

## Quality Assessment for (Draft)<sup>1</sup> Final Evaluation Reports

According to the Commission **Better Regulation Guidelines and toolbox** the Quality Assessment (QA) by the Inter Service Group judges the external contractor's report and its overall process. It is the final "sign off" by the ISG of the contractor's work and includes a judgement on whether key aspects of the work conducted meet the required standards and provides any related comments.

If the evaluation is selected for review by the Regulatory Scrutiny Board, this QA and minutes of the last ISG meeting will form part of the package submitted to the RSB.

In compliance with the above, this documents provides a **Quality Assessment checklist** to be completed **for all interim and ex-post evaluations**, in order to:

- give a structured feedback to the Evaluator on the draft report, and
- support and justify the approval of the final version of the report.
- Provide stakeholders and citizens with an overview of the strengths and weaknesses of the evaluation.

The assessment criteria included should be applied also with reference to the specific Terms of Reference for the evaluation to be assessed and specific agreements made between the evaluation Steering Group and the Evaluator during the execution of the contract.

The checklist can be quickly filled out by ticking boxes, but becomes most useful when also including comments in the open fields.

## Quality Assessment for Final Report

**DG/Unit** DG AGRI unit A.3 Policy Performance

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

Steering group X

Evaluation Function X

Other (please specify)

(\*) Multiple crosses possible

**Date of assessment** 5 October 2022

<sup>1</sup> If the QA is carried out on the draft final report (as opposed to the final report), it will need to be updated once the final report is being reviewed.

CHECKLIST – Quality Assessment for (Draft) Final Evaluation Reports

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 evaluation issues and specific questions	Y	The evaluation covered altogether 12 evaluation study questions. The final report sufficiently covers the evaluation issues.
	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	Evaluation period: 2017-2021; geographical scope: EU-27+UK, which implemented the scheme until December 2020
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 in EN and FR
	b. Main report with required components <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>	Y	.
	c. All required annexes	Y	Technical annexes included.
3. Data collection	Check that data is accurate and complete		
	a. Data is accurate <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>	Y	
	b. Data is complete <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 evaluators have exploited the available data sources. However, due to various limitations, it was extremely difficult to use quantified data in certain cases. Limited information gaps remain, in particular

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			but not exclusively on the analysis of efficiency. The limitations of the data are explained in the report.
<b>4. Analysis and judgments</b>	<b>Check that analysis is sound and relevant</b>		
	<b>a. Analytical framework is sound</b>	<b>Y</b>	The methodological approach is acceptable. However, given the complexity of the subject matter and difficulties with certain data, these elements have had impact on the analysis. Therefore, triangulation and integration of data and information from different sources was challenging in certain cases.
	<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>		
	<b>b. Conclusions are sound</b>	<b>Y</b>	Recommendations are based on the evaluation conclusions. They represent the views of the contractor and are not binding for the Commission services. Due to the difficulties of the quantification and triangulation of data, some conclusions remain rather general and are based on some examples.
<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>			
<b>5. Usefulness of recommendations</b>	<b>a. Recommendations are useful</b>	<b>Y</b>	Some recommendations touched upon very general aspects.
	<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>		
	<b>b. Recommendations are complete</b>	<b>Y</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recommendations cover all relevant main conclusions</li> </ul>		
<b>6. Clarity of the report</b>	<b>a. Report is easy to read</b>	<b>N</b>	More thorough editing would have further improved the report's length and clarity. The executive summary may have been clearer and more concise and more understandable
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Written style and presentation is 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</li> </ul>		

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	with narrative text		for non-expert readers
	<b>b. Report is logical and focused</b> <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>	Y	

<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	