les effets nets et les effets bruts, afin de déterminer la contribution du programme à ces répercussions. Il s'agit néanmoins souvent d'une tâche difficile.

Définition des indicateurs de situation de base communs

Dans le cadre de la prochaine période de programmation, la hiérarchie des objectifs joue un rôle déterminant. C'est en effet sur cette base que les États membres développeront et définiront leur propre stratégie nationale. En ce qui concerne les objectifs en tant qu'ensemble, la hiérarchie des objectifs propose d'utiliser un ensemble limité **d'indicateurs (de situation de base) communs** qui reflètent les objectifs. Les États membres sont par ailleurs tenus de définir des indicateurs supplémentaires exprimant leurs besoins et leurs objectifs spécifiques (voir plus loin).

Disponibilité des données

Les indicateurs de situation de base communs ont été identifiés pour le nouveau programme de développement rural sur la base de la hiérarchie des objectifs. Outre le fait que le nombre d'indicateurs devait être limité, les autres critères de sélection concernaient la disponibilité des données et la possibilité d'agrégation. La sélection reposait sur une longue liste d'indicateurs s'appuyant sur les indicateurs de base pour la période 2000-2006. Il s'est avéré que la disponibilité de données harmonisées au niveau régional constituait un obstacle majeur. Il a donc été décidé d'autoriser le recours à des données non harmonisées, le cas échéant.

Cette activité a débouché sur une synthèse des indicateurs de situation de base et d'impact communs. Ces indicateurs sont décrits de façon plus détaillée dans les fiches des indicateurs(voir 0.5), qui donnent des informations essentielles comme le lien avec l'objectif, l'unité de mesure, les sources, la disponibilité, etc.
À côté de cela, un ensemble de données pour l'UE-25 au niveau NUTS 2 concernant les indicateurs est présenté,qui est rempli dans la mesure où les données provenant de sources centralisées étaient disponibles.

L'illustration suivante présente les indicateurs articulés par objectifs.

Illustration 0.4Indicateurs de situation de base et d'impact communs pour le programme de développement rural 2007-2013

Axe	Objectifs	Statut	Indicateur de base	Indicateur d'impact
Horizontal	Général	LC	Développement économique	=
		LC	Chômage :	=
		LC	- chez les femmes	=
		LC	- chez les jeunes	=
		LC	Développement économique du secteur primaire	=
		LC	Structure d'âge	=
		LC	Structure de l'emploi	=
		LC	Couverture de la population par les GAL	=
Axe 1, compétitivité	Compétitivité des secteurs agricole et sylvicole	LI	Formation et éducation dans le secteur agricole	Amélioration de la formation et de l'éducation dans le secteur de l'agriculture
		LI	Productivité de la main d'œuvre dans l'agriculture	Amélioration de la productivité de la main d'oeuvre agricole
		LI	Structure d'âge dans l'agriculture	Amélioration de la structure d'âgedans l'agriculture
		LI	Formation brute de capital fixe dans l'agriculture	Augmentation de la formation brute de capital fixe dans l'agriculture
		LI	Développement économique de l'industrie alimentaire	Augmentation du développement économique de l'industrie alimentaire
		LI	Productivité de la main d'œuvre dans l'industrie alimentaire	Augmentation de la productivité de la main d'œuvre dans l'industrie alimentaire
		LI	Formation brute de capital fixe dans l'industrie alimentaire	Augmentation de la formation brute de capital fixe dans l'industrie alimentaire
		LI	Nombre d'exploitations agricoles de semi-subsistance dans les NEM	=
		LC	Structure des exploitations	=
		LI	Formation brute de capital fixe dans la sylviculture	Augmentation de la formation brute de capital fixe dans la sylviculture
		LI	Productivité de la main d'œuvre dans la sylviculture	Augmentation de la productivité de la main d'œuvre dans la sylviculture
		LC	Développement de l'emploi dans le secteur forestier	=
		LC	Structure du secteur forestier	=

Axe	Objectifs	Statut	Indicateur de base	Indicateur d'impact
Axe 2, gestion de l'espace	Environnement	LI	Zones agricoles sous Natura 2000	Augmentation des zones agricoles sous Natura 2000
		LI	Zones forestières sous Natura 2000	Augmentation des zones forestières sous Natura 2000
		LI	Populations d'oiseaux dans les terres agricoles	Augmentation des populations d'oiseaux dans les terres agricoles
		LI	Régions agricoles à haute valeur naturelle	Augmentation des régions agricoles à haute valeur naturelle
		LC	Zones de culture extensive	=
		LI	Qualité de l'eau	Amélioration de la qualité de l'eau
		LC	Qualité de l'eau	=
		LC	Utilisation de l'eau	=
		LI	Pollution : par les nitrates et les pesticides	Réduction de la pollution : par les nitrates et les pesticides
		LI	Changement climatique : production d'énergie renouvelable issue de l'agriculture	Changement climatique : augmentation de la production d'énergie renouvelable issue de l'agriculture
		LI	Changement climatique : part de l'agriculture dans les émissions de GES	Changement climatique : réduction de la part de l'agriculture dans les émissions de GES
		LI	Sol : zones risquant une érosion	Sol : réduction des zones risquant une érosion
		LI	Sol : agriculture biologique	Sol : agriculture biologique
		LC	Utilisation du sol	=
		LC	Utilisation du sol	=
Axe	**Objectifs**	**Statut**	**Indicateur de base**	**Indicateur d'impact**
Axe 3, développement rural dans son ensemble	Diversification	LI	Autres activités lucratives pour les agriculteurs	Augmentation des autres activités lucratives des agriculteurs
		LI	Emploi dans le secteur non agricole	Augmentation de l'emploi dans le secteur non agricole
		LI	Microentreprises	=
		LI	VAB dans le secteur non agricole	Augmentation de la VAB dans le secteur non agricole
		LI	Infrastructures touristiques dans les zones rurales	Augmentation des infrastructures touristiques dans les zones rurales
		LI	Pénétration d'Internet dans les zones rurales	Augmentation de la pénétration d'Internet dans les zones rurales
		LC	Infrastructure Internet	=
		LI	Part de la VAB dans les services	Augmentation de la part de la VAB dans les services
		LI	Migration nette	Réduction de la migration nette
		LI	Formation et éducation dans les zones rurales	Augmentation de la formation et de l'éducation dans les zones rurales
		LC	Niveau d'instruction dans les zones rurales	=
		LC	Importance des zones rurales	=

Leader	Appliquer l'approche Leader dans la programmation générale en faveur du développement rural	LI LI LI LC	Couverture de la population par les GAL VAB dans les zones rurales Emploi dans les zones rurales Infrastructure Internet	Augmentation du développement des GAL Augmentation des VAB dans les zones rurales Augmentation de l'emploi dans les zones rurales

Nécessité d'indicateurs de situation de base supplémentaires

Règles concernant la conception des indicateurs de situation de base supplémentaires

Le règlement du Conseil concernant le soutien au développement rural contient les objectifs communautaires en matière de développement rural. Des indicateurs de situation de base communs sont proposés afin de mesurer la réalisation de ces objectifs. La liste de ces indicateurs de situation de base communs est donc, par nature, limitée. Si ces indicateurs rendent bien compte des objectifs généraux, ils ne reflètent pas nécessairement les situations propres aux différents pays, régions, secteurs ou groupes sociaux. Étant donné que les PDR des différents États membres doivent bien entendu se concentrer sur les besoins propres aux pays ou aux régions, il est nécessaire de définir des *indicateurs de situation de base supplémentaires*, qui rendent compte de ces besoins et objectifs spécifiques. Cette tâche incombe aux gestionnaires de programme et/ou aux évaluateurs *ex ante*.

Des indicateurs de situation de base supplémentaires sont nécessaires lorsque :

- l'État membre choisit de définir un objectif supplémentaire ;
- l'indicateur de situation de base commun n'est pas suffisamment précis (en ce qui concerne le niveau de détail du sous-objectif, par exemple le terme « formation » devrait être remplacé par « formation en informatique ») ;
- il n'existe pas d'indicateur de situation de base commun pour un sous-objectif défini (comme, par exemple, le bien-être animal) ;
- l'indicateur commun n'aborde pas la situation particulière d'un pays, d'une région ou d'un secteur.

Étant donné la variété des situations et des besoins dans les zones rurales de l'UE, il est impossible de produire une liste exhaustive d'indicateurs de situation de base supplémentaires.

Le rapport contient dès lors des exemples, classés par sous-objectif (voir 1.2), d'indicateurs de situation de base supplémentaires possibles. Comme indiqué plus haut, ceux-ci peuvent couvrir un vaste éventail de situations, allant des conditions naturelles particulières (montagnes, mer, climat, etc.) à la structure régionale (îles, régions éloignées), en passant par l'importance des (sous-)secteurs, le développement démographique, les conditions et les objectifs environnementaux, la population active, l'infrastructure, etc.

EXEMPLE de sous-objectif : faciliter la transition dans les nouveaux États membres

Raison d'être du sous-objectif

La transition dans les nouveaux États membres, la restructuration du secteur agricole et l'esprit d'entreprise sont des facteurs importants pour améliorer la compétitivité des secteurs agricole, sylvicole et agroalimentaire.

Cette transition peut être réalisée et stimulée en aidant les exploitations de semi-subsistance qui sont en phase de restructuration et en soutenant la création de groupements de producteurs. Le développement rural est un outil particulièrement déterminant dans la restructuration.

Indicateurs communs et supplémentaires exprimant les besoins en développement rural propres à ce sous-objectif

Les indicateurs de situation de base communs sont les suivants :

Indicateur de situation de base commun	Mesure
Productivité de la main d'œuvre dans l'agriculture	Productivité de la main d'œuvre dans l'agriculture (UE 25 = 100) – totale et par secteur
Développement économique du secteur primaire	% de VAB dans le secteur primaire
Productivité de la main d'œuvre dans le secteur alimentaire	VAV/personnel dans l'industrie alimentaire
Exploitations de semi-subsistance dans les NEM	% d'exploitations <1 UDE

Aucun indicateur lié au contexte n'est défini

Ce sous-objectif concerne précisément les nouveaux États membres. Les mesures sont axées sur le soutien aux exploitations de semi-subsistance afin de les faire accéder au marché et sur la création de groupements de producteurs. Aucun indicateur de situation de base n'est défini pour cette dernière question.

Ces indicateurs sont utiles pour illustrer les tendances générales. D'autres indicateurs sont cependant également nécessaires afin de rendre compte des besoins spécifiques des nouveaux États membres. Ces indicateurs pourraient être les suivants :

- Indicateurs liés à la restructuration des exploitations ;
- Indicateurs liés à la productivité de la main d'œuvre dans un certain (sous-)secteur ;
- Indicateurs liés à la création de groupements de producteurs.

Principaux aspects liés aux priorités de l'UE et aux priorités nationales spécifiques

Les nouveaux États membres doivent identifier les priorités nécessaires pour faciliter leur transition. Beaucoup de nouveaux États membres identifieront les conditions nationales particulières et les priorités stratégiques appropriées au moyen d'indicateurs correspondants. Ces priorités pourraient comprendre :

- Restructuration du secteur agricole ;
- Encourager l'esprit d'entreprise dynamique, notamment le développement de compétences stratégiques et organisationnelles ;
- Encourager les exploitations de semi-subsistance situées dans les NEM à accéder au marché ;
- Encourager la création de groupements de producteurs.

Liste des points à vérifier

L'étape suivante consiste à dresser une liste des points à vérifier dans la conception des indicateurs de situation de base supplémentaires. Les gestionnaires de programme et les évaluateurs peuvent se servir de cette liste pour décider si un indicateur supplémentaire est nécessaire et, le cas échéant, pour s'aider à le concevoir. Il ne faut pas perdre de vue que les indicateurs doivent être conçus selon le principe SMART : « Specific, Measurable, Available, Relevant and Timely » (spécifique, mesurable, disponible, pertinent et ponctuel). La liste des points à vérifier est présentée dans la partie C de ce rapport et est accompagnée d'exemples (hypothétiques).

Élaboration d'une fiche d'indicateur

Lorsqu'un indicateur supplémentaire est nécessaire et défini, une fiche détaillée doit être préparée qui concerne cet indicateur. Cette fiche sert à vérifier une dernière fois la qualité de l'indicateur, puisqu'elle décrit sa logique. La fiche permet par ailleurs une interprétation uniforme de l'indicateur. La fiche contiendra, entre autres, des informations sur la définition exacte de l'indicateur, son lien avec l'objectif, l'unité de mesure, la source, la disponibilité et la fréquence de la collecte.

On peut trouver des exemples de fiches dans plusieurs chapitres du présent rapport. Les fiches relatives à l'ensemble des indicateurs de situation de base communs sont présentées à l'annexe 1. La structure des fiches relatives aux indicateurs de situation de base supplémentaires est exactement la même.

Recommandations

Formation

La conception d'indicateurs est un « art » que l'on peut difficilement apprendre par la théorie. La conception d'indicateurs de base supplémentaires, en particulier, exige des recommandations et une formation plus approfondies que ce qu'un document comme celui-ci peut offrir. Nous recommandons dès lors d'organiser – en plus des orientations présentées ici – des séances de formation destinées aux gestionnaires de programme et aux évaluateurs (éventuels). Nous suggérons en outre de créer un service d'assistance au sein de la DG AGRI offrant une assistance complémentaire aux gestionnaires de programme et aux évaluateurs. La structure suivante pourrait être mise en place. On pourrait par exemple organiser des **séances de formation** d'une ou deux journées à l'intention de groupes d'États membres.

Cela permettrait aux participants d'apprendre, de façon concrète, par exemple au moyen d'études de cas, à concevoir des indicateurs de base supplémentaires. Les participants pourraient également tirer des enseignements de l'expérience des autres, échanger leurs expériences, etc. Cela donnerait également à la DG AGRI l'occasion de donner des explications complémentaires (si nécessaire) sur la période de programmation suivante. Cette formation ne doit pas se limiter aux indicateurs de base supplémentaires : elle peut également servir à former les participants dans le domaine des indicateurs supplémentaires liés au résultat, par exemple.

Service d'assistance

En ce qui concerne le service d'assistance, nous proposons que la DG AGRI mette en place un point de contact où les États membres pourront obtenir de l'aide sur les questions pratiques lorsqu'ils conçoivent leurs indicateurs de base supplémentaires. Ce service d'assistance peut prendre la forme d'un numéro de téléphone et d'une adresse postale uniques, où des experts assistent les États membres dans leur travail quotidien pendant la période de programmation. Une petite enquête que nous avons réalisée au sein de notre réseau révèle qu'une demande existe pour ce type d'assistance. La pratique montre en effet que les conseils théoriques ne peuvent jamais couvrir toutes les questions pouvant apparaître pendant le processus de programmation.

Preface

For the 2007-2013 programming period the EU-member states will have to produce new Rural Development Programmes. The main features of the new rural development policy are:

- *A simplification: one funding and programming instrument,* the European Agriculture Rural Development Fund (EARDF);
- *A genuine EU strategy for rural development* with more focus on EU priorities;
- *Reinforced control,monitoring, evaluation and reporting.*
- *A strengthened bottom-up approach.* Member States, regions and local action groups will have more say in attuning programmes to local needs.

These reformulated main features will bring changes in the new programming cycle as well. In order to assist all actors involved (programme managers, evaluators, desk officers etc.) the European Commission, DG AGRI, has commissioned several studies to give guidance and explanation on the new requirements. This study deals with the topic of baseline indicators, and its goal has been formulated as:

> *"…provide draft guidance as an input to the Commission on the use of baselines and baseline indicators in rural development programmes in the new programming period from 2007-2013. In addition, it will provide a first assessment of baseline conditions in the member states. This guidance and assessment will be used as a basis for guidelines to Member States on programme development and evaluation corresponding to the increased focus on programme strategies in the proposed Rural Development regulation."*

To achieve this goal, the following tasks have been carried out:

- Explanation of key concepts:
  - to provide the necessary background information on important concepts such as hierarchy of objectives, intervention logic, the use and types of indicators etc.
- Definition of common baseline indicators related to the hierarchy of objectives:
  - to present a selection of common baseline indicators and impact indicators for the new programming period.
- Construction of additional baseline indicators:
  - to provide guidance on the use and the construction of additional baseline indicators.

The study was carried out in the period December 2004 – August 2005 by a team from ECORYS Nederland BV and IDEA Consult.

The team wants to acknowledge the support by DG AGRI. The inputs and suggestions during the various interactive meetings and meetings of the Steering Committee proved to be very helpful in successfully completing this project.

1 Introduction

1.1 Contents

This study deals with the baseline and impact indicators for the EU rural development programming period 2007-2013. Key concepts are explained in part A, Common baseline indicators are defined in part B and Guidelines are provided for defining additional baseline indicators.

In part A is the key concepts related to rural development programming are presented in a clear and concise way. Those concepts are described in a didactic way and made accessible for a large group of actors involved in one or another way in rural development programming. Attention is paid to the programming cycle in relation to baseline indicators and impact indicators.

Part B proposes a set of common baseline indicators and impact indicators for the new programming period.

Part C is to provide guidance on the use and construction of additional baseline indicators.

The study contains several Annexes:

- An overview of hierarchy of objectives for rural development policy 2007-2013
- Elaborated indicator fiches for the common baseline and impact indicators
- A long-list of indicators
- Examples of possible additional country-specific baseline indicators
- An analysis of the strengths and weaknesses per country

1.2 Approach

Part A is based on a wide range of existing literature on monitoring and evaluation. The bibliography contains the references of literature and documents used.

The explanation of key concepts is structured in a logical order, based on stages in the life cycle of rural development programmes:

- The policy context of the rural development programmes and key concepts of rural development
- Definitions and role of monitoring and evaluation

- Role of indicators in the programming cycle, types of indicators for rural development and the relationship between baseline and impact indicators, ad the benefits at project and programme level

Within each of these sections, key concepts are identified, described and their relevance is described. Examples are taken from the rural development area to illustrate the various key concepts.

Part A Explanation of key concepts

2 EU's new rural development policy

2.1 Policy Background

The new regulation on the EU's rural development policy (Council regulation, adopted by the Council on 20 Septembre 2005), envisages a reinforcing of the current rural development policy and a simplification of its implementation. To achieve these objectives, the Commission redeveloped its rural development policy with the following main features:

- A simplification: one funding and programming instrument, the European Agriculture Rural Development Fund (EARDF)
- A genuine EU strategy for rural development with better focus on EU priorities
- A strengthened bottom-up approach. Member States, regions and local action groups will have more say in attuning programmes to local needs. Moreover, each programme must have a LEADER element supporting the implementation of local development strategies of local action groups.
- Reinforced control, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. Clearance of accounts audit system will be extended to all parts of rural development

A total EU funding of € 13.7 billion per year has been proposed by the Commission for the programming period 2007-2013.

To ensure that EU's rural development policy stays focused on the most important and urgent rural development issues, the Council Regulation contains three major policy objectives:

- To improve the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector by stimulating restructuring, development and innovation;
- To improve the environment and the countryside by stimulating land management;
- To improve the quality of life in rural areas and to encourage diversification of economic activities.

These objectives of the rural development programmes are related to the wider EU policy strategy. Rural development policy is the second pillar of the CAP and follows the overall orientation towards a sustainable agriculture in line with the conclusions of the Lisbon (March 2000) and Gothenburg (June 2001) European Councils. The Lisbon conclusions set the target of the European Union becoming the most competitive knowledge-based economic area by 2010. The Gothenburg conclusions added a new emphasis on protecting the environment and on achieving a more sustainable development.

They also highlighted the fact that in the context of Agenda 2000, European Agricultural policy had "become more oriented towards satisfying the general public's growing demands regarding food safety, food quality, product differentiation, animal welfare, environmental quality and the conservation of nature and the countryside".

For the new programming period the following documents are relevant:

- the Council regulations, containing the objectives, sub-objectives and measure objectives;
- The Community Strategic guidelines, which defines the priorities;
- The National Strategy, in which the specific needs and objectives of the country and its regions are specified (see 2.3).

The mission and objectives of the rural development programmes and principles of SWOT analysis are elaborated in the next section.

2.2 Hierarchy of Objectives

The Hierarchy of Objectives is a tool to analyse and communicate program objectives. It distinguishes between objectives on different levels (missions, global objectives, sub-objectives) organised in a hierarchy or tree, and showing the logical links between various levels.

The base for the Hierarchy of Objectives for the rural development programmes can be found in the Council Regulation, Chapter II, articles 3 (Missions) and 4 (Objectives).

The **Missions** are formulated as:

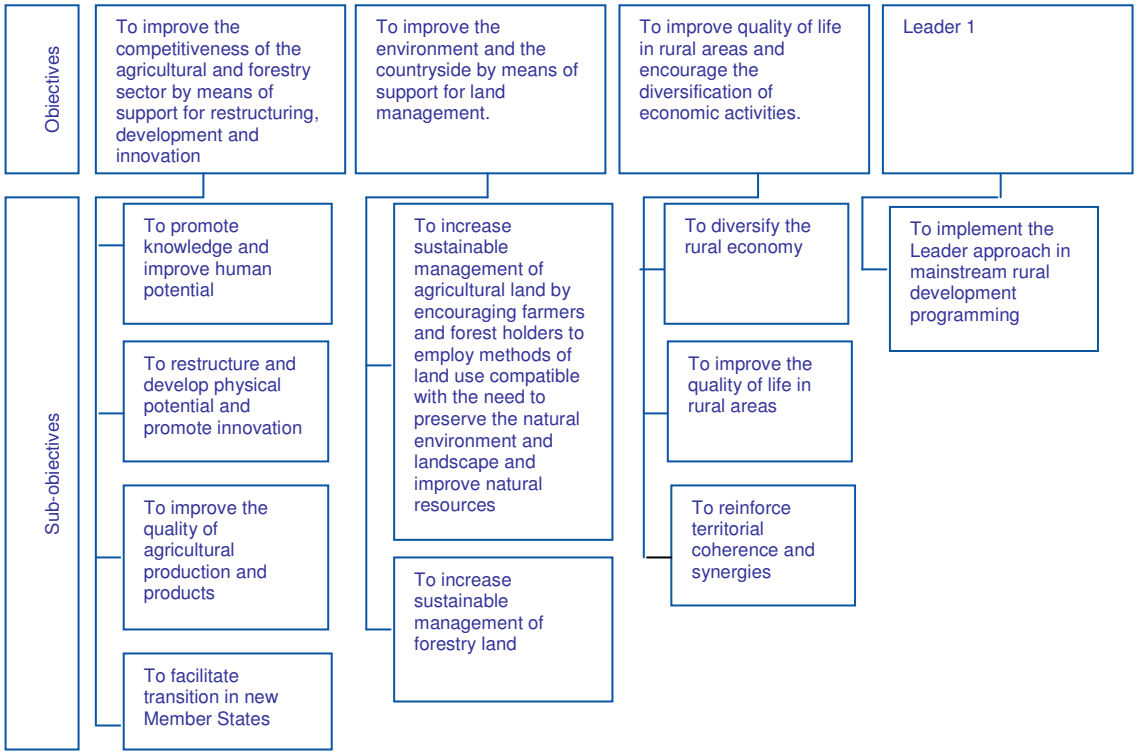
The Fund contributes to the promotion of sustainable rural development throughout the Community in a complementary manner to the market and income support policies of the Common Agricultural Policy, to Cohesion Policy and to the Common Fisheries Policy.

As explained before, the **Objectives** are:

- To improve the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector by stimulating restructuring, development and innovation;
- To improve the environment and the countryside by stimulating land management;
- To improve the quality of life in rural areas and to encourage diversification of economic activities.

The objectives are specified further into sub-objectives. An overview is presented in the figure below.

Figure 2.1 Objectives and sub-objectives of EU Rural Development Policy 2007-2013



1 Leader is not an Objective but an axis that contributes to the achievement of the objectives of one of several of the three thematic axes, in addition to support the capacity building and working of local action groups.

The lowest level in the Hierarchy of Objectives is formed by the measure objectives. They have to correspond to the objectives to which a measure contributes. The complete Hierarchy of Objectives is presented in Annex 1.

The links between measures, sub-objectives and the rest of the hierarchy of objectives will be explained in more detail paragraph below dealing the concept of intervention logic.

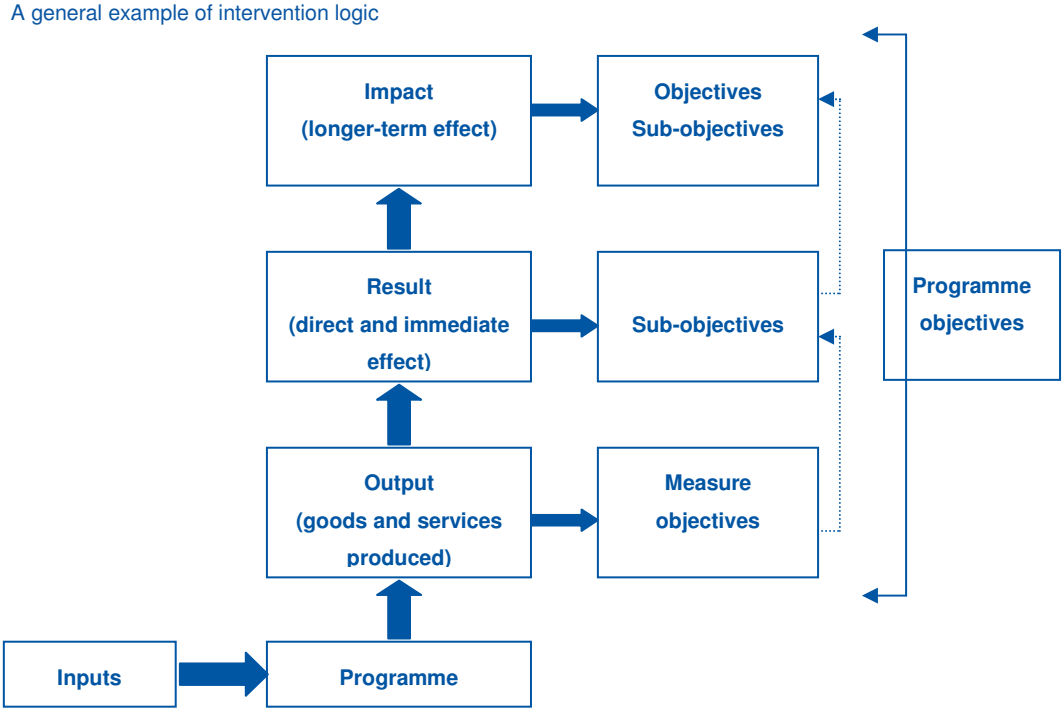
2.2.1 The intervention logic

The intervention logic is a tool used relating a public intervention to its objectives. It is based on a schematic presentation of the interventions clarifying the chain of causality between programme (measures) and expected effects. This scheme shows the logical relationship between the allocation decisions and the hierarchy of objectives.

The intervention logic clarifies the link between the actions in a public programme and the (hierarchy of) objectives of rural development policy, specifying what kind of actions is needed to achieve an aim. In short, this scheme visualises how exactly a programme can reach its objectives through its measures. The Figure below presents a general example of the intervention logic of a programme.

The core elements in this scheme are the different types of effects of a measure and the different types of objectives to which the measure can contribute.

Figure 2.2 A general example of intervention logic



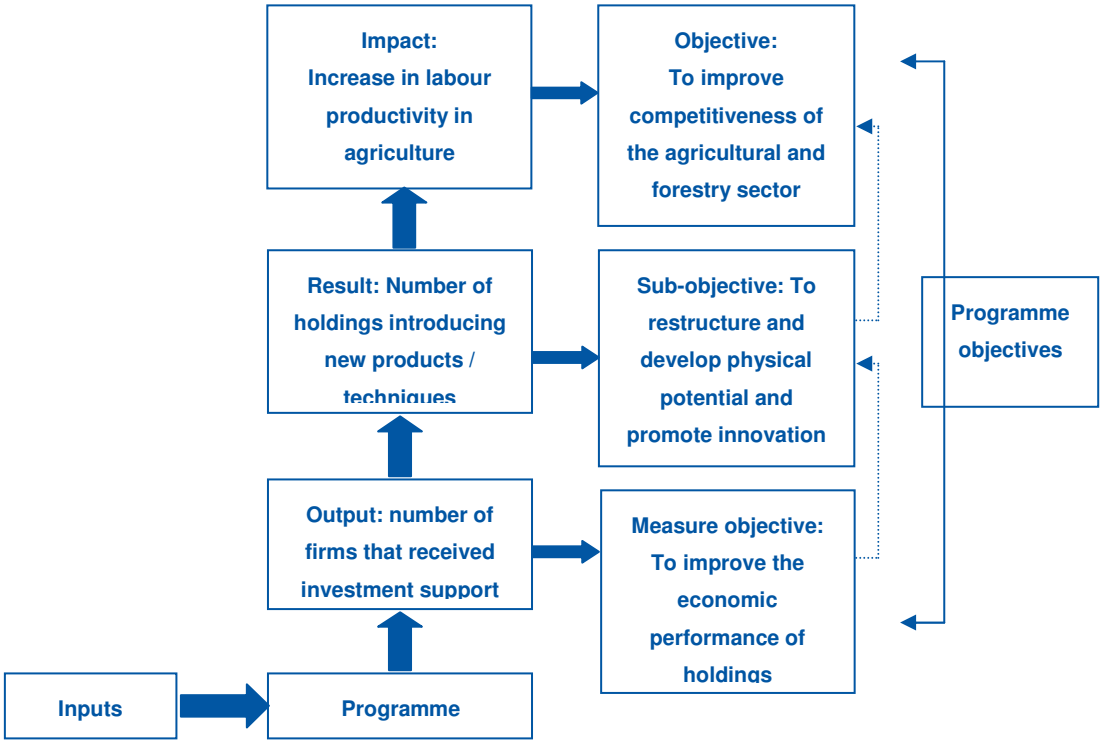
Source: Commission methodological working paper 3 (Indicators for Monitoring and Evaluation: an indicative methodology), adapted by IDEA/ECORYS

The intervention logic can be described in the following way:

- The implementation of the measures of the rural development programme requires a certain amount of resources (money, human capital, infrastructure)
- Implementation of the measures generates certain outputs, results and impacts
- The outputs should be in line with the operational objectives, the results with the specific objectives and the impacts with the overall objectives of the rural development programmes. The objectives of the programme find their origin in the hierarchy of objectives (as explained above).
- By measuring the realised outputs, results and impacts, the performance of the programme can be monitored and evaluated (see chapter 4 for monitoring and evaluation)

A more detailed example of an intervention logic is presented below:

Figure 2.3 A concrete example of intervention logic



2.3 The programme life cycle

The programme life cycle defines the different stages during the lifespan of a specific programme:

- programme development;
- programme implementation;
- monitoring;
- evaluation;
- revision and adaptation

The life cycle of a rural development programme[1] starts with a thorough analysis of the current situation in rural development. The analysis, based on baseline indicators, is usually an assessment of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats of rural areas – a so-called SWOT-analysis- specifying the needs of those areas.

The next step in the life cycle is to formulate the objectives of the programmes and to set its priorities. The three axes mentioned in the introduction and a concrete list of priority objectives (cf. the hierarchy of objectives) were the result of this analysis and form the basic part of the strategy formulation at European level. Thus, the Hierarchy of Objectives follows directly from the Council Regulation.

[1] The different stages in the programme cycle are also applicable to policy development (e.g. agricultural policy, rural development policy) and to the projects developed within the programme.

The setting of objectives, the choice of specific measures and the allocation of funding between the different possible measures are important elements of programme development.

The strategy formulation on Community-level is presented in the **Community Strategic Guidelines**. It reflects the agreed priorities at EU level (within the context of Lisbon (growth and jobs) and Göteborg (sustainable development)) and identifies the areas important for the realisation of these Community priorities, taking into account the needs of Europe's diverse rural areas. The guidelines translate these priorities to the three objectives of rural development policy (competitiveness, environment/land management and quality of life/diversification), leaving sufficient flexibility for the MS to translate this to their national strategies. Moreover, complementarities with other EU policies (Cohesion, Environment…), the correct implementation of the new market oriented CAP and the successful integration of the new Member States are of main importance for an effective and efficient rural development policy.

The **Member States** must develop a **national strategy plan** that is consistent with the strategic guidelines. This plan should indicate the current situation, the chosen priorities and the overall strategy to answer the needs of rural development in the Member State concerned, following logically from the (SWOT) analysis. The rural development programmes must be based on this national strategy plan (and thus indirectly on the strategic guidelines), implementing the objectives and actions described at the national level. This includes the choice of specific objectives and measures, and the allocation of funding between the selected measures. In the end this should result in a programme that follows the general objectives on EU-level, but is tailor made according to the specific weaknesses and needs of the Member State and its sectors and regions.

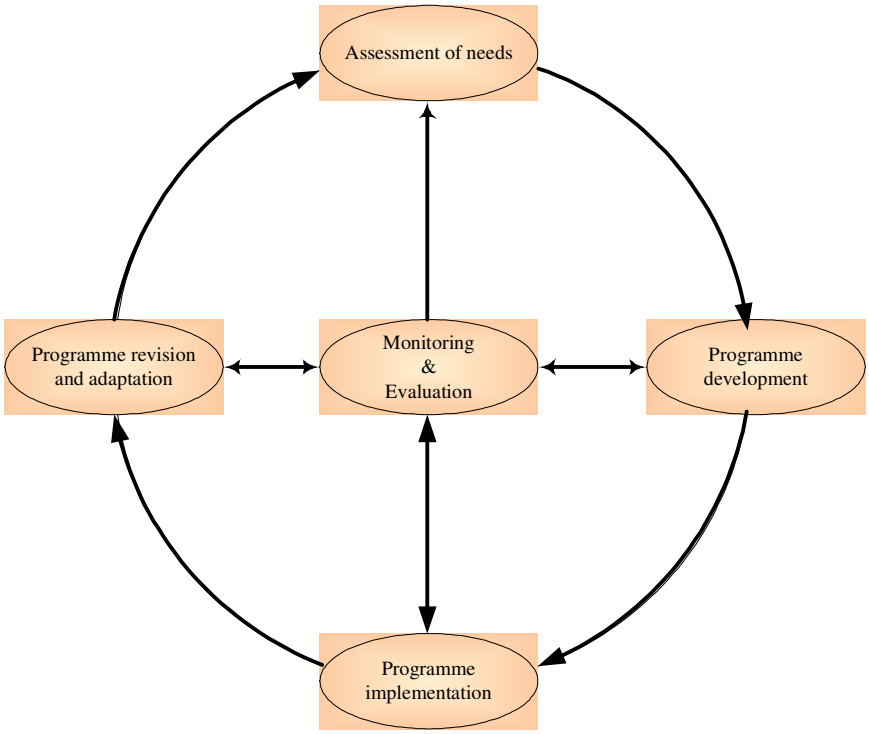
The implementation of the rural development programmes in the EU Member States is the following step in the life cycle and takes seven years. The implementation of the programme and its concrete measures happens through specific projects of individual farmers or other actors. The progress and results of the programme will be followed up or monitored through a monitoring system. This monitoring system is filled with indicators that are directly linked to the objectives and measures.

The system enables the responsible actors within the new rural development programme to guide and monitor the implementation of the chosen actions in a structured way, both at national and regional level. Periodically, the programme will be evaluated providing feedback and input for programme revisions and adaptations where necessary. The life cycle process is designed to guarantee an effective and innovative rural development policy.

Figure 2.4 visualises the programme life cycle as described above. It is important to note here that the monitoring system needs to be designed before the programme is implemented. First, one can only monitor the actions along certain dimensions if those dimensions are known it advance. Second, the follow up of the programme (through monitoring and evaluation) needs to begin as soon as the actions start. Furthermore, evaluation activities are performed at several moments in the programming process in order to (re)direct the programmes and activities in a timing manner.

Therefore, evaluations are performed before the programme is developed (ex ante evaluation), while the programme is being implemented (mid-term evaluation) and after the programme activities are finished (ex post evaluation). More information about monitoring and evaluation can be found in chapter 4.

Figure 2.4 The life cycle of the rural development programmes



Source: ECORYS & IDEA Consult

2.4 Key concepts of rural development policy

2.4.1 Different levels of the rural development programme

Ranked top – down (from a global to a specific level), four levels can be distinguished: context, programme, measure and operation/project.

An intervention programme is situated within a broader **context** constituted by the situation in the rural areas of the EU Member States and the EU agricultural and rural development policies. Within this context, each Member State develops a national **Rural Development Programme**[2] (further also referred to as RDP) including a selection from the list of measures proposed in the Council Regulation.

Article 2 of the Council Regulation contains, among others, the following definitions:

[2] A Member State can decide to submit more than one regional rural development programmes.

- ***Programming**: the process of organisation, decision-taking and financing in several stages intended to implement, on a multi-annual basis, the joint action by the Community and the Member States to achieve the priority goals of the Fund*

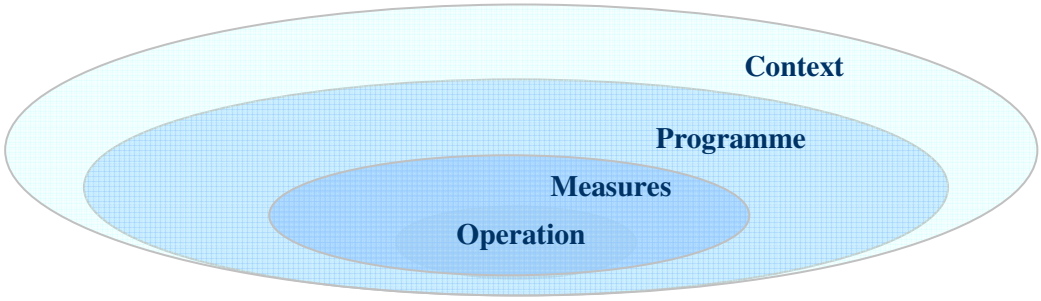
- *A **measure** is a set of operations contributing to the implementation of a priority.*

It is important to note that none of the **rural development measures** (as listed in Annex 1) are compulsory, with the exception of agri-environment in axis 2. The Member States are responsible for the implementation of these measures through operations.

- ***Operation:** a project, contract or arrangement, or other action selected by the managing authority or under its responsibility or by a local action group according to criteria laid down for the rural development programme concerned and implemented by one or more beneficiaries allowing achievements of the goals of the measure to which it relates.*

The figure below shows once more these four levels of a policy in a graphical way.

Figure 2.5 Different levels of a policy



Source: ECORYS & IDEA Consult

2.4.2 Inputs, outputs, results and impacts

Inputs are financial, human, material, organisational and/or regulatory means mobilised for the implementation of a programme.

This definition gives a relatively broad meaning to the word "input", which will be used throughout the rural development programme. Nevertheless, it is important to know that some prefer to limit its use to financial or budgetary resources only. Where this limitation is appropriate, the terms “financial inputs” will be used in our guideline.

An output is that which is accomplished (or concretised) with the resources allocated to an intervention.

A project manager (the one responsible for the setup of a rural development project in a particular area, see also infra) undertakes a specific project or action to produce an output in immediate exchange for the support granted. Outputs may take the form of facilities or works. They may also take the form of services.

A result is an advantage (or disadvantage) which direct beneficiaries obtain at the end of their participation in a public intervention or as soon as a public facility has been completed.

Results can be observed when an operator completes an action or a project. At this point he or she may show, for example, that more tourists have been attracted due to investments in the tourism infrastructure.

An impact is a consequence of the programme affecting direct beneficiaries following the end of their participation in an intervention or after the completion of public facilities, or affecting other beneficiaries (who may be winners or losers). The impact is in fact the change in the baseline situation that can be attributed to the program.

Impacts can be considered at different levels: certain impacts can be observed among direct beneficiaries (e.g. turnover generated for the suppliers of assisted firms), others only at macro-economic or macro-social level (e.g. improvement of the image of the assisted region). Some of the impacts can be detected already after a few months, while others are only perceived in the long run. It is important to note that impacts may also be positive or negative, expected or unexpected. The table below summarizes the difference between inputs, outputs, results and impacts and provides examples for each type.

Table 2.6 Difference between inputs, outputs, results and impacts

	Definition	Example
Inputs	Financial and administrative means mobilised	EAFRD-funding per RDP measure, number of administrative staff involved in the implementation of a measure
Outputs	What is accomplished with the means mobilised	Farm investments financed by EAFRD-funds; organisation of training sessions on sustainable agriculture
Results	The initial benefits arising from the programme, normally measurable at the level of the project	GVA of supported farms, better skilled farmers
Impacts	Long term benefit of the programme compared to the initial situation	Improvement of the environment in rural areas, increased competitiveness of farmers

Source: IDEA Consult on the basis of the information at *www.evalsed.info* and the site of DG agri. (http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/rur/eval/index_en.htm)

2.4.3 SWOT analysis

SWOT – Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats - analysis is an analytical and strategic planning tool used both in the domain of public policy and private business. Originally, the SWOT methodology was developed to help firms in defining their strategies in the context of fluctuating and competitive environments. SWOT as a strategic decision-making tool, refers to the strengths and weaknesses of a firm (i.e. internal, vis-à-vis other firms) and its opportunities and threats (external, i.e. market and policy context). SWOT is one of the classical tools of strategic analysis, and in this sense comparable to the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) matrix (see, e.g., The Guide, Sourcebook 2). City and regional authorities were amongst the first actors in the public sector to use SWOT analysis in the 1980s as a framework for reflection on different development strategies. At the moment, the tool is now widely used as a component of the development and evaluation of policy programmes.

For public policy purposes, SWOT is nowadays applied to identify the most relevant strategic issues and guidelines in relation to socio-economic development. It is particularly helpful in designing, planning and revising a policy programme, in particular during its ex-ante and mid-term evaluation stages. A SWOT analysis may also serve as an (ongoing) management tool for assessing the relevance of a policy programme or strategy during its implementation. A SWOT analysis is an evaluation tool that is used to check if a public intervention is appropriate in the specific context and if it contributes to a structured debate on strategic orientations.

The result of a SWOT analysis is an 'objectified' picture of the most important strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats a sector or region is facing, regarding its (short- and mid-term) future development. A SWOT analysis aims at reaching common understanding of the present situation in the sector or region concerned, of its economic, social and environmental context, and - related – of the most relevant and dominant trends and foreseeable future developments.

In this respect, a SWOT analysis is comparable with a scenario analysis, albeit more limited in scope. Although a SWOT analysis should be as objective as possible and be based as much as possible on 'hard' facts and figures, it includes by its very nature subjective elements.

Basic ingredients of a SWOT

The basic ingredients of a SWOT analysis are facts and figures (hard evidence) and expert judgement (soft evidence), based on a common understanding of the current state-of-play ('reality') and the future. A SWOT normally comprises two main components:

- Indicators describing the existing strengths and weaknesses of a sector or region, i.e. an inventory of factors that are, at least partly, under the direct control of the decision-makers, and that will influence the achievement of the policy programme or strategy.

- Indicators describing the external context consisting of existing or oncoming threats and opportunities that are not under the direct control of the decision-makers in charge, but that will strongly influence the achievement of the programme or strategy (see, e.g., Nordregio 2001, SWOT-analysis as a basis for regional strategies).

Table 2.7 Elements of a SWOT analysis

Elements of a SWOT analysis	
- a **strength** is a resource or capacity of the organisation, sector or region and which can be used effectively to achieve its vision. Actions and a strategy should aim to build on strengths.	- a **weakness** is a limitation, fault or defect in the organisation, sector or region that will keep it from achieving its vision. Actions and a strategy should aim to eliminate weaknesses.
- an **opportunity** is a favorable situation in the organisation's, sector's or region's environment. Actions and a strategy should aim to exploit opportunities.	- a **threat** is a unfavorable situation in the organisation's, sector's or region's environment that is potential damaging to its strategy. Actions and a strategy should aim to mitigate the effect of threats.

Within a regional, sector and/or rural development policy strategy, the SWOT instrument can be used to highlight those dominant and determining factors, both within and outside the sector or rural region in question, which are likely to influence the chances of achieving its vision, as well as to produce relevant strategic guidelines. Apart from identifying sector or regional needs – or, more specifically for rural development policy: rural development needs – which is key to a SWOT used in the programming phase -, a second output of a SWOT analysis is raising awareness, reducing (the degree of) uncertainty and increasing the overview and insight in the overall existing situation among policymakers and stakeholders.

On the basis of a SWOT analysis a range of possible action can be taken:

- *To build* on strengths
- *To eliminate* weaknesses
- *To exploit* opportunities
- *To mitigate* the effect of threats.

2.5 Related literature

More literature on rural development and the European rural development policy can be found at the site of the European Commission (Agriculture Directorate-General), section of Rural Development:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/rur/index_en.htm

Publications :

- http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/rur/publi/index_en.htm

Other interesting documents:

- European Commission, DG AGRIculture. Impact assessment of rural development programmes in view of post 2006 rural development policy (final report by EPEC, november 2004)
  europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/ eval/reports/rdimpact/pilot_en.pdf
- Fact sheets on rural development: Rural development in the European Union (2003) & New perspectives of EU rural development (2004).
  europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/ publi/fact/rurdev/refprop_en.pdf

3 Indicators for rural development policy

3.1 Introduction

For reasons of continuity and consistency, this study explicitly builds on the public guidance material on monitoring and evaluation that is already available, both to the Member State authorities and independent evaluation bureaus (see, e.g., the website of DG AGRI). With respect to the data, these are either available through Eurostat or available at DG AGRI. In particular, this study will adhere as much as possible to definitions and terminologies already earlier applied. This is the more relevant since the Member States have expressed a wish for continuity in the guidance offered by the Commission services (e.g., during the stocktaking meeting on evaluation and monitoring in January 2005).

The two main existing documents providing guidance for defining indicators are:

- DG AGRI, 2004, Common indicators for monitoring rural development programming 2000-2006
- DG AGRI, 1999, Evaluation of rural development programmes 2000-2006 supported from the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund Guidelines (referred to in the remainder as 'DG AGRI [2]')

Concepts, terms and definitions contained in this study are coherent and consistent, not only internally but also vis-à-vis the wider and (longer) standing evaluation and monitoring theory and practice, both in general and more in particular, viz. the practices of the European Commission.

Although the legal and policy context of the rural development programmes in the new programming period 2007-2013 are now defined within a DG AGRI context and no longer within the scope and framework of the EU's Structural Policies, the programme logic and philosophy used in defining the rural development programmes very much resemble the logic and philosophy of the regional development programmes. This study will therefore also draw on the most recent monitoring and evaluation insights developed within and for DG Regio.

In particular, use is made of the revised Means Guide for evaluation of socio-economic development, referred to as The Guide (Evaluating Socio Economic Development - The Guide, see http://www.evalsed.info/frame_glossary.asp).

Below a comparison is presented of applicable concepts, terms and definitions, in order to achieve a mutual correct understanding of key concepts and the related terminology.

3.2 The role of indicators for the EU rural development programmes and programming

It is clear that the programmes and measures for rural development will generate a vast amount of data and information both at the regional, national and the European level. The common monitoring and evaluation framework will manage this information stream by predefining a set of indicators. This of common indicators is the corner stone of the monitoring and evaluation system.

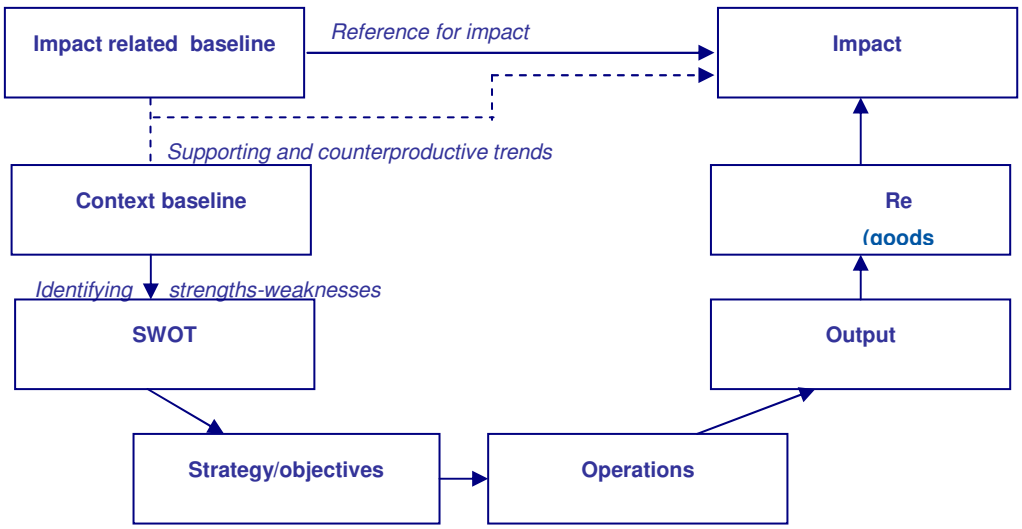
In the process of programming there is also need for indicators. As we have seen in the programming cycle, good programming starts with a good analysis. This analysis can be both quantitative and qualitative, and is usually summarized in a SWOT-table: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats.

In particular baseline indicators (for definition and examples: see paragraph 3.5) are essential for an objective ex ante analysis. They are relevant to describe the ex ante situation providing an objective point of view on the existing situation. These indicators provide an important starting point for the analysis of Strengths and Weaknesses. As the impact indicators are defined as 'change in baseline indicator by the end of the programme', these are crucial for measuring ex post the impact of the programme. The strong relationship between baseline and impact thus reflects the logic between situation analysis in the beginning and the changes the programme should accomplish in the end.

There are several types of indicators, each having their own place within the programming cycle:

- Baseline: input for the SWOT, null measurement of impact indicators
- Output, result and impact indicators: used for measuring the effectiveness of the programme. Through these indicators can be seen if key objectives of a programme and its interventions are reached.
- Input: measuring the resources used to obtain the outputs. By comparing the input and output indicators, the efficiency of the programme can be measured.

Figure 3.1 Relation baseline indicators, output, result and impact indicators



Source: ECORYS/IDEA consult

The indicators are selected in such a way that they offer a logical and coherent description of the programme starting with the most immediate level (actual expenditure) and proceeding to the most general level (the effects produced by that expenditure, the impact). Indicators are useful instruments to get insight in the progress and success of a programme.

3.3 Indicators defined

An indicator can be defined as a measurement. An indicator can measure different types of issues: an objective to achieve; a resource mobilised; an output accomplished; an effect obtained; or a context variable (economic, social or environmental). An indicator produces quantified information with a view to helping actors concerned with public interventions to communicate, negotiate or make decisions.

A treatise on the use of indicators should start with a clear and transparent explanation of what indicators are, how they are construed and for what purpose they can be used. Just as an illustration and as a point of departure, we present the way in which The Guide refers to indicators:

"Measurement of an objective to achieve, a resource mobilised, an output accomplished; an effect obtained, or a context variable (economic, social or environmental). The information provided by an indicator is a quantitative datum used to measure facts or opinions (e.g. percentage of regional enterprises which have been assisted by public intervention; percentage of trainees who claim to be satisfied or highly satisfied). An indicator must, among other things, produce simple information that is communicable and easily understood by both the provider and the user of the information.

It must help the managers of public intervention to communicate, negotiate and decide. For that purpose, it should preferably be linked to a criterion on the success of the intervention.

It should reflect as precisely as possible whatever it is meant to measure (validity of construction). The indicator and its measurement unit must be sensitive, that is to say, the quantity measured must vary significantly when a change occurs in the variable to be measured. Indicators may be specially constructed by the evaluation team and quantified by means of surveys or statistical data. They are often borrowed from the monitoring system or statistical series. An indicator may be elementary or derived from several other indicators in the form of ratios or indices."

3.4 Quality criteria for indicators

The most important criteria in defining useful indicators are the following:

- **Specific** - The indicator should be precise and concrete;

- **Measurable** – Preferably it should be possible to quantify the indicator;
- **Available/Achievable** – It should be possible to obtain the data in a cost-effective way;
- **Relevant** – The indicator has to be relevant for the programme;
- **Timely** – The indicators should be measured regularly so that they are available in time and can show developments over time.

Besides the well-known SMART criteria two additional quality criteria can be defined:
- **Comparability** – it should be possible to compare indicators over time, between countries/regions and with benchmarks e.g. in the field of efficiency
- **Possibility to aggregate** – analogous to the comparability criterion, it should be possible to aggregate an indicator over different projects, measures, Member States, etc.

For those aspects of the SMART-principle that deserve more attention a further explanation is presented below.

Relevant for programme

First of all, the indicators should be closely linked to the programme strategy and the objectives. The indicators should provide relevant information for the programme. Indicators should always be selected after the strategy is more or less finalised, not the other way around.

Measurable

Furthermore, the indicators chosen should be measurable. An indicator might be very relevant for a programme, but if you cannot measure it in any way, the indicator is useless. A difficult theme in this respect is for instance governance.

Available

Baseline data are gathered primarily from official statistics. However, the availability of certain data is often limited.

Frequent problems regarding availability are:
- Non-availability of data on the appropriate geographical level;
- Delays in the publication of data (related to the 'Timely' criterion);
- Gaps in official statistics in relation to the requirements of the programme;
- Non-availability of data by sector.

In some cases official statistics will have to be supplemented with surveys, which is costly in most cases. Hence, another criterion for selecting the indicator is the extent to which figures on the indicators are *readily* available for the relevant period. If not the case, alternative indicators should be examined. However, if there is a real need for a country or region additional indicator for which there is no alternative, additional surveys form an option if the costs are acceptable.

3.5 Types of indicators

Although indicators can be categorized in many ways, in this study we will focus on the typology matching the intervention logic of the programme:: baseline, input, output, result and impact indicators.

Baseline indicators

Baseline indicators reflect the state of the economic, social or environmental situation, at a given time (generally at the beginning of the intervention), against which changes will be measured. Two types of baseline indicators have to be distinguished:

- Context baseline indicators
- Impact related baseline indicators

Context baseline indicators

The context baseline indicators provide information on the relevant aspects of the general context in which a programme is implemented and which are likely to have an influence on the performance of a programme, but at the same time will not be targeted (directly) by the programme. Context baseline indicators can be rather *static*, like the physical conditions of a certain area (e.g. mountainous area), or *dynamic*, like employment structure or water quality.

The context baseline indicators serve two purposes:

1. To identify strengths and weaknesses within the region.
2. To explain the results achieved within the programme, as these changes in factors can work counterproductive or supportive in achieving the objectives.

Baseline context indicators influence the effectiveness and, probably, the strategy of the programme.

Examples:

- *If in a rural area in general the educational attainment is rising, it may have a positive impact on productivity growth on all sectors including agriculture; it supports the objective of productivity growth in agriculture. Also it may support the introduction of new technologies.*

- *Diversification in an environment of rising unemployment is much more an achievement than diversification in a country where unemployment is diminishing.*

Impact related baseline indicators

Contrary to context baseline indicators, impact related baseline indicators will be influenced by the programme and are the basis for measuring the effectiveness. As a consequence, these indicators are closely related to the strategy chosen and the intended impact. They are the base for quantified targets and enable the likely impacts of the planned actions to be estimated. In fact, they are the baseline measurement of the programmes' desired impact.

Example:
If in a country the population having access to internet in rural areas in 2006 is 50%, and the objective of the programme is to raise this to 85% by 2013, the impact of the programme is a 35 percentage points increase of population having internet access in rural areas.

Input indicators

Resource or input indicators refer to the budget or other resources (like for example, human capital) allocated to each level of the assistance. Financial input indicators are used to monitor progress in terms of the (annual) commitment and payment of the funds available for any operation, measure or programme in relation to its eligible cost.

Examples:
EAFRD budget per measure, maximum % of EAFRD financing of projects

Output-indicators

Output indicators aim at measuring activities directly realised by the projects. These activities or outputs are the first step in realising the operational objectives of the project and are measured in physical or monetary units.

Examples:
Number of participants to training, number of ha under new agro forestry systems, number of farms receiving investment support through EAFRD

Result -indicators

Result indicators aim at measuring the results and direct effects of the projects and show whether the specific objective of the project has been achieved. They provide information on changes to, for example, the behaviour, capacity or performance of direct beneficiaries.

Such indicators can be of a physical (reduction in wasted crops, number of successful trainees, number of young starter-farmers, etc.) or financial (leverage of private sector resources, decrease in transportation cost,..) nature.

Example:
Number of holding introducing new products / techniques, value of agricultural production under recognised quality labels

Impact-indicators

Impact indicators refer to the consequences of the programme beyond the immediate effects on its direct beneficiaries, and are linked to the global objectives of the programme. Two concepts of impact can be defined. Specific impacts are those effects occurring after a certain lapse of time but which are, nonetheless, directly linked to the action taken. Global impacts are longer-term effects affecting a wider population. Clearly, measuring this type of impact is complex and clear causal relationships often difficult to establish.

Example:
Specific impact: number of farmers with basic and full education
Global impact: increase in labour productivity in agriculture, increase in GVA

Please note that:

- In some cases, the same indicator can be an output, result or impact indicator, depending on which objective of the programme it is linked.
- also qualitative aspects of the programme can be measured by indicators. This can be achieved through surveys in which respondents are asked to score certain statements. For instance, "how would you score -between 1 and 4, from weak to very strong- the contribution of the measure to the diversification into non-agricultural activities".

3.6 The benefits at project and programme level

The benefits of individual project are generally expressed in terms of outputs and results. Project managers usually report on the achievements of the project with regard to outputs, results (and impacts) to the programme management. These reports are the base for the programme management for monitoring the programme. The programme management calculates within its monitoring system the achievements of all interventions, which result in an indication of the gross benefit of a programme.

It is the task of the external evaluators to make an estimation of the net benefits of a programme. The aggregated benefits from the projects (f.i. in terms of a number of jobs created or additional profit realised) are usually not equal to the benefits of the programme. This is usually because of external influences, influences that are beyond the scope of the programme. One should not forget that, besides the support from the Programme, a lot of other (market) forces are influencing the performance of a company or a region. Examples are other sector policies, developments at the world market of a commodity, weather conditions etcetera.
The aggregate of all project benefits are gross benefits, whereas the benefits on the programme level (impact) are the net benefits, taking into account external influences. When calculating the benefits from a programme, one should take several factors into account. These will be explained below.

Gross versus net effects

Net effects are effects directly due to the public intervention and to it alone, as opposed to apparent changes or gross effects. To measure net effects it is necessary to subtract the changes which would have occurred in the absence of the public intervention from the gross effects. These changes are not due to the programme.

It can be difficult to calculate the net effect or benefits, as also deadweight and displacement should be considered (see below). It is usually the mid term or ex post evaluator's task to do these calculations. The other actors involved in programming should however be aware of this phenomenon when for instance writing the Terms of Reference for an evaluation study and when the results have to be presented to the European Commission.

Deadweight

Deadweight is the change observed among direct beneficiaries of the public intervention, or reported by direct addressees as a consequence of the public intervention, that would have occurred, even without the intervention.

> *Example*:
> A farmer received support for the investment in a self-catering cottage. In a survey among beneficiaries of the investment support, he states that the support enabled him to create better quality facilities, but that he would have built the cottage even without support. Thus, there is a deadweight effect since the construction of the cottage cannot be attributed to the support the farmer received.

Displacement

Displacement is the effect obtained in an eligible area at the expense of another area, and may be intended or unintended. When they are not intended, displacement effects must be subtracted from gross effects to obtain net effects. The term is sometimes used to refer to the effects of an intervention affecting one beneficiary being at the expense of another within the same territory.

> *Example of intended displacement:*
> Displacement of a public administration from the capital to a 'lagging' region
>
> *Example of unintended displacement:*
> 10% of the jobs created by the rural development programme resulted in the disappearance of jobs in other regions

Multiplier effects

Multiplier effects are secondary effects and cumulative in nature. Taking as an example the income multiplier effect, it takes into account the fact that part of the income generated is spent again and generates other income, and so on in several successive cycles. In each cycle, the multiplier effect diminishes due to purchases/investments outside the territory. Consequently, the effect decreases much faster when the territory is small and when its economy is open. It is important to note that multiplier effects feed into the general equilibrium model, considering the wider macro-economic context to measure (possibly indirect) effects from a change in an initial variable (like e.g. the income of a farmer).

To wrap it up

Without proper indicators (and other reliable data) it is impossible to do a good, trustworthy evaluation. Specially for midterm evaluations and ex post evaluations this is an absolute necessity. For the midterm evaluation because a mismatch between predicted benefits and realised benefits can be a reason for adjustments of the programme. It is thus an essential management tool. For the ex post evaluation, because in the end it is about judging in an independent way whether a programme has delivered what is promised to deliver, so whether the tax payer has value for money.
It is a specialist's job to calculate the 'true' benefits from a programme. But the specialist needs good tools, and it is the programme management, together with the other actors, that should supply them.

4 Monitoring and evaluation

The European Commission aims for an improved "common monitoring and evaluation framework" for the rural development programmes 2007-2013. This framework is developed by the Commission and the Member States using a general approach, thereby defining a limited number of common indicators relating to the baseline situation and the monitoring and evaluation of the financial execution, implementation, results and impact of the programmes". As indicators are designed for the monitoring and evaluation of the programmes, this chapter treats the key concepts related to these monitoring and evaluation activities. The role and definition of indicators for rural development will be explained in the next chapter.

4.1 Definition of monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring is following up the implementation of the programme on a regular basis through a standardised and transparent system. Monitoring consists of three main activities:

- Data collection
- Data reporting
- Data analysis

Regular correct data collection and reporting are thus the very basis of a monitoring system.

Evaluation is the systematic and objective assessment of a programme or policy. All aspects of a programme can be evaluated: design, management, implementation, results and impact.

Monitoring and evaluation are very related, in the sense that the information collected in the monitoring system is vital for the evaluation process. The evaluation of the management of a programme will therefore examine the quality and performance of the monitoring system. For evaluation purposes the data from the monitoring are not sufficient. Usually, additional information will have to be collected.

4.2 Role of monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation have an indispensable place in the programme life cycle, as is shown in paragraph 2.3. Monitoring and evaluation serve as an important tool for the management and control for rural development programmes. Monitoring and evaluation allow for:

- **Follow up**: a clear identification of the progress of a programme
- **Justification and control** an improved accountability of public money spent
- **Steering**: an identification of necessary adaptations in the programme
- **Problem detection**: a better focus of the programmes to the needs in the area of rural development
- **Communication**: a clear and found communication of results to a range of actors and interest groups

In this context, the Commission stated that:

> "*The effectiveness and the impact of actions under the Fund [also] depend upon improved evaluation on the basis of a common monitoring and evaluation framework*"[3].

The new rural development regulation foresees strategic monitoring of the Community and national strategies. The basis for reporting on progress will be the common framework for monitoring and evaluation to be established in cooperation with the Member States.

The framework provides a limited set of common indicators and a common methodology. It will be supplemented by additional indicators to reflect the character of each programme area.

Evaluation activities will take place on an ongoing basis, comprising at programme level *ex-ante*, *mid-term* (in 2010), and *ex-post* (in 2015) evaluation as well as other evaluation activity considered useful for improving programme management and impact. These will be accompanied by thematic studies and synthesis evaluations at Community level, as well as by the activities of the European network for rural development as a platform for exchange and capacity building for evaluation in Member States. Exchange of good practices and the sharing of evaluation results - for example through meetings and seminars - can contribute significantly to the effectiveness of rural development. In this respect, the European network should play a central role in facilitating contacts.

From 2008 onwards an annual report is expected on the progress. The continuous data collection and analysis will ensure an optimal evaluation. Evaluation will be carried out by independent experts at programme level under responsibility of the Member States. The synthesis will be under the responsibility of the Commission.

[3] European Commission proposal for rural development policy: "better, broader, simpler" and "one fund, one programme, one control", launched on 20 June 2005 (page 14, point (64)).

Defining baseline indicators (and thus of the impact indicators, as they reflect the changes in the baseline since the beginning of the programme) is crucial. A common set of indicators will allow aggregation of outputs, results and impacts at the EU level and help assess progress in achieving Community priorities. Baseline indicators defined at the start of the programming period will allow assessment of the starting situation and form the basis for the development of the programme strategy.

Key issues of evaluation

The key issues of evaluation discussed beneath are the different evaluation criteria. These criteria determine to a great extent the indicators that will be developed further on. In general, evaluations address a specific set of issues to enable the detailed assessment of the assistance..

Figure 4.1 shows how these issues are tackled within a given programming framework. The evaluation criteria are explained below and summarized at the end of this section.

Relevance

Relevance examines the consistency between the objectives (as structured in the hierarchy of objectives, see supra) and the needs of the target groups (for example, farmers) and their context (for example, rural sites, the desire for qualitative food and a preserved environment).

Efficiency

Efficiency looks at the ratio between the outputs, results, and/or impacts and the inputs (particularly financial resources) used to achieve them. Examining efficiency entails the following questions: Can the same results be produced using less input? Alternatively, can the same amount of input produce better results?

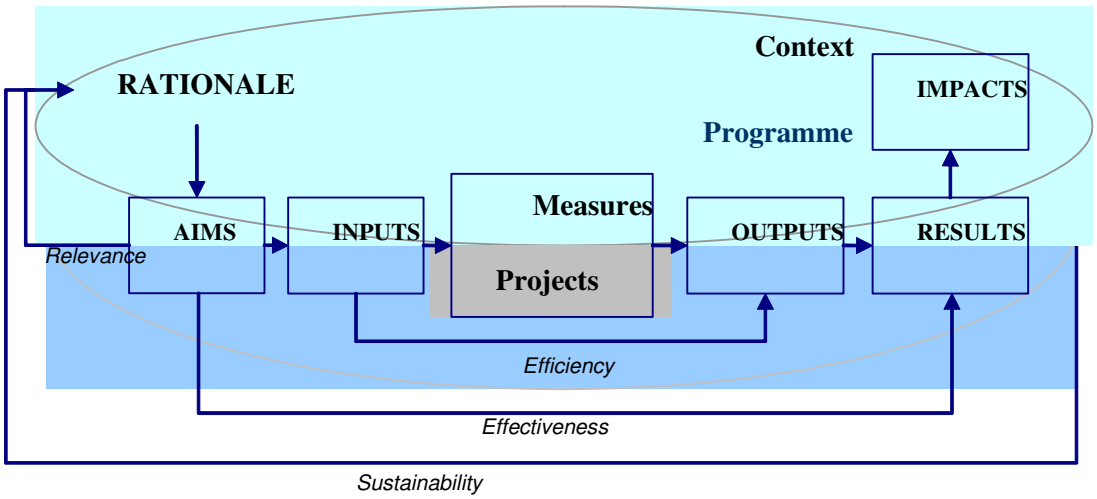
Effectiveness

Effectiveness compares what has been done with what was originally planned, *i.e.*, it compares actual with expected or estimated outputs, results, and/or impacts. The concept of "effectiveness" tends to concern just one aspect of the programme's effects, *i.e.*, the expected positive results. Programmes, however, can also produce unexpected positive and/or negative results which the agreed indicators might not be able to detect.

Sustainability

Sustainability examines whether the impact continues to have an effect after the programme or project has been finished.

Figure 4.1 Key issues for monitoring and evaluation



Source: ECORYS & IDEA Consult based on ECORYS-NEI and DG Regio

Box 1 Summary of evaluation criteria

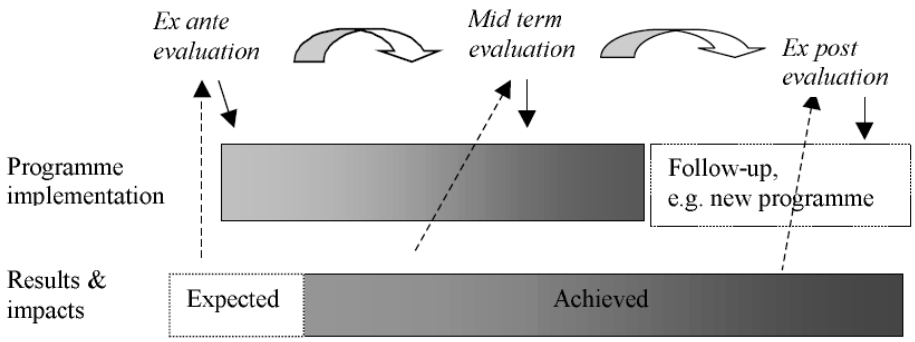
Relevance	To what extent are the programme's objectives relevant in relation to the evolving needs and priorities at national and EU level?
Efficiency	How were the resources (inputs) turned into outputs or results?
Effectiveness	How far has the programme contributed to achieving its operational, specific and global objectives?
Sustainability	To what extent can the changes (or benefits) be expected to last after the programme has been completed?

Source: Commission methodological working paper 3 (Indicators for Monitoring and Evaluation: an indicative methodology)

Evaluation moments

Besides the different evaluation issues that can be identified, there are also different moments of evaluation. Depending on the moment in the programming cycle, the evaluation will focus on different issues. The figure below represents the different evaluation moments and the relation between them.

Figure 4.2: The principle of "continuous" evaluation



Source: Guidelines for the Evaluation of Rural Development Programmes supported by SAPARD (European Commission, DG Agriculture, 2001)

Before describing into detail the main issues tackled in each type of evaluation (ex ante, mid term, ex post), the principle of "continuous" or on-going evaluation is highlighted. As evaluation activities are performed at several moments in the programming process, evaluators need –almost continuously- correct and clear information on the projects and activities within a particular programme. The Regulation[4] therefore requires the establishment of a system of on-going evaluation, organised on a multi-annual basis over the programming period 2007-2013. Such provision allows the evaluators to follow the implementation of the program closely and to have a clear view on the quality of the implementation. At the same time, the set up and functioning of the monitoring system can be accompanied. This is essential as the (monitoring) data are the basis for evaluation activities.

Ex ante evaluation

An ex ante evaluation is performed before the programme implementation. This form of evaluation helps to ensure that an intervention is as relevant and coherent as possible. An ex ante evaluation mainly concerns an analysis of context, though it will also provide an opportunity for specifying the intervention mechanisms in terms of what already exists. It provides the relevant authorities with a prior assessment of whether development issues have been diagnosed correctly, whether the strategy and objectives proposed are relevant, whether there is incoherence between them or in relation to Community policies and guidelines, whether the expected impacts are realistic, etc. Moreover, it provides the necessary basis for monitoring and future evaluations by ensuring that there are explicit and, where possible, quantified objectives.

[4] Regulation adopted by Council on June 20th, 2005.

➔ An **ex ante evaluation**[5] should thus feature the following elements:

- The linkage and consistency between global objectives, specific objectives, and measures to be contained in the programme;
- The existence and relevance of the output, result, and impact indicators for each level of assistance;
- The reliability of the level of quantification of the objectives.

Mid-term

The mid-term evaluation is performed towards the middle of the programming period. This evaluation critically considers the first outputs and results, which enables it to assess the quality of the monitoring and implementation. The mid-term evaluation shows the translation into operational terms of initial intentions and, where relevant, points out the de facto amendments to objectives. Through comparison with the initial situation, it shows the evolution of the general economic and social context, and judges whether the objectives remain relevant.

It examines whether the evolution of policies and priorities of other public authorities raises problems of coherence. It also helps to prepare adjustments and reprogramming, and to argue them in a transparent manner. Mid-term evaluation not only relies strongly on information derived from the monitoring system, but also on information relating to the context and its evolution.

➔ The mid-term evaluation should:

- Examine whether the programme is still relevant or whether it should be adjusted according to new needs;
- Examine the degree of effectiveness achieved on the basis of the indicators collected with the monitoring system;
- Assess the quality and relevance of these indicators.

Ex-post

Ex-post evaluation recapitulates and judges an intervention when it is over. Using final monitoring data, it aims at accounting for the use of resources, the achievement of expected and unexpected effects, and for the efficiency of interventions. It strives to understand the factors of success or failure, as well as the sustainability of results and impacts. For impacts to have the time to materialise, the ex post evaluation needs to be performed some time after implementation.

➔ The ex-post evaluation should:

- Examine the final results and impact of the programme;
- Analyse whether the results and impacts are sustainable;
- Examine whether the available means are allocated efficiently;
- Give directions for the next programming period based on the experiences of the previous programme.

[5] See also European Commission, The Ex-ante Evaluation of the 2000-2006 interventions, Working paper No 2 (1999)

Evaluation and monitoring are highly linked with each other. In the table below we summarize for each evaluation moment the main issues that are evaluated and the link with the monitoring system in terms of the required indicators necessary as input for the evaluation.

	Evaluated issue	Type of monitoring indicators used
Ex ante	relevance	baseline indicators
Mid term	effectiveness	output and result indicators
Ex post	efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability	result and impact indicators

4.3 Further readings on monitoring and evaluation

Additional information about monitoring and evaluation activities can be found at:

- Community strategic guidelines for Rural Development (Programming period 2007-2013), COM(2005) 304 final
- Guidelines to the evaluation of rural development programmes 2000-2006 supported from the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund. Directorate General for Agriculture, 1999
  http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/rur/eval/guide/2000_en.pdf
- Commission working paper 3: Indicators for Monitoring and Evaluation: an indicative methodology. Methodological working papers for the Programming period 2000-2006.
  europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/working/doc/indic_el.pdf
- Publication website for the evaluation of socio-economic development issues (http://www.evalsed.info/) and previous publications of MEANS.

Part B Definition of common baseline indicators

5 Introduction

The 'core' goal of this Chapter is to define a common and concise set of baseline indicators, and corresponding impact indicators, that enable identifying the key rural development needs at Member State level. Identification of these needs proceeds by means of a SWOT – Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats - analysis. The selection of baseline indicators identified should be such that the indicators could be applied in, and be made operational for, the SWOT (see chapter 2.3).

5.1 Sources

For this part various information sources and references have been used. The following sources deserve specific mentioning:

The current set of Guidance Documents for the evaluation of Rural Development programmes available at: http://europe.eu.int/comm/agriculture/rur/eval/index_en.htm :

- Evaluation of Rural Development Programmes supported from the EAGGF – Guidelines (Doc. VI/8865/99-Rev)
- Common Evaluation Questions with Criteria and Indicators (Doc.VI/12004/00 Final)
- Guidelines for the Mid-term Evaluation of Rural Development Programmes supported from the EAGGF (Doc. VI/43517/02)

European Commission DG AGRI, 2004, *Common Indicators for Monitoring Rural Development Programming 2000-2006* (June 2004)

European Commission DG AGRI, 2004, *Rural Development 2007-2013. An Overview of the Proposed Evaluation System*

European Commission DG AGRI, 2004 and 2005, Proposal for a Council Regulation on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) [SEC(2004)931]; and: Working Party on Agricultural Structures and Rural Development. Meeting Document 12/1/05 REV 1

European Commission DG AGRI, 2005, Proposal for a Council Regulation on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) [SEC(2004)931]

European Commission DG AGRI, AGRI G2 Database

Tavistock Institute et al., 2004, *The Evaluation of Socio-Economic Development. The Guide*, informally known as the updated Means (see http://www.evalsed.info/frame_glossary.asp), and related sourcebooks.

6 Selection of baseline indicators

6.1 Selection process

The selection of the baseline indicators is based on a number of criteria:

- The indicators should reflect the hierarchy of objectives as presented in the Council Regulation on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the Community Strategic Guidelines for Rural Development Policy 2007-2013;
- The indicators should start from and build on already existing baseline indicators for the 2000-2006 programming period.
- The indicators should be available for all EU 25, also on the regional level;
- It should be possible to aggregate the data to a higher level.
- The indicator should fulfil the 'SMART'-criteria (see chapter 3).

The availability of data for all EU 25 deserves special attention, particularly when a more detailed regional level (like NUTS III) is required. Not for all data the availability on this level is guaranteed. A (partly) solution to this problem is to use non-harmonised data. This solution is acceptable until fully harmonised data become available.

6.2 Presentation of results

The results of the selection of baseline indicators have been brought together in the table list of baseline indicators structured on the EU strategy and priority axes. As programme managers, evaluators and other stakeholders will work with this hierarchy of objectives, the next table indicating both the baseline as well as the impact indicators is presented accordingly.

This leads to the following sheet:

- *"Baseline and impact indicators," containing all baseline and impact indicators"* classified in the objectives of the hierarchy of objectives and specified in impact and context indicators (IR and CR).

Per indicator a fiche is presented at the end of this report, elaborating the details of the indicator, like definition, minimum Nuts level, data source and indication of the particular title/heading of the statistics and availability.

6.3 Discussion of results

The indicators listed are the product of an incremental, step-by-step approach and intensively discussed with DG AGRI. The first step was the identification of indicators covering the EU strategy and priorities for rural development (the so called long list, see Annex 3). Later, the hierarchy of objectives was further elaborated (see also the explanation in the key concepts) and indicators were connected to these objectives and sub-objectives (see Annex 1). Also the results of the midterm evaluation (see Annex 4) were at this stage taken into account.

Although the ultimate goal is a concise and operational list of 35 common indicators at most, the result is a somewhat higher number of indicators. However, as there is no such thing as the optimum number of indicators we feel it is at this stage more important to use the contents criteria than the 'number' criteria.

As can be seen in the table, the impact indicators are to a large extent the same as the baseline indicators, be it that the measurement is different: the impact indicators should reflect the changes that occurred to the baseline situation during the programming period. In a few cases we choose not to select an impact indicator directly reflecting a baseline when the external influences on the subject are too large (f..i. GDP per capita) or the objectives of the programme are too far (f.i. employment in the primary sector). These indicators are important for the context of the programme and can possibly influence the results of the programme. These indicators are labelled as context related indicators (CR), while the indicators for impact are labelled as impact related indicators (IR).

As we saw during the selection process, the main bottleneck is the availability of data for EU 25, and for the New Member States in particular. This becomes even more apparent when data on the regional level (down to NUTS 3) are required. The availability of data is shown in the individual indicator fiches presented at the end of this report.

Table 6.1 List of baseline indicators structured after the priority axes

AXIS	OBJECTIVES	Status	Baseline Indicator	Impact indicator
Horizontal	General	CR	Economic development	=
		CR	Unemployment	=
		CR	- for female	=
		CR	- for young	=
		CR	Economic development of primary sector	=
		CR	Social development of primary sector	=
		CR	Age structure	=
		CR	Employment structure	=
		CR	Population coverage by LAG's	=
AXIS 1, Competitiveness	Competitiveness in agriculture and food sector	IR	Training and education in agriculture	Increase in training and education in agriculture
		IR	Labour productivity in agriculture	Increase in labour productivity in agriculture
		IR	Age structure in agriculture	Improvement in age structure in agriculture
		IR	Gross fixed capital formation in agriculture	Increase in gross fixed capital formation in agriculture
		IR	Economic development of food industry	Increase in economic development of food industry
		IR	Labour productivity in food industry	Increase in labour productivity in food industry
		IR	Gross fixed capital formation in food industry	Increase in gross fixed capital formation in food industry
		IR	Number of semi-subsistence farms in NMS	=
		CR	Farm structure	=
		IR	Gross fixed capital formation in forestry	Increase in gross fixed capital formation in forestry
		IR	Labour productivity in forestry	Increase in labour productivity in forestry
		CR	Social development of forestry	=
		CR	Forestry structure	=
AXIS	OBJECTIVES	Status	Baseline Indicator	Impact indicator
AXIS 2, Land management	Environment	IR	Agriculture areas under Natura 2000	Increase in agriculture areas under Natura 2000
		IR	Forestry areas under Natura 2000	Increase in forestry areas under Natura 2000
		IR	Population of farmland birds	Increase in population of farmland birds
		IR	High Nature Value farmland areas	Increase in High Nature Value farmland areas
		CR	Areas of extensive agriculture	=
		IR	Water quality	Increase in water quality
		CR	Water quality	=
		CR	Water use	=
		IR	Pollution: by nitrates and pesticides	Decreas in pollution: by nitrates and pesticides
		IR	Climate change: production of renewable energy from agriculture	Climate change: increase in production of renewable energy from agriculture
		IR	Climate change: production of renewable energy from agriculture	Climate change: increase production of renewable energy from agriculture
		IR	Climate change: share of agriculture in GHG emissions	Climate change: decrease in share of agriculture in GHG emissions
		IR	Soil: areas at risk of soil erosion	Soil: decrease in areas at risk of soil erosion
		IR	Soil: organic farming	Soil: organic farming
		CR	Land use	=
		CR	Land use	=
AXIS	OBJECTIVES	Status	Baseline Indicator	Impact indicator
AXIS 3, Wider rural development	Diversification	IR	Other gainful activity of farmers	Increase in other gainful activity of farmers
		IR	Employment in non-agricultural sector	Increase in employment in non-agricultural sector
		IR	Micro enterprises	=
		IR	GVA in non-agricultural sector	Increase in GVA in non-agricultural sector
		IR	Tourism infrastructure in rural areas	Increase in tourism infrastructure in rural areas
		IR	Internet take-up in rural areas	Increase in internet take-up in rural areas
		CR	Internet infrastructure	=
		IR	Share of GVA in services	Increase in share of GVA in services
		IR	Net migration	Decrease in net migration
		IR	Training and education in rural areas	Increase in training and education in rural areas
		CR	Educational attainment in rural areas	=
		CR	Importance of rural areas	=
Leader	To implement the Leader approach in mainstream rural development programming	IR	Population coverage by LAG's	Increase in development of LAG's
		IR	GVA in rural areas	Increase in GVA in rural areas
		IR	Employment in rural areas	Increase in employment in rural areas
		CR	Internet infrastructure	

7 Indicator fiches

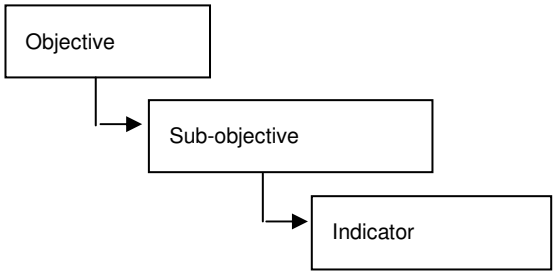
7.1 Introduction

For each common indicator are presented the indicator, the relevant data sources, its relationship to the hierarchy of objectives and its use in the definition of programme strategy, as well as any additional contextual elements. In principle, a fiche is provided for each indicator in order to illustrate the indicator, describe its purpose and its use.

The sheet presented in the previous chapter should be regarded as a concise and all-inclusive overview table to put the data collection at the Member State level into operation. This section contains the template of the one-page fiches. The fiches are based on the set of indicators as presented in table 6.1.

7.2 Fiches

The fiches are presented per indicator ordered in accordance to the hierarchy of objectives and specified in impact and context indicators. They can be found in Annex 2. The template of the fiche is presented below.

Name of the indicator	
Definition of indicator	Describes the composition and content of the indicator
Link to objective	Gives the intervention logic of the indicator. It explains the link between the indicator and the objectives of the programme
	
Type of indicator	Indicates the type of baseline or impact indicator
Sub-indicators	Sometimes, it is desirable to split an indicator into further sub-indicators, in order to provide more detail (e.g. distinction according to gender, age, type of activity)
Unit of measurement	E.g. absolute number, percentage, monetary unit, etc.
Level of collection	Indicates the lowest level on which the indicator needs to be collected (regional level, country level)

Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator
Collection method	Indicate how the data should be collected (statistics, survey)
Source	Source to be used for the collection of data
Availability	Indicate whether data are available: • According to definition • In preferred time range • On preferred level • Completeness of data
Frequency	Data collection: (with which frequency should the indicator be collected) Reporting: (with which frequency should the indicator be reported)
Norm	Target/objective: (If the baseline indicator is the reference for the impact indicator: is there any objective/norm that has to be achieved?)
Interpretation framework of the indicator	If the baseline indicator is the reference for the impact indicator, it is necessary to indicate what impact can be evaluated as good or insufficient? When a norm has been defined, the indicator can be evaluated against the norm When there is no norm, it is still possible to indicate a direction for interpretation, e.g. the higher the better, or the lower the better Special attention should be given to the measurement of change, certainly when the baseline indicator is in relative terms (f.i. when share of GVA in services is 60% at the start of the program and the objective is 65%, this is in increase with 5 percentage points. However, this development is depending on various factors in other sectors, also outside the program. Therefore it is sometimes better to use just the increase in GVA in services, like '5% increase of GVA in services'.).

Part C Guidelines on constructing additional baseline indicators

8 Introduction

Earlier in this document a set of common baseline and impact indicators were presented. These indicators are applicable for every Member State. However, since common baseline indicators may not fully capture all rural development needs and objectivesit may be desirable to define additional baseline indicators within the programmes of the Member States. Such additional indicators should be developed by Member States and programme partnerships in a flexible manner, but in accordance with the general principles laid down in this document, namely the treatment of additional baseline indicators.

This document is a guideline for persons that have to work on the formulation of (additional) baseline indicators. It explains why additional baseline indicators are essential for programming on the national level. Furthermore it gives an overview, on the level of sub-objectives, of possible additional baseline indicators. It also provides a checklist for all people involved in determining the country additional baseline indicators in order to assist in choosing the most appropriate ones. Finally, it presents some (hypothetical) good practice examples.

The content of this document is based on several sources. Some of the sources mentioned in the previous chapters were used. In addition the RDP's, OPARD's and (if available) midterm evaluations of the RDP's in the old member states were used. Next to this, we have consulted our extensive network on the questions concerning indicator development and the country additional indicators. This did not lead to new insights.

For the relevancy of indicators in the programming system and for the intervention logic we refer to chapter 3. This also contains a description of the types of baseline indicators and the criteria a baseline indicator should fulfil.

In the next chapter we present the practice: when should additional indicators be used, examples of possible additional baseline indicators by sub-objective, and we present the checklist that should be used when constructing additional baseline indicators. This follows a systematic 'yes/no' principle, based on the relevant questions that should be answered to get through the process. The last chapter is devoted to some (hypothetical) good practices: using concrete examples to let the material come alive.

9 Additional baseline indicators in practice

9.1 The rational for additional baseline indicators

Specific situations

For the 2007-2013 programming period for Rural Development Programmes, each country will have to develop one or several RDP's. The RDP will reflect the general EU rural development policy as specified in the Council Regulation on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) combined with country (or region) specific elements. The Council regulations contain the general Community objectives for rural development. The general objectives are broken down to sub-objectives and measures for the sake of implementation and thus the achievement of the objectives ('no projects, no impacts'). To assess whether these objectives are achieved (or not), the common baseline indicators are proposed.

As the regulation of course recognises that all MS are in a different situation and thus have various needs and objectives, the member states can specify their own specific situation and needs. The differences between MS can for instance be caused by differences in natural conditions (mountains, water, climate etc.), in levels of development, in regional structure (remote areas, islands etc.), in demographic development, in the development of (sub-) sectors, in levels of environmental problems and pressure etc. These circumstances can lead to country or region specific objectives. So, in order to produce a RDP which fully identifies the needs and objectives of a country or region or sector and comes up with the right measures to achieve the objectives, the hierarchy of objectives presented in the Council regulations needs country specific additional ingredients. In order to determine which specific additional ingredients should be added, additional baseline indicators are needed.

For instance: a certain country or region may have a quite average labour productivity on the macro level, but may be very specialised in meat processing, showing high labour productivity. The common indicator will only cover the macro level, thus not showing the countries/regions real strength. The consequence may be that the development strategy will not focus on this asset. Therefore the additional baseline indicator 'labour productivity in meat processing' should be used to highlight this specific strength and take it up in the countries or regions rural development programme. The development of this additional baseline indicator is the responsibility of the programme management, as they are most aware of the specific situation.

Thus, in order to get a good reflection of the situation in each individual MS (including its regions, sectors, target groups etc.) it is necessary, in addition to the common baseline indicators, to develop indicators that reflect the specific needs and objectives of the country.

Additional baseline indicators

As said before, a good programme starts with a good analysis. To this end, it is necessary to use baseline indicators that reflect the situation before the start of the programme and that, by the end of the programme, can be used to measure the impact. For the present Hierarchy of Objectives, a list of common baseline indicators is constructed. However, as stated before, the common baseline indicators will not always cover the specific situation in a specific MS or region. To cover the specific situation it is therefore necessary to construct **additional baseline indicators.**

There are several reasons to construct additional baseline indicators:

- If a MS chooses to define an additional objective;
- Or, if the common baseline indicator is not specific enough (with respect to the level of detail of the sub-objective, for instance: 'training' should be 'training in IT');
- Or, if there is no common baseline indicator for a defined sub-objective (like animal welfare);
- Or, if a common indicator doesn't cover the specific situation in a country, region or sector.

The construction of such additional baseline indicators is the task of programme management, assisted if necessary by the ex ante evaluators. **Don't forget that for each member state it is obligatory to define additional baseline indicators.**

Next to this, additional indicators can also be divided in 'context' indicators and 'impact related' indicators (see chapter 3).

In the next paragraph we will, based on the Hierarchy of Objectives, go into more detail on the additional baseline indicators.

9.2 Additional baseline indicators by sub-objective

The Hierarchy of Objectives contains three major objectives (competitiveness, environment and rural economy) as well as the LEADER Axis and horizontal objectives (Lisbon, Göteborg). Each major objective is broken down into a few sub-objectives (see also the overall Hierarchy of Objectives in Annex 1). In this paragraph we will discuss the additional baseline indicators by sub-objectives. For each sub-objective we will present the common baseline indicators (including the context indicators), and give examples of cases in which additional indicators may be needed and what they can look like. It should be noted that the examples of course are not exhaustive: the rural areas in the EU have such a wide variety of characteristics and needs that is it impossible to pretend to be able to come up with a complete list. The examples are meant to trigger programme management and evaluators to define their own, most appropriate additional baseline indicators.

Each following sub paragraph follows the rational as presented above.

It should be noted that the use of additional baseline indicators might require additional surveys or other forms of gathering information. This should be decided by programme management on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the costs and benefits.

9.2.1 Objective Axis 1: competitiveness

The objective for competitiveness is formulated as *to improve the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector by means of support for restructuring, development and innovation.* This objective is broken down into four sub-objectives:

- To promote knowledge and improve human capital;
- To restructure and develop physical potential and promote innovation;
- To improve the quality of agricultural production and products;
- To facilitate transition in new member states.

As said before, the European Commission has formulated common baseline indicators to cover these sub-objectives. These will however not be specific enough on the MS-level. In practice, with respect to competitiveness, there will probably in most cases be a lack of specificity at sector level.

Sub objective: to promote knowledge and improve human capital

Rationale for the sub-objective
Human capital, skills levels, entrepreneurship as well as uptake of IT and new ideas are crucial for improving the competitiveness of the agricultural, forestry and agri-food sectors.

A range of factors can limit the improvement of human capital. These include lack of access to appropriate training, barriers to the entry of young farmers to the profession and to the retirement of older farmers, as take-up and provision of advisory services. For each of these factors, Member States should identify needs and barriers for improving competitiveness. Remember that this should not purely be treated on a macro level, but should, where appropriate, be judged on the regional and/or sectoral level.

Common and additional indicators capturing the rural development needs additional to this sub-objective
Common baseline indicators include training and education in agriculture, labour productivity in agriculture and the food industry and age structure in agriculture.

Common baseline indicator	Measurement
training and education in agriculture	% farmers with basic and full education attained
Labour productivity in agriculture	Labour productivity in agriculture (EU 25 = 100) – total and by sector
Age structure in agriculture	% farmers <35 years % farmers > =55 years

There are no context indicators defined.

While such indicators can help outline general trends, more additional baseline indicators are required to highlight specific needs. These could include:

- Indicators related to specific skill shortages or identified training needs (type and level of vocational qualifications), sectors where there are specific human capital problems (low level of IT training in smaller food processing companies);
- Indicators related to entrepreneurship or take-up of IT;
- Indicators related to the age structure of the farming population at regional or local level, difficulties in access to capital, or farming structures;
- Indicators related to the take-up and provision/coverage of advisory services.

Key aspects linked to EU priorities and specific national priorities
Member states should, using for instance benchmarking, identify priority sectors for human capital development for knowledge transfer and innovation in the food chain and investment. In doing so they may wish to use indicators for skills related to the take-up of innovation, R&D and ICT. Many Member States will identify specific national conditions and appropriate policy priorities with corresponding indicators. Such priorities could include:

- Encouraging the development of on-farm processing;
- Setting up of young farmers;
- Training in e-business stock and supply chain management;
- Improvement of basic farming skills levels in the context of restructuring;
- Improvement of environmental performance of farms through training;
- Improving provision of advice on compliance with EU legislation;
- Promoting the anticipation of change within the agricultural sector;
- Encouraging diversification of on-farm activities.

The additional baseline indicators selected for these priorities should also reflect needs of particular groups such as young people and women within the farming, forestry and food-sectors. This could also include more general contextual indicators related to regional labour market conditions.

> **Example:**
> Knowledge and human potential is an issue that is most apparent in the NMS. However, this doesn't mean other countries can't have more specific objectives. For instance, one of the aspects is use of IT in farming as a way to increase productivity. It can be an additional objective to simulate the use of IT by organising specific training courses on IT in agriculture and/or forestry. The additional baseline indicator can thus be 'IT expertise with farm management', measured by the 'share farm managers with IT training'.

Sub-objective: to restructure and develop physical potential and promote innovation

Rationale for the sub-objective
Physical potential (like modern buildings and equipment, infrastructure), innovation (product and process oriented), entrepreneurship and restructuring of the agricultural sector are important in improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector.

To restructure and develop the physical potential and promote innovation, various actions can be thought of. This can be modernisation of farms, improvement of the economic value of forests, adding value to agricultural and forestry products, improvement and development of infrastructure for agriculture and forestry and restoring agricultural production potential damaged by natural disasters.

Common and additional indicators capturing the rural development needs specific to this sub-objective
The common baseline indicators are:

Common baseline indicators	Measurement
Labour productivity in agriculture	Labour productivity in agriculture (EU 25 =100) – total and by sector
Gross fixed capital formation in forestry	GFCF in forestry/area of forest available for wood supply (€/ha)
Economic development of primary sector	% of GVA in primary sector
Gross fixed capital formation in agriculture	GFCF in agriculture/UAA (€ /ha)
Economic development of food industry	% of GVA in food industry
Labour productivity in food industry	GVA/employee in food industry
Gross fixed capital formation in food industry	GCFC in food industry/UAA (€ /ha)
Labour productivity in forestry	GVA/employee in forestry

This sub-objective also has *context (baseline) indicators*:

Social development of forestry	Employment in forestry sector
Farm structure	Farm size (ha) average and distribution
	Farm size (ESU) and distribution
	Number of farms
	Utilized agricultural area (ha)
	Agricultural Work Unit
Forestry structure	Area of forest available for wood supply (FAWS)
	Ownership (% area of FAWS under private ownership)
	Average size of holding (of total forest area) by type of ownership (ha)

All in all this sub-objective seems to have a large number of indicators. However, in practice it is less, as these indicators are distributed over agriculture, food industry and forestry. While such indicators can help outline general trends, additional baseline indicators are required to highlight specific needs. These could include:

- Indicators related to modernisation of farms, activities performed at the farms;
- Indicators related to restructuring of the agriculture sector by sector;
- Indicators related to value and development of agricultural and forestry products, for example the export of food products;

- Indicators related to product innovations, by sector;
- Indicators related to process innovations, by sector.

Key aspects linked to EU priorities and specific national priorities
Member States should identify priority sectors for physical potential and innovation. Many Member States will identify specific national conditions and appropriate policy priorities with corresponding indicators. Such priorities could include (without being exhaustive):

- Modernisation of farms;
- Diversifying and innovative approaches at farms;
- Improvement of the environmental performance of farms and forestry;
- Increased added value to agricultural and forestry products;
- Implement innovative approaches at farms and/or food industry.

Example 1

In some Member States export of food industry products is seen as an opportunity or objective. Investments in restructuring and innovation in the food industry should increase exports. However, export is not a baseline indicator. In this case it should therefore be advisable to take up an additional indicator 'export of food industry', measured in 'share of export in turnover'.

Example 2

Although the sub-objective is (also) to promote innovation, there is no common baseline indicator to cover this. Countries can thus formulate their own, additional baseline indicator regarding innovation. A possible indicator can be 'new products in food industry', measured in 'number of new products on the market'.

Sub-objective: to improve the quality of agricultural production and products

Rationale for the sub-objective
Quality of agricultural production and products and integration in agrifood chain are important to improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector.

There are several ways to improve the quality of agricultural production and products. This can be done through assisting farmers to adapt to demanding standards based on European Commission legislation, supporting farmers who participate in food quality schemes and through supporting producer groups for information and promotion activities for products under food quality schemes.

Common and additional indicators capturing the rural development needs specific to this sub-objective
The common baseline indicators are:

Common baseline indicator	measurement
Economic development of primary sector	% of GVA in primary sector
Gross fixed capital formation in agriculture	GFCF in agriculture/UAA (€ /ha)
Economic development of food industry	Share of GVA in food industry
Labour productivity in food industry	GVA/employee in food industry
Labour productivity in forestry	GVA/employee in forestry

No context indicators are defined.

This sub-objective deals with improvement of quality of production and products in a broad sense: from implementation of standards based on Community legislation to awareness raising for consumers. For more specific needs, additional baseline indicators are required. This could be:

- Indicators related to specific standards on quality of agricultural production or products;
- Indicators related to specific sub-sectors within agriculture of food industry;
- Indicators related to farmers involved in food quality schemes, for example investments in packaging and conditioning of food products of hygiene and working conditions;
- Indicators related to information and promotion activities for products under food quality schemes, for example promotional activities by local activity groups;
- Indicators related to quality schemes that stimulate integration in the agri-food chain.

Key aspects linked to EU priorities and specific national priorities
Member states should identify priority sectors for agricultural products and production. Many Member States will identify specific national conditions and appropriate policy priorities with corresponding indicators. Such priorities could include:

- Promoting a more rapid implementation of food-safety standards in a specific sector;
- Encouraging farmers to participate in quality schemes in specific sectors;
- Improving consumers awareness quality schemes for specific products;
- Improving integration in the agri-food chain.

Example

In some Member States there are special concerns regarding the awareness of food safety standards. This refers to both producers and consumers. It may be the wish the authorities to raise public awareness as one of the means to influence the behaviour of the producers. Then an additional baseline indicator is needed, which reflects the present state of public awareness. Such indicator can be measured as '% of population aware of food safety standards', and the impact of the relating measure should be an increase in awareness.

Sub-objective: to facilitate transition in new member states

Rationale for the sub-objective
Transition in the new Member States, restructuring of the agriculture sector and entrepreneurship are important factors for improving competitiveness of agricultural, forestry and agri-food sectors.

This transition can be realised and stimulated through supporting semi-subsistence farms undergoing restructuring and supporting setting up of producer groups. Especially rural development is a key tool for restructuring.

Common and additional indicators capturing the rural development needs specific to this sub-objective

The common baseline indicators are:

Common baseline indicator	Measure
Labour productivity in agriculture	Labour productivity in agriculture (EU 25 = 100) – total and by sector
Economic development of primary sector	% of GVA in primary sector
Labour productivity in food industry	GVA/employee in food industry
Semi-subsistence farms in NMS	% farms <1 ESU

There are no context indicators defined

This sub-objective refers specifically to the new Member States. The measures are directed towards support for semi subsistence farms to enter the market and setting up of producer groups. For the latter issue no baseline indicator is defined.

These indicators are good for general trends. However, also additional indicators are required for the specific needs of the new Member States. These could be:

- Indicators related to restructuring of farms;
- Indicators related to labour productivity in a certain (sub-)sector;
- Indicators related to setting up producer groups for specific products.

Key aspects linked to EU priorities and specific national priorities
The new Member States should identify priorities to facilitate their transition. Many New Member States will identify specific national conditions and appropriate policy priorities with corresponding indicators. Such priorities could include:

- Restructuring specific branches within the agriculture sector;
- Fostering dynamic entrepreneurship including development of strategic and organisational skills;
- Encouraging semi-subsistence farms in the NMS to move into the market;
- Encouraging the setting-up of producer groups for specific products.

Examples

In some Member States, where agriculture is still very much fragmented, setting up of producer groups is an item. However, in order to know what the present situation is, there is need for an additional baseline indicator that reflects the present number of producer groups. So, the additional baseline indicator is 'producer groups in agriculture' with measurement 'number of producer groups in agriculture'. The impact in the end should be higher GVA in the primary sector.

It is also possible that programme management has a more specific objective, focussing on 'producer groups for wine' instead of agriculture as a whole. In that case, the additional baseline indicator will be accordingly, with measurement 'number of producer groups for wine'. The impact should be higher GVA in the wine sector.

9.2.2 Objective Axis 2: Environment

The objective for environment is formulated as *to improve the environment and the countryside by means of support for land management.*

This objective is broken down in two sub-objectives:

- to increase sustainable management of agricultural land by encouraging farmers and forest holders to employ methods of land use compatible with the need to preserve the natural environment and landscape and protect and improve natural resources;
- to increase sustainable management of forestry land.

Again, the EU has formulated common baseline indicators for these sub-objectives. But they will not be specific enough on the MS-level. With respect to environment, in practice it will most probably the local/regional situation that needs to be specified more in additional baseline indicators.

Sub-objective: to increase sustainable management of agricultural land by encouraging farmers and forest holders to employ methods of land use compatible with the need to preserve the natural environment and landscape and protect and improve natural resources;

Rationale for the sub-objective
Sustainable management of agricultural land is an important factor to improve the environment and countryside.

There are several measures contributing to sustainable management of agricultural land. This can be through natural handicap payments to farmers in mountain areas, and other 'handicapped' areas, through NATURA 2000 payments, payments linked to the Water Framework Directive, agri-environment payments, animal welfare payments and support for non-productive investments.

Common and additional indicators capturing the rural development needs specific to this sub-objective
The common baseline indicators are:

Common baseline indicator	Measurement
Agricultural area under Natura 2000	% UAA under Natura 2000
Water quality	Gross nutrient balance: surplus of nitrogen in kg/ha
Climate change: production of renewable energy from agriculture	% UAA devoted to energy and biomass crops
Population of farmland birds	Trends of index of population of farmland birds
High Nature Value farmland areas	% UAA of HNV Farmland areas
Pollution: by nitrates and pesticides	Annual trends in the concentration of nitrate in surface water Annual trends in the concentration of nitrate in ground waters Concentration of pesticides in ground and surface water
Climate change: share of agriculture in GHG emissions	Share of agriculture in GHG emissions
Soil: areas at risk of soil erosion	Soil: areas at risk of soil erosion (in risk level)
Soil: organic farming	% UAA under organic farming

And the context indicators:

Context common baseline indicators	Measurement
Areas of extensive agriculture	% UAA of extensive agriculture
	% UAA with low grazing LU/ha
	% UAA LFA (mountainous)
	% UAA LFA (non-mountainous)
	% area Natura 2000
Nitrate vulnerable zones	% UAA designated as nitrate vulnerable zone
Water use	% irrigated area
Land use	Land use (% land cover agriculture/forestry/nature)

The common baseline indicators cover a wide variety of aspects. However, as the natural and environmental conditions in the EU show huge differences, this selection of common baseline indicators surely can't cover all relevant aspects. For instance: even though it is mentioned in the sub-objective, the common baseline indicators now do not specifically cover 'landscape', which in some member states is a hot political theme. Therefore additional indicators are required to cover the regional specific needs. This could be:

- Indicators related to income deficit due to altitude, steep slopes, and accessibility problems in mountain areas;
- Indicators related to payments in handicapped areas such as low soil productivity; poor climate conditions, maintain countryside and tourist potential;
- Indicators related to land management in relation with agricultural use (biodiversity, water quality, climate change, soil quality, avoidance of marginalization and land abandonment);
- Indicators related to water and soil quality;
- Indicators related to regions with specific environmental problems or conditions.

Key aspects linked to EU priorities and specific national priorities
Member States should identify priorities to increase sustainable land use of agricultural land. Many Member States, will identify specific national conditions and appropriate policy priorities with corresponding indicators. Such priorities could include:

- Contributing to the continued use of agricultural land in mountain areas with handicaps;
- Contributing to the continued use of agricultural land in other areas with handicaps;
- Ensuring environmental requirements and safeguard farming in specific regions or areas;
- Helping farmers to address specific natural disadvantages in their region;
- Responding to increasing demand of environmental services;
- Encouraging to adopt high standards of animal welfare;
- Supporting agri-environmental commitments.

Example 1

In some Member States is some regions the preservation of the valuable landscape is under pressure as farmers end their commercial activities and thus also end the maintenance of the landscape. This is a threat in several regions, both from an environmental and an economic development and diversification point of view, as the landscape is an important factor to attract tourists and migrants.

The additional baseline question is 'how big is this problem'? The additional baseline indicator can be formulated as 'area with landscape maintenance problems', measured in '% of total area with landscape maintenance problems'.

Example 2

A subject that is covered by the measures but not by the common baseline indicators is animal welfare. So, if a country or region wants to use this measure, it also needs to know the baseline situation: is there a problem with animal welfare, or does it give a specific opportunity? This can be the case if for instance from a benchmark it appears that other regions are further with that and see their results improving. An additional baseline indicator can thus be 'farms that apply high standards of animal welfare', with the measurement '% of farms applying high standards of animal welfare'.

Sub-objective: to increase sustainable management of forestry land

Rationale for the sub-objective

Sustainable management of forestry land is an important factor to improve the environment and countryside.

There are several measures possible to increase sustainable management of forestry land. This can be through first afforestation of agricultural land, first establishment of agroforestry systems on agricultural land, first afforestation of non agricultural land, NATURA 2000 payments, forest-environment payments, restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions, support for non-productive investments.

Common and additional indicators capturing the rural development needs specific to this sub-objective

The common baseline indicators are:

Common baseline indicator	Measurement
Forestry areas under Natura 2000	% forest area under Natura 2000
Water quality	Gross nutrient balance: surplus of nitrogen in kg/ha
High Nature Value farmland (including forestry land) areas	%UAA HNV Farmland area
Soil: areas at risk of soil erosion	Soil: areas at risk of soil erosion (risk level)

The context indicators are:

Context baseline indicator	Measurement
Area of extensive forestry systems	% area Natura 2000
	Protective forests – soil water and other
Land use	Land use (% land cover agriculture/forestry/nature

This sub-objective is directed towards improvement of the environmental situation by stimulating sustainable management of forest areas and investments. The common baseline indicators reflect the 'macro' situation, but of course not the situation on the specific country or regional level. For instance: some regions or areas are especially vulnerable for natural disasters like flooding or fire. Indicators could be:

- Indicators related to afforestation;
- Indicators related to establishment of agro forestry systems;

- Indicators related to afforestation of non agricultural land;
- Indicators related to NATURA 2000 payments;
- Indicators related to forest-environment payments;
- Indicators related to restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions;
- Indicators related to support for non-productive investments.

Key aspects linked to EU priorities and specific national priorities
Member states should identify priorities to increase the sustainable use of forestry land. Many Member States, will identify specific national conditions and appropriate policy priorities with corresponding indicators. Such priorities could include:

- Extending forest resources on agricultural land in specific regions;
- Promoting the combination of extensive agriculture and forestry systems;
- Extending forest resources on non-agricultural land in specific regions;
- Forest holders to address specific disadvantages of the area;
- Responding to increasing demand for environmental services;
- Restoring forestry potential in forests that were damaged by natural disasters;
- Supporting forest-environment.

Examples

Large parts of Middle and Western Europe are under a potential threat of flooding, as was proven some years ago. This also harms the forestry areas. Protection against flooding of these areas is thus a specific objective in these regions. In order to get an idea about this threat it should be known, as a baseline, how many ha. of forest area are concerned.
So the additional baseline is 'forest area potentially threatened by flooding', then the measurement is 'forest area potentially threatened by flooding in ha.' whereas the impact of the intervention in the end should be that less ha's are under this threat.

The same sort of example is relevant in the case of some southern Member States, but there it is fire instead of water that poses the 'specific' threat.

9.2.3 Objective Axis 3: Wider rural development

The objective for wider rural development is formulated as *to improve quality of life in rural areas and encourage the diversification of economic activities.* The objective contains three sub-objectives:

- to diversify the rural economy (into non-agricultural activities);
- to improve the quality of life in rural areas (improving basic services, investments to make rural areas more attractive etc.);
- to reinforce territorial coherence and synergies (f.i. enhancing human potential and implementation of local strategies).

Also for this objective the EU has formulated common baseline indicators, and of course also in this case they will not be specific enough on MS-level. With respect to wider rural development more specification will most probably be needed regarding the targeted population, in addition to sector and regional dimensions.

Sub-objective: to diversify the rural economy

Rationale for the sub-objective
Diversification of rural economy is essential to achieve wider rural development and the creation of new job opportunities.

Diversification of economic activities can be achieved through several factors. These factors are diversification into non-agricultural activities, encouragement of tourism activities, and support for creation and development of micro-enterprises with a view to promoting entrepreneurship and developing economic fabric.

Common and additional indicators capturing the rural development needs specific to this sub-objective
For this sub-objective the following common baseline indicators are chosen:

Common baseline indicator	Measurement
Other gainful activity of farmers	% holders with other gainful activity
Employment in non-agricultural sector	% employment in non-agricultural sector
Micro enterprises	Number of micro enterprises/1000 inhab.
GVA in non-agricultural sector	% GVA in non agricultural sector
Tourism infrastructure in rural areas	Number of beds (hotel, camping etc)/km2
Share of GVA in services	Share of GVA in services

This sub-objective has no context baseline indicators.

Diversification of the rural economy is an important objective, especially in several of the 'old' Member States. Support for farmers to take up other activities, support for entrepreneurship, attention for the local business environment in rural areas etc. are measures one frequently observes in RDP's. Diversification is not only limited to the old Member States. Improving local business environment and creating 'growth centres' is for instance a topic in Slovenia.
The present baseline indicators do not cover these various aspects. Therefore additional indicators are required to cover the specific needs. These could be:

- Indicators related to diversification into non-agricultural activities;
- Indicators related to encouragement of tourism activities;
- Indicators related to development of micro-enterprises and/or entrepreneurship;
- Indicators related to specific forms of tourism.

Key aspects linked to EU priorities and specific national priorities
Member States should identify priorities to diversify the rural economy. Many Member States will identify specific national conditions and appropriate policy priorities with corresponding indicators. Such priorities could include:

- Diversifying farming activities towards non-agricultural activities;
- Developing non-agricultural activities like specific forms of tourism;
- Promoting employment for specific target groups;
- Improving the local business environment in specific regions.

Example

Tourism is a growing sector in a lot of rural areas. Usually the development is measured in number of beds. However, there are some rural areas (for instance in Germany and the Netherlands) where there is demand from tourists for more wander – and biking tracks, public barbecue places etc. This is a specification of the more general 'tourism infrastructure'. The additional baseline indicator is in this case: tourism infrastructure in rural areas for walking and biking, measured with 'length of walking and biking infrastructure in km'.

Sub-objective: to improve the quality of life in rural areas

Rationale for the sub-objective

Quality of life in rural areas is an important factor for the maintenance of the attractiveness of rural areas for future generations.

There are several measures possible to improve the quality of rural life in rural areas. These could be improvement of basic services for the economy and rural population (development of micro-business, take-up and diffusion of ICT), village renewal and development and conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage (training young people in traditional rural skills).

Common and additional indicators capturing the rural development needs specific to this sub-objective

This sub-objective is covered with the following common baseline indicators:

Common baseline indicator	Measurement
GVA in non agricultural sector	% GVA in non-agricultural sector
Internet take-up in rural areas	% of population having internet access at home
Share of GVA in services	Share of GVA in services
Net migration	Net migration rate

There is one context indicator:

Context baseline indicator	Measurement
Internet infrastructure	DSL and cable modem coverage

This sub-objective focuses on improving the quality of life in rural areas. There are huge differences within the EU between rural areas in different countries. The smaller, well developed countries hardly have any significant problems when compared to larger countries and most of the NMS. The problem is sometimes reversed: the pressure from the cities causes problems with housing for the 'traditional' population. All in all these baseline indicators are defined on a very general level, and therefore very wide (like 'services'). Therefore additional indicators are needed that cover the specific regional/local needs. These additional indicators could be:

- Indicators related to services for the economy and rural population (infrastructure, ICT, tourism);
- Indicators related to GVA in more specific types of economic activity;
- Indicators related to village renewal and development;
- Indicators related to conservation and upgrading of rural heritage;
- Indicators related to migration of specific population groups (by age or education).

Key aspects linked to EU priorities and specific national priorities
Member states should identify priorities for quality of life in rural areas. Many Member States, will identify specific national conditions and appropriate policy priorities with corresponding indicators. Such priorities could include:

- Encouraging the take-up and diffusion of ICT;
- Training young people in traditional rural skills;
- Upgrading local infrastructure;
- Village renewal in specific areas;
- Improving basic services in order to reverse trends towards economic and social decline and depopulation of the countryside.

Example

In several countries banks and post offices were closed in rural areas with the introduction of mobile phones and internet. However, internet is still not available in every household in rural areas. This causes problems, for instance with making payments. A solution are to so called 'PIAP's' (public internet access points), that are usually situated in the local library or school, and which are open to use for every inhabitant. This is a specific form of service. It can be an objective of regional authorities to establish more PIAP's (to reduce travel time, especially for elderly people). The additional baseline indicator then is 'PIAP's in rural areas', measured by 'population coverage of PIAP's'.

Sub-objective: to reinforce territorial coherence and synergies

Rationale for the sub-objective
Territorial coherence and synergy is an important pre-condition for the achievement of wider rural development.

This coherence and synergy can be reinforced through training and skills development. This training and information is mostly for economic actors dealing with rural development. Also the development of local development strategy and local capacity building are factors to reinforce the coherence and synergy.

Common and additional indicators capturing the rural development needs specific to this sub-objective
To this sub-objective the following common baseline indicators apply:

Common baseline indicator	Measurement
Employment in non-agricultural sector	% employment in non agricultural sector
GVA in non agricultural sector	% GVA in non agricultural sector
Training and education in rural areas	% of active population of adults participating in life long learning
Share of GVA in services	Share of GVA in services

Next to this, there are the following context indicators:

Context indicator	Measurement
Educational attainment in rural areas	% persons with (medium + high) educational attainment (25_64) % females with (medium + high) educational attainment (25_64)
Importance of rural areas	% area in rural area % population in rural areas density population in rural areas % GVA in rural areas % employment in rural areas

This sub-objective is mostly focussed on training and skills development, which in the end should lead to more employment and higher GVA. As with the previous sub-objective, the baseline indicators in general cover these aspects, but additional indicators are needed to cover the specific needs of the countries or regions. These could be:

- Indicators related to training facilities;
- Indicators related to training of staff for the implementation of rural development strategies;
- Indicators related to more specific sectors;
- Indicators related to local capacity building;
- Indicators related to a more specific target group (women, young people).

Key aspects linked to EU priorities and specific national priorities
Member States should identify priorities for territorial coherence and synergy. Often these will be based on specific national conditions and their appropriate policy priorities with corresponding indicators. Such priorities could include:

- Increasing capacity for implementation of local strategies;
- Entry of women into the labour market;
- Vocational training for young people;
- Building local partnership capacity;
- Improving local governance;
- Promoting private-public partnership;
- Promoting cooperation and innovation.

Example

In some peri-urban regions, although economically strong, there is in the rural area a gap between the jobs and the skills that are available. Skill development and training must thus be focussed on the type of jobs for which there is a shortage, for instance in the tourism sector.

Then the additional baseline indicator should be 'training and education in rural areas for the tourism sector', with the measurement 'number of participants for training for the tourism sector'.

9.2.4 LEADER

LEADER has a special position in this Hierarchy of Objectives. As a sub-objective it intends *to implement the LEADER approach in mainstream rural development programming*.

The baseline indicators are:

Common baseline indicators	measurement
Development of LAG's	Share of population covered by LAG's
GVA in rural areas	GVA in rural areas
Employment in rural area	Employment in rural areas

And the context indicator:

Context indicator	measurement
Internet infrastructure	DSL and cable modem coverage

The LEADER approach can be described as going for the same objectives as the RDP, but with a bottom-up approach. There is no need in this respect to formulate different 'additional' baseline indicators as shown (in examples) above. Of course it is possible that within a certain LEADER-area, there is a specific objective to be achieved. The way of dealing with this however is exactly the same as for the other (sub-)objectives.

9.2.5 Conclusion

Even though there is a rather extensive list of common baseline indicators (including context), this list is by essence always limited. Therefore each member state and/or each region will have to add additional baseline indicators that reflect their specific circumstances and/or own objectives. The member states have the freedom to make their own, best choice, based on their needs and on the availability of data. There is no such thing as a 'gross list for additional baseline indicators'. It is just not possible to construct that as the variety of rural areas within the EU is very large. That's why we had to limit ourselves to some examples.

The next paragraph we will present a checklist which programme managers and evaluators can use for constructing their own additional baseline indicators.

9.3 How to define additional baseline indicators: checklist

In order to define additional baseline indicators, the easiest way is to follow the rather simple, "yes/no"-based checklist that is shown on the next page. Here we give some guidance on the use of this checklist. In the next chapter, we present some (hypothetical) examples in which all steps are explained.

Guidance on the checklist

A. on the **additional baseline indicators**

1. The first step is to establish *if there is a need for additional baseline indicators*. This means that the common baseline indicators have to be checked:
   - Do they cover the specific situation as a whole?
   - Is the common baseline indicator specific enough (for instance with respect to regions or sectors)?
   - Do they cover additional objectives set by the member state?

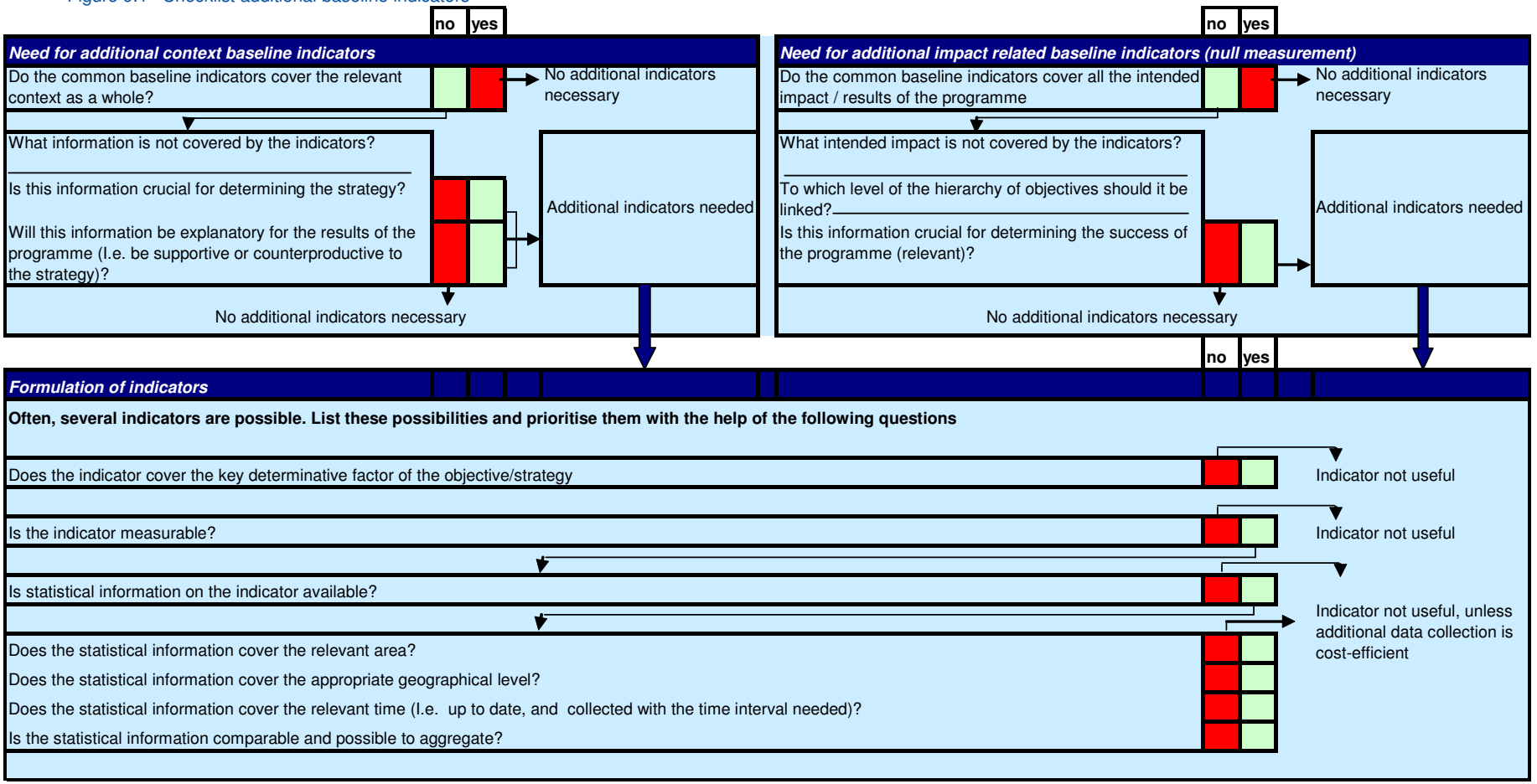
Usually the answer will be 'no', as there will always be specific circumstances in the country or in the region: specific sectors, specific natural conditions, specific social groups with specific needs etc.
Should the answer to this question be 'yes', there is no need to continue.

2. When the answer is 'no', the next question is *'what specific circumstances or objectives are not (fully) covered'*. If this is established, the next questions are if this information or circumstances is crucial for the strategy (if not, don't take it up) and if these circumstances will be explanatory for the results of the programme (if not, don't take it up).
3. The next step is the *formulation of indicators*. In theory it is usually possible to formulate several indictors to cover the relevant topic. However, in practice it may prove to be difficult to come up with even one suitable indicator as one often encounters problems with for instance availability of data (reliable sources, relevant geographical level etc.). therefore it is advisable to start to draw up a list of possible indicators, and then select following the SMART-criteria as described in the previous chapter.
   This means answering the next questions:
   a. Does the indicator cover the key determinative factor of the specific circumstances or strategy (is it specific enough)? If yes, continue. If no, try another indicator.
   b. Is the indicator measurable? If not, try another indicator.
   c. Is statistical information available? If not, the indicator can't be used. Decide whether it is possible to collect the data using for instance a survey, decide whether this is cost-effective.
   d. Does the statistical information cover the relevant area? If not, try another indicator or check possibility for additional data collection (see c.).
   e. Is the information available on the appropriate geographical level (for instance NUTS 3 level)? If not, look for another indicator or check for additional data collection (see c.).
   f. Is the information available for the relevant period and on time? If not, try another indicator or check the possibility of additional data collection (see c.).
   g. Is the information Comparable (over time, between regions, between sectors) and possible to aggregate? If not, try another indicator or check the possibility to 'fill the gaps' (see c.).

B. On the **impact related baseline indicators**:
The steps to follow to formulate impact related baseline indicators are the same as for the additional baseline indicators.

The checklist is presented on the next page.

Figure 9.1 Checklist additional baseline indicators



Source: ECORYS/IDEA consult

10 The checklist in practice: some examples

10.1 Introduction

In this part, some examples of country additional baseline indicators are presented. In reading this part, it should be kept in mind, that the examples are hypothetical examples, which do not necessary reflect the real need or situation. However, the examples provide information about possible country additional indicators and their use.

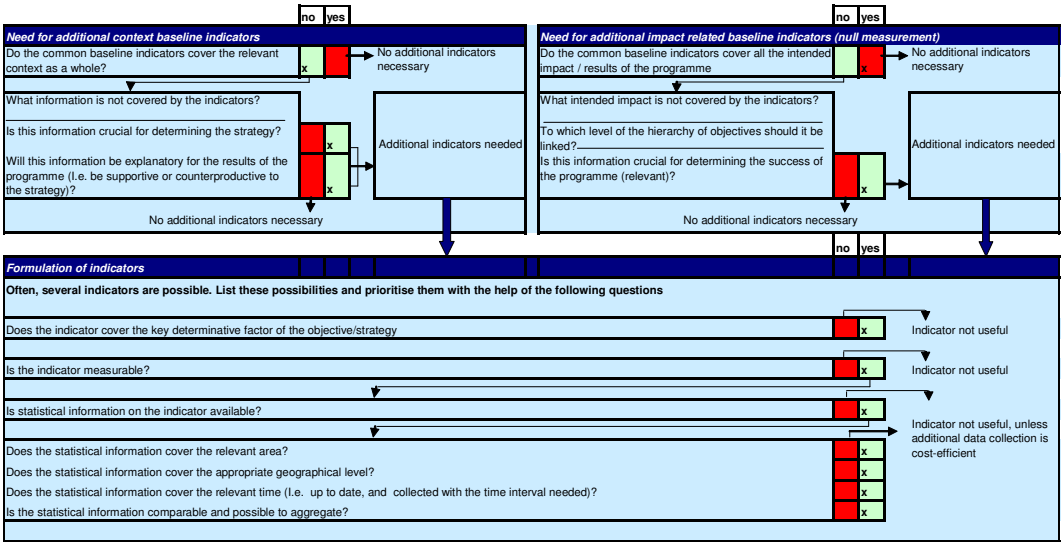
10.2 Axis 1: Competitiveness in agriculture and forestry

Example: Transport costs

Due to the specific geographical location an island, the agricultural and forestry sector is confronted with specific transport costs. In this, it has a unique position compared to other countries or regions in Europe, which justifies an additional indicator.

Checking the indicator "transport costs" on the criteria, the following is found:

Figure 10.1 Checklist additional baseline indicators for the indicators transport costs



The idea is that an increase in transport costs will have a negative influence on the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector. Hence, changes in this indicator influence the results of the programme.

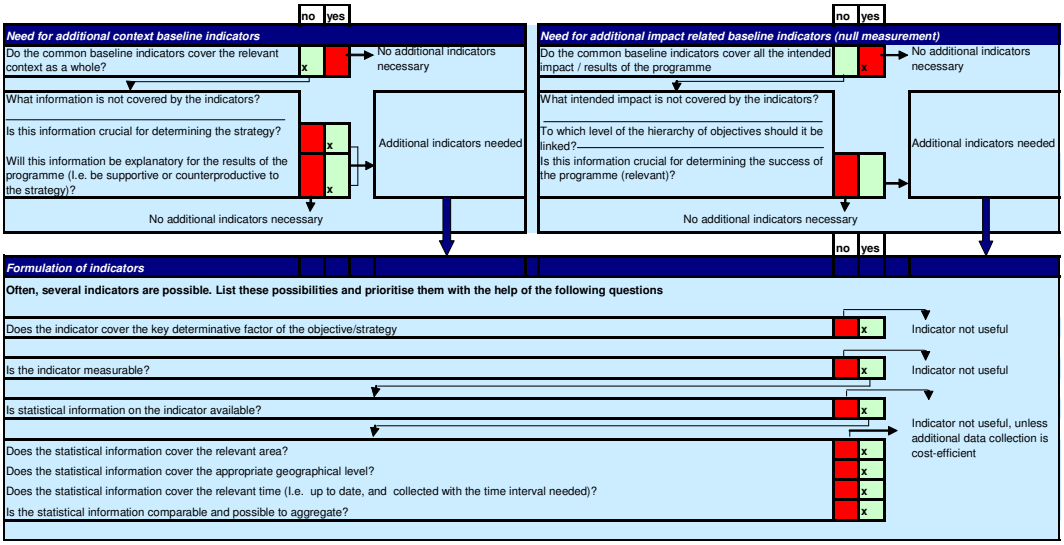
In the above scheme is indicated that the indicator will not influence the strategy. However, if measures diminishing transport costs would be an eligible activity under the strategy, transport costs could influence the strategy as well.
The indicator 'transport costs' fulfils all the checklist criteria and is thus a good additional context baseline indicator.

New Member States: restructuring food industry, bankruptcies

For several New Member States restructuring the food industry is an important factor that influences the development and investments of this industrial sector and could be a determining issue for the strategy. This is a specific issue for the New member States, and justifies a country additional baseline indicator in comparison to the EU as a whole.

Checking the indicator "bankruptcies in the food industry" on the criteria, the following is found:

Figure 10.2 Checklist additional baseline indicators for the indicator Bankruptcies in the food industry



The idea is that bankruptcies will influence the competitiveness of the agricultural sector. Hence, changes in this indicator influence the results of the programme.

In the above scheme is indicated that the indicator will not influence the strategy. However, if activities directed to strengthening the food industry would be an eligible activity under the strategy, this indicator could influence the strategy as well.

The indicator 'bankruptcies in the food industry" fulfils all the checklist criteria and is thus a good additional context baseline indicator and may be also the null measurement for an impact indicator.

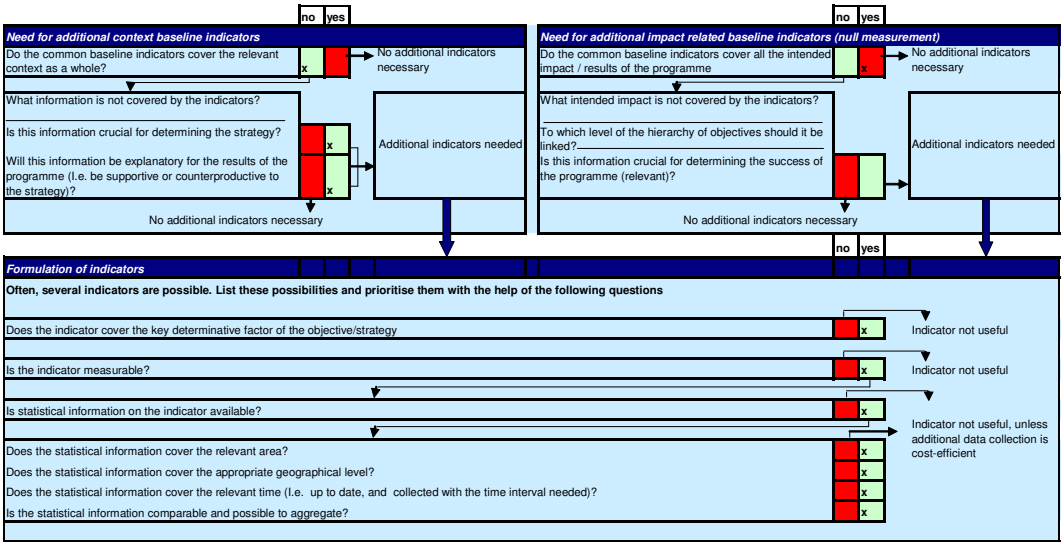
10.3 Axis 2: Environment and countryside

Example: fires on agricultural and forest land

Due to the specific weather conditions, long periods of dryness, the sector is confronted with damaged areas that are specific for some countries within the EU. This affects the environment (and the competitiveness as well). This justifies a country additional indicator.

Checking the indicator "damaged areas by fires" on the criteria, the following is found:

Figure 10.3 Checklist additional baseline indicators for the indicator damaged areas by fires



In the above scheme is indicated that the indicator will not influence the strategy. However, this indicator could influence the strategy if actions directed to the prevention of fire are allowed. In this case, it would also serve as null measurement of an impact indicator as well.

The indicator 'fire affected areas' fulfils all the checklist criteria and is thus a good additional context baseline indicator.

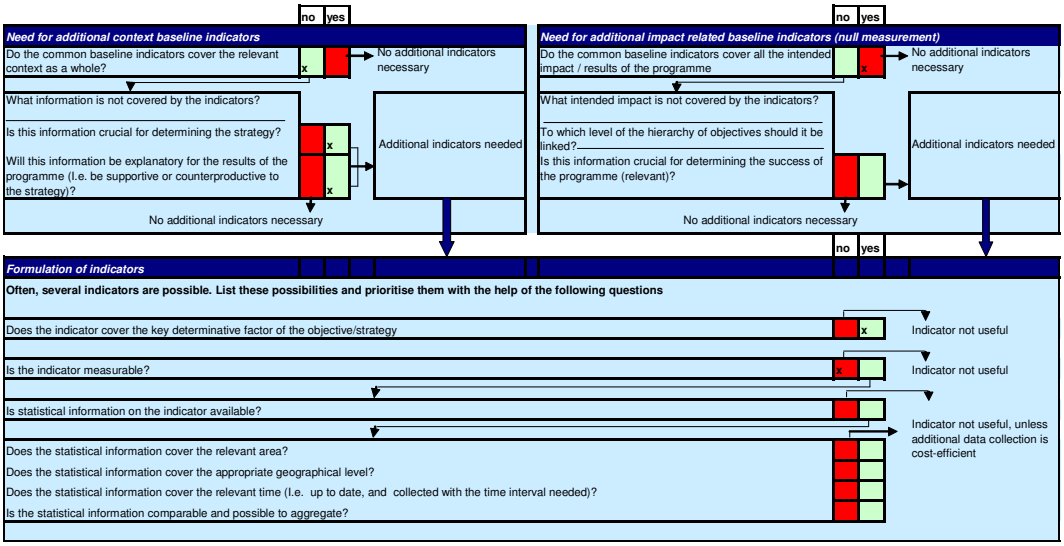
10.4 Axis 3: Wider rural development, diversification and quality of life

Example: remoteness of areas

Due to the remoteness of certain areas the wider rural development is hampered. If this is a country specific future, compared to the EU, this justifies a country additional indicator.

Checking the indicator "remoteness" on the criteria, the following is found:

Figure 10.4 Checklist additional baseline indicators for the indicator remoteness



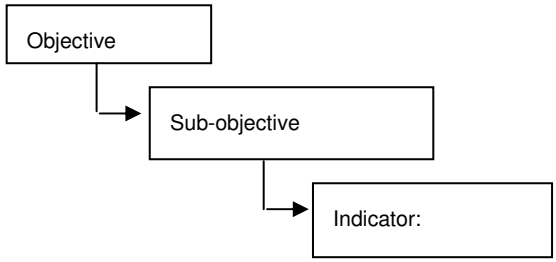
The conclusion is that an indicator like remoteness is not so useful, despite the fact that remoteness could be an important factor influencing the possibilities for the further development of e.g. services. However, it is not measurable in the way it is formulated. In this case, alternative, measurable indicators that provide information on remoteness should be searched for. For instance, extreme low population density could be an indicator for remoteness.

11 Development of an indicator fiche

Now that it is proven that additional indicators are necessary and the additional indicators are defined, a detailed indicator fiche has to be elaborated. This fiche is useful in several ways. First of all, it provides a last check on the quality of the indicator, as the logic has to be described. Secondly, the fiche ensures a uniform interpretation of the indicator, so that different actors will use the indicator correctly. The fiche provides clear guidance for the user on:

- How to understand the indicator (definition, link to the objectives and activities);
- How to measure the indicator (unit of measurement, level of input, responsible actor, sources);
- How to interpret the indicator (defining norms).

The template for the indicator fiche is presented below.

Name of the indicator	
Definition of the indicator	Describes the composition and content of the indicator
Link to objective	Gives the intervention logic of the indicator. It explains the link between the indicator and the objectives of the programme
	
Type of indicator	Indicates the type of baseline or impact indicator
Sub-indicators	Sometimes, it is desirable to split an indicator into further sub-indicators, in order to provide more detail (e.g. distinction according to gender, age, type of activity)
Unit of measurement	E.g. absolute number, percentage, monetary unit, etc.
Level of collection	Indicates the lowest level on which the indicator needs to be collected (regional level, country level)
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator
Collection method	Indicate how the data should be collected (statistics, survey)
Source	Source to be used for the collection of data

Availability	Indicate whether data are available: • According to definition • In preferred time range • On preferred level • Completeness of data
Frequency	Data collection: (with which frequency should the indicator be collected) Reporting: (with which frequency should the indicator be reported)
Norm	Target/objective: (If the baseline indicator the null measurement for the impact indicator: is there any objective/norm that has to be reached?)
Interpretation framework of the indicator	If the baseline indicator the null measurement for the impact indicator, it is necessary to indicate what impact can be evaluated as good or insufficient? When a norm has been defined, the indicator can be evaluated against the norm When there is no norm, it is still possible to indicate a direction for interpretation, e.g. the higher the better, or the lower the better

12 Advice

The construction of indicators is a 'craft' that cannot easily be learned from paper. Especially the construction of additional baseline indicators may require more guidance and training than can be presented in a paper like this. We therefore advice, additional to this guidance, to organise training sessions for programme managers and (potential) evaluators. Furthermore, we suggest setting up a helpdesk within DG AGRI where programme managers and evaluators may receive additional support. This could have the following structure. An idea is to set up one or two day **training sessions** for groups of member states. This way the participants can learn in a practical way, for instance by using case studies, to construct additional baseline indicators. Moreover, the participants can learn from each other, exchange experiences etc. It also gives DG AGRI the possibility for further explanation (if necessary) on the next programming period. This training doesn't have to limit itself to the additional baseline indicators, but can also be used to train the participants in for instance the additional output indicators.

With respect to the **help desk,** we suggest that DG AGRI sets up a 'one stop shop' or contact point for the member states where they can get support on practical issues when working on the additional baseline indicators. This help desk can have the form of one central phone number and mail address, where experts can assist the member states in their day to day work in the programming period. A small survey we carried out in our network shows that there is certainly demand for such sort of assistance, as practice shows that guidance on paper is never able to address all the various questions that arise during the programming process.

Annex 1 Hierarchy of objectives

Hierarchy of Objectives - Rural Development Regulation Presidency Compromise 27 April 2005

The five tables enclosed summarise the hierarchy of objectives of the rural development regulation.

This hierarchy lays out in a logical presentation the links between the overall objectives of the regulation and the measures which can be supported:

Objective -> Sub-objective -> Measure Objective -> Measure Activity

The tables cover the three main objectives - competitiveness, environment, rural economy - as well as the Leader Axis and horizontal objectives -e.g. Lisbon and Göteborg. For each of the objectives the reference in the legal text is provided.

The number in brackets refer to the whereas clause, except where the full article reference is given

It should be noted that the presentation of the objectives is not always uniform in the legal text and may have required interpretation.

Objectives (art. 4)	*Sub-objectives*	Measure Objectives	Measures
To improve the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector by means of support for restructuring, development and innovation	*To promote knowledge and improve human potential (art.19(a))*	-to ensure an appropriate level of technical and economic training and knowledge, including expertise in new IT to meet the requirements of the evolution of agriculture and forestry (15)	19 (a) (i) vocational training, information actions, including diffusion of scientific knowledge and innovative practises for persons engaged in the agricultural, food and forestry sectors
		- to facilitate the establishment of young farmers and structural adjustments of their holdings (16)	19 (a) (ii) setting up of young farmers
		- to achieve a significant structural change of transferred holdings (17)	19 (a) (iii) early retirement of farmers and farm workers
		- to improve the sustainable management of holdings (18)	19 (a) (iv) use by farmers and forest holders of advisory services
		- to help farmers and forest holders to adapt, improve and facilitate management and improve overall performance by further enhancing human potential (19)	19 (a) (v) setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services, as well as forestry advisory services
	To restructure and develop physical potential and promote innovation (art.19(b))	- to improve the economic performance of holdings through better use of production factors including the introduction of new technologies and innovation (21)	19 (b) (i) farm modernisation
		- to broaden the economic value of private forests and increase diversification of production and enhancing market opportunities, while maintaining sustainable management (22)	19 (b) (ii) improving the economic value of forests
		- to improve the processing and marketing of primary agricultural and forestry products through investment in improved efficiency, renewable energy, new technologies and new market opportunities (23)	19 (b) (iii) adding value to agricultural and forestry products
		- to take advantage of market opportunities through widespread innovative approaches in developing, new products, processes and technologies (23a)	19 (b) (iiia) cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector
		- to improve infrastructure necessary to increase the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry (24)	19 (b) (iv) improving and developing infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry
		- to restore agricultural production potential and introduce appropriate prevention measures contributing to competitiveness (24)	19 (b) (v) restoring agricultural production potential damaged by natural disasters and introducing appropriate prevention actions
	To improve the quality of agricultural production and products (art 19(c))	- to promote a more rapid implementation by farmers of demanding standards based on Community legislation (26)	19 (c) (i) helping farmers to adapt to demanding standards based on community legislation
		- to encourage farmers to participate in schemes which provide assurances to consumers on the quality of products or production process (27)	19 (c) (ii) supporting farmers who participate in food quality schemes
		- to improve consumers' awareness of the existence of quality schemes supported under rural development programmes (28)	19 (c) (iii) supporting producer groups for information and promotion activities for products under food quality schemes
	To facilitate transition in new member states (art.19(d))	- to encourage semi-subsistence farms in the NMS to move into the market (29)	19 (d) (i) supporting semi-subsistence farms undergoing restructuring
		- to encourage the setting-up of producer groups in the NMS (29)	19 (d) (i) setting up of producer groups

Objectives (art. 4)	*Sub-objectives*	Measure Objectives	Measures
To improve the environment and the countryside by means of support for land management	*To increase sustainable management of agricultural land by encouraging farmers and forest holders to employ methods of land use compatible with the need to preserve the natural environment and landscape and protect and improve natural resources through the protection of biodiversity, Natura 2000 site management, the protection of water and soil, climate change mitigation including the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the reduction of ammonia emissions and the sustainable use of pesticides (30)*	- to contribute in mountain areas with handicaps to the continued use of agricultural land thereby maintaining the countryside, as well as maintaining and promoting sustainable farming systems (32)	34 (a) (i) natural handicap payments to farmers in mountain areas
		- to contribute in other areas with handicaps to the continued use of agricultural land thereby maintaining the countryside, as well as maintaining and promoting sustainable farming systems (32)	34 (a) (ii) payments to farmers in areas with handicaps, other than mountain areas
		- to help farmers to address specific disadvantages resulting from the implementation of Council directives on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora and those in the field of water policy in river basin areas (33)	34 (a) (iii) Natura 2000 payments and payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC
		- to respond to increasing demand for environmental services by encouraging farmers and other land managers to introduce or continue agricultural production methods compatible with the protection and improvement of the environment, the landscape, natural resources, the soil and genetic diversity beyond the relevant mandatory standards (34)	34 (a) (iva) agri-environment payments
		- to encourage farmers to adopt high standards of animal welfare which to beyond the relevant mandatory standards (35)	34 (a) (ivb) animal welfare payments
		- to support commitments undertaken under agri-environmental measures or other environmental objectives and enhance the public amenity value on-farm of Natura 2000 areas and other areas of high natural value (36)	34 (a) (v) support for non-productive investments
	To increase sustainable management of forestry land (31)	- to extend forest resources on agricultural land to contribute to the protection of the environment, the prevention of natural hazards and mitigate climate change (37)	34 (b) (i) first afforestation of agricultural land
		- to promote the combination of extensive agriculture and forestry systems, aimed at the production of high quality wood and other forest products (38)	34 (b) (ii) first establishment of agroforestry systems on agricultural land
		- to extend forest resources on non-agricultural land to contribute to the protection of the environment, the prevention of natural hazards and mitigate climate change (37)	34 (b) (iii) first afforestation of non-agricultural land
		- to help farmers to address specific disadvantages resulting from the implementation of Council directives on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (33)	34 (b) (iv) Natura 2000 payments
		- to respond to increasing demand for environmental services by encouraging forest holders to enhance biodiversity, preserve high value forest systems and reinforce the protective value of forests with respect to soil erosion, maintenance of water resources and water quality and to natural hazards beyond the relevant mandatory standards (40)	34 (b) (v) forest-environment payments
		- to restore forestry potential in forests damaged by natural disasters and fire and introduce preventive actions (41)	34 (b) (vi) restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions
		- to support commitments undertaken under forest-environmental measures or other environmental objectives and enhance the public amenity value of the areas concerned (42)	34 (b) (vii) support for non-productive investments

Objectives (art. 4)	*Sub-objectives*	Measure Objectives	Measures
To improve quality of life in rural areas and encourage the diversification of economic activities	*To diversify the rural economy (45)*	-to diversify farming activities towards non-agricultural activities, develop non-agricultural activities and promote employment (45)	49 (a) (i) diversification into non-agricultural activities 49 (a) (ii) support for the creation and development of micr enterprises with a view to promoting entrepreneurship and developing the economic fabric 49 (a) (iii) encouragement of tourism activities
	To improve the quality of life in rural areas (45)	- to improve basic services, including local access to ICTs and carry out investment making rural areas more attractive in order to reverse trends towards economic and social decline and depopulation of the countryside (45)	49 (b) (i) basic services for the economy and rural populati 49 (b) (ii) village renewal and development 49 (b) (iii) conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage
	To reinforce territorial coherence and synergies (47)	- to enhance human potential required for the diversification of the local economy and provision of local services (45)	49 (c) training and information for economic actors operatir in the fields covered by axis 3
		- to increase capacity for the implementation of local strategies (47)	49 (d) skills acquisition and animation with a view to preparing and implementing a local development strategy
Leader [1]	*- To implement the Leader approach in mainstream rural development programming (49)*	- to improve the environment and the countryside by means of support for land management	62 (a) (i)* implementing local development strategies with a view to achieving the objective of axis 1
		- to improve the environment and the countryside by means of support for land management	62 (a) (ii)* implementing local development strategies with view to achieving the objective of axis 2
		- to improve quality of life in rural areas and encourage the diversification of economic activities	62 (a) (iii)* implementing local development strategies with view to achieving the objective of axis 3
		- to promote cooperation and best practice	62 (b) implementing cooperation projects involving objectiv selected under 62 (a)
		- to increase capacity for the implementation of LEADER	62 (c) running the local action group, acquiring skills and animating the territory as referred to in article 57 (studies, information, training of staff, promotional events and trainin of leaders).
Technical Assistance			67.2 technical assistance for programme preparation, management, monitoring, evaluation, information and conti activities.

Horizontal objectives	- to contribute to the achievement of economic and social cohesion policy objectives (1) - to integrate other major policy priorities as spelt out in the conclusions of the Lisbon and Göteborg European Councils for competitiveness (growth and employment) and sustainable development (1) - to take account of the particular nature of agricultural activity which results from the social structure and from structural and natural disparities between the various rural areas - to strengthen the arrangements for partnership (4) - to encourage the elimination of disparities and the promotion of equality between women and men (7) - to take into account the diversity of situations ranging from remote rural areas suffering from depopulation and decline to peri-urban rural areas under increasing pressure from urban centres (11)

1 Leader is not an Objective but an axis that contributes to the achievement of the objectives of one or several of the three thematic axes, in addition to support the capacity building and working of local action groups.

Table 0.1 Baseline and impact Indicators ordered in accordance to the hierarchy of objectives

OBJECTIVES	Sub-Objectives	Status	Baseline Indicator	Impact indicator	Measurement in relative terms	Measurement in absolute terms
Horizontal	General	CR	Economic development		GDP/capita (EU-25 = 100)	GDP/capita (abs. value)
		CR	Unemployment		Rate of unemployment (% active population)	Unemployment (abs. number)
		CR	- for female		Rate of female unemployment	Female unemployment (abs. value)
		CR	- for young		Rate of young people (<25 y.o.) unemployment	Young people unemployment (abs. value)
		CR	Economic development of primary sector		% of GVA in primary sector	GVA in primary sector (abs. value)
		CR	Social development of primary sector		% employment in primary sector	Employment in primary sector (abs. number)
		CR	Age structure		Importance of young people (5-14) %	
		CR			Importance of middle people (15-54 + 54-64) %	
		CR			Importance of age people (>=65) %	
		CR	Employment structure		% employment in Secondary sector	
		CR			% employment in Third sector	
		CR			% of self-employed + family workers	
		CR			% Long-term unemployment	
		CR	Development of LAG's		Share of population covered by LAG's	Population covered by LAG's (abs. number)

OBJECTIVES	Sub-Objectives	Status	Baseline Indicator	Impact indicator	Measurement in relative terms	Measurement in absolute terms
To improve the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector by means of support for restructuring, development and innovation	To promote knowledge and improve human potential	IR	Training and education in agriculture	Increase in training and education in agriculture	% farmers with basic and full education attained	Farmers with basic and full education attained (abs. number)
		IR	Labour productivity in agriculture	Increase in labour productivity in agriculture	Labour productivity in agriculture (EU-25 = 100) - total and by sector.	Labour productivity in agriculture (abs. value) - total and by sector.
		IR	Age structure in agriculture	Improved age structure in agriculture	% farmers < 35 years % farmers => 55 years	
		IR	Labour productivity in forestry	Increase in labour productivity in forestry	GVA /employee in forestry	Gross Value Added in forestry
	To restructure and develop physical potential and promote innovation	IR	Labour productivity in agriculture	Increase in labour productivity in agriculture	Labour productivity in agriculture (EU-25 = 100) - total and by sector.	Labour productivity in agriculture (abs. value) - total and by sector.
		IR	Gross fixed capital formation in forestry	Increase in gross fixed capital formation in forestry	GFCF in forestry / area of forest available for wood supply (€/ha)	GFCF in forestry (abs. value)
		IR	Economic development of primary sector	Increase in economic development of primary sector	% of GVA in primary sector	GVA in primary sector (abs. value)
		IR	Gross fixed capital formation in agriculture	Increase in gross fixed capital formation in agriculture	GFCF in agriculture / UAA (€/ha)	GFCF in agriculture (abs. value)
		IR	Economic development of food industry	Increase in economic development of food industry	Share of GVA in food industry	Gross Value Added in food industry (abs. value)
		IR	Labour productivity in food industry	Increase in labour productivity in food industry	GVA /employee in food industry	Gross Value Added in food industry
		IR	Gross fixed capital formation in food industry	Increase in gross fixed capital formation in food industry	GFCF in food industry / UAA (€/ha)	GFCF in food industry (abs. value)
		IR	Labour productivity in forestry	Increase in labour productivity in forestry	GVA /employee in forestry	Gross Value Added in forestry
		CR	Social development of forestry		Employment in forestry sector	
		CR	Farm structure		Farm size (ha) average and distribution	
		CR			Farm size (ESU) and distribution	
		CR			Number of farms	
		CR			Utilized agricultural area (ha)	
		CR			Agricultural Work Unit	
		CR	Forestry structure		area of forest available for wood supply (FAWS)	
		CR			ownership (% area of FAWS under private ownership)	
		CR			average size of holding (of total forest area) by type of ownership (ha)	
	To improve the quality of agricultural production and products	IR	Economic development of primary sector	Increase in economic development of primary sector	% of GVA in primary sector	GVA in primary sector (abs. value)
		IR	Gross fixed capital formation in agriculture	Increase in gross fixed capital formation in agriculture	GFCF in agriculture / UAA (€/ha)	GFCF in agriculture (abs. value)
		IR	Economic development of food industry	Increase in economic development of food industry	Share of GVA in food industry	Gross Value Added in food industry (abs. value)
		IR	Labour productivity in food industry	Increase in labour productivity in food industry	GVA /employee in food industry	Gross Value Added in food industry
	To facilitate transition in new Member States	IR	Labour productivity in agriculture	Increase in labour productivity in agriculture	Labour productivity in agriculture (EU-25 = 100) - total and by sector.	Labour productivity in agriculture (abs. value) - total and by sector.
		IR	Economic development of primary sector	Increase in economic development of primary sector	% of GVA in primary sector	GVA in primary sector (abs. value)
		IR	Number of semi-subsistence farms in NMS		% farms < 1 ESU	number of farms < 1 ESU

OBJECTIVES	Sub-Objectives	status	Baseline Indicator	Impact indicator	Measurement in relative terms	Measurement in absolute terms
To improve the environment and the countryside by means of support for land management	To increase sustainable management of agricultural land by encouraging farmers and forest holders to employ methods of land use compatible with the need to preserve the natural environment and landscape and protect and improve natural resources	IR	Climate change: production of renewable energy from agriculture	Climate change: increase in production of renewable energy from agriculture	% UAA devoted to energy and biomass crops	UAA devoted to energy and biomass crops (abs. number)
		IR	Climate change: production of	Climate change: increase in production	share of agriculture in total production of renewable energy	total production of renewable energy by agriculture (abs. number)
		IR	Climate change: share of agriculture	Climate change: decrease share of	share of agriculture in GHG emissions	emissions of GHG by agriculture (abs. number)
		IR	Agriculture areas under Natura 2000	Increase in agriculture areas under Natura 2000	% UAA under Natura 2000	Agriculture areas under Natura 2000 (abs. value)
		IR	High Nature Value farmland areas	Increase in High Nature Value farmland areas	% UAA of High Nature Value Farmland areas	High Nature Value farmland areas (abs. number)
		IR	Soil: organic farming	Soil: increase in organic farming	% UAA under organic farming	UAA under organic farming (abs. number)
		IR	Soil: areas at risk of soil erosion	Soil: decrease of areas at risk of soil erosion	Soil : areas at risk of soil erosion (in risk level)	
		IR	Population of farmland birds	Increase in population of farmland birds	Trends of index of population of farmland birds	
		IR	Water quality	Increase in Water quality	gross nutrient balance: surplus of nitrogen in kg/ha	
		IR	Pollution: by nitrates and pesticides	Decrease in pollution: by nitrates and pesticides	annual trends in the concentrations of nitrate in surface water	
					annual trends in the concentrations of nitrate in ground water	
					concentrations of pesticides in ground and surface waters	
		CR	Areas of extensive agriculture		% UAA of extensive agriculture	area of extensive agriculture (abs. number)
		CR			% UAA with low grazing LU/ha	area of extensive livestock (abs. number)
		CR			% area LFA (mountainous)	
		CR			% area LFA (non mountainous)	
		CR			% area Natura 2000	
		CR	Nitrate vulnerable zones		% UAA designated as nitrate vulnerable zone	
		CR	Water use		% irrigated area	
		CR	Land use		Land use (% land cover agriculture / forestry / nature)	
	To increase sustainable management of forestry land	IR	Forestry areas under Natura 2000	Increase in forestry areas under Natura 2000	% forest area under Natura 2000	Forestry areas under Natura 2000 (abs. number)
		IR	Water quality	Increase in water quality	gross nutrient balance: surplus of nitrogen in kg/ha	
		IR	Soil: areas at risk of soil erosion	Soil: decrease of areas at risk of soil erosion	Soil : areas at risk of soil erosion (in risk level)	
		CR		=	% area Natura 2000	
		CR	Protective forests	=	Protective forests – soil, water and other	
		CR	Land use	=	Land use (% land cover agriculture / forestry / nature)	

OBJECTIVES	Sub-Objectives	Status	Baseline Indicator	Impact indicator	Measurement in relative terms	Measurement in absolute terms
To improve quality of life in rural areas and encourage diversification of economic activities	To diversify the rural economy	IR	Other gainful activity of farmers	Increase in other gainful activity of farmers	% holders with other gainful activity	holders with other gainful activity (abs. value)
		IR	Employment in non-agricultural sector	Increase in employment in non-agricultural sector	% employment in non-agricultural sector	Employment in non-agricultural sector
		IR	Micro enterprises	=	Number of micro enterprises / 1000 hab	Number of micro enterprises (abs. value)
		IR	GVA in non-agricultural sector	Increase in GVA in non-agricultural sector	% GVA in non-agricultural sector	GVA in non-agricultural sector
		IR	Tourism infrastructure in rural area	Increase in tourism infrastructure in rural area	Number of beds (in hotels, camping, etc) / km²	Number of beds (in hotels, camping, etc)
	To improve the quality of life	IR	internet take-up in rural areas	Inrease in internet take-up in rural areas	% of population having access to internet at home	population having access to internet at home (abs. value)
		IR	Share of GVA in services	Increase in share of GVA in services	Share of GVA in services	GVA in services (abs. value)
		IR	Net migration	Decrease in net migration rate	Net migration rate	
		CR	Internet infrastructure		DSL and cable modem coverage	DSL and cable modem coverage
	Territorial coherence and synergies	IR	Training and education in rural areas	Training and education in rural areas	% of active population of adults participating in life long training	active population of adults participating in life long training (abs. number)
		CR	Educational attainment in rural areas		% persons with (Medium + High) educationnal attainment (25_64)	persons (25_64) with (Medium + High) educationnal attainment
					% females with (Medium + High) educationnal attainment (25_64)	females (25_64) with (Medium + High) educationnal attainment
		CR	Importance of rural areas		% area in rural areas	
		CR			% population in rural areas	
		CR			density population in rural areas	
		CR			% GVA in rural areas	
		CR			% employment in rural areas	
Leader	To implement the Leader approach in mainstream rural development programming	IR	Development of LAG's	Increase in development of LAG's	Share of population covered by LAG's	Population covered by LAG's (abs. number)
		IR	GVA in rural areas	Increase in GVA in rural areas	GVA in rural areas	GVA in rural areas
		IR	Employment in rural areas	Increase in employment in rural areas	Employment in rural areas	Employment in rural areas
		CR	Internet infrastructure		DSL and cable modem coverage	DSL and cable modem coverage

Annex 2 Indicator Fiches

Introduction

In this annex the indicator fiches are presented, ordered in accordance to the priority axes. One of the elements of the fiches is the sources that can be used. The information presented is based on sources containing data for the EU; no national sources are used. The main sources are:

- *Farm Structure Survey (FSS)*

Data are available at standard region, county and district level. The Structure Survey is carried out every two to three years. It was first conducted in 1966-67 and covered land use, tenure, livestock, cropping, machinery and labour force. Structure surveys, carried out every ten years, usually contain more extensive information than those in the mid-term years, particularly regarding labour data. From 1975 onwards, results are held on a computer databank in the form of standard tables.
The main results can take up to three years to publish but some results are released about two years after data are collected.
Data is disseminated through hard copy publication, Eurofarm on-line database and New Cronos.

- *Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN)*

The concept of the FADN was launched in 1965, when Council Regulation 79/65 established the legal basis for the organisation of the network. It consists of an annual survey carried out by the Member States of the European Union. The services responsible in the Union for the operation of the FADN collect every year accountancy data from a sample of the agricultural holdings in the European Union. Derived from national surveys, the FADN is the only source of micro-economic data that is harmonised, i.e. the bookkeeping principles are the same in all countries. Holdings are selected to take part in the survey on the basis of sampling plans established at the level of each region in the Union. The survey does not cover all the agricultural holdings in the Union but only those which due to their size could be considered commercial. The methodology applied aims to provide representative data along three dimensions: region, economic size and type of farming. While the European Commission is the primary user of analyses based on FADN-data, aggregated data can be found in the Standard Results database.

- *Labour Force Survey (LFS)*

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a quarterly sample survey of households living at private addresses. Its purpose is to provide information on the labour market that can then be used to develop, manage, evaluate and report on labour market policies.
The survey seeks information on respondents' personal circumstances and their labour market status during a specific reference period, normally a period of one week or four weeks (depending on the topic) immediately prior to the interview.
The LFS is carried out under a European Union Directive and uses internationally agreed concepts and definitions. It is the source of the internationally comparable (International Labour Organisation) measure known as 'ILO unemployment'. Data can be found on the Eurostat website.

- *Economic Accounts (EA)*

Data are provided by the National Statistical Institutes' Accounts Departments. Data come from many sources, including administrative data from government, censuses, and surveys of businesses and households. Sources vary from country to country and may cover a large set of economic, social, financial and environmental items, which need not always be strictly related to National Accounts. In any case, there is no one single survey source for National Accounts.
The periods referred to are years. Data cover the period from 1995 to the actual calendar year minus 2. Thus data for the reference year 2001 will be calculated at the end of 2003 or the beginning of 2004.
Data are disseminated simultaneously to all interested parties through a database update and on Eurostat's website (see "Dissemination formats" below for more details).
National data are published by the National Statistical Institutes (NSI) following national dissemination calendars. Please contact individual NSI's websites to get their national dissemination calendar.

- *IRENA project.*

DG Agriculture, DG Environment, DG Eurostat and DG Joint Research Centre have agreed to pool skills and resources with the European Environment Agency to assess the integration of the environment into the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and in particular to develop indicators to monitor such integration, i.e. agri-environmental indicators (AEI), through the project known as IRENA (Indicator Reporting on the Integration of Environmental Concerns into Agriculture Policy).
The purpose of the IRENA project is to compile and develop a set of agri-environmental indicators, to provide related databases at the appropriate geographical level, and to produce an indicator-based assessment of the integration of environmental concerns into EU agricultural policy. The data sets contain aggregated data, typically on a country level, with geographical coverage of at least the 15 EU Member States. The data can be found on the website of the European Environment Agency.

Availability

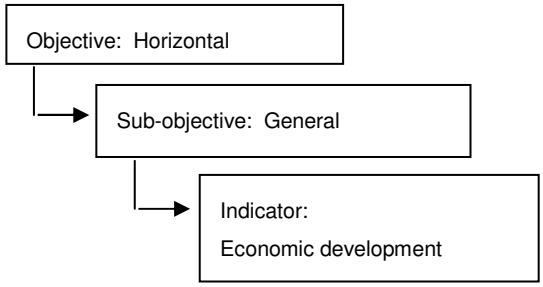
The availability of data depends on the frequency of the surveys, which differs. FSS is carried out every 2 or 3 years (and probably in future only every 3 to 4 years), the population census very 10 years, etc. Due to this fact, it will be necessary to complement these data with national sources.

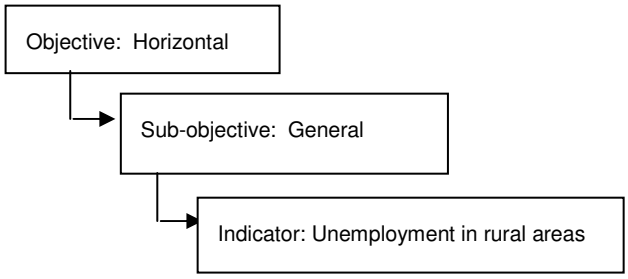
Websites

IRENA data can be found on the following website:
http://dataservice.eea.eu.int/dataservice/

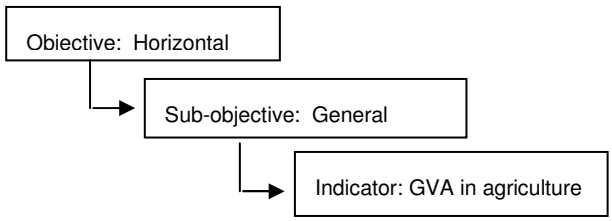
The website of Eurostat is:
http://epp.eurostat.cec.eu.int/portal

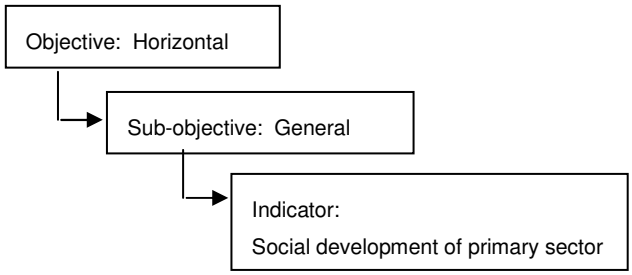
Horizontal Indicators

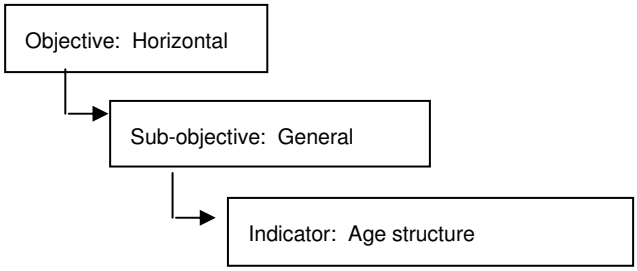
Name of the indicator	**Economic development**
Definition of the indicator	One of the main criteria for economic development is Gross Domestic Product (GDP). GDP is the total market value of all the goods and services produced within the borders of a nation (or region) during a specified period. In order to be able to compare the economic strength of regions a relative indicator is needed. For this purpose GDP will be calculated per capita and in purchasing power standards per capita as a percentage of the EU average. In order to measure economic growth, it is necessary to compare data over a range of years.
Link to objective	
Type of indicator	Baseline indicator
Sub-indicators	-
Unit of measurement	Euro/capita PPS EU-25=100
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: Eurostat GDP per capita and GPD per capita in PPS: Eurostat: General and regional statistics – Regions – Gross domestic product indicators - ESA95 - Gross domestic product (GDP) at market prices at NUTS level 3 Source 2 : National source: Consult the Member State
Availability	Eurostat: complete Most recent year: 2002 Nuts level: 3 Completeness: Complete
Frequency	Data collection: Yearly Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	Target/objective: - (Member State & DG AGRI decide)
Interpretation framework of the indicator	NA

Name of the indicator	**Unemployment**
Definition of the indicator	Unemployment is one of the main indicators for economic development. Unemployed are persons without work and currently available for work. This indicator is measured in both absolute and relative terms (as a percentage of the total active population). The indicator covers the following sub-groups: • unemployment for female • unemployment for young people (<25 years) These indicators are measured in absolute as well as in relative terms.
Link to objective	
Type of indicator	Baseline indicator
Sub-indicators	-
Unit of measurement	Unemployment in absolute numbers: (000s) Unemployment rate: %
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: Eurostat Unemployment in absolute numbers, unemployment for female, unemployment for young: Eurostat: General and regional statistics – regions - Regional labour market - LFS adjusted series – regional unemployment - Unemployment by sex and age, at NUTS levels 1, 2 and 3 - EU 25 (1000) No unemployed / active population, no unemployed female / total unemployment, no unemployed young / total unemployment: Eurostat: General and regional statistics – regions - Regional labour market - LFS adjusted series – regional unemployment- Unemployment rates by sex and age, at NUTS levels 1, 2 and 3 - EU 25 (%) Source 2 : National source: Consult the Member State

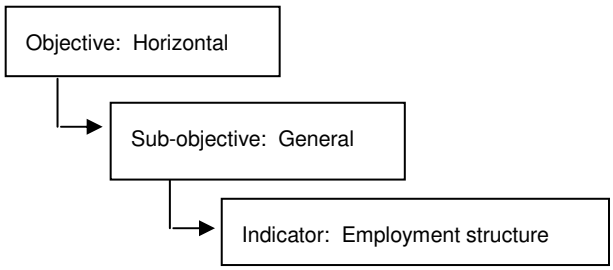
Availability	Eurostat:
	According to definition: yes
	Most recent year: 2003
	Nuts level: 3
	Completeness: Complete
Frequency	Data collection: Yearly
	Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	Target/objective: NA
Interpretation framework of the indicator	NA

Name of the indicator	**Economic development in primary sector**
Definition of the indicator	This indicator measures the gross value added (GVA) in the primary sector in a region. GVA is defined as the value of output less the value of intermediate consumption. Output is valued at basic prices, GVA is valued at basic prices and intermediate consumption is valued at purchasers' prices. (Sum of all industries' total output of goods and services (at basic prices) - Sum of all industries' total intermediate consumption (at purchasers' prices)= Total gross value added (at basic prices) GVA is measured in absolute terms, as well as in relative terms (share of the GVA in the primary sector/ total GVA in a region). This indicates the relative importance of the primary sector in the regional economy.
Link to objective	
Type of indicator	Baseline indicator
Sub-indicators	-
Unit of measurement	Euro %
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: Eurostat General and regional statistics - Regions - Economic accounts - ESA95- Branch accounts - ESA95 - Gross value added at basic prices at NUTS level 3 Source 2: National source: Consult the Member State
Availability	According to definition: yes Most recent year: 2002 Nuts level: 3 Completeness: complete
Frequency	Data collection: Yearly Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	Target/objective: NA (Member State & DG AGRI decide)
Interpretation framework of the indicator	NA

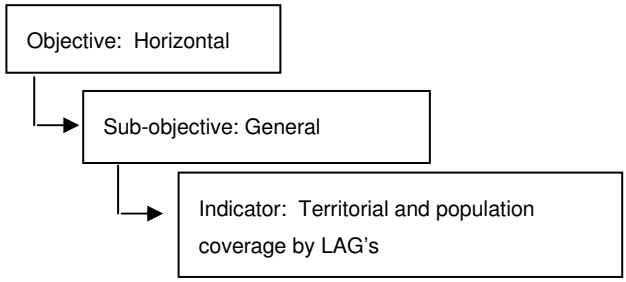
Name of the indicator	**Social development of primary sector**
Definition of the indicator	The absolute and relative (measured as a percentage of the total employment) employment provides an indication of the importance of the sector in providing jobs in a region. Persons in employment are those aged 15 year and having work for pay or profit regardless the number of hours per week.
Link to objective	
Type of indicator	Baseline indicator
Sub-indicators	-
Unit of measurement	Number employed (000s) % employed
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: Eurostat Employment in primary sector: Eurostat: Regional labour market - Regional employment - LFS series - Employment by economic activity, at NUTS levels 1 and 2 - EU 25 (1000) For total employment: Eurostat: Regional labour market - Regional employment - LFS series - Employment by sex and age, at NUTS levels 1 and 2 - EU 25 (1000) Source 2: National source: Consult the Member State
Availability	Eurostat: According to definition: Yes Most recent year: 2001 Nuts level: 2 Completeness: complete
Frequency	Data collection: yearly Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	Target/objective: NA (Member State & DG AGRI decide)
Interpretation framework of the indicator	NA

Name of the indicator	**Age structure**
Definition of the indicator	This context indicators covers the age structure of the population in a region. The age structure in a region is important in defining policy priorities and measure, as each life-phase has its own needs and potentials. The following categories are defined for this indicator: • Young people (5-14) • Middle aged people (15-54 + 54-64) • Aged people (>=65)
Link to objective	
Type of indicator	Context baseline indicator
Sub-indicators	Importance of young people (5-14) Importance of middle aged people (15-54 + 54-64) Importance of aged people (>=65)
Unit of measurement	Absolute number: Number of young people (5-14) Number of middle aged people (15-54 + 54-64) Number of aged people (>=65) %: % young people (5-14) % middle aged people (15-54 + 54-64) % aged people (>=65)
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: Eurostat: Population and social conditions – population - Population at 1st January by sex and age Source 2: National source: Consult the Member State
Availability	Eurostat: According to definition: Yes Most recent year: 2002 Nuts level: 3 Completeness: complete

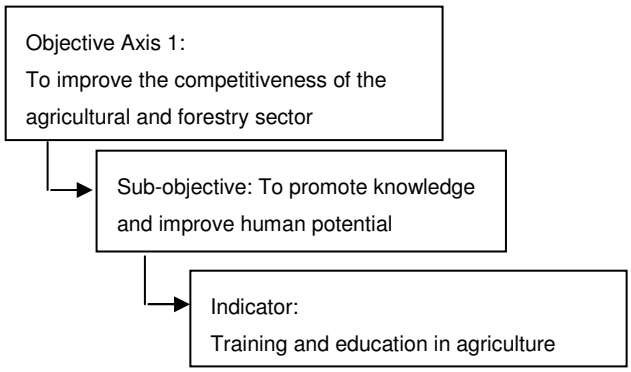
Frequency	Data collection: halfway and at end of programme period Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	Target/objective: NA
Interpretation framework of the indicator	NA

Name of the indicator	**Employment structure**
Definition of the indicator	This indicator contains several elements that are important for policy decisions. First of all, the relative importance of the different sectors in terms of employment (employment in secondary sector / total employment, employment in tertiary sector / total employment) are measured within this indicator. Employment covers all persons in employment that are aged 15 year and having work for pay or profit regardless the number of hours per week. Another important element for determining the employment structure, is the share of self-employed and family workers (5 of total employed), as this group requires specific policy measures. Furthermore, this indicator covers unemployment (persons without work and currently available for work). A specific group of unemployed people, that have their own needs and characteristics, are the long term unemployed (% long term unemployed in total unemployment).
Link to objective	
Type of indicator	Context baseline indicator
Sub-indicators	-
Unit of measurement	%
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data

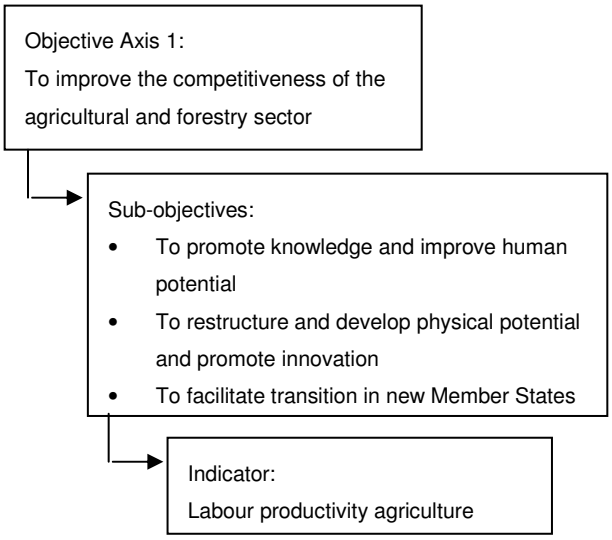
Source	Source 1: For Employment in secondary sector / total employment and Employment in tertiary sector / total employment: Eurostat: General and regional statistics - Regional labour market Regional employment - LFS series - Employment by economic activity, at NUTS levels 1 and 2 - EU 25 (1000) For Self-employed and family workers / total employment: Eurostat: Agriculture, forestry and fisheries – Agriculture - Structure of agricultural holdings - Family labour force by age and sex and agricultural area size classes of the holding For Unemployment: Eurostat: General and regional statistics - Regional labour market - Regional unemployment - LFS adjusted series - Long-term unemployment (12 months and more), at NUTS levels 1 and 2 - EU 25 (1000; %) Source 2: National source: Consult the Member State
Availability	Eurostat: According to definition: Yes Most recent year: 2003 Nuts level: 2 Completeness: complete
Frequency	Data collection: yearly Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	Target/objective: NA
Interpretation framework of the indicator	NA

Name of the indicator	**Population coverage by LAG's**
Definition of the indicator	Local Action Groups are an important factor for initiating rural development. This indicator provides an idea of the number of people in rural areas that live in an area were a Local Action Group is active.
Link to objective	
Type of indicator	Baseline indicator
Sub-indicators	-
Unit of measurement	Number of people included in LAG
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: DG AGRI: http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/rur/leaderplus/lagdb_en.htm Source 2: National source: Consult the Member State
Availability	DG AGRI: According to definition: yes Most recent year: 2005 Nuts level: 0 Completeness: Only available for EU-15
Frequency	Data collection: Halfway and at end of programming period (if available) Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	NA
Interpretation framework of the indicator	NA

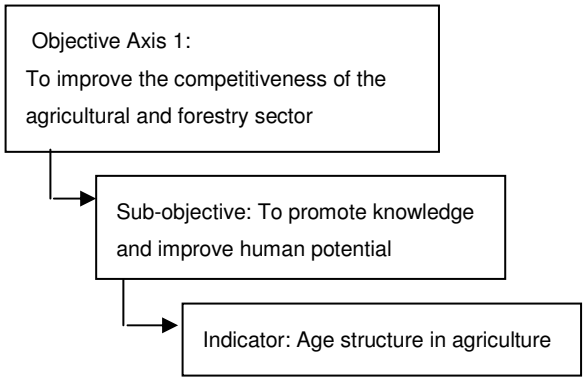
Axis 1: To improve competitiveness of the agricultural & forestry sector: impact indicators

Name of the indicator	**Training and education in agriculture**
Definition of the indicator	This indicator provides information on the education level of farmers within a region. This indicator covers farmers that have attained basic and full agricullltural training. This indicator is measured in both in absolute terms and relative terms, so that the size as well as the relative importance of the group is known.
Link to objective	
Type of indicator	Baseline indicator, impact indicator (change in)
Sub-indicators	-
Unit of measurement	Number (000s) %
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: Eurostat: Agriculture, forestry and fisheries – Agriculture – Structure of agricultural holdings - Results of the farm structure surveys from 1990 onwards –management and work on the holding – management and practices – holdings by manager's agricultural training and economic size classes Source 2: National source: Consult the Member State
Availability	Eurostat: According to definition: Yes Most recent year: 2000 Nuts level: 1 Completeness: Complete, but not available for all years
Frequency	Data collection: Yearly (if available) Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post

Norm	Target/objective: growth in … % and growth in number (….) (Member State & DG AGRI decide)
Interpretation framework of the indicator	See norm

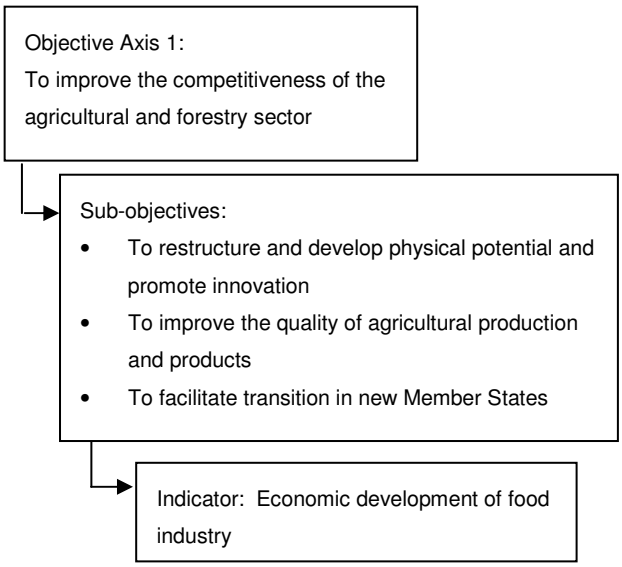
Name of the indicator	**Labour productivity in agriculture**
Definition of the indicator	Labour productivity in agriculture is expressed in Farm Net Value Added (FNVA) per agriculture working unit (AWU). FNVA is the sum which is available to reward all of the factors of production, that is, all the labour, land, and capital used on the farm, irrespective of who owns them. FNVA/ per Agricultural Working Unit (AWU) provides comparable data on labour productivity and allows for comparison over the sub-sectors and regions.
Link to objective	
Type of indicator	Baseline indicator, impact indicator (change in)
Sub-indicators	Labour productivity cropping farm Labour productivity horticulture farm Labour productivity fruit farm Labour productivity milk, cattle and sheep farm Labour productivity pigs and poultry farm
Unit of measurement	Euro/AWU Index (EU 25 = 100) <u>Sub indicators:</u> FNVA / AWU TF1 FNVA / AWU TF2 FNVA / AWU TF3 FNVA / AWU TF4 FNVA / AWU TF5
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data

Source	Source 1: FADN managed by DG AGRI Source 2:: Eurostat (only global data) Eurostat – agriculture – EAA long series - Long series : Values at current prices – table value at basic prices Source 3: National source: Consult the Member State
Availability	FADN: According to definition: yes Most recent year: average 2001-2003 Nuts level: 0 Completeness: EU-25
Frequency	Data collection: Yearly Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	Target/objective: growth in Euro/AWU (Member State & DG AGRI decide)
Interpretation framework of indicator	See norm

Name of the indicator	**Age structure in agriculture**
Definition of the indicator	For the age structure of farmers, two groups are distinguished: • Farmers < 35 years; • Farmers >65 years. The indicator contains the number and share of both age classes.
Link to objective	
Type of indicator	Baseline indicator, impact indicator
Sub-indicators	-
Unit of measurement	%
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: Eurostat: Economic Accounts for Agriculture - Structure of agricultural holdings - Results of the farm structure surveys from 1990 onwards Management and work on the holding - Labour force - labour force by age and agricultural area size classes of the holding (only nuts 1 on website) Source 2: National source: Consult the Member State
Availability	<u>Eurostat:</u> According to definition: Yes Most recent year: 2003 Nuts level: 3 Completeness: complete
Frequency	Data collection: halfway and at end of programme period Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	Target/objective: increase with … % farmers <35 years (Member State & DG AGRI decide)
Interpretation framework of indicator	See norm

Name of the indicator	**Gross fixed capital formation in agriculture**
Definition of the indicator	Gross fixed capital formation in agriculture: the investments in assets which are used repeatedly or continuously over a number of years to produce goods in agriculture. It is measured in both absolute terms in a region, and in relative terms (GFCF in agriculture per UAA) in order to be able to compare the data.
Link to objective	Objective Axis 1: To improve the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector → Sub-objectives: • To restructure and develop physical potential and promote innovation • To improve the quality of agricultural production and products → Indicator: Gross Fixed Capital Formation in Agriculture
Type of indicator	Baseline indicator, impact indicator (change in)
Sub-indicators	-
Unit of measurement	Euro Euro/ha
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: Eurostat Agriculture, forestry and fisheries – Agriculture – Economic accounts for agriculture and forestry/economic accounts for agriculture General and regional statistics – Regions – Economic Accounts-ESA95 – gross fixes capital formation at NUTS-2 level Source 2: National source: Consult the Member State

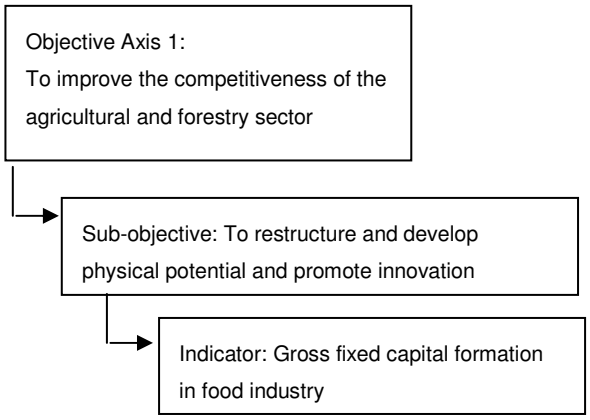
Availability	Eurostat:: According to definition: yes Most recent year: 2002, except for: • Cyprus (1999) • Greece and Netherlands (2000) • Luxembourg and Belgium (2001) Nuts level: 2, except for: • Spain, Italy, Belgium (Nuts 0) Completeness: No data available for Hungary, Ireland and Poland
Frequency	Data collection: halfway and at end of programme period Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	Target/objective: increase in …Euro (Member State & DG AGRI decide)
Interpretation framework of the indicator	See norm

Name of the indicator	**Economic development of food industry**
Definition of the indicator	This indicator measures the gross value added (GVA) in the food industry sector in a region. GVA is defined as the value of output less the value of intermediate consumption. Output is valued at basic prices, GVA is valued at basic prices and intermediate consumption is valued at purchasers' prices. (Sum of all industries' total output of goods and services (at basic prices) - Sum of all industries' total intermediate consumption (at purchasers' prices)= Total gross value added (at basic prices It is measured in absolute terms, as well as in relative terms (share of the GVA in the primary sector/GVA of the region). Differences in GVA over time provide information on the economic development of the sector.
Link to objective	
Type of indicator	Baseline indicator, impact indicator (change in)
Sub-indicators	-
Unit of measurement	Mio euro %
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: Eurostat: Economy and finance - National accounts (including GDP) - Annual national accounts by institutional sector Source 2: National source: Consult the Member State

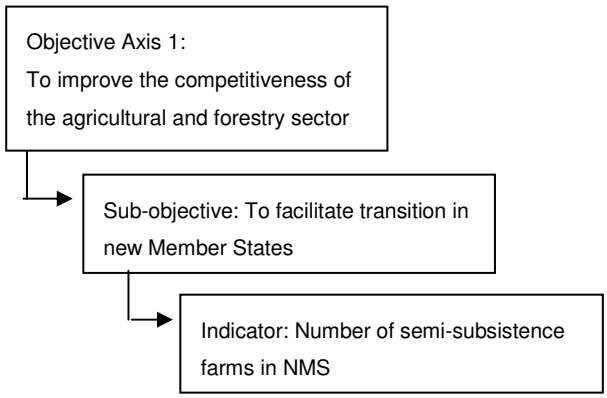
Availability	Eurostat:
	According to definition: no
	Most recent year: average 1999-2001
	Nuts level: 0
	Completeness: EU-18
Frequency	Data collection: halfway and at end of programme period
	Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	Target/objective: increase in … euro and increase in …%
	(Member State & DG AGRI decide)
Interpretation framework of indicator	See norm

Name of the indicator	**Labour productivity in food industry**
Definition of the indicator	Labour productivity is measured through the Gross Value Added in food industry per employee in a region. GVA is defined as the value of output less the value of intermediate consumption. Output is valued at basic prices, GVA is valued at basic prices and intermediate consumption is valued at purchasers' prices. (Sum of all industries' total output of goods and services (at basic prices) - Sum of all industries' total intermediate consumption (at purchasers' prices)= Total gross value added (at basic prices) By measuring GVA per employee, it is possible to compare date and to set an target for the increase of the GVA.
Link to objective	Objective Axis 1: To improve the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector → Sub-objectives: • To restructure and develop physical potential and promote innovation • To improve the quality of agricultural production and products → Indicator: Labour productivity in food industry
Type of indicator	Baseline indicator, impact indicator (change in)
Sub-indicators	-
Unit of measurement	Euro/employee
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: Eurostat: Eurostat Economy and finance - National accounts (including GDP) - Annual national accounts by institutional sector Source 2: National source: Consult the Member State
Availability	<u>Eurostat:</u> According to definition: yes Most recent year: average 1999-2001 Nuts level: 0 Completeness: EU 19

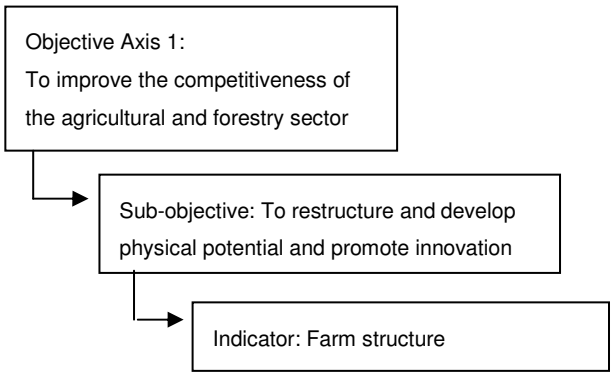
Frequency	Data collection: halfway and at end of programme period Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	Target/objective: increase in … euro/employee
Interpretation framework of indicator	See norm

Name of the indicator	**Gross fixed capital formation in food industry**
Definition of the indicator	Gross fixed capital formation in food industry**:** investments in assets which are used repeatedly or continuously over a number of years to produce goods in food industry. It is measured in both absolute terms in a region, and in relative terms (GFCF in food industry per utilized agricultural area (UAA)) in order to be able to compare the data over regions.
Link to objective	
Type of indicator	Baseline indicator, impact indicator (change in)
Sub-indicators	-
Unit of measurement	Euro Euro/ha
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: Eurostat: General and regional statistics – region – economic accounts Source 2: National source: Consult the Member State

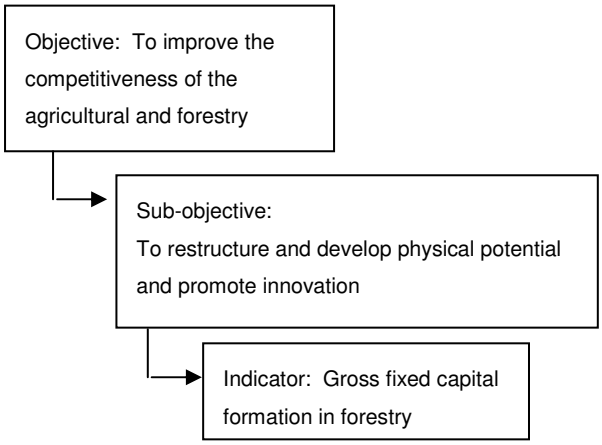
Availability	Eurostat: According to definition: yes *(but detailed level food industry not available on website)* Most recent year: 1998 Spain 1999 Estonia, UK 2000 Czech Republic, Denmark 2001 Germany, France, Ireland, Cyprus, Portugal, Sweden 2002 Belgium, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Austria, Finland Nuts level: 0 Completeness: Not available for Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia Data for UAA: DG AGRI Eurostat
Frequency	Data collection: halfway and at end of programme period Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	Target/objective: increase in …Euro / increase in euro/ha (Member State & DG AGRI decide)
Interpretation framework of the indicator	See norm

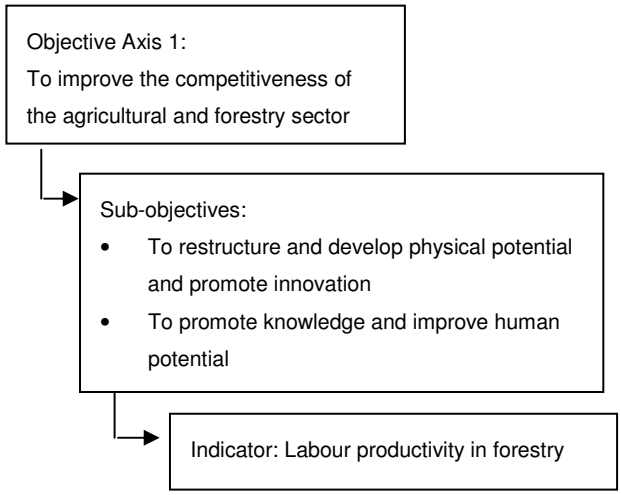
Name of the indicator	**Number of semi-subsistence farms in NMS**
Definition of the indicator	Semi-subsistence farms are farms that do not sell (parts of their) product on the market. In general, these will be the farms that are smaller than 1 ESU. In order to get a view on the size and importance of these farms, the absolute number and the share of semi-subsistence farms need to be collected (number of semi-subsistence farms in NMS (< 1 ESU) and Number of semi-subsistence farms in NMS (< 1 ESU) / total number of farms)
Link to objective	
Type of indicator	Baseline indicator
Sub-indicators	-
Unit of measurement	Number %
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: Eurostat: Agriculture, forestry and fisheries – Agriculture - Structure of agricultural holdings - Results of the farm structure surveys from 1990 onwards - General overview - general overview by area status Source 2: National source: Consult the Member State
Availability	Eurostat: According to definition: yes Most recent year: 2003 Nuts level: 0 Completeness: Available for Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Malta and Hungary
Frequency	Data collection: halfway and at end of programme period Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post

Norm	Target/objective: decrease in number with … (Member State & DG AGRI decide)
Interpretation framework of the indicator	See norm

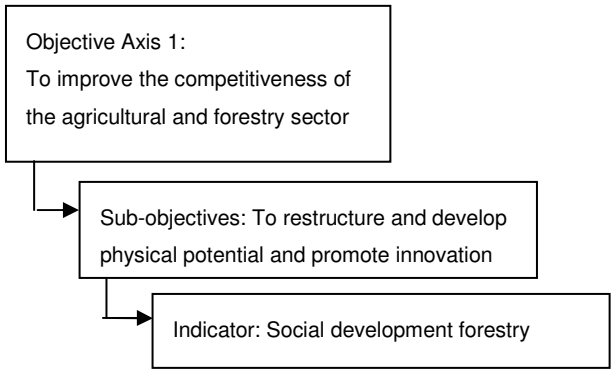
Name of the indicator	**Farm structure**
Definition of the indicator	Farm structure is a context indicator, providing information on the environment in which policy is implemented. The farm structure is determined by several factors: • Farm size and distribution • Farm size (ESU) and distribution • Number of farms • Utilized agricultural area (ha) • Agricultural Working Unit (AWU)
Link to objective	
Type of indicator	Context baseline indicator
Sub-indicators	Farm size and distribution Farm size (ESU) and distribution Number of farms Utilized agricultural area (ha) Agricultural Working Unit (AWU)
Unit of measurement	Ha (Farm size and distribution) ESU (Farm size and distribution) Number (farms) Ha (Utilized agricultural area) Number (Agricultural Working Unit (AWU))
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: For farm size (ha,) and UAA: Eurostat: Agriculture, forestry and fisheries - Structure of agricultural holdings - Results of the farm structure surveys from 1990 onwards For AWU and ESU: Eurostat: general – regions – agriculture - Structure of agricultural holdings by region, main indicators Source 2: National source: Consult the Member State

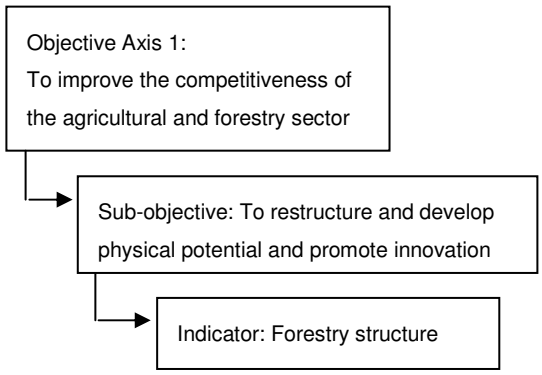
Availability	Eurostat:
	According to definition: yes
	Most recent year: 2003
	Nuts level: 3
	Completeness: complete
Frequency	Data collection: halfway and at end of programme period
	Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	Target/objective: NA
Interpretation framework of indicator	NA

Name of the indicator	**Gross fixed capital formation in forestry**
Definition of the indicator	Gross fixed capital formation in forestry: the investments in assets which are used repeatedly or continuously over a number of years to produce goods in forestry. It is measured in both absolute terms in a region, and in relative terms (GFCF forestry/area available for forestry) in order to be able to compare the data over regions.
Link to objective	
Type of indicator	Baseline indicator, impact indicator (change in)
Sub-indicators	-
Unit of measurement	Euro Euro/ha
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: no data on EU level Source 2: National source: Consult the Member State
Availability	No data available According to definition: Most recent year: Nuts level: Completeness:
Frequency	Data collection: halfway and at end of programme period Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	Target/objective: increase in euro (Member State & DG AGRI decide)
Interpretation framework of the indicator	See norm

Name of the indicator	**Labour productivity in forestry**
Definition of the indicator	Labour productivity is measured through the Gross Value Added in forestry per employee. GVA is defined as the value of output less the value of intermediate consumption. Output is valued at basic prices, GVA is valued at basic prices and intermediate consumption is valued at purchasers' prices. (Sum of all industries' total output of goods and services (at basic prices) - Sum of all industries' total intermediate consumption (at purchasers' prices)= Total gross value added (at basic prices By measuring this per employee, it is possible to compare date and to set a target for the increase of the GVA.
Link to objective	
Type of indicator	Baseline indicator, impact indicator (change in)
Sub-indicators	-
Unit of measurement	Euro/employee
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: Ratio of Gross Value added (Economic account for forestry) and employment in forestry sector (from labour force survey, published in pocket book on forestry statistics from Eurostat, http://epp.eurostat.cec.eu.int/cache/ITY_offpub/ks-59-04-306/EM/KS-59-04-306) Source 2: National source: Consult the Member State

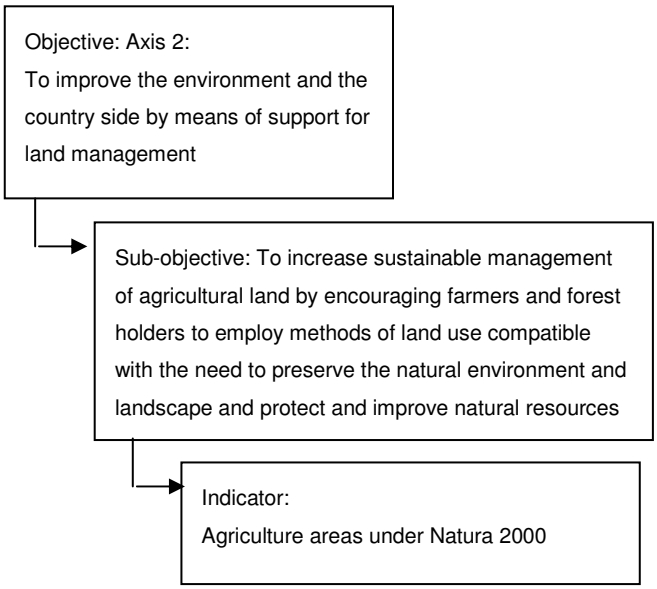
Availability	Economic Account for Forestry and Eurostat: According to definition: to be calculated Most recent year: 2002 Nuts level: 0 Completeness: Only available for Belgium, Greece, France, Italy, Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Finland, Sweden and United Kingdom
Frequency	Data collection: halfway and at end of programme period Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	Target/objective: increase in …Euro/employee (Member State & DG AGRI decide)
Interpretation framework of the indicator	See norm

Name of the indicator	**Social development of forestry**
Definition of the indicator	The absolute and relative (measured as a percentage of the total employment) employment provides an indication of the importance of the sector in providing jobs in a region. Persons in employment are those aged 15 year and having work for pay or profit regardless the number of hours per week.
Link to objective	
Type of indicator	Context baseline indicator
Sub-indicators	-
Unit of measurement	Number
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: Eurostat Cronos Source 2: National source: Consult the Member State
Availability	Eurostat Cronos (employment): According to definition: to be calculated Most recent year: 2002 Nuts level: 0 Completeness: Only available for Belgium, Greece, France, Italy, Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Finland, Sweden and United Kingdom
Frequency	Data collection: halfway and at end of programme period Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	Target/objective: NA
Interpretation framework of the indicator	NA

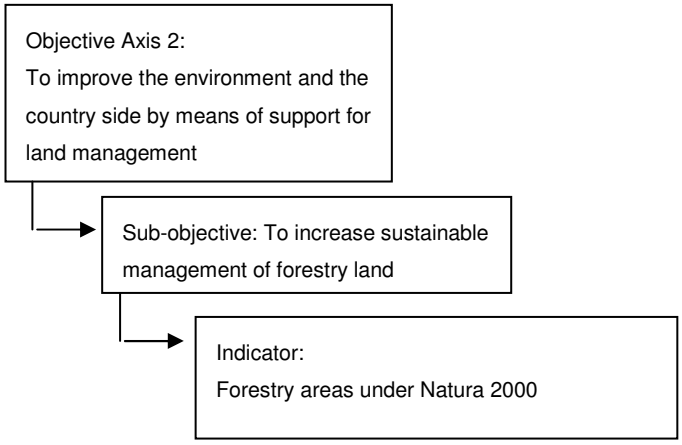
Name of the indicator	**Forestry structure**
Definition of the indicator	Forest structure is a context indicator, providing information on the environment in which policy is implemented. The forestry structure is determined by several factors: • Agricultural Working Unit (AWU) • Area of forest available for wood supply (FAWS) • FAWS under private ownership / Total FAWS • Average size of holding by type of ownership
Link to objective	
Type of indicator	Context baseline indicator
Sub-indicators	Area of forest available for wood supply (FAWS) Ownership Average size of holding
Unit of measurement	Ha FAWS % Ha per type of ownership
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: **FAWS** Eurostat: Agriculture, forestry and fisheries- Forestry - Forest resources Subdivision and development of wooded area, 2000 **Ownership** Eurostat: Agriculture, forestry and fisheries- Forestry - Structures of forest holdings - Ownership of forest available for wood supply **Average size of holding** Eurostat: Agriculture, forestry and fisheries- Forestry - Structures of forest holdings -Wooded area of private forest holdings by size classes of wooded area (Source: TBFRA 2000) Source 2 : National source: Consult the Member State

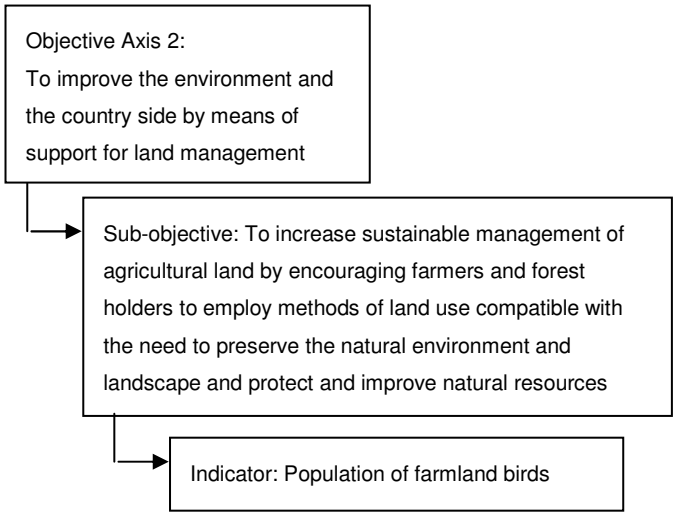
Availability	Eurostat:
	FAWS:
	According to definition: yes
	Most recent year: differing between 1990 and 1997
	Nuts level: 0
	Completeness: complete
	Ownership:
	According to definition: yes
	Most recent year: differing between 1990 and 1997
	Nuts level: 0
	Completeness: complete
	Average size of holding:
	According to definition: yes
	Most recent year: differing between 1990 and 1997
	Nuts level: 0
	Completeness: complete
Frequency	Data collection: halfway and at end of programme period
	Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	Target/objective: NA
Interpretation framework of indicator	NA

Axis 2: To improve the environment and the countryside by means of support for land management

Name of the indicator	**Agriculture areas under Natura 2000**
Definition of the indicator	This indicator provides information on the preservation the natural environment and landscape and the protection and improvement of natural resources. Under Natura 2000 a network of areas is designated to conserve natural habitats and species of wildlife which are rare, endangered or vulnerable in the European Community. The term Natura 2000 comes from the 1992 European Commission Habitats Directive, it symbolises the conservation of precious natural resources for the year 2000 and beyond. It contains both the absolute number of hectares of agriculture areas under Natura 2000 in a region, as well as the share (agriculture areas under Natura 2000 / total agriculture area), which make data comparable over regions
Link to objective	
Type of indicator	Baseline indicator, impact indicator (change in)
Sub-indicators	-
Unit of measurement	Ha %
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: IRENA 4 Source 2: European Topic Center on Nature Protection and Biodiversity (Based on national data sent to DG Environment) Source 3: National source: Consult the Member State

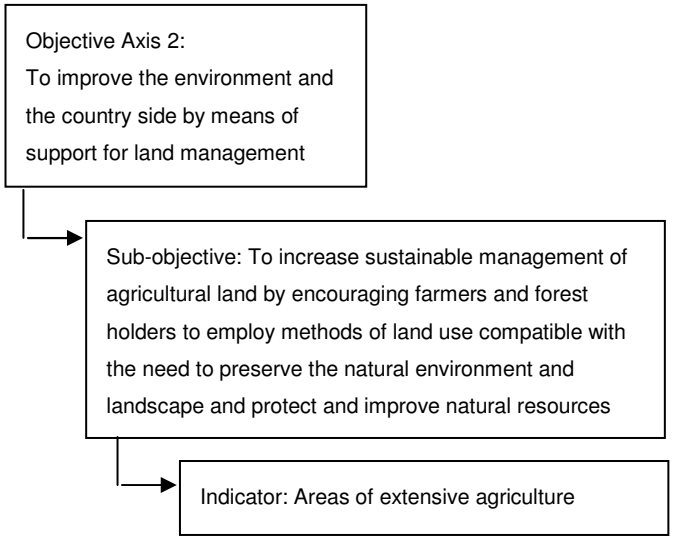
Availability	IRENA 4: According to definition: yes Most recent year: 2004 Nuts level: 2 Completeness: Only available for EU-15 European Topic Center on Nature Protection and Biodiversity: According to definition: yes Most recent year: 2004 Nuts level: 1 Completeness: Only available for EU-15
Frequency	Data collection: halfway and at end of programme period Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	Target/objective: increase in … ha/…% (Member State & DG AGRI decide)
Interpretation framework of indicator	See norm

Name of the indicator	**Forestry areas under Natura 2000**
Definition of the indicator	This indicator provides information on the preservation the natural environment and landscape and the protection and improvement of natural resources. Under Natura 2000 a network of areas is designated to conserve natural habitats and species of wildlife which are rare, endangered or vulnerable in the European Community. The term Natura 2000 comes from the 1992 European Commission Habitats Directive, it symbolises the conservation of precious natural resources for the year 2000 and beyond. This indicator is measured in absolute number of hectares of forestry areas under Natura 2000 in a region, as well as in relative terms (forestry areas under Natura 2000 / total forestry area), which make data comparable over regions.
Link to objective	
Type of indicator	Baseline indicator, impact indicator (change in)
Sub-indicators	-
Unit of measurement	Ha %
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: European Topic Center on Nature Protection and Biodiversity (Based on national data sent to DG Environment) Source 2: National source: Consult the Member State
Availability	European Topic Center on Nature Protection and Biodiversity: According to definition: yes Most recent year: 2004 Nuts level: 1 Completeness: Only available for EU-15
Frequency	Data collection: halfway and at end of programme period Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	Target/objective: increase in % (Member State & DG AGRI decide)
Interpretation framework of indicator	See norm

Name of the indicator	**Population of farmland birds**
Definition of the indicator	The population of farmland birds provide an indication on the preservation of the natural environment. It is measured in trends of index of population of farmland birds; aggregated index of population of a selected group of breeding birds species dependent on agricultural land for nesting or feeding.
Link to objective	
Type of indicator	Baseline indicator, impact indicator (change in)
Sub-indicators	-
Unit of measurement	Index (2000=100)
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: IRENA 28 + Eurostat: Sustainable development - Sustainable Development Indicators - Management of natural resources - Population trends of farmland birds Source 2: National source: Consult the Member State
Availability	IRENA+Eurostat: According to definition: to be calculated Most recent year: 2001/2002 Nuts level: 0 Completeness: Only available for Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Spain, France, Italy, Latvia, Hungary, Netherlands, Austria, Poland and Sweden.
Frequency	Data collection: halfway and at end of programme period Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	Target/objective: improved index (Member State & DG AGRI decide)
Interpretation framework of indicator	See norm

Name of the indicator	**High Nature Value farmland areas**
Definition of the indicator	High Nature Value farmland areas, as used for this indicator, consist of two types: Type 1: Farmland with a high proportion of semi-natural vegetation. Type 2: Farmland dominated by low intensity agriculture or a mosaic of semi-natural and cultivated land and small-scale features. This indicator is measured in absolute and relative terms (High Nature Value farmland areas in a region and High Nature Value farmland areas / total farmland areas).
Link to objective	Objective Axis 2: To improve the environment and the country side by means of support for land management Sub-objectives: • To increase sustainable management of agricultural land by encouraging farmers and forest holders to employ methods of land use compatible with the need to preserve the natural environment and landscape and protect and improve natural resources Indicator: High Nature Value farmland areas
Type of indicator	Baseline indicator, impact indicator (change in)
Sub-indicators	-
Unit of measurement	UAA % of UAA
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: IRENA 26 (EEA) Source 2: National source: Consult the Member State
Availability	IRENA 26: According to definition: yes Most recent year: 2004 Nuts level: 1 Completeness: Only available for EU 23

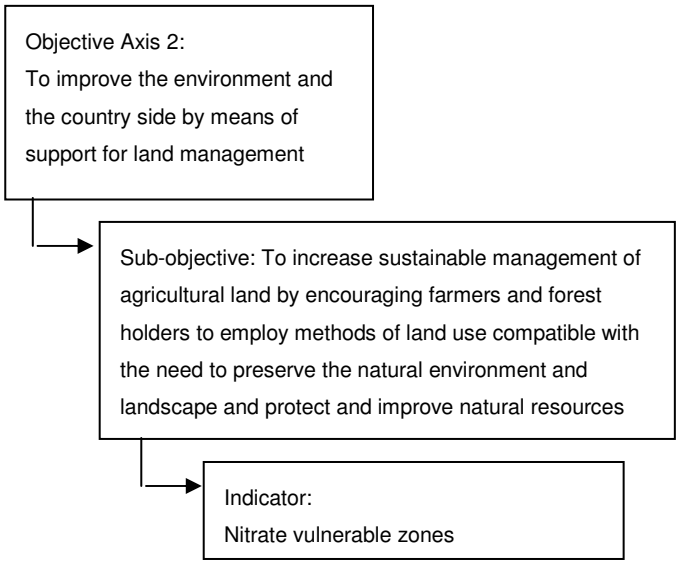
Frequency	Data collection: halfway and at end of programme period Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	Target/objective: increase in % (Member State & DG AGRI decide)
Interpretation framework of indicator	See norm

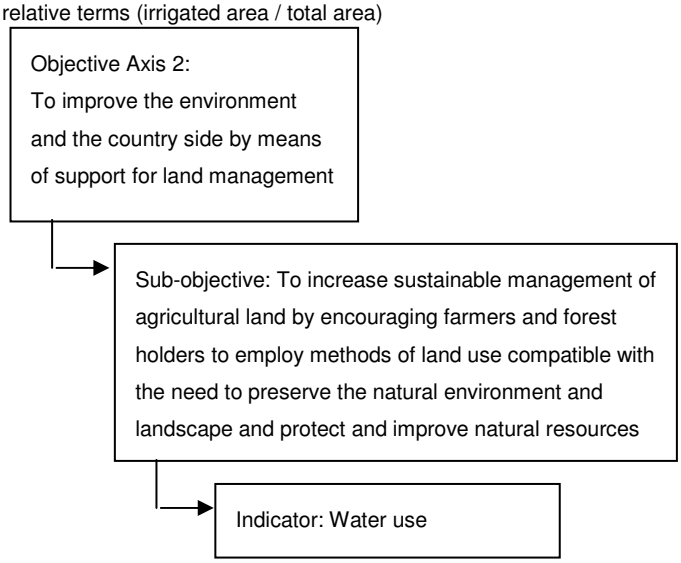
Name of the indicator	**Areas of extensive agriculture**
Definition of the indicator	This indicator provides information on the context in which a policy is implemented. Areas of extensive agriculture contains several sub-categories: • UAA extensive agriculture (cereal area with cereal yield less than 60% of the EU-25 average) / total UAA • UAA low grazing (LU/ha) / total UAA • LFA in mountainous/ total LFA • LFA non mountainous areas / total LFA • area under Natura 2000
Link to objective	
Type of indicator	Context baseline indicator
Sub-indicators	% UAA of extensive agriculture: % UAA with low grazing LU/ha % area LFA mountainous % LFA non mountainous
Unit of measurement	% ha
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data

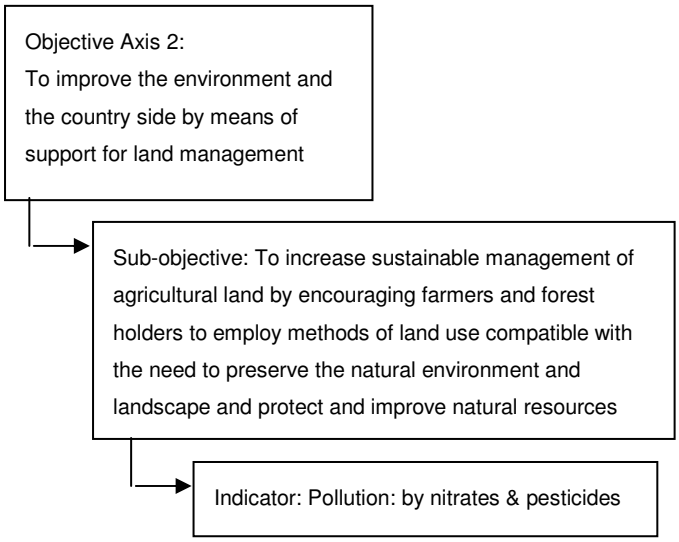
Source	Source 1: % UAA of extensive agriculture: IRENA % UAA with low grazing LU/ha Eurostat - Regions - Agriculture % area LFA mountainous / % LFA non mountainous: Eurostat : General and regional statistics - Regions - Agriculture - Structure of agricultural holdings by region, main indicators - Total Agricultural area (AA) / Agricultural area in less favoured area / Agricultural area in mountain area Source 2: DG AGRI Source 3: National source: Consult the Member State
Availability	<u>Eurostat:</u> **LU/ha:** According to definition: yes Most recent year: Nuts level: 0 Completeness: No data for Finland, Czech Republic and Cyprus **LFA:** According to definition: yes Most recent year: 2003 Nuts level: 3 Completeness: EU-25 <u>DG AGRI:</u> According to definition: yes Most recent year: Nuts level: 0 Completeness: No data for The Netherlands, Luxembourg and Denmark **Extensive agriculture:** According to definition: yes Most recent year:- Nuts level: 0 Completeness: complete
Frequency	Data collection: halfway and at end of programme period Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	Target/objective: NA
Interpretation framework of indicator	NA

Name of the indicator	**Water quality**
Definition of the indicator	Water quality is an important element in determining the rate and influence of sustainable management. Surplus of nitrogen is one of the important elements for indicating the water quality in relation to agricultural pollution.
Link to objective	Objective: Axis 2: To improve the environment and the country side by means of support for land management Sub-objectives: • To increase sustainable management of agricultural land by encouraging farmers and forest holders to employ methods of land use compatible with the need to preserve the natural environment and landscape and protect and improve natural resources • To increase sustainable management of forestry land Indicator: Water quality: gross nutrient balances
Type of indicator	Baseline indicator, impact indicator (change in)
Sub-indicators	-
Unit of measurement	kg/ha
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: Eurostat: Environment and energy – Environment - Agriculture Nitrogen balances (in kg and kg/ha) Source 2: IRENA18 Source 3: National source: Consult the Member State

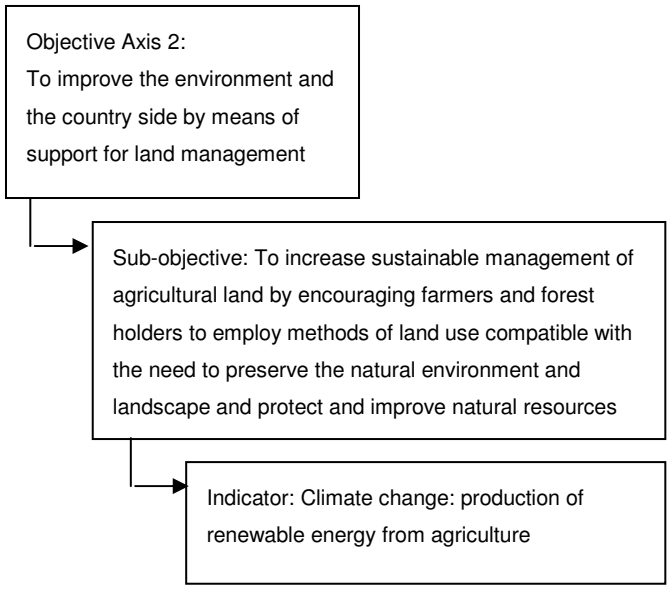
Availability	Eurostat:
	According to definition: yes
	Most recent year: between 1995 and 2000
	Nuts level: 1
	Completeness: Only available for EU-18
	IRENA 18:
	According to definition: yes
	Most recent year: 2000
	Nuts level: 0
	Completeness: Only available for EU-15
Frequency	Data collection: halfway and at end of programme period
	Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	Target/objective: decrease in kg/ha (Member State & DG AGRI decide)
Interpretation framework of indicator	See norm

Name of the indicator	**Nitrate vulnerable zones**
Definition of the indicator	Utilized Agricultural Area (UAA) designated as nitrate vulnerable zone (in absolute and relative terms), provides important information on the extent to which agricultural land is managed in a sustainable way. Nitrate vulnerable zones are areas that are under a regime of specific legal requirements aiming at the reduction of water pollution from agricultural sources.
Link to objective	
Type of indicator	Context baseline indicator
Sub-indicators	
Unit of measurement	% UAA
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: DG AGRI Source 2: National source: Consult the Member State
Availability	According to definition: Most recent year: Nuts level: Completeness
Frequency	Data collection: halfway and at end of programme period Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	Target/objective: NA
Interpretation framework of indicator	NA

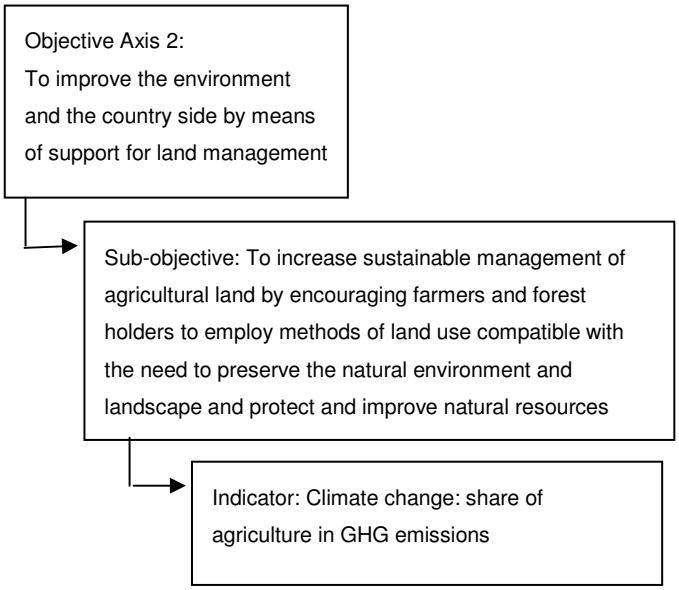
Name of the indicator	**Water use**
Definition of the indicator	The number of hectares irrigated area provides important context information on water use. This indicator is measured in absolute and relative terms (irrigated area / total area)
Link to objective	
Type of indicator	Context baseline indicator
Sub-indicators	
Unit of measurement	%
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: IRENA 10 Source 2: National source: Consult the Member State
Availability	According to definition: yes Most recent year: 2000 Nuts level: 0 Completeness: EU-15
Frequency	Data collection: halfway and at end of programme period Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	Target/objective: NA
Interpretation framework of indicator	NA

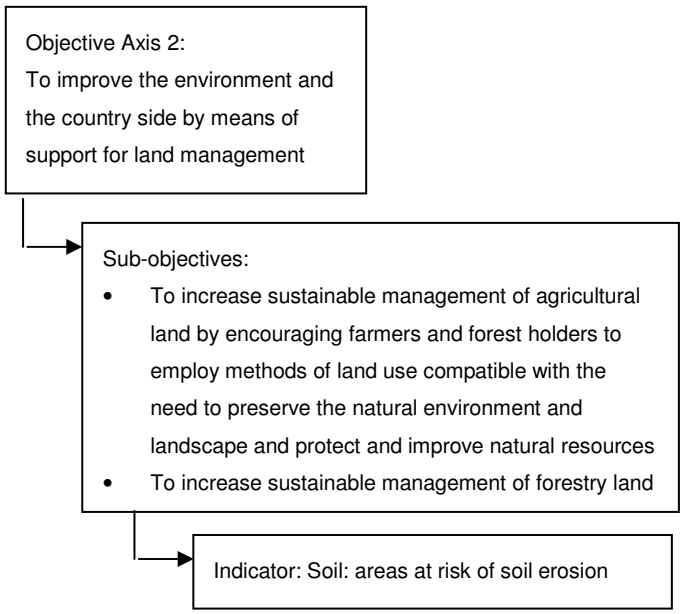
Name of the indicator	**Pollution: by nitrates and pesticides**
Definition of the indicator	Pollution by nitrates and pesticides in ground and surface waters is an important element in determining the rate and influence of sustainable management in agriculture. This indicator is measured through concentrations of nitrates in ground and surface waters and concentrations of pesticides in ground and surface waters.
Link to objective	
Type of indicator	Baseline indicator, impact indicator (change in)
Sub-indicators	-
Unit of measurement	For nitrates: Trend in nitrate concentration in groundwater bodies and rivers between 1990-2000
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: Eurostat: Environment – Environment and Energy Agriculture and environment – nitrate balances Source 2: IRENA 30 (for nitrates in water), no data for pesticides Source 3: National source: Consult the Member State

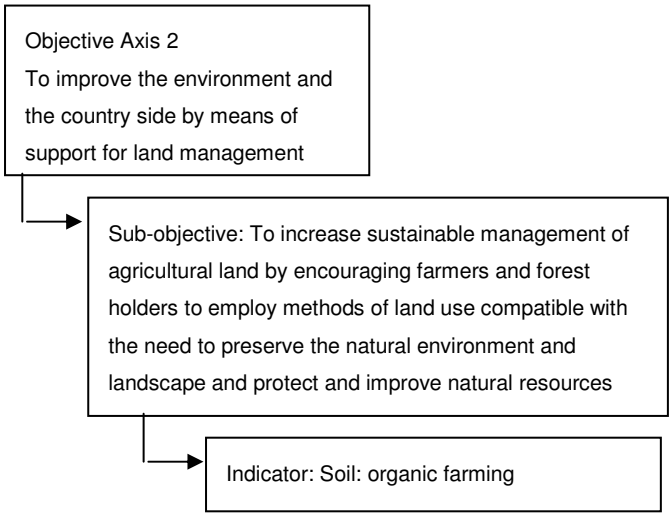
Availability	Eurostat (for nitrates):
	According to definition: yes
	Most recent year: between 1995 and 2000
	Nuts level: 1
	Completeness: Only available for EU-18
	IRENA 30 (for nitrates):
	According to definition: yes
	Most recent year: 2000
	Nuts level: 0
	Completeness: Only available for EU-15
	No data available for pesticides
Frequency	Data collection: halfway and at end of programme period
	Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	Target/objective: decrease in nitrates concentration (Member State & DG AGRI decide)
Interpretation framework of indicator	See norm

Name of the indicator	**Climate change: production of renewable energy from agriculture**
Definition of the indicator	This indicator measures the contribution of agriculture in the production of renewable energy, which is energy obtained from sources that are essentially inexhaustible. This indicator will be measured through several sub-indicators: • UAA devoted to energy and biomass crop • UAA devoted to energy and biomass crop / total UAA • Total production renewable energy • Agricultural production renewable energy / total production renewable energy
Link to objective	
Type of indicator	Baseline indicator, impact indicator (change in)
Sub-indicators	-
Unit of measurement	UAA % UAA Ktoe % Ktoel
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: IRENA 27 Source 2: National source: Consult the Member State
Availability	IRENA 27: According to definition: yes Most recent year: ? Nuts level: 0 Completeness: Only available for Austria, Germany, Denmark, Spain, France, United Kingdom, Greece and Italy

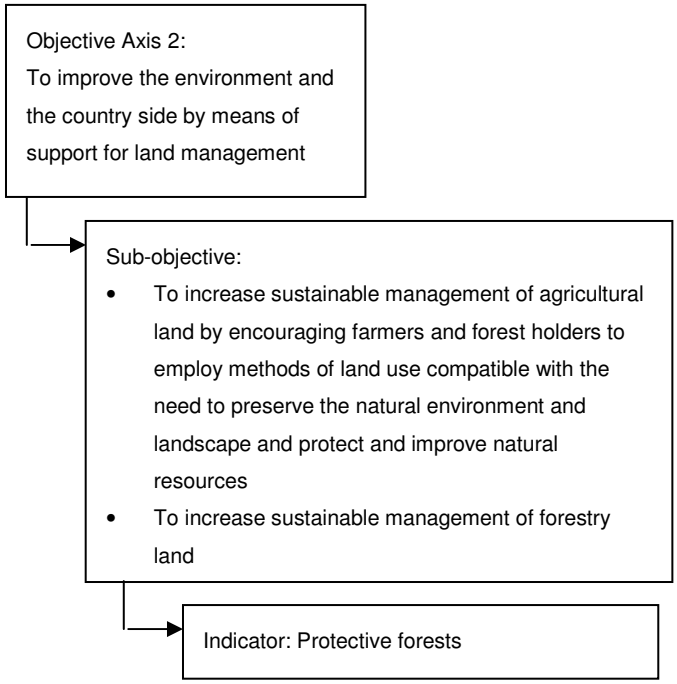
Frequency	Data collection: halfway and at end of programme period Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	Target/objective: increase in Ktoe (Member State & DG AGRI decide)
Interpretation framework of indicator	See norm

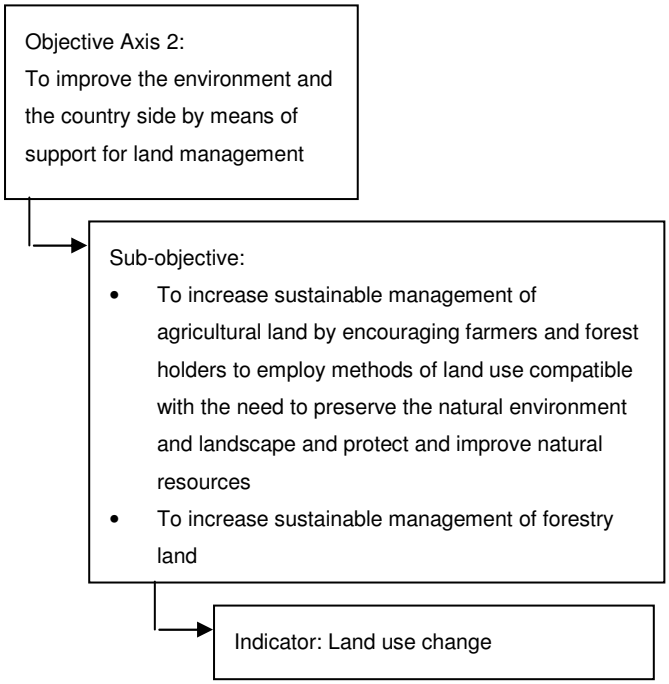
Name of the indicator	**Climate change: share of agriculture in GHG emissions**
Definition of the indicator	An important impact of sustainable management is a diminishing contribution of agriculture to the emissions of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. This is measured in absolute and relative terms (Contribution of agriculture to total EU-15 emissions of GHG and contribution of agriculture to total EU-15 emissions of GHG / total GHG)
Link to objective	
Type of indicator	Baseline indicator, impact indicator (change in)
Sub-indicators	-
Unit of measurement	Absolute %
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: IRENA 34.1 Source 2: National source: Consult the Member State
Availability	IRENA 34.1: According to definition: yes Most recent year: 2002 Nuts level: 0 Completeness: Only available fro Austria, Belgium, Germany, Denmark, Spain, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden and United Kingdom
Frequency	Data collection: halfway and at end of programme period Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	Target/objective: decrease in % (Member State & DG AGRI decide)
Interpretation framework of indicator	See norm

Name of the indicator	**Soil: areas at risk of soil erosion**
Definition of the indicator	Sustainable management contributes to less soil erosion. This effect will be measured through estimates of soil loss (by action of water) / ha / year
Link to objective	
Type of indicator	Baseline indicator, impact indicator (change in)
Sub-indicators	-
Unit of measurement	Tonnes/ha/year, estimate
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: IRENA, model Pesera project Source 2: National source: Consult the Member State
Availability	IRENA, model Pesera project: According to definition: yes Most recent year: 2005 Nuts level: 2 or 3 Completeness: Not available for Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Sweden, Slovenia and Slovakia
Frequency	Data collection: halfway and at end of programme period Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	Target/objective: decrease in tonnes/ha/year (Member State & DG AGRI decide)
Interpretation framework of indicator	See norm

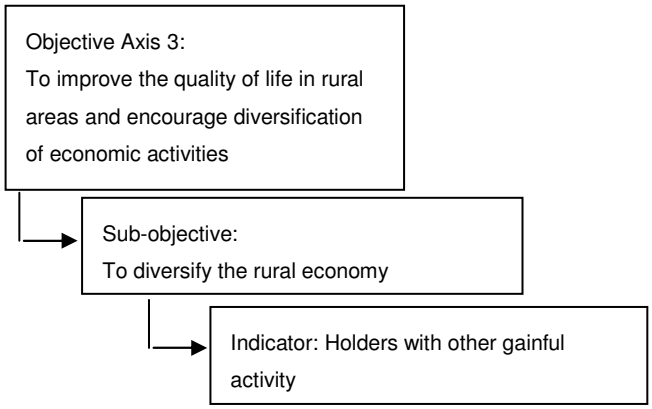
Name of the indicator	**Soil: organic farming**
Definition of the indicator	Areas under organic farming are an important indicator for the extent to which agricultural land is sustainable managed. Organic farming is defined as: farming not using fertilizers of synthetic pesticides. This indicator will be measured in both absolute and relative terms (area under organic farming / total UUA)
Link to objective	
Type of indicator	Baseline indicator, impact indicator (change in)
Sub-indicators	-
Unit of measurement	ha %
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: DG AGRI, organic farming area Source 2: IRENA 7 and Eurostat for total ha Source 3: National source: Consult the Member State

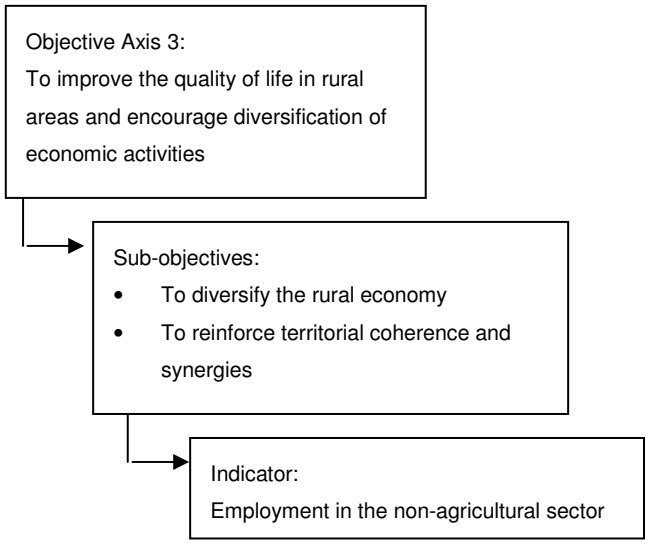
Availability	DG AGRI: According to definition: yes Most recent year: 2002 Nuts level: 1 Completeness: Complete IRENA: According to definition: to be calculated Most recent year: 2000 (for total ha 2002. The assumption is that the total UAA has not significantly changed in 2 years, there are no figures for 2000) Nuts level: 0, for Austria, Belgium, Germany, Spain, Finland, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, and United Kingdom data are partly available at Nuts 2 level. Completeness: Data re not available for Malta and a part of Sweden.
Frequency	Data collection: halfway and at end of programme period Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	Target/objective: increase in share UAA (Member State & DG AGRI decide)
Interpretation framework of indicator	See norm

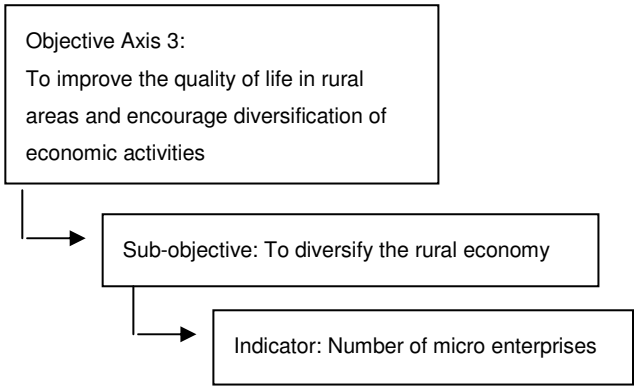
Name of the indicator	**Protective forests**
Definition of the indicator	The extent to which forest area is designated as protective area. This indicator covers forest designated to protect soil and/or water and/or other. Designated protective areas comply the following principles: • Existence of legal basis • Long term commitment (minimum 20 years) • Explicit designation for the protection of biodiversity, landscapes and specific natural elements or protective functions of forest and other wooded land
Link to objective	
Type of indicator	Context indicator
Sub-indicators	-
Unit of measurement	Ha
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: National source: Consult the Member State
Availability	According to definition: Most recent year: Nuts level: Completeness:
Frequency	Data collection: halfway and at end of programme period Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	Target/objective: NA
Interpretation framework of indicator	NA

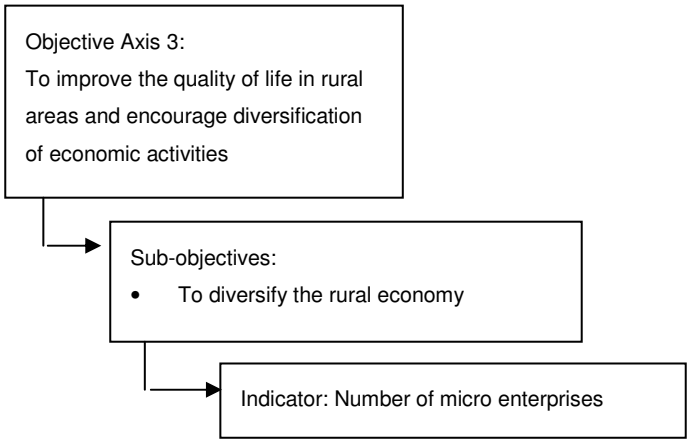
Name of the indicator	**Land use**
Definition of the indicator	The context indicator land use provides information on the importance of the possible target areas (agriculture, forestry and nature) in a region. This indicator is measured in relative terms (ha land covered by agriculture / total ha, ha land covered by forestry / total ha, ha land covered by nature / total ha).
Link to objective	
Type of indicator	Context indicator
Sub-indicators	-
Unit of measurement	%
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: Eurostat (forest, agriculture and total): General and regional statistics – agriculture – landuse Source 2: National source: Consult the Member State
Availability	Eurostat: According to definition: yes Most recent year: 2000 Nuts level: 2 Completeness: complete
Frequency	Data collection: halfway and at end of programme period Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	Target/objective: NA
Interpretation framework of indicator	NA

Axis 3: To improve quality of life in rural areas and encourage diversification of economic activities

Name of the indicator	**Other gainful activity of farmers**
Definition of the indicator	This indicator measures the extent to which farmers have complemented their income by gainful activities outside agriculture. This is every activity other than activity relating to farm work, carried out for remuneration (salary, wages, profits or other payment, including payment in kind, according to the service rendered). This indicator is measured in terms of number of holders with other gainful activity (absolute number) and in relative terms (number of holders with other gainful activity / total number of holders).
Link to objective	
Type of indicator	Baseline indicator, impact indicator (change in)
Sub-indicators	-
Unit of measurement	number %
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: Eurostat: Agriculture, forestry and fisheries - Agriculture - Structure of agricultural holdings - Management and work on the holding - Other gainful activity and rural development Source 2: National source: Consult the Member State
Availability	Eurostat: According to definition: yes Most recent year: 2001/2002 Nuts level: 2 or 3 Completeness: Complete
Frequency	Data collection: halfway and at end of programme period Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	Target/objective: increase in % (Member State & DG AGRI decide)
Interpretation framework of indicator	See norm

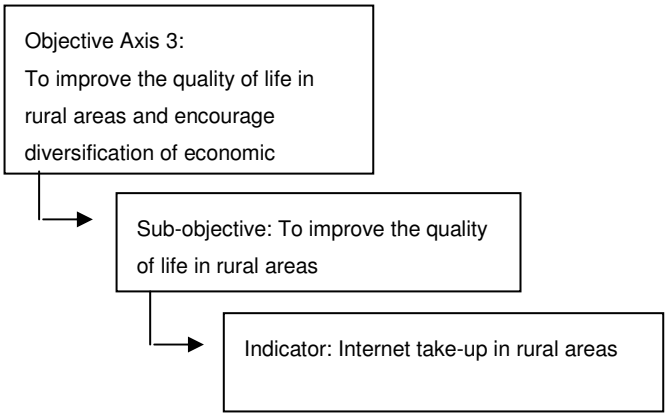
Name of the indicator	**Employment in the non-agricultural sector**
Definition of the indicator	Diversification of the economy is expressed in the number people employed outside the agricultural sector. Persons in employment are those aged 15 year and having work for pay or profit regardless the number of hours per week. This indicator is measured in absolute and relative terms (Employment in the non-agricultural sector and employment in the non-agricultural sector / total employment)
Link to objective	
Type of indicator	Baseline indicator, impact indicator (change in)
Sub-indicators	-
Unit of measurement	Number (000s) %
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: Eurostat - General and regional statistics – Regions - Regional labour market- Employment by economic activity Source 2: National source: Consult the Member State
Availability	Eurostat: According to definition: Yes Most recent year: 2003 Nuts level: 3 Completeness: complete
Frequency	Data collection: yearly Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	Target/objective: Increase … number/….%
Interpretation framework of indicator	See norm

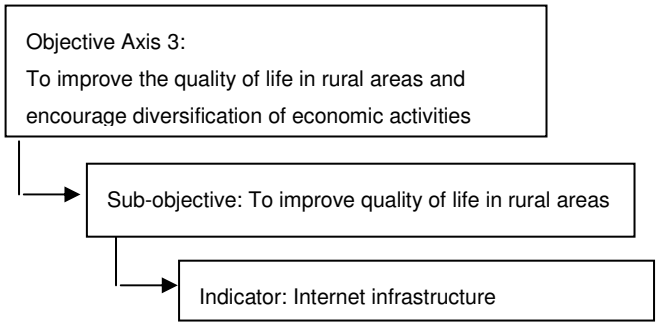
Name of the indicator	**Micro enterprises**
Definition of the indicator	Micro enterprises are enterprises with less than 10 people employed and a turnover or balance sheet of less than 2 million euro. This indicator is measure in absolute terms (number of micro enterprises) an in relative terms (number of micro enterprises/1000 inhabitants).
Link to objective	
Type of indicator	Baseline indicator, impact indicator (change in)
Sub-indicators	-
Unit of measurement	Number Number / 1000
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: DG AGRI Source 2: National source: Consult the Member State
Availability	DG AGRI: According to definition: yes Most recent year: 2000 Nuts level: 0 Completeness: Only available for EU-15
Frequency	Data collection: halfway and at end of programme period Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	Target/objective: decrease in number (Member State & DG AGRI decide)
Interpretation framework of indicator	See norm

Name of the indicator	**GVA in non-agricultural sector**
Definition of the indicator	This indicator measures the gross value added (GVA) outside the primary sector in a region. GVA is defined as the value of output less the value of intermediate consumption. Output is valued at basic prices, GVA is valued at basic prices and intermediate consumption is valued at purchasers' prices. (Sum of all industries' total output of goods and services (at basic prices) - Sum of all industries' total intermediate consumption (at purchasers' prices)= Total gross value added (at basic prices). This indicator is measured in absolute and relative terms (total GVA - Gross Value Added in primary sector and Total GVA - Gross Value Added in primary sector)/total GVA)
Link to objective	
Type of indicator	Baseline indicator, impact indicator (change in)
Sub-indicators	-
Unit of measurement	Mio Euro %
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: Eurostat: General and regional statistics - Economic accounts - ESA95 - Branch accounts - ESA95 - Gross value added at basic prices at NUTS level 3 Source 2: European regional prospects Source 3: National source: Consult the Member State
Availability	Eurostat: According to definition: yes Most recent year: 2002 Nuts level: 3 Completeness: complete
Frequency	Data collection: Yearly Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post

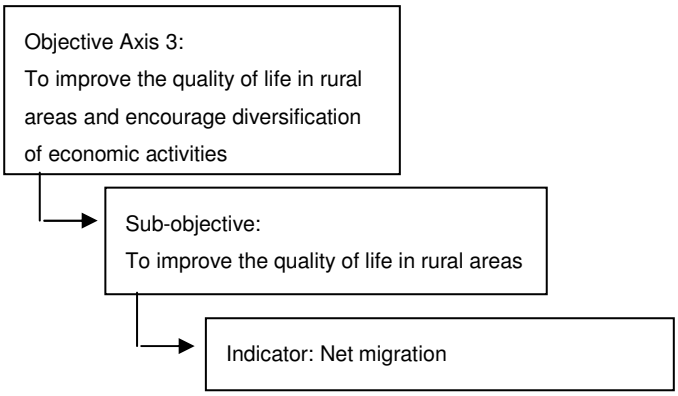
Norm	Target/objective: NA (Member State & DG AGRI decide)
Interpretation framework of indicator	NA

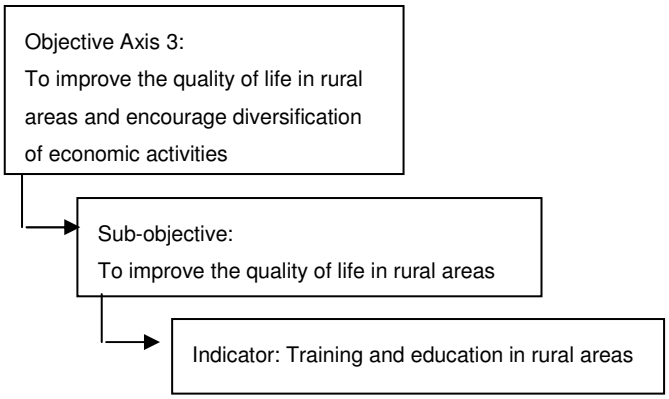
Name of the indicator	**Tourism infrastructure in rural areas**
Definition of the indicator	The tourism infrastructure in rural areas consists out of several elements. For this indicator the number of beds are taken as an indication for the tourism infrastructure (development). The number of beds are calculated over hotels, campings, holiday dwellings and others, both in absolute and relative terms. (number of beds (in hotels, campings, holiday dwellings & others and number of beds (in hotels, campings, holiday dwellings & others) per km2)
Link to objective	Objective Axis 3: To improve the quality of life in rural areas and encourage diversification of economic activities → Sub-objective: To diversify the rural economy → Indicator: Tourism in rural areas
Type of indicator	Baseline indicator, impact indicator (change in)
Sub-indicators	-
Unit of measurement	Number Number/km
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: Eurostat: General and regional statistics -Tourism statistics - Number of establishments, bedrooms and beds - NUTS 3 - annual data (derived table) Source 2: National source: Consult the Member State
Availability	Eurostat: According to definition: yes Most recent year: 2003 Nuts level: 3 Completeness: EU-25
Frequency	Data collection: halfway and at end of programme period Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	Target/objective: increase in number of beds (Member State & DG AGRI decide)
Interpretation framework of indicator	See norm

Name of the indicator	**Internet take-up in rural area**
Definition of the indicator	The internet take-up in rural areas is measured in terms of population having access to internet. This is measured though the number of DSL subscribers. This indicator is measured in absolute and relative terms (population having access to internet and population having access to internet / total population)
Link to objective	
Type of indicator	Baseline indicator, impact indicator (change in)
Sub-indicators	-
Unit of measurement	Number %
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: DG INFSO: persons DSL subscribers Source 2: National source: Consult the Member State
Availability	DG INFSO: According to definition: yes Most recent year: 2004 Nuts level: 0 Completeness: Only available for EU-15
Frequency	Data collection: halfway and at end of programme period Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	Target/objective: increase in % (Member State & DG AGRI decide)
Interpretation framework of indicator	See norm

Name of the indicator	**Internet infrastructure**
Definition of the indicator	The indicator internet infrastructure indicates the population that has access to broadband and the quality of the infrastructure. The following sub-indicators are used: • Coverage: percentage of population that is able to access to broadband; • DSL Coverage: Percentage of the population that is depending on switches equipped for DSL and / or living in houses passed by an upgraded cable. This included individuals and businesses located too far away from the switches to be reached, underestimating effective coverage.
Link to objective	
Type of indicator	Context baseline indicator
Sub-indicators	-
Unit of measurement	%
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (MS will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: report “Digital divide forum report: broadband access and public support in underserved areas”, DG INFSO Source 2: National source: Consult the Member State
Availability	According to definition: yes Most recent year: 2004 Nuts level: 0 Completeness: Only available for EU-15
Frequency	Data collection: halfway and at end of programme period Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	Target/objective: NA
Interpretation framework of indicator	NA

Name of the indicator	**Share of GVA in services**
Definition of the indicator	This indicator measures the gross value added (GVA) in the services sector in a region. GVA is defined as the value of output less the value of intermediate consumption. Output is valued at basic prices, GVA is valued at basic prices and intermediate consumption is valued at purchasers' prices. (Sum of all industries' total output of goods and services (at basic prices) - Sum of all industries' total intermediate consumption (at purchasers' prices)= Total gross value added (at basic prices) This indicator is measured in both absolute and relative terms (GVA in services and GVA in services / total GVA).
Link to objective	Objective Axis 3: To improve the quality of life in rural areas and encourage diversification of economic activities → Sub-objective: • To improve the quality of life in rural areas → Indicator: GVA in services
Type of indicator	Baseline indicator, impact indicator (change in)
Sub-indicators	-
Unit of measurement	Mio Euro %
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: Eurostat: General and regional statistics - regions - economic accounts- ESA 95 - Branch accounts–ESA 95 - Gross value added at basic prices at NUTS level 3 Source 2: National source: Consult the Member State
Availability	According to definition: yes Most recent year: 2002 Nuts level: 3 Completeness: complete
Frequency	Data collection: halfway and at end of programme period Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	Target/objective: increase …euro and in …% (Member State & DG AGRI decide)
Interpretation framework of indicator	See norm

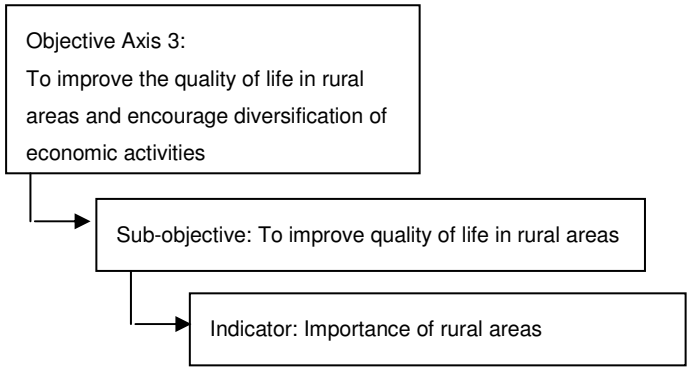
Name of the indicator	**Net migration**
Definition of the indicator	The migration balance is an indicator for the quality of life in rural area. The migration balance is measured in terms of net migration per 1000 inhabitants (population growth due to migration per 1000 inhabitants).
Link to objective	
Type of indicator	Baseline indicator, impact indicator (change in)
Sub-indicators	-
Unit of measurement	Number/1000 inhabitants
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: Eurostat: General and regional statistics - Regions - Demographic statistics - Population change - Births and deaths Eurostat: General and regional statistics - Regions -Demographic statistics - Population and area Source 2: National source: Consult the Member State
Availability	Eurostat: According to definition: to be calculated (population change – natural births and death) Most recent year: 2001 Slovenia 2000 Slovakia, Hungary, Czech Republic 1999 Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Spain, Finland, Netherlands and Sweden 1997 Italy 1998 United Kingdom Nuts level: 2 Completeness: Available for Slovenia, Slovakia, Hungary, Czech Republic, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Spain, Finland, Netherlands, Sweden, Italy, United Kingdom
Frequency	Data collection: halfway and at end of programme period Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post

Norm	Target/objective: decreasing deficit per 1000 inhabitants (Member State & DG AGRI decide)
Interpretation framework of indicator	See norm
Name of the indicator	**Training and education in rural areas**
Definition of the indicator	This indicator provides information on the level to which adults participate in life long training. Life long training refers to all education or vocational training whether or not relevant to the respondent's current or future employment (International Standard Classification of Education 1997). Data include initial education, additional education, continuing or additional training, training in enterprises, apprenticeships, on-the-job training, seminars and workshops, distance education, evening classes, self-learning, etc. They also include courses followed out of personal interest only and may cover all forms of learning, and training in subjects such as languages, computer studies, business studies, art and culture, health and medicine. This indicator is measured in absolute and relative terms (adults participating in life long training and adults participating in life long training / total number of adults)
Link to objective	
Type of indicator	Baseline indicator, impact indicator (change in)
Sub-indicators	-
Unit of measurement	Number (000s) %
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: Eurostat: General and regional statistics - Regional labour market - Regional socio-demographic labour force statistics - LFS series - participation of adults aged 25-64 in education and training, at NUTS levels 1 and 2 - EU 25 (1000) Source 2: National source: Consult the Member State

Availability	Eurostat: According to definition: yes Most recent year: 2003 Nuts level: 2 Completeness: Complete
Frequency	Data collection: halfway and at end of programme period Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	Target/objective: increase in number (Member State & DG AGRI decide)
Interpretation framework of indicator	See norm

Name of the indicator	**Educational attainment in rural areas**
Definition of the indicator	This indicator provides information on the educational level of the population in a region. The classes in education are based on the ISCED 1997 Classification, of which: Medium education: (upper) secondary education and post secondary non tertiary education) High education: First and second stage of tertiary education. The rate of education of the population between 25 and 64 is taken. The indicator has the following sub-groups: • Rate of education 25-64 • Absolute nr of persons with (Medium+High) educational attainment (25-64) • Absolute nr of persons with (Medium+High) educational attainment (25-64) / total nr of persons (25 – 64) • Absolute nr of females with (Medium+High) educational attainment (25-64) • Absolute nr of females with (Medium+High) educational attainment (25-64) / total nr of females (25-64)
Link to objective	Objective Axis 3: To improve the quality of life in rural areas and encourage diversification of economic activities → Sub-objective: To improve quality of life in rural areas → Indicator: Training and education in rural areas
Type of indicator	Context baseline indicator
Sub-indicators	Rate education 25-64 years Rate education women 25-64 years Persons with medium+high education attainment 25-64 years Women with medium and high education 25-64 years
Unit of measurement	Number %
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data
Source	Source 1: Eurostat: General and regional statistics - Regions - Regional labour market - Regional economically active population - LFS series and LFS adjusted series - Economically active population by sex, age and highest level of education attained, at NUTS levels 1 and 2 - EU 25 (1000) Source 2: National source: Consult the Member State

Availability	Eurostat:
	According to definition: yes
	Most recent year: 2003
	Nuts level: 2
	Completeness: Complete
Frequency	Data collection: halfway and at end of programme period
	Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	Target/objective: NA
Interpretation framework of ind	NA

Name of the indicator	**Importance of rural areas**
Definition of the indicator	This context indicator consist of several sub-indicators indicating the relative importance of rural areas. The following aspects are taken into account: • Rural area as a percentage of the total area • Percentage of people living in rural areas • The density of the population in rural areas • GVA in rural areas as a percentage of the total GVA in a region/country • Employment in rural areas as a percentage of the total employment in a region/country
Link to objective	
Type of indicator	Context baseline indicator
Sub-indicators	% Area in rural areas % Population in rural areas Density population in rural areas % GVA in rural areas % Employment in rural areas
Unit of measurement	% Inhabitants/km2
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method	Statistical data

Source	Source 1: Rural areas: DG AGRI Population: Eurostat: General and regional statistics - Regions - Population and area - Population at 1st January by sex and age / Population density GVA: General and regional statistics – Regions - Branch accounts - ESA95 - Gross value added at basic prices at NUTS level 3 Employment: General and regional statistics – Regions - Branch accounts - ESA95 - Employment at NUTS level 3 Source 2: National source: Consult the Member State
Availability	Eurostat: According to definition: yes Most recent year:2002 Nuts level: 3 Completeness: complete
Frequency	Data collection: halfway and at end of programme period Reporting: Mid Term and Ex Post
Norm	Target/objective: NA
Interpretation framework of indicator	NA

Indicators Leader

See relevant fiches under the axis above

Annex 3 Long list of indicators

Table 0.1 Long list baseline and impact indicators

BASELINE AND IMPACT INDICATORS							
CONTEXT	No	Context indicator		Measurement	Nuts	Source	years
General context	1	Population density		Inhabitants per km2	4	Eurostat->general->demographic	1970-2002
	2.1	Gross Regional Product per capita		GRP per capita (in euro)	2	Eurostat: general, regions, economic accounts	1995-2002
	2.2	Gross Regional Product		GRP in M euro	2	Eurostat: general, regions, economic accounts	1995-2002
	3.1	Forecast of GVA in agriculture		GVA growth over five years	2	European regional prospects	2003-2008
	3.2	Forecast of GVA all sectors		GVA growth over five years	2	European regional prospects	2003-2008
	4.1	Forecast of employment in agriculture		Employment growth over five years	2	European regional prospects	2003-2008
	4.2	Forecast of employment all sectors		Employment growth over five years	2	European regional prospects	2003-2008
	5.1	Unemployment rate (total)		Total Unemployment rate	2	eurostat, general, regions, regional labour market	1999 - 2003
	5.2	Unemployment rate <25		Unemployment rate <25	2	eurostat, general, regions, regional labour market	1999 - 2003
	6	Real disposable income per capita		Real disposable income in euro per capita	2	eurostat, general, regions, economic accounts, household	1995-2001
	7	Natural population growth		Birth-rate minus death-rate		eurostat, general, regions, migration statistics	?
	8.1	Age structure (5-14)		Population aged 5-14	2	eurostat, general, regions, demographic	1989-2002
	8.2	Age structure (55-64)		Population aged 55-64	2	eurostat, general, regions, demographic	1989-2002
	8.3	Age structure (>=65)		Population aged >=65	2	eurostat, general, regions, demographic	1989-2002
	9	Labourparticipation of female		Employment by female in % of total	2	eurostat, general, regions, regional labour market	1999 - 2003
	10	Land covered by agriculture/forestry/nature		% land covered by agriculture/forestry/nature		GIS CLC	
	11	Peripherality index				regio cohesion	
Specific context	1	net real disposable income in agriculture		Euro per capita	2	eurostat, general, regions, economic accounts, household	1995-2001
	2	net real disposable income in forestry		Euro per capita	2	eurostat, general, regions, economic accounts, household	1995-2001

ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES	No	Economic baseline indicator	Economic impact indicator	Measurement	Nuts	Source
Competitiveness in agriculture	1	labour productivity in agriculture	Increase in labour productivity in agriculture	GVA per farmer	1 or 2	GGDC or Eurostat, regions, economic accounts
	2	age structure in agriculture	Change in age structure in agriculture	young (<40)-old (>55) farmers ratio	2	eurostat, general, regions, demographic
	3.1	farm GVA per holding by general type of farm 1	Change in farm GVA per holding by general type of farm 1	farm GVA (in euro) per holding by general type of farm 1		FADN
	3.2	farm GVA per holding by general type of farm 2	Change in farm GVA per holding by general type of farm 2	farm GVA (in euro) per holding by general type of farm 2		FADN
	3.3	farm GVA per holding by general type of farm 3	Change in farm GVA per holding by general type of farm 3	farm GVA (in euro) per holding by general type of farm 3		FADN
	3.4	farm GVA per holding by general type of farm 4	Change in farm GVA per holding by general type of farm 4	farm GVA (in euro) per holding by general type of farm 4		FADN
	3.5	farm GVA per holding by general type of farm 5	Change in farm GVA per holding by general type of farm 5	farm GVA (in euro) per holding by general type of farm 5		FADN
	3.6	farm GVA per holding by general type of farm 6	Change in farm GVA per holding by general type of farm 6	farm GVA (in euro) per holding by general type of farm 6		FADN
	3.7	farm GVA per holding by general type of farm 7	Change in farm GVA per holding by general type of farm 7	farm GVA (in euro) per holding by general type of farm 7		FADN
	3.8	farm GVA per holding by general type of farm 8	Change in farm GVA per holding by general type of farm 8	farm GVA (in euro) per holding by general type of farm 8		FADN
	4	gross fixed capital formation in agriculture	Change in gross fixed capital formation in agriculture	gross fixed capital formation in agriculture in euro		EA
	5.1	farmers with highest level of education attained	Change in farmers with highest level of education attained	no of farmers at highest level of education attained	2	Eurostat -> general->regions ->regional labour market
	5.2	farmers with no education	Change in farmers with no education	no of employees with no education in agriculture		FSS
	6	utilized agricultural area	Change in utilized agricultural area	no of UAA	2	eurostat, general, regions, agriculture
	7	profit per farm holding	Change in profit per farm holding	total standard gross margin (in ESU) per holding	2	eurostat, general, regions, agriculture
	8	product quality	Change in product quality	no of certificated products (turn-over)		Data not available in EUROSTAT
	9	productivity of farms	increase in productivity of farms	production in 1000 t / 1000 ha	1	Eurostat, Agriculture
	10	transport costs	decrease in transport costs	transport cost in M euro		Data not available in EUROSTAT and FADN
	11	no of farmers connected to internet	Increase in no of farmers connected to internet	% of households having access to internet	1	Eurostat, Information Society Statistics
	12	Increase of ICT on farm	Increase of ICT on farm	no of ICT related products		Data not available in EUROSTAT
	13	Agricultural area damaged by natural disasters	Agricultural area damaged by natural disasters	damaged area per ha (by fires or other disasters)		Data not available in EUROSTAT
	14	turnover/sales semi subsistence farms	increase in turnover/sales semi subsistence farms	farm holding less than 40 ESU	2	eurostat, general, regions, agriculture
	15	(high educated) farmers leaving the region	Change in (high educated) farmers leaving the region	no of (high educated) farmers leaving the region		Data not available in EUROSTAT
	16	marginalisation	Change in marginalisation	proportion of holdings with farmers aged >55 without successor		Data not available in EUROSTAT and FADN
	17	support rate in GVA	Change in support rate in GVA	subsidies on products and GVA of products in %	2	eurostat, general, regions, agriculture
Competitiveness in forestry	1	labour productivity in forestry	Change in labour productivity in forestry	GVA per forester	1 or 2	GGDC or Eurostat, regions, economic accounts
	2	gross fixed capital formation in forestry	Change in gross fixed capital formation in forestry	gross fixed capital formation in forestry in euro		EA
	3	profit per forest holding	Change in profit per forest holding	total standard gross margin (in ESU) per holding	2	eurostat, general, regions, agriculture
	4	foresters with highest level of education attained	Change in foresters with highest level of education attained	no of foresters at highest level of education attained	2	Eurostat -> general->regions ->regional labour market
	5	Increase economic value forests	Increase economic value forests	GVA of ha forest	1	?
	6	forest productivity	Change of forest productivity	productivity in m3 per ha		
	7	damaged forest by natural disasters	Change in damaged forest by natural disasters	damaged area per ha (by fires and defoliation)	1	Eurostat --> Forestry

ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES	No	Environmental baseline indicator	Environmental impact indicator	Measurement	Nuts	Source
Environmental & Countryside	1	Conversion of agricultural land to woodland and forest	Conversion of agricultural land to woodland and forest	% of agricultural land and forestry land	2	Eurostat → Regions → Agriculture
	2	Continuation of farming in LFA	Continuation of farming in LFA	agricultural area in LFA	2	Eurostat → Regions → Agriculture
	3	Biodiversity conservation	Increase in biodiversity conservation	HNVfarming area (IRENA)		Data not available in EUROSTAT
	4	Soil protection against e.g. desertification, salanisation, erosion, intensification etc.	Increase in soil protection against e.g. desertification, salanisation, erosion, intensification etc.	abstraction of fresh water by agriculture, etc... (mio m^3/yr)	1	Eurostat → Regions → Environment
	5	Extensification	Extensification	LSU per ha of agricultural holding / per ha of fodder area stocking density LU (LSU) per ha	1	Eurostat → Regions → Agriculture FSS
	6	Organic land use	Increase in organic land use	organic area (1000 ha) or (% of UAA)	1	Eurostat → Environment → Agriculture
	7	Prevent emissions of pollutants to land and water	Decrease in emissions of pollutants to land and water	composite agricultural pollution indicator: · Emission of methane (CH4) (air) · Emission of nitrous oxide (N2O) (air) · Emission of nitrogen (N) (land/water) · Pesticide use (herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, · Fertiliser use (nitrogenous, phosphate, potash)	1	Eurostat → Environment → Agriculture
	8	Energy efficiency	Increase in energy efficiency	· annual use of energy per ha of crop or LU	?	• IRENA
				· emission of greenhouse gases (Global warming	1	• Eurostat → Environment → Agriculture
	9	Waste	Decrease in Waste	(hazardous) waste from agriculture and forestry in 1000t	1	Eurostat → Environment → Agriculture
SOCIAL OBJECTIVES	**No**	**Social baseline indicator**	**Social impact indicator**	**Measurement**	**Nuts**	**Source**
Quality of Life	1	net migration	Change in net migration	immigrants minus emigrants	2	eurostat, general, regions, migration statistics
	2	access to basic services	Change in access to basic services	no of doctors per 100000 inhabitants	2	eurostat, general, regions, health statistics
	3	life long learning	Change in life long learning	no of adults participating in education/training	2	Eurostat -> general->regions ->regional labour market
	4	commuting among nuts 2 levels	Change in commuting among nuts 2 levels	no of agricultural employees working in another region	2	eurostat, general, regions, regional labour market
	5	service provision level	Change in service provision level	no of services per ha		Data not available in EUROSTAT
Diversification	1	pluriactivity	Change in pluriactivity	farm household income generated off-farm		FADN
	2	tourism in rural area	Change in tourism in rural area	no of bed-places	2	eurostat, general, regions, tourism statistics
	3	Increase of day visitors	Increase of day visitors	no of day visitors		Data not available in EUROSTAT
	4	number of new sme's in rural area	Increase in number of new sme's in rural area	no of new sme's established		Data not available in EUROSTAT
	5	total income	Change in total income	M euros entrepreneurial income	2	Eurostat, regions, agriculture
	6	net real disposable income	Change in net real disposable income	euro per capita	2	eurostat, general, regions, economic accounts, household

Annex 4 Examples of potential additional baseline indicators

Within the mid-term evaluation of rural development[6], an assessment is made on the indicators used to answer the evaluation questions. As this assessment could be useful for the identification of good baseline and impact related indicators, we have studied the results of this evaluation. It proved, however, that most of the indicators were output or result related, rather than baseline and impact related.

By making use of the assessment of the mid-term evaluation, it should be kept in mind that the evaluators assessed these indicators in the light of the usefulness for the mid-term evaluation and the extent to which the indicators were monitored. Furthermore, the evaluators often commented on the causality. However, this is an issue that counts for all baseline and impact related indicators and does not give an indication of the quality.

The result of the exercise is presented in the following table. In the first column the name of the indicator is presented, followed by the issue the indicator is related to. The third column includes the remarks from the evaluators. In the fourth we indicated for which axis the indicator might be relevant and in the last column we comment on the possible usefulness of the indicator as a baseline / impact related indicator.

[6] Agra Ceas Consulting, Synthesis of rural development mid-term evaluation lot 1 and lot 2, Second interim report, July 2005

Indicator	Indicator for what	Usefulness according to evaluator	Related to priority axis	Comments
Priority axis: horizontal				
Income level of the farming population maintained or improved, of which - family farm income - income of non-family workforce on holdings - relating to pluriactivity of part-time farmers or to gainful activities on holdings other than the production of basic agricultural/forestry products - indirectly as a result of supplier effects	Cross cutting issues	- This requires adequate baseline data - It is likely to be difficult to assign income to different activities and establishing supplier effects could be problematic	horizontal / 2	There will be no statistical information on (all) the subcategories of the indicator. The general indicator 'income level of farming population' could be useful as baseline/impact related indicator.

Indicator	Indicator for what	Usefulness according to evaluator	Related to priority axis	Comments
Priority axis: 1				
Trend in spread of contagious diseases during handling and transport of animals for slaughter	Improvement health and welfare	- Causality - Other indicators proposed: awareness hygiene and proportion slaughterhouses implemented relevant EU guidelines	1	Could be an useful baseline/impact related indicator.
Awareness hygiene and proportion slaughterhouses implemented relevant EU guidelines	Improvement health and welfare	Proposed by the evaluators	1	Could be useful indicator, but will be difficult to find statistical data.

Indicator	Indicator for what	Usefulness according to evaluator	Related to priority axis	Comments
Priority axis 2				
Trend in structure / quality parameters (description)	Maintaining forest resources	Causality	2	Qualitative indicator
Average annual net carbon storage 2000-2012	Maintaining forest resources	The main issue here is confounding factors and degree to which it is possible to anticipate storage to 2012	2	If the indicator is adapted to trend over the programme period, it could be an useful baseline / impact related indicator
Additional/maintained employment on holdings	Contribution forestry to economic and social aspects of rural development	Care should be taken with additional hours for existing workforce, leading to an increase in FTE	2	Employment in forestry sector is already included in the list of indicators
Critical sites maintained / improved, of which Natura 2000 and of which protected from natural hazards	Ecological functions of forests	-	2	First part of indicator (Natura 2000) already included in the list of indicators. Second part of the indicator is probably more result related.
Trend in protection vulnerable non commercial species/ varieties	Ecological functions of forests	Could be measured through alpha and beta indices	2	Could be useful baseline/impact related indicator
Number of outbreaks over time	Ecological functions of forests	Suggested by the evaluator	2	Could be useful baseline/impact related indicator.
Basal area and stand density	Ecological functions of forests	Suggested by the evaluator	2	Could be useful baseline indicator.

Share of land where soil protection has improved, particularly by reducing erosions Evidence of positive environmentally related trends in farming systems, practices, ecological infrastructure or land-use due to assisted actions	Rural environment protected and improved	There is no consideration of the extent of improvement Causality needs to be determined	2	Difficult to measure. Related indicators, like reduction of erosion, are more useful. Second part of the indicator is more result related.
Evidence of improvements on non-agricultural land in terms of biodiversity/landscape/natural resources	Rural environment protected and improved	There is no consideration of the extent of improvement Causality needs to be determined	2	Difficult to measure. Related, more concrete indicators, like number of specific species, are more useful.
Trend in annual greenhouse emissions (tons of greenhouse equivalents), of which - from carbon oxide (%) - from nitrous oxide (%) - from methane (%)	Cross cutting themes	-	2	Useful baseline/impact related indicator. Related indicator (share of agriculture in GHG emissions) already included.

Indicator	Indicator for what	Usefulness according to evaluator	Related to priority axis	Comments
Priority axis 3				
Tourist numbers, distance travelled	Greater attractiveness for population and tourists	These indicators are suggested by the evaluators	3	Tourist numbers is a good baseline/impact related indicator. For the second part of the indicator, probably no statistics are available.
Farm income maintained/ improved of which '- gross farm income - from pluriactivity	income rural population	- Define whether this should be calculated over gross or net income - Causality	3	For the sub-indicators probably no statistical information is available.
Share of rural population enjoying access to amenity land / nature or conserved rural heritage/sites thanks to assisted actions	Living conditions and welfare of the rural population	There is an issue here in relation to the catchment-area of amenities	3	If the catchment-area is defined and included in the indicator, this might be an useful indicator. However, it will be difficult to measure through statistics.
Number of full-time equivalent jobs maintained or created	Extent to which the diversification of of-farm activities helped maintain employment/ extent to which the setting up of young farmers contributed to safeguarding employment	Care should be taken with additional hours for existing workforce, leading to an increase in fte	1 and 3	If the remark of the evaluator is taken into account, this is an useful impact indicator, especially if divided over the different sectors.
Income level of the non-farming population maintained or improved, of which - relating to tourism - relating to local crafts/products - indirectly as a result of supplier and multiplier effects	Cross cutting issues	This requires adequate baseline data It is likely to be difficult to assign income to different activities and establishing supplier effects could be problematic	horizontal / 3	There will be no statistical information on (all) the subcategories of the indicator.

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