

### Quality Assessment for Final Report

#### *Evaluation support study of the EU support schemes for agriculture in the outermost regions (POSEI) and smaller Aegean islands (SAI)*

**Assessment carried out by(\*):**

 Steering group 

 Evaluation function:  DG AGRI Unit A.3 - Policy performance, in cooperation with the interservice group steering the evaluation.

 Other (please specify) 

(\*) Multiple crosses possible

**Date of assessment** 04/2024

Objective of the assessment	Aspects to be assessed	Fulfilled? Y, N, N/A	Comments
1. Scope of evaluation	Confirm with the Terms of Reference and the work plan that the contractor:		
	a. Has addressed the study issues and specific questions.	Y	
	b. Has undertaken the tasks described in the work plan.	Y	The analytical work was carried out within the agreed contractual deadlines. However, the subsequent revisions and corrections of the study report (mainly its format, in line with the EU convention) postponed the completion of the work.
	c. Has covered the requested scope for time period, geographical areas, target groups, aspects of the intervention, etc.	Y	Analysis of was based on a limited number of regional case studies, covering the targeted agricultural sectors relevant for analysis.
2. Overall contents of report	Check that the report includes:		
	a. Executive Summary according to an agreed format, in the three required languages (minimum EN and FR)	Y	Executive summary only in English and French has been requested and accepted as an additional deliverable.
	b. Main report with required components	Y	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Title and content page.</li> <li>▪ A description of the policy being evaluated, its context, the purpose of the evaluation, contextual limitations, methodology, etc.</li> <li>▪ Findings, conclusions, and judgments for all evaluation issues and specific questions.</li> <li>▪ The required outputs and deliverables.</li> <li>▪ Recommendations as appropriate.</li> </ul>		The final study report contains all the listed elements and its content reflects the contractual agreement and further discussion with the Commission services.
	c. All required annexes	N/A	The final study report includes several annexes (in table, figure, and boxes format). Those annexes contain tables, figures, and boxes with examples. As annexes underpin and support the study, they are embedded and published with the final report.
3. Data collection	Check that data is accurate and complete		
	a. Data is accurate	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Data is free from factual and logical errors.</li> <li>▪ The report is consistent, i.e. no contradictions.</li> <li>▪ Calculations are correct.</li> </ul>		<p>The data used were collected from primary sources (case studies, surveys, and interviews) and secondary sources (extensive literature/desk review of various relevant references listed in the final study report). Robust qualitative data were not always available, both in primary and secondary sources. However, the contractor has proposed remedies, using qualitative data and, where possible, numerical examples and data aggregation.</p> <p>Given that the large amount of data of varying quality was analysed and presented in the report, some inaccuracies cannot be excluded.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Relevant literature and previous studies have been sufficiently reviewed.</li> <li>▪ Existing monitoring data has been appropriately used.</li> <li>▪ Limitations to the data retrieved are pointed out and explained.</li> <li>▪ Correcting measures have been taken to address any problems encountered in the process of data gathering.</li> </ul>	Y	The data collection methods used are well described and are consistent with the objectives of the study. The contractor identified the data collection challenges at the early stage of its work and proposed and applied the correcting measures, although certain data limitations remained. Limitations and their effect on the analysis and conclusions for the

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			respective evaluation questions are duly described in the final study report.
4. Analysis and judgments	Check that analysis is sound and relevant		
	a. Analytical framework is sound	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The methodology used for each area of analysis is clearly explained and has been applied consistently and as planned.</li> <li>▪ Judgements are based on transparent criteria.</li> <li>▪ The analysis relies on two or more independent lines of evidence.</li> <li>▪ Inputs from different stakeholders are used in a balanced way.</li> <li>▪ Findings are reliable enough to be replicable</li> </ul>		The analytical framework and methodological approach, developed in the structuring work phase and detailed in the inception report, was summarised for the purpose of the final study report. The latter includes judgement criteria, indicators, methods, tools and data sources, limits, and solutions. Input from various stakeholders is widely used, with caveats regarding its nuanced quality. Despite data limitations, findings are enough reliable.
	b. Conclusions are sound	Y	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conclusions are properly addressing the evaluation questions and are coherently and logically substantiated.</li> <li>▪ There are no relevant conclusions missing according to the evidence presented.</li> <li>▪ Findings corroborate existing knowledge; differences or contradictions with existing knowledge are explained.</li> <li>▪ Critical issues are presented in a fair and balanced manner.</li> <li>▪ Limitations on validity of the conclusions are pointed out.</li> </ul>		The conclusions are consistent with the analysis and findings, and cautious given the limitations encountered.	
5. Usefulness of recommendations	a. Recommendations are useful	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recommendations flow logically from the conclusions, are practical, realistic, and addressed to the relevant Commission Service(s) or other stakeholders.</li> </ul>		The recommendations for the respective evaluation criteria (efficiency, relevance and coherence) are clearly based on the conclusions, formulated in practical terms and addressed to the identified stakeholders.
	b. Recommendations are complete	Y	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recommendations cover all relevant main conclusions</li> </ul>			

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6. Clarity of the report	a. Report is easy to read	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Written style and presentation are adapted for the various relevant target readers.</li> <li>▪ The quality of language is sufficient for publishing.</li> <li>▪ Specific terminology is clearly defined.</li> <li>▪ Tables, graphs, and similar presentation tools are used to facilitate understanding; they are well commented with narrative text.</li> </ul>		The language is quite technical reflecting the detailed scope of this study, addressed to a specialised audience. Some parts of the analysis are a bit long and refer to visualisation in annexes. The supporting tables, figures and illustrative boxes should be read with narrative text and as a substantiation/detail of the latter.
	b. Report is logical and focused	Y	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The structure of the report is logical and consistent, information is not unjustifiably duplicated, and it is easy to get an overview of the report and its key results.</li> <li>▪ The report provides a proper focus on main issues and key messages are summarised and highlighted.</li> <li>▪ The length of the report (excluded appendices) is proportionate (good balance of descriptive and analytical information)</li> <li>▪ Detailed information and technical analysis are left for the appendix; thus information overload is avoided in the main report</li> </ul>		The report is well elaborated. Some sections could have been shortened, same as the detailed information in the annexes.	

<b>Overall conclusion</b>			
The report could be approved in its current state, as it overall complies with the contractual conditions and relevant professional evaluation standards	Y	The report is well elaborated and presented. It provides in-depth complementary information useful for the Commission evaluation work.	