

Evaluation in 2014-2020: Challenges and Opportunities

First annual conference of the National Coordination Authority's Evaluation Unit



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ESF 2007-2013 Ex-Post Evaluation

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1. Evaluation context
2. Preparatory study
3. Three thematic studies (Human Capital Capital, Social Inclusion, Access to employment) and synthesis
4. Challenges and lessons learned from these evaluations



The subject of the evaluation

- Total value of ESF programmes: 115 billion EUR (EU contribution 75 billion EUR)
- 117 OPs
- Shared management: Commission and MS
- ESF contributes to EU priorities by supporting MS policies
- Wide scope of ESF assistance



Legal requirements

Art. 49.3 of Council Regulation 1083/2006)

- the extent to which resources were used,
- effectiveness (quantified results, factors contributing to success and failure, identification of good practice) ,
- efficiency measured in terms of cost-effectiveness,
- socio-economic impact



Lessons available

- **Lessons from ESF 2000-2006 ex-post:**
 - usefulness of preparatory study to propose solutions for evidence gaps
 - Problems due to lack of comparable data and evaluations
- **Lessons from ESF Evaluation Experts Network:**
 - MS evaluations mostly process evaluations,
 - Weaknesses in data available: aggregation problems and quality of data
 - Changed socio-economic context during implementation: programming in good times and implementing in bad times

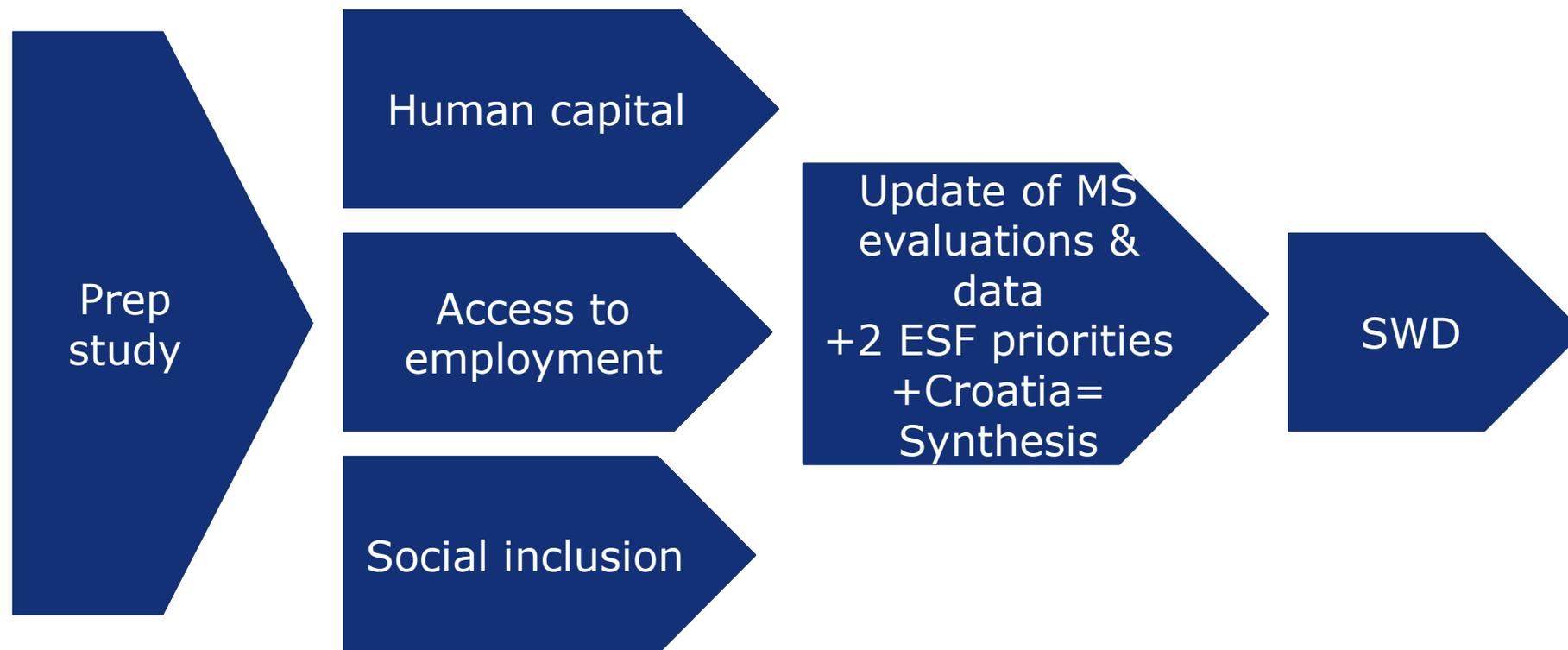


Preparatory Study of the ESF ex-post

How to best to organise the work to meet the regulatory requirements?

- Which thematic approach to structure work packages?
- How to deal with governance issues?
- Which geographical distinctions?
- Does the change in the policy framework affect the evaluation: passage from Lisbon to Europe 2020?
- How to make best use of data available?

ESF 2007-2013 Ex-Post evaluation





Three thematic studies

All studies will offer data and conclusions for EU 27

Horizontal 27 Member State overview :

- Strategic choices,
- Fit with EU and national priorities and challenges
- Expenditure, outputs and results (at the level of Priority Axes)

Three thematic studies

In-depth assessment in selected MS and interventions:

- Strategy for ESF investment into HC
- Mapping below the Priority Axes: actions and interventions
- Assessment of effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, gender sensitivity, Community added value and good practices
- Conclusions, lessons for the future

Social inclusion: *58 interventions, 4 clusters, 8 MS (AT, CY, FI, LT, LU, NL, RO, UK)*

Human capital: *87 interventions, 11 clusters, 9 MS (BG, CZ, DK, FR, IE, IT, LV, MT, PT)*

Access to employment: *89 interventions, 9 clusters, 12 MS (BE, DE, EE, ES, FR, GR, HU, IT, PL, SK, SV, SE)*



Synthesis

Based on a selection of the *best information available* from:

- Ex post evaluation studies:
 - 3 ex-post thematic studies (DG EMPL)
 - Ex-post evaluation “Management and implementation systems” (DG REGIO)
 - Supplementary evaluation studies of the ESF Priorities “Promoting Partnership” and “Strengthening Institutional Capacity”
- Additional information
 - Deliverables of Evaluation Expert Network
 - AIRs 2007 - 2014 (the latter to be submitted in June 2015) + SFC
 - MS evaluation reports if available and relevant



Synthesis

- To **synthesise the three thematic ex post studies**+ complementary information across EU 28 (EU level synthesis report) all other evaluation studies relevant for all 6 ESF Priorities
- To provide **two supplementary evaluation studies** on the ESF Priorities “Promoting Partnership” and “Strengthening Institutional Capacity”
- To produce **28 country reports** summarising the outputs and results of the ESF investments across the ESF Priorities (findings, conclusions, lessons learned and good practice)

Main challenges for 2007-2013 expost:

- Implementation of the programmes is not over
- Different levels of understanding and content of Priority Axes, actions and interventions
- Deficiencies in data sets
- Aggregation of output and result indicators not always feasible
- Measurement of efficiency and sustainability
- Identification of socio-economic impacts
- Coordination



Your questions!

Thanks for your attention!

The evaluations will be published here:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/keyDocuments.jsp?type=0&policyArea=0&subCategory=0&country=0&year=0&advSearchKey=evaluationese&mode=advancedSubmit&langId=en>

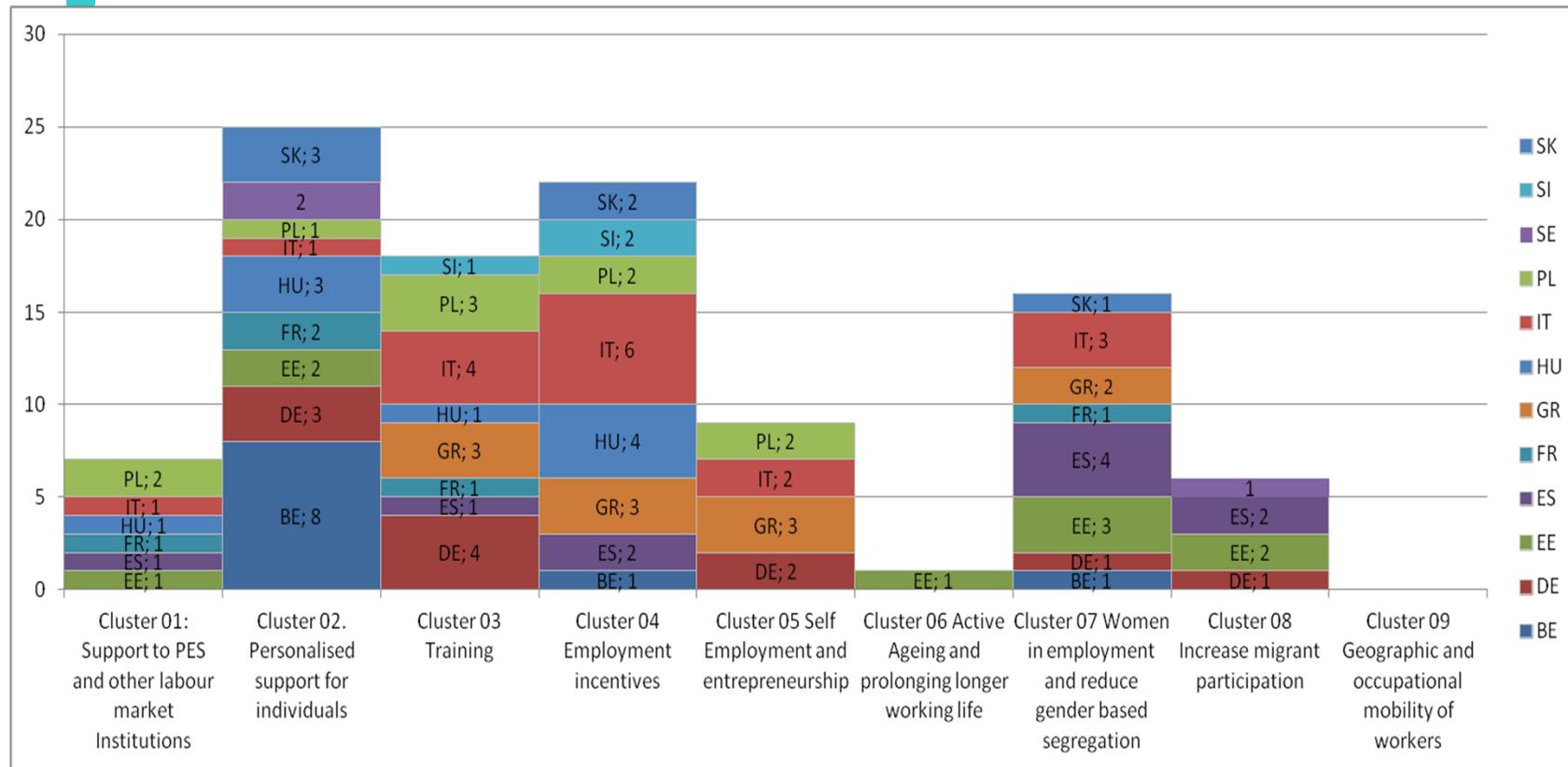
Clusters – Human Capital study

	Initial general education	Initial VET	Adult education	Higher education & research
Quality	Cluster 1: Lifelong learning systems and frameworks			Cluster 2: Quality of higher education
	Cluster 3: Early childhood education and care	Cluster 4: Quality of school education	Cluster 5: Quality and labour market relevance of VET	
Participation and quality	Cluster 6: Reduction of early school leaving and inclusive education			Cluster 7: Research and innovation
	Cluster 8: Transition to the labour market for young people			
Participation			Cluster 9: Professional up-skilling of employed people	
			Cluster 10: Up-skilling and requalification of adults	Cluster 11: Participation and mobility of HE students

Clusters – Social Inclusion study

<i>Individual level</i>	Cluster 1 Supporting and enabling actions (preparatory)	Cluster 2a Advice, counselling, guidance and training to support labour market integration	Cluster 2b Actions which have employment as an output	Cluster 2c Actions aimed at sustaining employment
	Cluster 3 Pathway approaches (multi-faceted provision, which can feature combinations of measures provided in Clusters 1&2)			
<i>Systemic level</i>	Cluster 4 Systemic measures influencing systems, institutions or cultural contexts (incl. capacity building actions & activities to tackle underlying discriminatory attitudes)			

Clusters – Acces to Employment study



Some lessons learned addressed in 2014-2020 Regulations

- More direct alignment with EU policies
- Focus on a limited number of pre-defined priorities
- Set out quantified targets and baselines
- keeping the flexibility to adjust programmes to emerging needs
- Setting clear timelines for data collection: upon entry, upon leaving, 6 months after (follow-up of support)
- Obligation of respecting data quality requirements
- explicit requirement for MS to carry out impact evaluations