

Quality Assessment for the Study *Feasibility Study for joint Space Agriculture Solutions on Nutrient Management* Final Report

DG/Unit DG AGRI, Unit D.4.

Official(s) managing the study: Isidro Campos Rodriguez

Contractor: PWC EU Services

Assessment carried out by^(*):

Steering group

Technical manager

Other (please specify)

(*) Multiple crosses possible

Date of assessment [01/03/2019]

CHECKLIST – Quality Assessment for Final Study Reports

Objective of the assessment	Aspects to be assessed	Fulfilled? Y, N, N/A	Comments
1. Scope of the study	Confirm with the Terms of Reference and the work plan that the contractor :		
	a. Has addressed the study issues and specific questions	Y	Study issues have been addressed following the project objectives and scope
	b. Has undertaken the tasks described in the work plan	Y	
	c. Has covered the requested scope for time period, geographical areas, target groups, aspects of the intervention, etc.	Y	
2. Overall contents of report	Check that the report includes:		
	a. Executive Summary according to an agreed format	Y	The executive summary was not included in the list of deliverables, but the contractor provided a summary in English.
	b. Main report with required components <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Title and Content Page ▪ Findings, conclusions, and judgments for all issues and specific questions ▪ The required outputs and deliverables ▪ Recommendations as appropriate 	Y	All the components are included in the final report and independent documents. Additional information like informatics developments are available in a public repository. The conclusions provided allow to define the possible alternatives.
	c. All required annexes	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Implementation plan •Presentation of the results of the project •Visual description system and layers •Tender package with the break down costs estimated (order of magnitude)
3. Data collection	Check that data is accurate and complete		
	a. Data is accurate	N/A	No substantial errors

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Data is free from factual and logical errors ▪ The report is consistent, i.e. no contradictions ▪ Calculations are correct 		were detected in the final report. The scope of the project does not include significant calculation and numerical analyses.
	b. Data is complete <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Relevant literature and previous studies have been sufficiently reviewed ▪ Existing monitoring data has been appropriately used ▪ Limitations to the data retrieved are pointed out and explained. ▪ Corrective measures have been taken to address any problems encountered in the process of data gathering 	Y	The scope of the project does not include significant data acquisition and analysis but the contractor analysed existing initiatives (projects), data (statistics) and interview key stakeholders related with the scope of the feasibility study.
4. Analysis and judgments	Check that analysis is sound and relevant		
	a. Analytical framework is sound <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The methodology used for each area of analysis is clearly explained, and has been applied consistently and as planned ▪ Judgements are based on transparent criteria ▪ The analysis relies on two or more independent lines of evidence ▪ Inputs from different stakeholders are used in a balanced way ▪ Findings are reliable enough to be replicable 	Y	The discussion of the alternatives for the development of the tool is based on reasonable arguments. The analyses reflected the point of view of a wide range of stakeholders.
	b. Conclusions are sound <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conclusions are properly addressing the evaluation questions and are coherently and logically substantiated ▪ There are no relevant conclusions missing according to the evidence presented ▪ Findings corroborate existing knowledge; differences or contradictions with existing knowledge are explained ▪ Critical issues are presented in a fair and balanced manner ▪ Limitations on validity of the conclusions are pointed out 	Y	The conclusions agree with the results obtained but some conclusions (benefits and existing initiatives) are mostly based in the background provided. The conclusions take into consideration the limitations pointed out.
5. Usefulness of recommendations	a. Recommendations are useful <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 	N/A	N/A
	b. Recommendations are complete	N/A	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recommendations cover all relevant main conclusions 		
6. Clarity of the report	a. Report is easy to read	Y	The document is somewhat extensive (165 pages plus annexes) but readable. The tables and figures are very useful and well referenced in the text. Several sections (i.e. description of the tool architecture) are difficult to follow by non-specialised readers.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Written style and presentation is adapted for the various relevant target readers ▪ The quality of language is sufficient for publishing ▪ Specific terminology is clearly defined ▪ Tables, graphs, and similar presentation tools are used to facilitate understanding; they are well commented with narrative text 		
	b. Report is logical and focused	Y	The structure is logical and in accordance with the objectives. However, some chapters are basically descriptive and the extent of the document could limit the identification of the key findings.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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. ▪ The report provides a proper focus on main issues and key messages are summarised and highlighted ▪ The length of the report (excluding appendices) is proportionate (good balance of descriptive and analytical information) ▪ Detailed information and technical analysis are left for the appendix; thus information overload is avoided in the main report 		

Overall conclusion		
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 covers the minimum requirements of the term of references and the quality is adequate with no fundamental flaws.