QUALITY ASSESSMENT FORM[1]

Title of the evaluation

EVALUATION OF CAP MAESURES FOR THE COTTON SECTOR

DG/Unit DG AGRI, Unit E4

Officials managing the evaluation: Andreas LILLIG

Evaluator/contractor Agrosynergie GEIE

Assessment carried out by:
Steering group with participants from units B-1/2, C.4, D.1, E-1/3/4, G.1, H.4, and SG, DGs BUDG, DEVCO, ECFIN, EMPL, ENTR, TRADE.

Date of the Quality Assessment: 21. August 2014

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[1] *Refer to the 'Guide on Scoring the Criteria' for how to assess each criterion.*

(1) RELEVANCE

Does the evaluation 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 evaluation study covers in a precise way all the numerous requirements expressed in the terms of reference.

(2) APPROPRIATE DESIGN

Is the design of the evaluation adequate for obtaining the results needed to answer the evaluation questions?

SCORING	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent
			X		

Arguments for scoring:

The design of the evaluation is based on a mix of quantitative and qualitative tools which are properly described. The analyses are built upon a large number of evaluation criteria and indicators. The design regarding the case studies ES and GR proved to be adequate; BG proved to be difficult. A large ad hoc data set was generated specifically for this evaluation in view of limitations in the information available in certain of the Member States.

(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 analyses were based on a precise collection of data including through fieldwork, interviews with national or regional authorities, experts, as well as stakeholders and their organisations.

In addition a large amount of desk research was done to obtain useful data on production, marketing, trade, costs, income, prices, the downstream sector and the administrative burden; sources were i.a. regional authorities, RICA, EUROSTAT, COAG, OECD, Comext, USDA, and Commission Services. This data collection was a challenging task due the heterogeneity of the sector and its organisation in the three Member States with cotton production (BG, ES, GR); it was carried out very well.

The limitations encountered in terms of data availability are properly and precisely explained. These were taken into account in the formulation of findings and conclusions.

(4) SOUND ANALYSIS

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

SCORING	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent
			X		

Arguments for scoring:

The theoretical and empirical analyses are carried out in a systematic way, based on a mix of qualitative and quantitative tools.

The constraints encountered and the limitations of the methods and tools used are pointed out in the presentation of the analysis results and taken into account in the formulation of the conclusions.

(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	

Arguments for scoring:

The findings are well explained and justified by the results of the analyses carried out. Important findings are mostly based on careful analysis of policy impacts in ES and GR (to a minor extent in BG) which makes these findings more robust and reliable.

(6) VALID CONCLUSIONS

Are conclusions non-biased and fully based on findings?

SCORING	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent
				X	

Arguments for scoring:

The conclusions are clearly formulated and reflect in a systematic way the judgement for each evaluation question. In this context the limitations resulting from provisions in primary EU-law (Accession Treaties) were addressed. The conclusions reflect well the global framework (e.g. environment, trade, market) of CAP-support for cotton.

(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 logically derived from the evaluation results and conclusions. The recommendations are useful for the further development of EU support for cotton, and – in more general terms – for the broader context of coupled support.

(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:

The report has a clear structure. Both the clear description of EU- and national measures and their implementation of the measures are much appreciated. Tables and graphs underpin the analysis in a helpful way. The conclusions on each evaluation question summarise in an appropriate way the main findings. The text contains certain repetitions that are necessary to cover adequately the answers to the evaluation questions. The overall clarity of the text is very good, and the report can be well understood by the reader due to the clear structure and adequate descriptions and explanations.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT
OF THE FINAL EVALUATION REPORT

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

- Does the evaluation fulfil the contractual conditions?

Clearly and fully. It contains a full picture of EU cotton production.

- 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; limitations have been clearly indicated, in particular as regards BG.

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

The findings, conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation can be used for discussing future design of support for the cotton sector. In particular a number of findings as regards coherence of policy objectives and achievements can be pertinent also for other sectors. Therefore, they are very useful and relevant.