

QUALITY ASSESSMENT FORM

Title of the preparatory action:

PREPARATORY ACTION ON EU PLANT AND ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES

DG/Unit: DG AGRI, Unit B.2 (ex-H5)

- Official managing the preparatory action: Mr Iman Boot

Contractor: Valdani Vicari & Associati (VVA)

Assessment carried out by:

Steering group with the active participation of units A.3, B.2, C.4, C.5, SG D.2, E.1, E.3, E.4, G.1 and H.1 of DG AGRI, B.2 of DG ENV, C.1 of DEVCO, E.2 of SANCO and E.4 of RTD

Date of the Quality Assessment: November 2016

(1) RELEVANCE

Does the preparatory action respond to information needs, in particular as expressed in the terms of references?

SCORING	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent
			X		

Arguments for scoring:

The preparatory action adequately responds to the information needs of the commissioning body and fully meets the requirements of the terms of reference. The themes are fully addressed and the geographical scope of the pilot project is covered. The preparatory action provides a comprehensive description and analysis of the state of play of the art of genetic resource related activities in the EU. The preparatory action provides useful findings and recommendations for future actions for the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources in agriculture and forestry.

(2) APPROPRIATE DESIGN

Is the design of the preparatory action adequate for obtaining the results needed to answer the study themes?

SCORING	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent
				X	

Arguments for scoring:

The methodology design is appropriate for the objectives of the preparatory action. Wide range of tools were used for data collection and analysis:

- EU-wide mapping of initiatives and stakeholders in all 28 EU Member States, interviews,
- case studies,
- workshops,
- extensive literature review,
- desk research.

The preparatory action produced and used a mix of quantitative and qualitative data with the emphasis on qualitative data. The preparatory action team was flexible to adapt the methodology where needed. The design applied is adapted to information needs and data availability and is covering all information needs.

(3) RELIABLE DATA

Are data collected adequate for their intended use and have their reliability been ascertained?

SCORING	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent
			X		

Arguments for scoring:

The preparatory action is based on existing data and field work:

- a) EU wide mapping of existing initiatives, stakeholders, databases, collections and inventories;
- b) results from 330 interviews with the representatives of national authorities, advisory services, networks and organisations of farmers, gardeners, seed savers, European networks and international organisations, national focal points for animal, plant and forest genetic resources and agro food industries;
- c) 21 case studies of agricultural genetic resources projects covering themes 1-7 and sectors of plants, animals, forest and microbial invertebrates and variety of production systems;
- d) data gathered through seven workshops of experts and stakeholders. The results were collected and analysed. The main aim was to identify drivers and barriers to cooperation among genetic resources initiatives and defining recommendations for each of the seven themes.

Overall, the contractor has made an effort to exploit all available data sources, as well as create new data. Especially, the literature review is extensive. The data sources are identifiable in the report.

(4) SOUND ANALYSIS

Are data systematically analysed to answer study themes and cover other information needs in a valid manner?

SCORING	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent
			X		

Arguments for scoring:

The analysis was performed according to the requirements set out in the terms of reference and based on the methods and tools proposed by the contractor. The different analytical tools were used to analyse the quantitative data in an appropriate way. Linkages between the various sections of the preparatory action have been ensured but not always clearly visible in the final report.

(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?

SCORING	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent
		X			

The findings are based on the evidence provided through the analysis of the qualitative data but the supporting information is largely lagging in the final report. Opinions from different stakeholders were considered and reflected in a fairly balanced way.

(6) VALID CONCLUSIONS

Are conclusions non-biased and fully based on findings?

SCORING	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent
		X			

Arguments for scoring:

The preparatory action findings follow logically from the analysis of the available data. The conclusions are substantiated by analytical findings, which in turn were drawn from the analysis and are back-up by case study evidence and good practise analysis. The reasoning between the findings and the conclusions could be better elaborated. The level of practicality is not as high as expected.

(7) HELPFUL RECOMMENDATIONS

Are areas needing improvements identified in coherence with the conclusions? Are the suggested options realistic and impartial?

SCORING	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent
			X		

Arguments for scoring:

The recommendations are clear and based on the conclusions. The mapping exercise and reports submitted together with the final report provide a comprehensive description and analysis of the state of the art of the genetic resources related activities in the EU. The recommendations identify some areas of actions and cooperation to be addressed in future in the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources in agriculture and forestry.

(8) CLARITY

Is the report well structured, balanced and written in an understandable manner?

SCORING	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent
			X		

Arguments for scoring:

As the steering group had insisted on significant improvements concerning the final report, the final version of the report is well-structured, relatively easy to read and balanced.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF THE FINAL REPORT

Overall, the quality of the report is assessed to be **good**.

Is the overall quality of the report adequate, in particular:

- Does the preparatory action fulfil contractual conditions?

Clearly and fully.

- Are the findings and conclusions of the report reliable, and are there any specific limitations to their validity and completeness?

The findings and conclusions of the report are reliable.

- Is the information in the report potentially useful for designing intervention, setting priorities, allocating resources or improving interventions?

The preparatory action provides some useful findings and recommendations for further development of the conservation and use of agricultural genetic resources at national and/or EU level. The recommendations may be useful as the possible policy actions and instruments under Common Agricultural Policy are further developed.