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Ex-Post evaluations 2007-2013 ESF support in Human Capital and Social Inclusion

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Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

1. Evaluation approach

2. How far could the evaluation Human Capital Capital and Social Inclusion go?

3. Lessons learned from these evaluations

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Evaluation approach

The subject of the Evaluation: ESF 2007-2013

- *Over 75 billion Euros*
- *117 OPs*
- *Shared management*
- *Two objectives (convergence, regional competitiveness and employment)*
- *Wide number of priorities (ranging from mobilisation for reforms in the fields of employment and inclusion to improving human capital)*

Evaluation approach

Legal requirement: 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*

Differences by objectives, reaction to the crisis!

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Evaluation approach

- *Lessons from ESF 2000-2006 ex-post:*
  - *usefulness of preparatory study to define themes, given the need to go beyond OP level*
  - *propose solutions for evidence gaps*
- *Lessons from ESF Evaluation Experts Network:*
  - *MS evaluations mostly process evaluations,*
  - *need to consider AIR to fill gaps*

Evaluation approach

2013 Preparatory Study for 2007-2013: how to best meet the regulatory requirements, given

- *implementation still ongoing,*
- *changed socio-economic context during implementation,*
- *datasets difficult to aggregate at EU level,*
- *few impact evaluations, rare cases of CIE*

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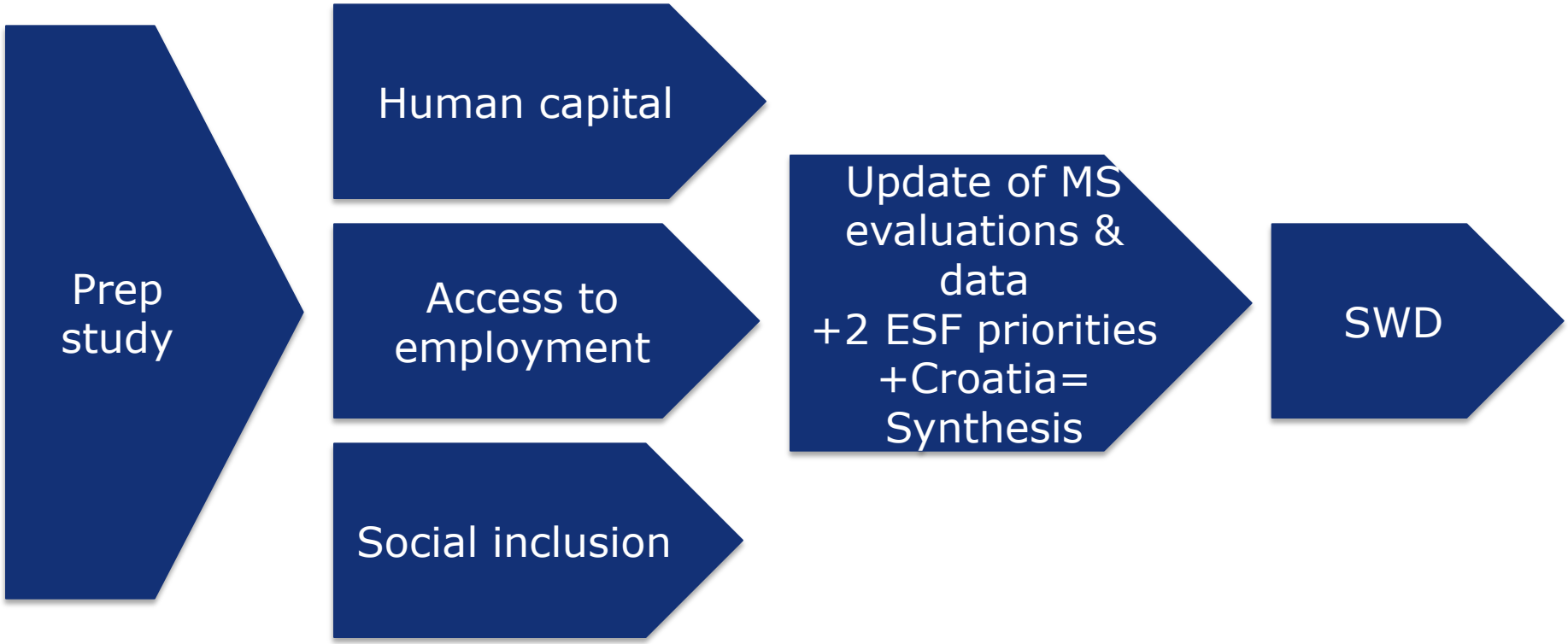
ESF 2007-2013 Ex-Post evaluation



Evaluation approach

- *Mobilisation of all existing evidence: AIR, EEN (first attempt to consistently use the results of evaluations from MS!)*
- *Complemented by an in-depth analysis of a selection of interventions in some MS - each MS covered by at least one thematic evaluation*
- *For analytical purposes, selected interventions were grouped in clusters which were meant to reflect the variety of intervention approaches/types*

How far?

At the end of 2013!!!

- *It was possible to assess the share of allocated expenditure, the actual spending, the importance of the ESF compared to national policies (Convergence), the alignment with EU policies and targets, the responsiveness to the crisis (NB: SI often present in other priorities!)*

- *In terms of participants reached, participations were aggregated (EU and national level), although including indirect participants and multiple participations. Underreporting for certain groups (e.g. older, disadvantaged).*

  - **First time common outputs were used!**

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How far?

- *In terms of results for participants, it was possible to aggregate a fair share of results in three categories:gaining or maintaining employment, obtaining a qualification or other positive results (skills, competences…). Also calculation of estimated success rates. Soft results were rarely assessed in SI*

- *As regards support to entities, aggregated entities reached and number of deliverables (qualification/courses/trainigs/standards) were calculated (HC), but wide diversity hampers assessment*

How far?

- *The evaluation allowed to define clusters of activities mostly used and to identify differences in use between convergence and RCE regions*
- *also to conclude on the effectiveness of each cluster and identified key success factors*

e.g. in HC, reducing early school leaving was very effective due to attractive learning offer and individualised approaches

e.g. Lifelong learning systems activities were least successful (end 2013), due to long lead times, but also depending on functioning partnerships and delivery **models**

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How far?

-The evaluation did asses the cost per output and result of the in depth analysis, but no conclusions could be drawn beyond that shorter supports were cheaper etc.

-in terms of sustainability, there were very few assessments of the sustainability of results for participant after they left the ESF support

-little evidence was found of gender sensitive approaches in the planning, implementation and delivery of ESF activities, despite the intention of the Regulation

How far?

-Assessing the impact of the ESF was also challenging:

While there were clear volume and scope effects, allowing to reach people affected by the crisis, process and role effects were fewer (may be because they take longer).

Differences in effects by objective!

Lessons learned

Many lessons are already reflected in the 2014-2020 regulatory framework:

-more direct alignement with EU policies and targets and focus on a limited number of pre-defined priorities

-keeping the flexibility to adjust programmes to emerging needs; allowing for tailored support (SI)

-definitions for common output and result indicators

-timeline for collection: upon entry, upon leaving, 6 months after (follow-up of support) and data quality requirements

-establishment of a performance framework that rewards performance at mid-term

-explicit requirement for MS to carry out impact evaluations

Support for MS

-complemented by ongoing support from COM

- guidance on Evaluation and Monitoring and support centre
- papers on target setting
- Evaluation Help Desk
- CRIE

-remaining areas of attention:

- soft outcomes, especially for disadvantaged persons
- results for support to systems and also support to public administration reform
- monitor progress on targets

Your questions!

Thanks for your comments!

The evaluations will be published here:

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