

**MASTER** European Innovations for a Sustainable Management of Albanian  
Territories, Rural Areas and Agriculture: Instruments, policies, strategies

# Module description fiche V.2

## D3.2. v.2

### Module 8

# Instruments and policy evaluation methods

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## 1. *Description of the module - objectives, and procedures*

### 1.1 OBJECTIVES OF THE MODULE

The objectives of this module provide the following:

1. The role of public policies and instruments for transformation of local territories
2. The importance of monitoring and evaluation of policies, programs and projects related to rural development and territories
3. Practical guiding milestones for successful monitoring and evaluation design
4. The diverse evaluation approaches applied for assessing the impact of public policies
5. Encourage policy makers for considering impact evaluation as part of theory of change and generate decisions that are based on evidence, for a better spending of resources and improving living standards

### 1.2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this module students will be able to:

- ✓ Assess that critical role of integrating the process of planning with monitoring and evaluation and their importance in the development of results
- ✓ Distinguish differences between monitoring and evaluation
- ✓ Determine the main steps of monitoring and evaluation during the cycle of the project
- ✓ Understand why impact evaluation of policies, programs and projects might be undertaken and when it is worthwhile to do so
- ✓ Measure project objectives with performance indicators
- ✓ Gain knowledge on various methodologies that are used to estimate impact evaluation

### 1.3. DESCRIPTION OF THE MODULE

#### **PART I. OVERARCHING ISSUES OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT**

##### *Topic 1. ISSUES OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND TERRITORIES: CONSENSUS, CONTROVERSIES AND UNCERTAINTIES*

- 1.1 Notions and definitions in rural and regional studies
- 1.2 Undergoing changes of public policies in terms of rural development
- 1.3 Approaches in terms of regional balance and growth
- 1.4 The European example: A long journey towards Integration and sustainability
- 1.5 What future for rural areas? Scenarios for possible development paths

##### *Topic 2. CAPACITY BUILDING FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION*

- 2.1 Capacity building for what?
- 2.2 Resources for monitoring and evaluation
- 2.3 Capacity building as a learning by doing process. The Canadian case.
- 2.4 Monitoring capacity development
- 2.5 How to carry out a capacity assessment
- 2.6 Selected tools for capacity development practitioners

*Topic 3. AGRICULTURAL POLICY INSTRUMENTS*

- 3.1 Undergoing changes of public policies in terms of rural development
- 3.2 Three important solutions for selecting specific development paths and individual instruments
- 3.3 Agricultural policy instruments

**PART II. PRINCIPLES OF POLICY EVALUATION**

*Topic 4. GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF IMPACT EVALUATION*

- 4.1 Evidence based policy making: Why evaluate?
- 4.2 Definitions of monitoring and evaluation
- 4.3 Differences between monitoring and evaluation
- 4.4 Types of questions that evaluations try to address
- 4.5 Impact evaluation for policy decisions
- 4.6 Deciding whether to carry out an impact evaluation
- 4.7 Prospective vs Retrospective impact evaluation
- 4.8 Efficacy and effectiveness studies
- 4.9 Complementary of different evaluation approaches

*Topic 5. INDICATORS FOR MONITORING & EVALUATION*

- 5.1 Constructing a theory of change
- 5.2 The concept and importance of performance monitoring indicators
- 5.3 The logical framework/ZOPP approach
- 5.4 Developing a result chain
- 5.5 Types of performance indicators
- 5.6 Ways of measuring performance
- 5.7 General principles for selecting indicators

*Topic 6. MONITORING AND EVALUATING POLICIES AND PROJECTS*

- 6.1 Specifying evaluation questions
- 6.2 The design of monitoring and evaluation systems
- 6.3 Data sources for monitoring and evaluation
- 6.4 Data collection and management
- 6.5 Institutional arrangements and capacity building
- 6.6 Integration of quantitative and qualitative methods
- 6.7 Cost benefit and cost effectiveness analysis
- 6.8 Sample checklist of activities and actions for effective M&E

*Topic 7. METHODS FOR MONITORING, EVALUATION & IMPLEMENTATION*

- 7.1 Sampling and power calculations
- 7.2 Drawing a sample
- 7.3 Deciding on the size of a sample for impact evaluation
- 7.4 Types of data that are needed

- 7.5 Using existing quantitative data
- 7.6 Collection of new survey data

*Topic 8. METHODS FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF POLICIES*

- 8.1 *Casual inference and counterfactuals*
- 8.2 *Randomized assignment*
- 8.3 *Instrumental variables*
- 8.4 *Regression discontinuity design*
- 8.5 *Difference in differences*
- 8.6 *Matching*
- 8.7 *Choosing an impact evaluation method*
- 8.8 *Managing impact evaluation*

**PART III. PROJECT WORK/ASSIGNMENT**

**1.4. PREREQUISITES**

The following prerequisites are required in order to successfully complete the module:

- ✓ Knowledge on rural development and policies, statistics, finance and project development

**1.5. STUDENTS OBLIGATIONS AND THE EVALUATION METHOD**

The evaluation of the students will be based on the progress that he/she has provided during the whole semester, project work and final exam, as it is described in the table below:

Nb.	(the evaluation grid is only indicative, the pair of lecturers will decide of the final module evaluation grid)	Evaluation in %	Maximal amount
1	Participation to teaching hours	%	5
3	Group research work (project elaboration)	%	45
4	Final exam (written)	%	50

**1.6. REQUESTS TO THE STUDENT**

- A. *Instrumental skills*
- B. *Systemic skills*

## 1.7. EVALUATION OF LEARNING (calculation of ECTS)

Nb.	Learning elements	Work (hours)
<b>I</b>	<b>Learning elements (in the institution)</b>	
	Theoretical class	30
	Practical class	20
	Individual or team assignments	25
	<b>Total I</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>II</b>	<b>Individual work from the student</b>	
1	Individual work	70
2	Preparation for the exams	5
	<b>Total II</b>	<b>75</b>
	<b>Total (I+II)</b>	<b>150/250</b>
	<b>Numbers of ECTS</b>	<b>6/10</b>

## 2. Calendar of the module/Online teaching classes

Topic	Date	Lecturing Format	Lecturer
Overview and content of the module/Description of project Assignment	Monday 12-Apr-2021	Online – Google Meet	Dr. Dorjan Marku
Issues of rural development and territories: Consensus, controversies, uncertainties	Tuesday 13-Apr-2021	Online – Google Meet	Dr. Dorjan Marku
Principles of evaluation	Wednesday 14-Apr-2021	Online – Zoom	Prof. Dr. Manfred Zeller/Orkhan Sariyev
Capacity building for monitoring and evaluation	Thursday 15-Apr-2021	Online – Google Meet	Dr. Dorjan Marku
Agricultural policy instruments	Friday 16-Apr-2021	Online – Google Meet	Dr. Dorjan Marku
Discussions & orientation related to the practical part (group/individual work)	Saturday 17-Apr-2021	Google Classroom	
Indicators for monitoring and evaluation for rural dev policies and projects	Monday 19-Apr-2021	Online – Zoom	Prof. Dr. Manfred Zeller/Orkhan Sariyev

Indicators for monitoring and evaluation for rural dev policies and project	Tuesday 20-Apr-2021	Online – Zoom	Prof. Dr. Manfred Zeller/Orkhan Sariyev
Linking evaluation needs to design choices and methods	Wednesday 21-Apr-2021	Online – Zoom	Prof. Dr. Manfred Zeller/Orkhan Sariyev
Agricultural policy instruments	Thursday 22-Apr-2021	Online – Google Meet	Dr. Dorjan Marku
Evaluation, monitoring and impact assessment of rural development plan and measures, instruments of evaluation	Friday 23 Apr-2021	Online – Zoom	Prof. Dr. Manfred Zeller/Orkhan Sariyev
Discussions & orientation related to the practical part (group/individual work)	Saturday 24-Apr-2021	Google Classroom	
Project preparation/Discussions/Presentation	Monday – Friday April 26-30-2021	Online – Google Meet/Google /Classroom	

### 3. Content of the module

#### **TOPIC 1 – ISSUES OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND TERRITORIES: CONSENSUS, CONTROVERSIES AND UNCERTAINTIES**

In this topic students are introduced with the main issues that have a strategic importance on the development of rural territories and regions, the ongoing debate in terms of policy perspectives, uncertainties and consensus of different aspects related to development. In addition, the notions of rurality, development and regions will be described. The objective is to provide information and tools in order to address the question of rural and peri-urban development. During this topic are summarized the different approaches to territorial and regional development in rural and peri-urban areas. The aim will be to gain a better understanding of the links between issues of regional and territorial development with issues of rural development.

##### **Literature:**

- ✓ *Steve Wiggins, 2015. Agricultural Development Policy: A contemporary agenda.*
- ✓ *Andre Torre, Frederic Wallet 2016. Regional Development in Rural Areas. Analytical Tools and Public Policies. Springer. ISBN 978-3-319-02372-4.*
- ✓ *Marc Antrop, 2004. Rural – urban conflicts and opportunities.*
- ✓ *OECD (2006b). The New Rural Paradigm: Policies and Governance, OECD, Paris.*
- ✓ *OECD (2005). New Approaches to Rural Policy. Lessons from around the world.*

#### **TOPIC 2 – CAPACITY BUILDING FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

Capacity building issues have a direct impact on regional development and inequalities across regions. Based on that, students will be familiar with the role of human resources when addressing the establishment of formal and informal institutions, their responsibilities in policy and decision –

making and implementation of efficient programs for the development of rural territories and regions. The importance of investments into capacity building will be defined, as it is considered to be one of the key factors for modernization, restructuring and stabilization of territorial assets. Also, students have the possibility to understand the importance of assessing capacities, main capacity assessment tools, and why this process is so important for monitoring and evaluation of policies, programs and projects.

**Literature:**

- ✓ *OECD 2018. Rethinking Regional Development Policy – making, OECD Multi-level Governance Studies, Paris.*
- ✓ *FAO 2015. Approaches to Capacity Development in Programming: Processes and Tools. Revised Edition. ISBN 978-92-5-109024-4.*
- ✓ *AGRINATURA 2012. Capacity Development in Agricultural Research for Development.*
- ✓ *Nigel Simister, Rachel Smith 2010. Monitoring and Evaluating Capacity Building.*

**TOPIC 3 – AGRICULTURAL POLICY INSTRUMENTS**

In the first section of this topic, the students are introduced with different changes that have occurred related to agricultural issues, rural policies and some important public interventions for the development of rural territories. Later on, are defined the various agricultural policy instruments applied in EU, which are categorized into six subject areas of intervention. Different instruments used in different regions may not be appropriate for others. In addition, a great effort it is placed on the directives that should be followed in order to improve the design and the implementation of policies on rural territories and regions. Students will obtain knowledge on the major challenges, associated with the levels of investments of governments in OECD countries and make comparisons with other non-EU countries (the case of Albania).

**Literature:**

- ✓ *Andre Torre, Frederic Wallet 2016. Regional Development in Rural Areas. Analytical Tools and Public Policies. Springer. ISBN 978-3-319-02372-4.*
- ✓ *Julia N. Reimers 2018. Handbook for the Promotion of the Agri-Food Sector. GIZ.*
- ✓ *OECD 2006. Coherence of Agricultural and Rural Development Policies. The Development Dimension.*
- ✓ *Joseph E. Stiglitz 2013. Some theoretical aspects of agricultural policies. Oxford Journals, Oxford University Press.*

**TOPIC 4 – GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF IMPACT EVALUATION**

Monitoring and evaluation are some very important functions that if applied appropriately may improve the performance of policies, programs and projects, both in national and local level. In this context, the principles of monitoring and evaluation, the importance of monitoring and evaluation and the relationship between them are defined.

After getting introduced with the principles mentioned above, students are provided with information in terms of functions, frameworks, and examples on how a successful evaluation can promote the sustainability of programs are presented.

**Literature:**



- ✓ Prof. Dr. Manfred Zeller 2019. Study lectures “Farm and Project Evaluations”, Hohenheim University.
- ✓ World Bank Group (2016). *Impact Evaluation in Practice, Second Edition*.
- ✓ OECD 2009. *Methods to monitor and evaluate the impact of agricultural policies on Rural Development*.
- ✓ World Bank (1996). *Designing Project Monitoring and Evaluation. Operations Evaluation Department. Lessons and Practices. No. 8*.

### **TOPIC 5 – INDICATORS FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

During this topic are explained the initial steps in setting up an evaluation. The students have the possibility to get informed about the importance of constructing a theory of change and obtain knowledge in this regard. Part of the steps are even the selection of indicators to assess the performance of policy or programs. The outcome measures that are selected during a program or project are determinant on whether a program, reform or project is successful. In addition to that, characteristics of performance indicators are explained.

#### **Literature:**

- ✓ Prof. Dr. Manfred Zeller 2019. Study lectures “Farm and Project Evaluations”, Hohenheim University.
- ✓ World Bank Group (2016). *Impact Evaluation in Practice, Second Edition*.
- ✓ Andre Torre, Frederic Wallet 2016. *Regional Development in Rural Areas. Analytical Tools and Public Policies*. Springer. ISBN 978-3-319-02372-4.
- ✓ OECD (1999). *RISI report on “Territorial Indicators of Socio-Economic Dynamics”, document prepared by the Territorial Development Service, Territorial Statistics and Indicators Unit, Paris*.
- ✓ OECD (1994). *Creating rural indicators for shaping territorial policies, OECD Publications, Paris*.

### **TOPIC 6 – MONITORING AND EVALUATING POLICIES & PROJECTS**

This topic explains what impact evaluations do, what questions they answer, what are the main features of a successful monitoring and evaluation design and the implications for policy design and implementation. The steps for setting up a successful monitoring and evaluation of the program are reviewed. In the second part are explained the main types of data sources that can be included in monitoring and evaluation, data collection instruments and different approaches that integrate quantitative and qualitative methods.

#### **Literature:**

- ✓ Prof. Dr. Manfred Zeller 2019. Study lectures “Farm and Project Evaluations”, Hohenheim University.
- ✓ World Bank Group (2016). *Impact Evaluation in Practice, Second Edition*.
- ✓ OECD (2009b). *Methods to Monitor and Evaluate the Impacts of Agricultural Policies on Rural Development, OECD, Paris*.

### **TOPIC 7 – METHODS FOR MONITORING, EVALUATION & IMPLEMENTATION**

*On this topic students are provided with guidance on how to get adequate information for impact evaluation. They are getting familiar with the drawing of samples and how to conduct power calculations in order to determine the size of the sample. On the second part of the topic are discussed different steps for data survey collection (who is collecting the data, conducting fieldwork, processing and storing).*

#### **Literature:**

- ✓ World Bank Group (2016). *Impact Evaluation in Practice, Second Edition.*
- ✓ Prof. Dr. Manfred Zeller 2019. Study lectures “Farm and Project Evaluations”, Hohenheim University.
- ✓ World Bank Group (2016). *Impact Evaluation in Practice, Second Edition.*
- ✓ European Commission, 2015. *Synthesis of Ex Ante Evaluations of Rural Development Programs 2014 – 2020.*

### **TOPIC 8 – METHODS FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF POLICIES**

*During this topic are explained the different methods that are available for conducting impact evaluations and the advantages and disadvantages of each one of them. Also, is explained why and how each method can produce a valid estimate, in which policy context and what are the main limitations of each one.*

#### **Literature:**

- ✓ Prof. Dr. Manfred Zeller 2019. Study lectures “Farm and Project Evaluations”, Hohenheim University.
- ✓ World Bank Group (2016). *Impact Evaluation in Practice, Second Edition.*

## **4. Planning of the practical teaching classes**

Practical classes (assignments) are considered an important part for learning, where the students have the possibility to apply into practice what they have learned in theory. On this module, students are provided with some up to date examples of monitoring and evaluation of projects and evaluation manual, containing the core methodology used by different organizations (IFAD) and International good evaluation standards, in order to conduct impact evaluations. Based on this reference, during the classes students are required to apply part of the above mentioned standards into different implemented projects.

## **5. Individual/group project**

Since the beginning of the teaching classes, students will be introduced with the project assignment that they have to prepare. In addition, students will be divided into groups and asked to develop a project application, describe its objectives, theory of change and logical framework. After that, based on the assumption that their project has been awarded as winner, they will have to define the performance indicators and methods to be used in order to evaluate the impact of the project.

Every group will have to present a presentation up to 15 minutes and get prepared for different questions that will be addressed from all class participants. Each representative of the group will have to provide his/her tasks during the project assignment and be prepared for individual questions that will be addressed.

Each group will be asked to send their project work in word format, PowerPoint presentation, specify the task of each member and create a personal file.