




Revision of the monitoring and evaluation system in the case of the Hungarian RDP

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Levels of administrative burden

- Administrative burden exist on the following levels:
 - 1) On the level of beneficiaries of RD measures
 - 2) On the level of institutions- mainly the Paying Agency dealing with applications (collecting and processing data)
 - 3) On the level of the whole public administration

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Administrative burden on the beneficiaries

- **Legislation:** frequent changes, difficult terminology
- **Timing and deadlines:** too short period- late response from the Paying Agency
- **Application forms, claims:** too complex forms, complicated and misleading filling-in instructions, difficult application procedure, too many supporting documents
- **Reporting** (provision of monitoring data): too many indicators, difficult terminology, no clear definition of indicators
- **On-the spot controls:** too many controls within a year, no prior announcement, bad timing

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Administrative burden on the Paying Agency

- Compared to 2004-2006, enlarged number of clients and measures in 2007-2013
- Too many indicators by measures
- Problems with data reliability (data cleansing is required)
- Management of data supply is difficult (availability of IACS monitoring data)
- Complicated procedures, complex manuals, too many administrative controls
- Insufficient human resource capacity

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Study on administrative burden

- 5 December 2011- EU Commission RD Committee: presentation on the study on administrative burden associated with certain rural development measures *
- Aim: to assess administrative burden on beneficiaries, to make recommendations for reducing these
- Hungary was one of the 6 Member States in which data were collected and analysed
- Results were extrapolated to the remaining 21 MS to produce an EU-27 Estimate

*(Johan Van Gruijthusien)

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Results of the study *

- Total administrative burden for beneficiaries EU-27, €240M P.A. (2009)
- In absolute terms measure 214 (Agri-environment payments) creates the highest level of administrative burden - more than €117 million;
- Measure 311 -Diversification into non-agricultural activities creates the least administrative burden (€6.9 million) due to the comparatively small population affected.
- The Administrative Burden represents 4.7% of total public expenditure of €5.1 billion
- At 15.2%, the highest ratio of the AB to the total expenditure is for training funds (measure 111).

*(Johan Van Gruijthusien)

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Recommendations for improving the monitoring system

- Based on the MTE carried out in 2010:
 - Revision of the circle of monitoring data
 - Better coherence between project monitoring and programme monitoring
 - Revision of the procedure of data supply
 - Strengthening data reliability
 - Better communication towards the beneficiaries (tools for informing clients about monitoring requirements)
 - Strengthening human resource capacity
 - IT development of online data collection system

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Revising the circle of monitoring data

- The goal was to focus on the quality of data instead of quantity.
- Working groups have been established in coordination of the Managing Authority (Unit for Monitoring and MA, Department of Rural Development) to supervise data.
- Results of the review:
 - fewer indicators;
 - reduction of administrative burden on beneficiaries;
 - clearly defined indicators for beneficiaries;
 - Designation of who and for what purpose uses the monitoring data;
 - Increasing coherence between monitoring data and evaluation requirements.

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Revising the procedure of data supply, developing new monitoring procedure

- Collecting data from other databases:
 - the Farm Accountancy Data Network operated by the Agricultural Research Institute (AKI),
 - the Agricultural Land Parcel Identification System (MEPAR) operated by FÖMI,
 - the Animal Identification and Registration Systems (ENAR) operated by NÉBIH,
 - the Client registration system operated by the Paying Agency and
 - the Rural Development Educational and Advisory Institute (VKSZI).

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Electronic monitoring data supply system

- Legal background: Regulation of the Ministry of Rural Development
- Data supply once a year (February-March)
- Access through e-government portal
- ” Client-specific” e-questionnaire
- Acceleration, effectiveness: speed up data supply and aggregation
- „The system will work instead of you.”
- Automated data control built in
- Avoid additional multiple data entry
- Questionnaire can not be submitted until all questions answered.

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Tools for the information of clients about monitoring requirements

- Guidelines to filling e-questionnaire published on homepage of the Paying Agency, also available as part of the e-questionnaire
- More clear instructions for beneficiaries
- Easier data collections sheets and filling-in instructions
- Client Service Centre is reinforced during the data supply.
- ” FAQ” menu on the Agency’s website.
- Involvement of the Agricultural Chamber and the network of agricultural extension officers.

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Strengthening human capacity


Trainings:

- Internal trainings and workshops for colleagues who help clients to fill in the e-form.
- External trainings for Agricultural Chamber and the network of agricultural extension officers. Give feedback from the beneficiaries

Result: better data quality and reports, less frustrated beneficiaries and staff

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Zoltan Magyary Hungarian Development Programme in Public Administration I.

- In 2011 the Hungarian government established the Zoltan Magyary Simplification Programme- Government Decree 1304/2011 (IX.2)
- Main objective: simplification of administrative procedures for clients without putting extra administrative burden on the clerks.

Other aims:

- Significant reduction of administrative burden (e.g. less supporting documents)
- Making the language of certain legislations more easy to understand

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Zoltan Magyary Hungarian Development Programme in Public Administration II.

- The simplification process covered the following areas:
 - 1) Establishing harmonisation in the different administrative procedures
 - 2) Clear information and guidelines (legislations. Manuals, handbooks) to ensure applicant-friendly process
 - 3) Revision of the customer-service system, improving its accessibility
 - 4) Improving the conditions of legal remedy
 - 5) E-governance

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What has been achieved so far?

- Modifications of specific legislations
 - modification of implementing regulation: MARD decree No. 23/2007 (IV.17.): feasible deadlines, less supporting documents, more applicant friendly procedure
 - modification of MARD decree No. 18/2009 (III. 6): reducing the circle of data for monitoring purposes
 - modification of MARD Decree No. 52/2007 (VI.28.): simplification of the measure No. 111 Vocational training and information actions

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What has been achieved so far?

- Comprehensive modifications concerning the whole public administration system
 - New portal dedicated for communication in connection with the Hungarian RDP
 - Decrease the number of legislations
 - Better guidelines for clients
 - Simplifying the whole process of application submission
 - Making it possible for clients to submit applications on a continuous basis (with or without deadlines)

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Thank you for your attention!

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