

35th

Conference of the Directors
of EU Paying Agencies
Komotini, Greece, 9th - 11th April 2014



WORKSHOP 2

Verifiability and controllability of Rural Development Programs by
Paying Agency

Conclusions

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Workshop 2 - Verifiability and controllability of RDP

1. *Ex ante* assessment

- **What went well/what should be improved at PA level and between MA and PA**
 - Time frame is too short putting the pressure on PA, possible risk of the assessment being just a formal procedure;
 - Not enough information on measures for the assessment; further definition on national legislation;
 - Different goals/views policy departments and PA – balance needed;

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- Difficulty to conciliate certain environmental measures and controllability ;
- Implementing acts not finalized;
- In some MS good cooperation between MA and PA;
- Improvement in selection criteria;
- Increase IT integration;

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1. Ex ante assessment

- **Main changes introduced in RDP**
 - Increase use of simplified costs;
 - Harmonization of rules between 2nd and 1st pillar;
 - Less and more efficient selection criteria;
 - Harmonized measures at national level in IACS;
 - Closer monitoring of the programs;

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1. Ex ante assessment

- **Main mitigating/remedial actions proposed in order to reduce error rate**
 - Better training for staff and beneficiaries (Ex: Tendering procedures)
 - Better communication/information to beneficiaries;
 - Reduction of the number of measures;
 - Increased use of IT systems (notification to farmers , validation eligibility criteria; interaction between IT systems from different public bodies);

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- In some MS reinforced cooperation between MA and PA;
- Preventing double financing under different measures;
- Improved administrative checks through development of databases (Ex: Animal identification for different species, sheep and goat, pigs, horses);
- Avoiding complex eligibility criteria, simplifying and moving them to commitments;

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2. Assessment during the implementation of RDP

- **“Lessons learned” from the ex ante assessment**
 - PA, MA, farmers, other stakeholders, should work together in close cooperation since the beginning;
 - Increased awareness of the problem of error rates, should imply better cooperation between PA and MA;
 - Increase use of Simplified costs – important to share experiences to overcome the difficulties to apply to certain investment measures;
 - Clear definitions to avoid misunderstandings;

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2. Assessment during the implementation of RDP

- **How to make the assessment effective and timely in order to obtain concrete results in the error rate**
 - Impact of decisions take time to reflect on the error rate;
 - Audit results too late for use;
 - Sharing experience between PA on action plans and audit results;
 - Continuous monitoring of errors;

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2. Assessment during the implementation of RDP

- **Role of PAs during the implementation of the measures**
 - Permanent work group with PA, MA, LAG, Regional Authorities; Policy departments in the ministry for analyzing error rates;
 - PA should give more information to MA on error rates found;
 - Need to reinforce the importance of reducing error rate at political level by the COM;

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Main Conclusions

(1)

- Time frame is too short putting the pressure on PA, possible risk of the assessment being just a formal procedure;
- In some MS good cooperation between MA and PA;
- Improvement in selection criteria;
- Increase use of simplified costs;
- Better training for staff and beneficiaries (Ex: Tendering procedures);
- Increased use of IT systems (notification to farmers , validation eligibility criteria; interaction between IT systems from different public bodies);

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Main Conclusions (2)

- Increased awareness of the problem of error rates, should imply better cooperation between PA and MA;
- Increase use of Simplified costs – important to share experiences to overcome the difficulties to apply to certain investment measures;
- Impact of decisions take time to reflect on the error rate;
- Sharing experience between PA on action plans and audit results;
- Need to reinforce the importance of reducing error rate at political level by the COM;

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Thank you for your attention!