Outline of the presentation

Evaluation questions and criteria → Methodological approach → Evaluation findings
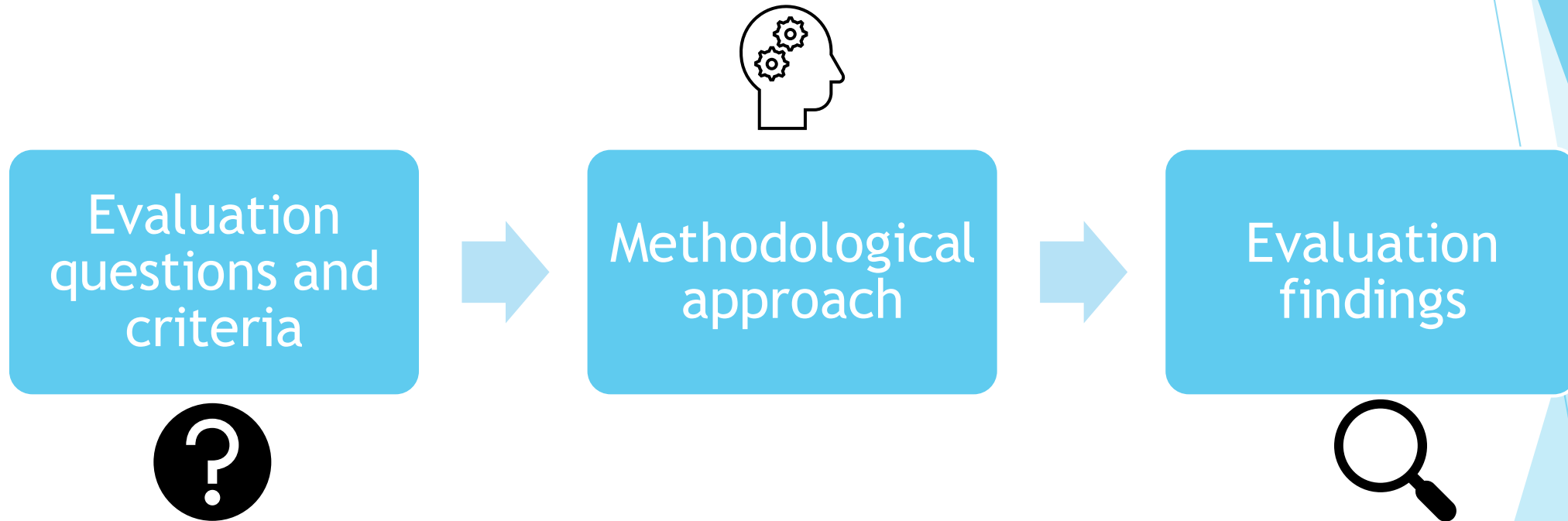
Evaluation questions and criteria

Evaluation questions
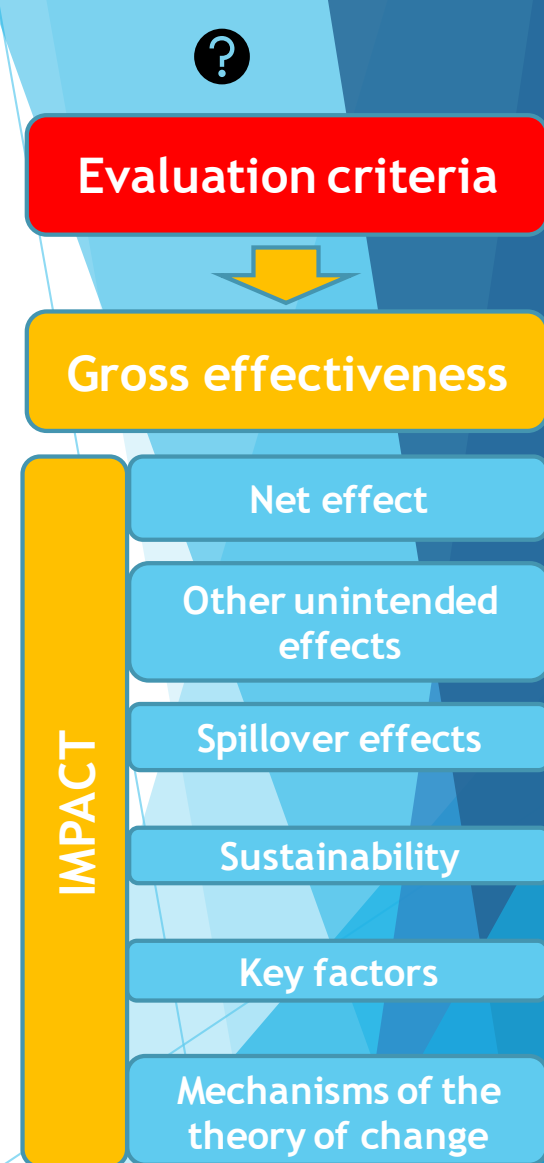
1. What is the **current progress since the adoption of interventions at the level of the areas, sectors and target groups** in relation to the objectives of the interventions?

2. To what extent is the observed progress attributable to funded interventions (**net effect** or impact of interventions)?

3. To what extent are there **unintended, positive or negative** effects?

4. To what extent do the effects go **beyond the area or the sector** or affect other groups, unvisited by the intervention (propagation / training / spillover effects)?

5. To what extent are the effects of the interventions sustainable over a long period of time (the **sustainability** of the effects)?

6. What **factors** influenced the impact of the interventions?

7. To what extent are the interventions carried out as expected, producing the desired change (specific objectives) and **need to be further funded**?

Evaluation criteria

Gross effectiveness

IMPACT

Net effect

Other unintended effects

Spillover effects

Sustainability

Key factors

Mechanisms of the theory of change

Programme implementation and evaluation

Evaluation foci

	OS	Implementation	Output indicator target achievement *(assessment on selected operations)*
POIM 7 - Respecting the acquis communautaire (CF)	3.1 Waste	19 projects 1,85 billion Lei	🔴 2S27 Additional waste recovery capacity (excluding recycling) - tonnes / year 🟢 2S28 Closed / rehabilitated non-compliant landfills - no. 🟢 CO17 Solid waste: Additional waste recycling capacity - tonnes / year
	3.2 Water and wastewater	89 projects (2 terminated) 26 billion Lei	🔴 2S129 Increased capacity to monitor water quality: Development of the National Laboratory 🟢 CO18 Water distribution: Additional population benefiting from a better water supply 🟢 CO19 Wastewater treatment: Additional population benefiting from better wastewater treatment
POIM 8 - Protection and conservation of biodiversity (ERDF)	4.1 Biodiversity	78 projects (no finalised) 761,5 million Lei	🟢 2S38 Approved sets of measures / management plans / action plans 🔴 2S39 Surface of restored degraded ecosystems 🟢 CO23 Nature and biodiversity: Area of supported habitats for a better conservation status
POIM 9 - Environmental protection in urban areas[...] (ERDF)	4.2 Air quality	No project approved	🔴 2S42 Pollutant emissions database according to the INSPIRE Directive 🔴 2S43 Air quality forecasting system 🔴 2S44 Modernized air quality monitoring stations
	4.3 Historically polluted sites	2 projects (no finalised)	🟢 CO22 Soil rehabilitation: Total area of rehabilitated soil
POIM 10 – Risk management (CF)	5.1 Effects of climate change	5 projects 3,86 billion Lei	🟢 2S48 Length of beach and / or protected cliff 🟢 CO20 Risk prevention and management: Population benefiting from flood protection measures
	5.2 Emergency situations	6 projects 4,2 billion Lei	🟢 2S119 IT system for emergency management 🟢 2S50 Units equipped for emergencies

Update: 2020

Methodological approach

Theory-based approach

"why and how (for whom and under what conditions) does the intervention / programme work?".

Methods

▶ **Observation -** *semi-structured interviews, review of programme implementation and indicators, literature and document review*

▶ **Analysis** *- mapping and use of infographics, case studies, interim cost-benefit analysis, data and statistical analysis*

▶ **Formulation of judgements** *– focus group*

Challenges

▶ **Lack of data** *- Lack of up-to-date evidence on the results both at programme and project level and of statistical data both at national and territorial level*

▶ **Effects need time** *- Timing for producing effects is different across the specific objectives*

Nonetheless, the evaluators have already collected many quantitative and qualitative evidences from several sources.

Conclusions and recommendations

Context evolution (2014-2019)

Conclusions

- *Large disparities in terms of GDP per capita and population variation at regional and county level, with large cities contributing more positively than the rest of the country.*

- *Romania ranks at the second latest position in the EU of the Sustainable Development Goal index (59,9 against 70,1).*

Recommendations

- *2021-2027: (programme and/or project) result indicators should consider various territorial levels in order to understand to what extent programme investments are contributing to increasing / reducing disparities in terms of territorial cohesion*

Respecting the acquis communautaire

Waste sector OS 3.1

Conclusions

- _Programme targets for 2023 are_
  - _achievable for reducing biodegradable waste deposited_
  - _challenging for closing non-compliant landfills and recycling rate_
- _Selected projects contribute to_
  - _increasing waste recycling capacity (1,58 million tons/year) (more than expected)_
  - _closing 44 landfills (programme target for 2023 = 46)_
- _Analysed projects_
  - _Promotion of integrated waste management but not waste recovery other than recycling_
  - _Lack of evidences on increased recycling rate_
  - _More time is needed to produce change_

Recommendations

- _2021-27: In order to streamline the monitoring system in the field of waste management, the Program Managing Authority could promote, in cooperation with other institutions, the creation of an open data platform for the domain._

Gross effectiveness

Impact (net effect)

Respecting the acquis communautaire

Water and wastewater OS 3.2

Conclusions

Gross effectiveness

- *Period 2014-2018*
  - *Increased length of water and wastewater network with convergence among the counties (SOP and POIM can contribute to up to 20% of the county increase)*
  - *But progress only for the connection to drinking water system*

- *Selected projects usually address some challenges (e.g. lack of connection, rehabilitation of water intakes and treatment plants, safety) but not always water losses, pollution and infiltrations.*

Impact (net effect)

- *However, most benefits are yet to come*
  - *More time is needed to produce change*
  - *Population's reluctance to connect to the network*

Recommendations

- *2021-27: introduce ad hoc project indicators measuring the capacity of the projects to actually reach the target groups (customer satisfaction indexes, number of contracts, number of complaints)*

Biodiversity protection and conservation

OS 4.1

Conclusions

Gross effectiveness

- *No significant increase in the total extension of protected areas*
- *Increase in the sites having a management structure in place*

Impact (net effect)

- *But no finalised project, and thus it is not possible to explain changes with programme investments*
- *Contracted projects do not contribute to restoring degraded ecosystems*

Recommendations

- *2014-20: promotion of the project generation on restoration of degraded ecosystems for the protection of biodiversity*

Environmental protection in urban areas, by monitoring air quality and decontamination of historically polluted sites

🔍

Air quality monitoring - OS 4.2

Conclusions

Gross effectiveness

▶ *Analysis of the context shows decreasing trend for emissions of Nitrogen Oxides, fine particle PM2,5 and population exposed to eutrophication and acidification risks, but also an increase in the population exposed to PM10 concentrations exceeding the daily limit.*

▶ *The Romanian Air Quality Monitoring Network counts 148 automatic air quality monitoring stations.*

Impact

▶ *However, due to the lack of projects, it is not possible to attribute the change to the programme investments.*

Recommendations

● ***2014-20:*** *support project generation and selection due to the lack of projects*

Environmental protection in urban areas, by monitoring air quality and decontamination of historically polluted sites

Historically polluted sites - OS 4.3

Conclusions

Recommendations

Gross effectiveness

- ▶ *Potentially contaminated sites have decreased in the period 2008-2018. However, this reduction cannot be attributed to the specific objective, having two selected phased operations still under implementation.*

Impact (net effect)

- ▶ *If projects are finalised according to what foreseen in their application forms, they will rehabilitate the soil for 26,5 hectares.*

- *2014-20: support and promote the project finalisation for the two phased projects which are under implementation*

Risk management

Natural events associated with climate change - OS 5.1

Conclusions

- *Climate change-related effects are more likely to affect the poorest population in Romania compared to other EU countries*

- *The European Environmental Agency assessment in 2019 shows a good positioning of Romania in the implementation of the climate change strategies*

- *Coastal erosion increased due to urbanisation, touristic activities, transport, fishing activities*

- *Selected operations ensure a greater than expected length of beach and / or protected cliff and higher population protected (around 20% of the Romanian population)*

- *It is too early to make a complete evaluation of the impact*

Recommendations

- *2021-27: Measurement of the results at territorial level by providing ad-hoc result indicators at project level (e.g.: coastal erosion, flood).*

Gross effectiveness

Impact (net effect)

Risk management

Emergency situations – OS 5.2

Conclusions

Gross effectiveness

Programme target for 2023 of the time of response is achievable

Impact (net effect)

▶ *Case study analysis shows that selected operations positively contribute to addressing the lack of appropriate equipment in terms of quantity and quality as well as to ensuring the possibility to use it in special conditions of intervention (e.g. rescue interventions in the aquatic environment)*

▶ *Regarding the capacity of intervention in emergency situations, despite the good progress in terms of the time of response to emergency situations, no quantitative evidences at project level are available on reduced victims (e.g. deaths and injured)*

Recommendations

- <u>*2021-27*</u>: *Promoting the use of ad-hoc outcome indicators at project level, in the period 2021-2027, to measure the capacity of projects to reach target groups.*

Other effects / spillover effects

Other effects (examples)

Definition: not explicitly foreseen in project intervention logic, but brought about by projects

- **New jobs created** for service management (OS 3.1 and 3.2)
- **Development in remote** areas (OS 3.2)

Spillover effects (examples)

Definition: Effects beyond the target sectors and territories

- **Additional investments triggered** to further extending the network and ensure the last mile connect (OS 3.2)
- **Possibility of using materials, equipment and vehicles in other emergency situations** than those foreseen and in other territories (for instance for COVID-19 pandemic abroad – OS 5.2)

Sustainability and key factors for implementation

Sustainability (examples)

▶ OS 3.1: existence and implementation of regional and county plans and the role of ADI

▶ OS 3.2: (i) collaboration between local authorities and operators; (ii) balance between costs and available resources (but reluctance of population to connect)

Key factors (examples)

▶ Collaboration with other institutions and entities promoted the projects (OS 3.1 – OS 3.2), in spite of some initial conflicts (OS 3.1), and ensured complementary investments (OS 3.2)

▶ The evolution of the legislative framework has stimulated the improvement of the waste management system but also posed new challenging targets to be achieved (OS 3.1).

▶ The modified legislation imposed higher costs for salaries difficult to bear for OS 3.2 projects

▶ Public procurement procedures were considered very challenging (OS 5.2)

Thank you!