



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
 DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate G. Horizontal aspects of rural development
G.1. Consistency of rural development

Brussels,
 AGRI.

STUDY: "ASSESSING THE RISK OF FARMLAND ABANDONMENT IN THE EU"

CONTRACT No. AGRI-2011-0295

Evaluation Sheet

Concerning these criteria, the evaluation report is :	Unaccep- table	Poor	Satisfac- tory	Good	Excel- lent
1. Meeting the needs: Does the study adequately address the information needs of the commissioning body and fit the terms of reference?					X
2. Relevant scope: Are the necessary policy instruments represented and is the product and geographical coverage as well as time scope sufficient for the impact assessment?				X	
3. Defensible design: Is the applied methodology appropriate and adequate to ensure a clear and credible result?				X	
4. Reliable data: To what extent is the selected quantitative and qualitative information adequate?			X		
5. Sound analysis: Is the quantitative and qualitative information appropriately and systematically analysed and have the respective tasks been correctly fulfilled?				X	
6. Validity of the conclusions: Does the report provide clear conclusions? Are the conclusions based on credible information?				X	
7. Clearly reported: Does the report clearly describe the problem, the procedures and findings of the evaluation, so that information provided can easily be understood?				X	
Taking into account the contextual constraints of the study, the overall quality rating of the report is:				X	

JUSTIFICATION FOR THE EVALUATION

<p>1. Meeting the needs: The contractor has met the information needs identified in the Terms of Reference (ToR) as well as the requirements of the ToR.</p>
<p>2. Relevant scope: The study covers the geographical scope (EU-27) of the ToR. In compliance with the ToR and with the Memorandum of Understanding, the study identifies those NUTS2 which are at risk of farmland abandonment. Conceptually, land abandonment is a local issue therefore NUTS2 may not be a relevant unit to work with. The study provides for a methodology to break results down to NUTS3 level.</p>
<p>3. Defensible design: The study presents the findings for EU-27 while at the same time allows for a view at national level. The drivers were developed by an expert panel, various scenarios were devised in order to establish the composite index. The result was verified by the expert panel.</p>
<p>4. Reliable data: Whenever available, the contractor used relevant data sources. EU-FADN data provided to DG AGRI by the Member States are key for the economic analysis. Unfortunately, ESTAT did not meet the request to provide microdata and the contractor had to rely on the supply of results only from ESTAT.</p>
<p>5. Sound analysis: The analysis is sound and provides for a possibility to view farmland abandonment from several angles, i.e. through the relative importance of individual drivers, and at both EU level and at national level.</p>
<p>6. Validity of the conclusions: The conclusions are based on large evidence gathered throughout the report. Data are normalized at national level and the results are verified by the expert panel. The conclusions are communicated in a clear form the executive summary provides a good overview. The factsheet is a workable solution for further needs.</p>
<p>7. Clearly reported: Overall the report is written clearly and can be considered good. It provides for numerous figures, tables and maps which allow for a clear visualization of the results.</p>

Lukas Visek

Contact:

Lukas VISEK, Telephone: +32 229-63590, lukas.visek@ec.europa.eu