



DANISH CASE STUDY - LAG OPERATIONS DATABASE FOR THE MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF LEADER/CLLD

FACTSHEET OF THE EUROPEAN EVALUATION HELPDESK FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT - DECEMBER 2016



HARVESTING KEY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION

According to the EU legislative framework on support for rural development, beneficiaries of RDP measures - including Local Action Groups (LAGs) - shall provide key information on the implementation of the programme in order to support its monitoring and evaluation activities. The LAG operations database is one of the key components for conducting evidence-based monitoring and evaluation of LEADER/CLLD. In Denmark, the Ministry of Housing, Urban and Rural Development, in joint collaboration with several experts (LAG managers, evaluators, and IT system engineers) have developed an electronic operations database (PROMIS) for the LAGs/FLAGs implementing CLLD strategies.



INNOVATIVE DATA MANAGEMENT FOR EVIDENCE-BASED EVALUATIONS

What is PROMIS?

PROMIS – Project Result Oriented Management Information System – is an integrated web-based solution, which helps to: (1) manage the application and selection process of LEADER/CLLD supported projects and (2) carry out the monitoring and evaluation of LEADER at two levels: RDP and LAG. PROMIS enables the storing, sharing, analysing, and visualisation of data (in real time) among three primary actors:

1. Project applicants/beneficiaries use PROMIS to apply for projects, communicate with the LAGs and Managing Authority about the project selection results, and to report project results;
2. Local Action Groups have open access to all data and information concerning the projects (e.g. characteristics, outputs and results) which are useful for the monitoring and evaluation of their CLLD strategies;
3. RDP Managing Authorities have open access to all data and information at different levels: single projects, LAG and RDP levels.

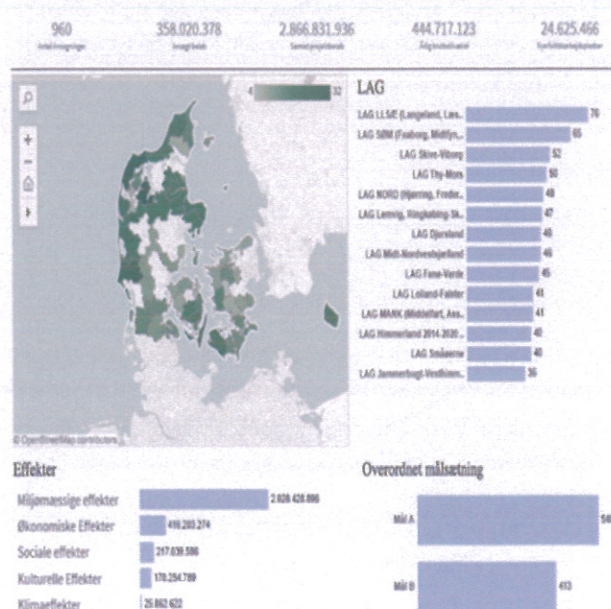
How does PROMIS work?

PROMIS was created to assist LEADER/CLLD stakeholders who are involved throughout the delivery process, starting from the project application phase until the evaluation of LEADER/CLLD (both as a local strategy and a self standing measure of the



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON PROMIS AND OTHER EXAMPLES OF LAG OPERATION DATABASE

- Good Practice Workshop on “Targeted data management for evidence based evaluation of Rural Development Programmes 2014-20” (Bordeaux, 5-6 December 2016)
- Project Result-Oriented Management Information System (PROMIS)



PROMIS – Project Result Oriented Management information System

RDP). The main functions are: (1) data collection; (2) support for project selection; (3) transfer of selection results among stakeholders; (4) guidance for beneficiaries on reporting project results; (5) assessment of LEADER/CLLD effects at the RDP and LAG levels; and (6) reporting monitoring and evaluation results. PROMIS is equipped with several analytic and visualization tools (e.g. double-entry graphs, charts and maps). PROMIS provides a rapid and user-friendly solution to elaborate, display, and interpret large amounts of data for the delivery, monitoring, and evaluation of LEADER/CLLD.



WHAT MAKES A GOOD LAG OPERATIONS DATABASE?

Several aspects underpin the quality of a valuable LAG operations database for supporting LEADER/CLLD evaluations. Outlined below are a few key quality aspects, which should be considered and useful recommendations for their achievement.

QUALITY ASPECTS OF A OPERATIONS DATABASE:

Balance between standardisation and flexibility in the collection of data for evaluation. The use of an adaptive application form allows one to collect standardised data, which are common across all LAGs (useful mainly for the evaluation at RDP level) and to gather data that are more specific and responsive to LAG evaluation needs.

Data collection is based on a clear intervention logic. In order to show achievements and progress, and to assess the contributions of CLLD to the RDP policy objectives, data collection at the project level (input, output and results) should be linked to the specific objectives of the CLLD strategy, as well as to the RDP focus areas addressed (primary or secondary) by LEADER/CLLD.

Integration of centralised and decentralised data management. An integrated operations database, which is accessible simultaneously by all the LAGs and the Managing Authority can help to improve the overall transparency and efficiency of the information system, as well as to increase the ownership of data among stakeholders.

Smarter application of the LAG operations database for multiple uses and multiple funds. The LAG operations database can be designed not only for the monitoring and evaluation of LEADER, but also to manage its overall delivery procedures. Moreover, in the case of CLLD strategies delivered through a multi funded approach, a LAG operations database can extend its functions and use to other ESI funds.



RECOMMENDATIONS:

(1) Be focused on the final utilisation of the data collected. To avoid the collection of superfluous and costly data, make a selection based on the final utilisation. (2) Coordinate carefully the data flow among different governance levels. Keep in mind, which kind of data needs to be aggregated and compared at the RDP level and, which data can be more useful at the LAG level.

Create a multiple choice list in the application form to link the primary and the secondary contributions of each project to the most appropriate CLLD strategy's objectives and RDP focus areas. For the evaluation of LEADER/CLLD at the RDP level, applicants and/or a LAG manager can flag the focus areas, which are primarily and secondarily targeted by each project, and prepare RDP evaluators to assess the contributions of LEADER/CLLD to the RDP's objectives.

Integrate the needs and perspectives of multiple LEADER/CLLD stakeholders when developing and implementing a LAG operations database (e.g. LAG managers, Paying Agency, Managing Authority, NRN, and citizens). Define carefully the role and responsibility of each stakeholder involved in the IT solution for monitoring and evaluation.

For LAGs delivering a CLLD strategy through the multi fund approach, try to design and use a single LAG operations database for the delivery, monitoring and evaluation of CLLD strategies.

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The Evaluation Helpdesk works under the supervision of Unit E.4 (Evaluation and studies) of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development.

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