

Quality Assessment for 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 AGRI/B2

Evaluator: AGRI/B2

Assessment carried out by(*):

Steering group

Evaluation Function AGRI/B2

Other (please specify)

(*) Multiple crosses possible

Date of assessment 25/02/2022

CHECKLIST – Quality Assessment for 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	Yes, replied in the conclusions.
	b. Has undertaken the tasks described in the work plan	Y	Yes, good combination of desk research and analytical analyses.
	c. Has covered the requested scope for time period, geographical areas, target groups, aspects of the intervention, etc.	Y	The study covered the minimum requirements but the extension of the analyses to other crops (fruit trees) would be desirable.
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 2 languages EN and FR.
	b. Main report with required components <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Title and Content Page ▪ A description of the policy being evaluated, its context, the purpose of the evaluation, contextual limitations, methodology, etc. ▪ Findings, conclusions, and judgments for all evaluation issues and specific questions ▪ The required outputs and deliverables ▪ Recommendations as appropriate 	Y	In addition to the minimum elements of the study in terms of documents, essential deliverables like the base code of the application are available.
	c. All required annexes	Y	Annexes will be made available online after the publication of the report.
3. Data collection	Check that data is accurate and complete		
	a. Data is accurate <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 	Y	The assessment in terms of data accuracy is not relevant, calculation methods are accurate.
	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. ▪ Correcting measures have been taken to address any problems encountered in the process of data gathering 	Y	Excellent review of the existing literature and methodologies.

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4. Analysis and judgments	Check that analysis is sound and relevant		Benchmarking analysis of the methods implemented scientifically sound and comprehensive.
	a. Analytical framework is sound	Y	
5. Usefulness of recommendations	<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 		Conclusions and outlook based on the study questions, properly addressed and based on the analyses implemented. Critical limitations like the applicability in fruit trees are clearly described.
	b. Conclusions are sound	Y	
6. Clarity of the report	<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 		Recommendations are not a critical part of the study but the recommendations based on study questions are useful and complete.
	a. Recommendations are useful	Y	
	b. Recommendations are complete	Y	
6. Clarity of the report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recommendations flow logically from the conclusions, are practical, realistic, and addressed to the relevant Commission Service(s) or other stakeholders ▪ Recommendations cover all relevant main conclusions 		Final report is readable and well structured. The most technical information is presented in Annexes, as agreed.
	a. Report is easy to read	Y	
6. Clarity of the report	<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 		Logical and focused. Good balance between the context information of the study and technical information and findings.
	b. Report is logical and focused	Y	
6. Clarity of the report	<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 (excluded 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 		

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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]	Excellent work and very useful results