



ESF

Evaluations by MS

2007-2013

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On-going evaluations

- **No obligation for MS to carry out evaluations at a set point in time**
- **= significant variance among MS in timing, topics, scope and methods of ESF evaluations**
- **= challenge for Commission services to gather and analyse findings of evaluations conducted at national level**



ESF Expert Evaluation Network

- **The Expert Evaluation Network (EEN) involves one/two national expert(s) in each Member State**
- **They collect and analyse all evaluations related to ESF Operational Programmes carried out by the MS in the 2007-2013 programming period**
- **To produce Inventories of evaluations, Country Reports for all 27 MS, and Synthesis Reports at EU level**

Evaluations

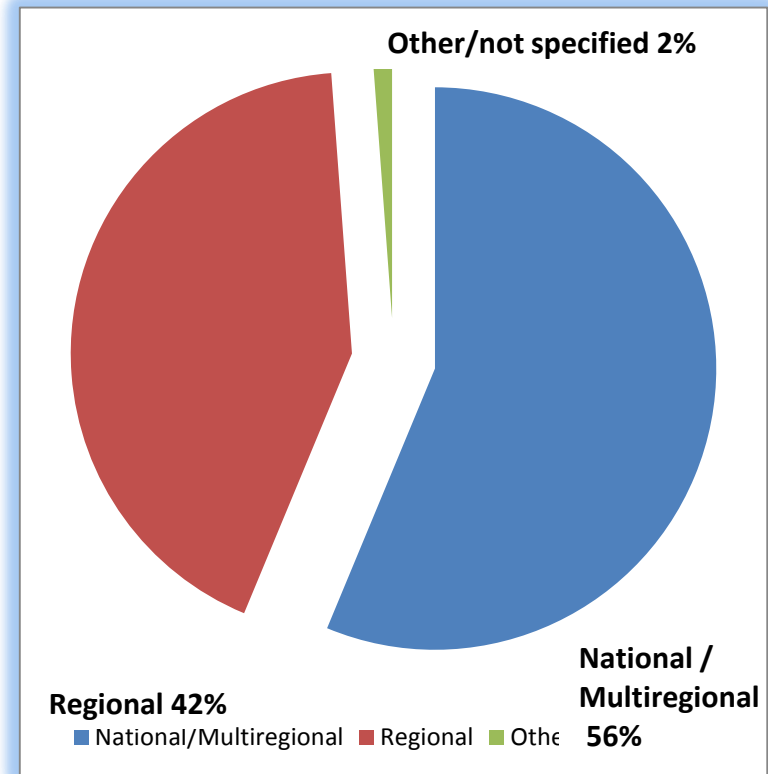
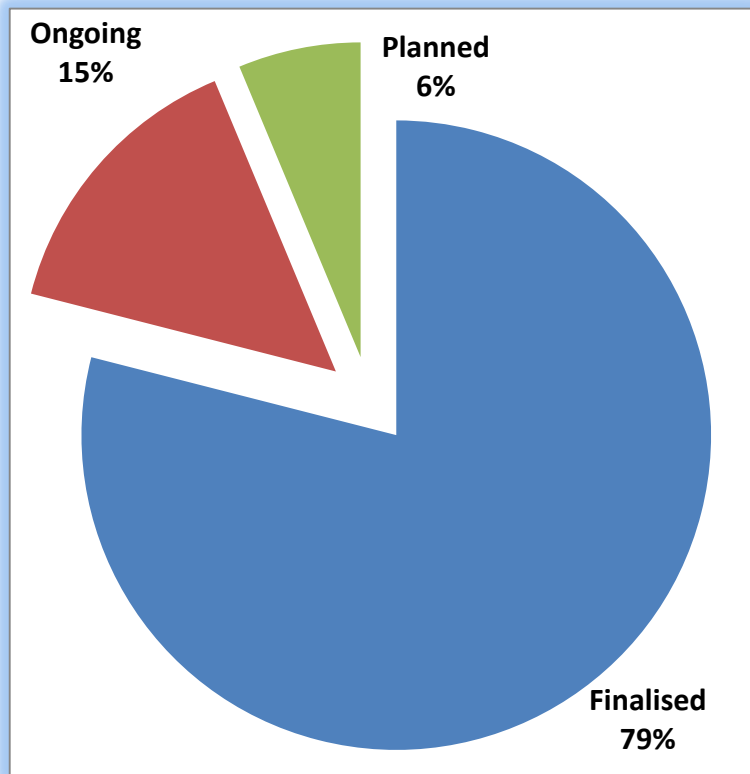
- By May 2013, the country experts had identified **769** evaluations
- Most evaluations are conducted at **national** or multiregional level
- Most evaluations are **operational**
- Most were **process** evaluations



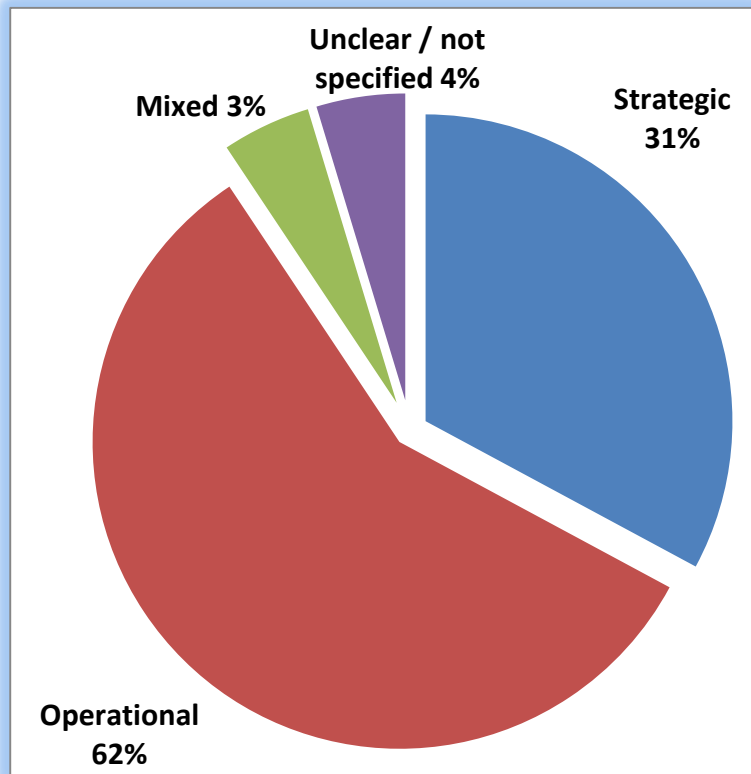
European
Commission

Status of the Evaluations

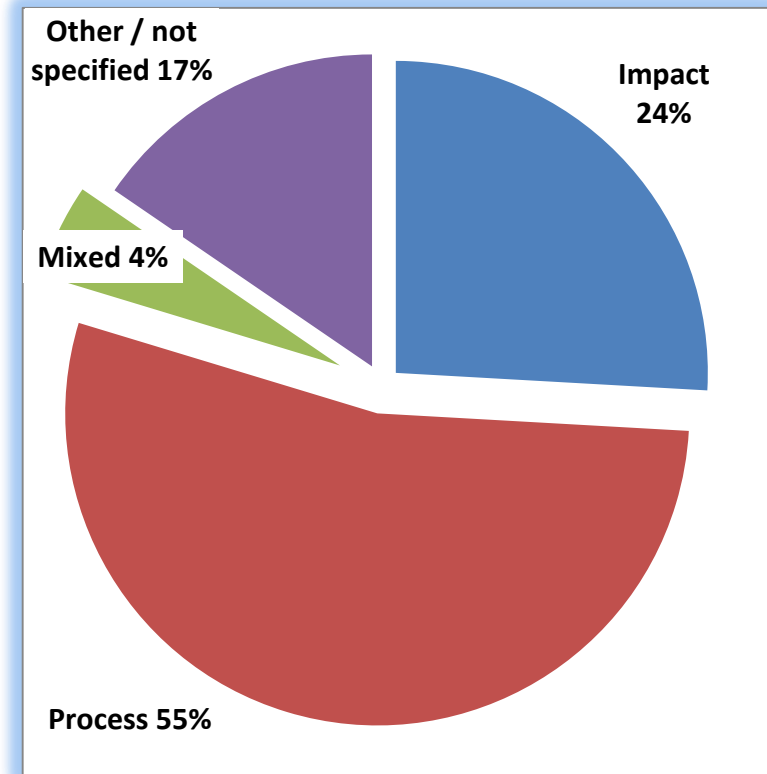
Territorial Level



Potential (intended) use of the Evaluations



Evaluation Approaches



Findings

- Most of the findings relate to **effectiveness**
- The most evaluated policy field is **Access to Employment**
- Followed by **Social Inclusion**
- Among individuals, the most evaluated target groups are **Unemployed and Young people**



Access to Employment

Key Figures:

- **Information stand: 2012**
- **Around €23 billion committed**
- **Over 12.5 million final recipients supported**
- **Over 2.4 million final recipients achieved an employment result**
- **But little evidence on sustainability of employment**

Good practices identified in some MS:

- **Designing interventions to reflect needs and assets of individuals and priority groups**
- **Engaging effectively with employers**
- **Building strong partnerships between agencies and beneficiary organisations**

Access to Employment

Factors helping effective implementation:

- **Opportunity to refocus OPs after recession**
- **Good quality staffing, systems and management arrangements**
- **National Employment Service with strong capacity**

Learning Points:

- **People with multiple disadvantages need more intensive and/or lengthy interventions**
- **Important value of key worker/personal adviser working closely with final recipients on one to one basis**
- **More support needed for final recipients after they enter employment, particularly given weak labour market**

Access to Employment

Challenges for evaluation:

- **Despite its importance, evaluation evidence is often fragmented and lacking robustness**
- **Poor design of some sub-priorities (no baseline, no quantification of targets for indicators, etc...)**
- **Simple indicators (i.e. initial job entry) too much dependent on exit data supplied by beneficiary organisations (not always reliable and correct)**
- **Need for more impact evaluations**



Social Inclusion

Key figures:

- **Information Stand 2012**
- **Nearly €24 billion committed**
- **Over 14.5 million final recipients engaged, although this might involve double counting as SI final recipients engage in different interventions**
- **Broad range of target groups: over 2.4 million unemployed, over 1.3 million migrants, and over 1 million young people have been supported by SI interventions**

Particularly effective interventions:

- **Working in schools with young people at risk of early leaving or at the point of transition from school to work**
- **Interventions with families from Roma communities**
- **Activities to bring adults back into the education system**

Social Inclusion

Factors supporting effective implementation:

- **Focussing on the needs of individuals**
- **Well integrated interventions and services**
- **Intelligent design of interventions using evaluation evidence, but also involving final recipients themselves**
- **More emphasis on early interventions, for example to reduce early drop out from school**
- **Responding flexibly to changing economic circumstances**
- **Building the capacity of the organisations designing and delivering interventions**
- **Key support services (drug counselling, money advice, etc.)**
- **Raising awareness and changing attitudes and behaviours (e.g. towards disabled people) among employers and key agencies**

Social Inclusion

Challenges for evaluation:

- **Little robust evidence, in particular on soft results**
- **Poor design of some sub-priorities (no baseline, no quantification of targets for indicators, etc...)**
- **Need for more impact evaluations**
- **Need to know what types of interventions produce significant net effects**

Target Groups – women and young people

- **Reports on “Women” and “Young People” - May 2013**
- **Focus on 10 MS with more evaluation findings:**
 - Spain, Germany, Greece, Poland, UK (women)**
 - Austria, Czech Republic, France, Italy, Portugal (young people)**

Target Groups – women

- **Nearly 25.5 million women have been final recipients of ESF support**
- **Women account for 52.1% of all final recipients, with wide variations across MS (between 33.2% and 64.7%)**
- **ESF efforts in relation to women were strongly focussed on employment and employability, with much less emphasis on social inclusion**
- **Little evidence of interventions focussing on tackling horizontal and vertical segregation**

Target Groups – women

Challenges for evaluation:

- **Lack of focus on measuring results**
- **Data collected on irregular basis or lacking**
- **Presentation of data preventing an assessment of ESF contribution to women**
- **Limited amount of evaluation evidence to help indentifying good practice**



Target Groups – Young people

- **Over 14.5 million young people have been final recipients of ESF supported activity, nearly 30% of all final recipients**
- **Big variations across MS (11.1% - 49.4%, much greater than for women)**
- **There is a tendency for the proportion of young people who are final recipients to be lower in the Southern European economies**
- **Growing focus on proactive interventions**

Target Groups – Young people

Challenges for evaluation:

- **Differences in definitions of young people across evaluations and MS**
- **Lack of specific targets for young people**
- **Very few reports focussing on young people specific interventions**
- **Only small number of impact evaluations to assess impact of ESF interventions (not specifically designed) on young people**

SUMMING UP

- **GREAT DISPARITY IN EVALUATION EFFORTS AMONG MS**
- **EVEN FOR MAIN ESF THEMES, INSUFFICIENT OR LACKING EVALUATION FINDINGS**
- **GENERAL LACK OF HARD RESULTS**
- **= HOW TO DEMONSTRATE IN A ROBUST WAY WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED?**

Recommendations for 2014-2020

- **Clear intervention logic**
- **Well defined indicators and definitions**
- **Baseline and quantified targets whenever appropriate**
- **More impact evaluations = start preparing now**



**Thank you for your
attention!**