



Monitoring and evaluation of cohesion policy in 2014-2020

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Result orientation of cohesion policy

- *Is NOT just a slogan without content*
- *Effectiveness has become a principle of the policy (Art. 5 CPR)*
- *Monitoring and evaluation plays a key role. Much more attention should be paid to processing and assessing data.*
- *BUT: It is not about producing more data! It is about producing better data.*

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Monitoring – What does it mean?

- 1. Continuous and systematic process of generating quantitative data on implementation*
- 2. Examination and discussion of these data*

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1. Generating quantitative data

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Indicators

- *They are the core of monitoring*
- *Financial, output and result indicators are possible – no impact or context indicators*
- *At the level of priority axis or investment priority*
- *The Regulation establishes a legal obligation on the Member State to process the data*
- *Indicators need a definition & measurement unit*

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Common ESF indicators

- *Established with the aim :*
 - 1. to reduce the list of programme specific indicators (for ESF currently >7000)**
 - 2. to generate aggregatable data at EU level**
- *Capture outputs, immediate and longer-term results*
- *OPs shall always report against all common indicators*

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Common ESF Result indicators

Immediate	Longer-term
Inactive newly engaged in job searching upon leaving	In employment 6 months after leaving
In education/training upon leaving	In self-employment 6 months after leaving
Gaining a qualification upon leaving	With an improved labour market situation 6 months after leaving
In employment upon leaving	

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Programme-specific indicators

- *Possible in addition to common indicators*
- *The causal chain between intervention, output and result should be short.*
- *For the ESF avoid result indicators such as "employment rate in the region" or targets "increase of employment rate by x%".*

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Baseline and targets

- *Baselines for result indicators only*
- *Baselines can refer to a situation at national/regional level.*
- *Baselines can be based on comparable programmes.*
- *Cumulative quantified target values for 2022*
- *Targets are quantified (in absolute numbers or shares/rates). For ERDF qualitative targets are possible*

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Example for baselines, indicators, target for early school leaving

Baselines:

- **national/regional early school leaving rate, or:**
- **Early school leaving rate at the X% or X worst performing schools in the region/MS**

Indicators:

- **Output: no of schools supported**
- **Result: no. of early school leavers at supported schools**

Result Target:

- **early school leaving rate at supported schools, or:**
- **Reduction of early school leaving rate at supported schools by X% (in comparison to before support)**

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2. Assessing and discussing data

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Annual Implementation reports (AIR)

- *The first AIR in 2016, covering 2014 and 2015*
- *Simplified reports in 2016, 2018, 2020, 2021, 2022*
- *Reports of a more strategic nature in 2017, 2019 & 2023*
- *All data needs to be there in order for a report to be admissible*

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Monitoring Committee

- *MC has the following tasks, i.a.:*
 - **MC can issue recommendations on implementation and evaluation of OP.**
 - **MC shall monitor follow-up of recommendations**
 - **MC shall discuss follow-up of evaluation findings**
- *EC recommends to regularly present updated monitoring data to MC*

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Evaluation

- *Ex ante, on-going, and ex post evaluations*
- *Ex-ante evaluation (undertaken by MS)*
 - carried out for each OP
 - submitted to the Commission at the same time as the OP
- *Each OP should be covered by one evaluation plan*

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Stronger focus on impact evaluations

- *Two broad categories of impact evaluation are generally recognised: theory-based and counterfactual impact evaluations*
- *DG EMPL will produce guidance on counterfactual impact evaluation*