



Brussels,
AGRI.DDG1.B.2/AZ

QUALITY ASSESSMENT

Subject: PILOT PROJECT "AGROPOL: DEVELOPMENT OF EUROPEAN CROSS BORDER AGRIBUSINESS MODEL REGION "

Evaluation Sheet

Concerning these criteria, the study report is:	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent
1. Relevance: Does the study respond to information needs, in particular as expressed in the terms of references?				X	
2. Appropriate design: Is the design of the study adequate for obtaining the results needed to answer the study questions?				X	
3. Reliable data: Are data collected adequate for their intended use and have their reliability been ascertained?				X	
4. Sound analysis: Are data systematically analysed to answer study questions and cover other information needs in a valid manner?				X	
5. Credible findings: Do findings follow logically from and are justified by, the data/information analysis and interpretations based on pre-established criteria and rational?				X	
6. Valid conclusions: Are conclusions non-biased and fully based on findings?				X	
7. Clarity: Is the report well structured, balanced and written in an understandable manner?			X		
Taking into account the contextual constraints of the study, the overall quality rating of the report is:				X	

JUSTIFICATION FOR THE EVALUATION

1. Relevance: The relevance of the pilot project is considered very good. The pilot project addresses the needs identified by European Parliament (who initiated the project) and elaborated by the Commission in the tender specifications. The blueprint produced as final output of the project provides regional innovation actors with practical tools for realising cross-border cooperation in order to stimulate innovation and growth in the rural agro-based economy.

2. Appropriate design: The pilot project design was regarded as very good. The pilot project method chosen is coherent with the pilot project needs. The method is clearly described and illustrated by examples. The two cross-border cooperation projects implemented with the support of the Agropol consortium covered a wide range of actors in different value chains, providing a robust basis for the project's findings.

3. Reliable data: Building on a EU wide mapping of existing initiatives, the pilot projects builds on the concrete experiences of a wide range of agricultural and rural stakeholders in two pilot transborder areas, complemented by completed by data gathered through three workshops of experts and stakeholders.

4. Sound analysis: The analysis performed went beyond the requirements set out in the terms of reference. It was based on the methods and tools agreed within the Steering Group. Two pilot projects in two cross-border regions were carried out although the tender required only one cross-border pilot project. Three dissemination events were organised in three different European areas even if the contract required only one dissemination event in Brussels.

5. Credible findings: Credibility of findings was evaluated as very good. The findings are based on clearly defined evaluation criteria and supported by the evidence provided through the analysis. Stakeholder opinions were considered and reflected. The contractor tested in itinere the implementation of the project through a survey of experts in agricultural innovation (the members of the subgroup on innovation for agricultural productivity and sustainability).

6. Valid conclusions: Validity of conclusions was considered very good as well. The conclusions properly addressed the pilot project themes. They are based on the evaluation findings, drawn from the analysis. The blueprint for cross-border cooperation produced as the final output of the project, provides the project's target group (regional administrations, rural development programmes' managing authorities and national rural networks) with a realistic insight into the potential and feasibility of cross-border cooperation in the agro-food sector, and offer practical guidance and tools to set-up and organise such cooperation.

7. Clarity: The clarity of the report was considered good. The report includes all elements required by the tender specifications, it is well structured and provides a clear description of the rationale and the findings of the pilot project.

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