



Thematic working group: Evaluation of innovation in rural development programmes

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Content

- **EU policy and innovation** in rural areas
- **Evaluation** of innovation in rural policy
- **Challenges** of evaluating innovation in RDPs
- **The Thematic Working Group**
- **The guidelines**

What do we mean with innovation?

Technological, institutional, social,
based on traditional practices in a new
geographical or environmental context

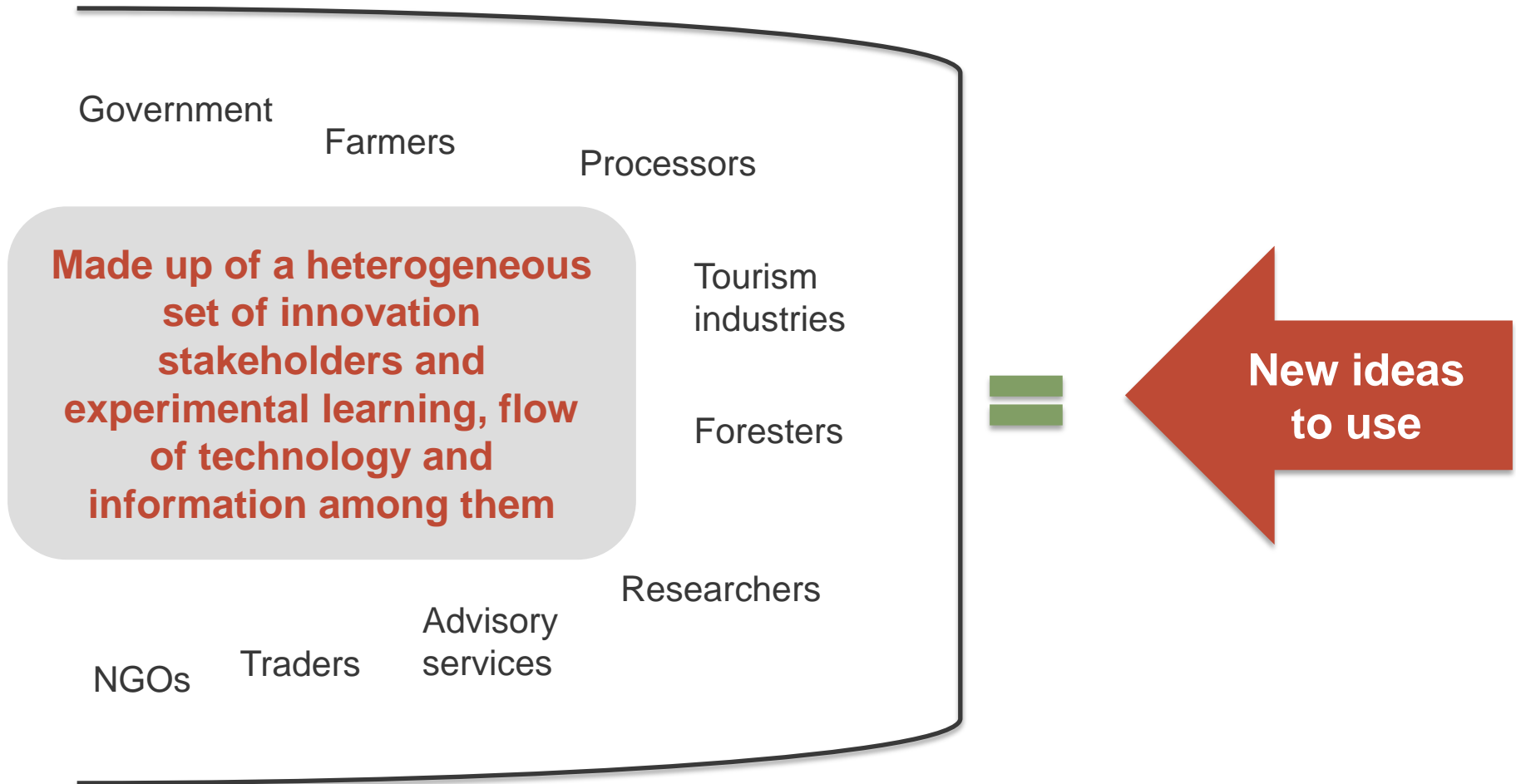
Innovation

New product, practice, service,
production process or a new way of
organising things

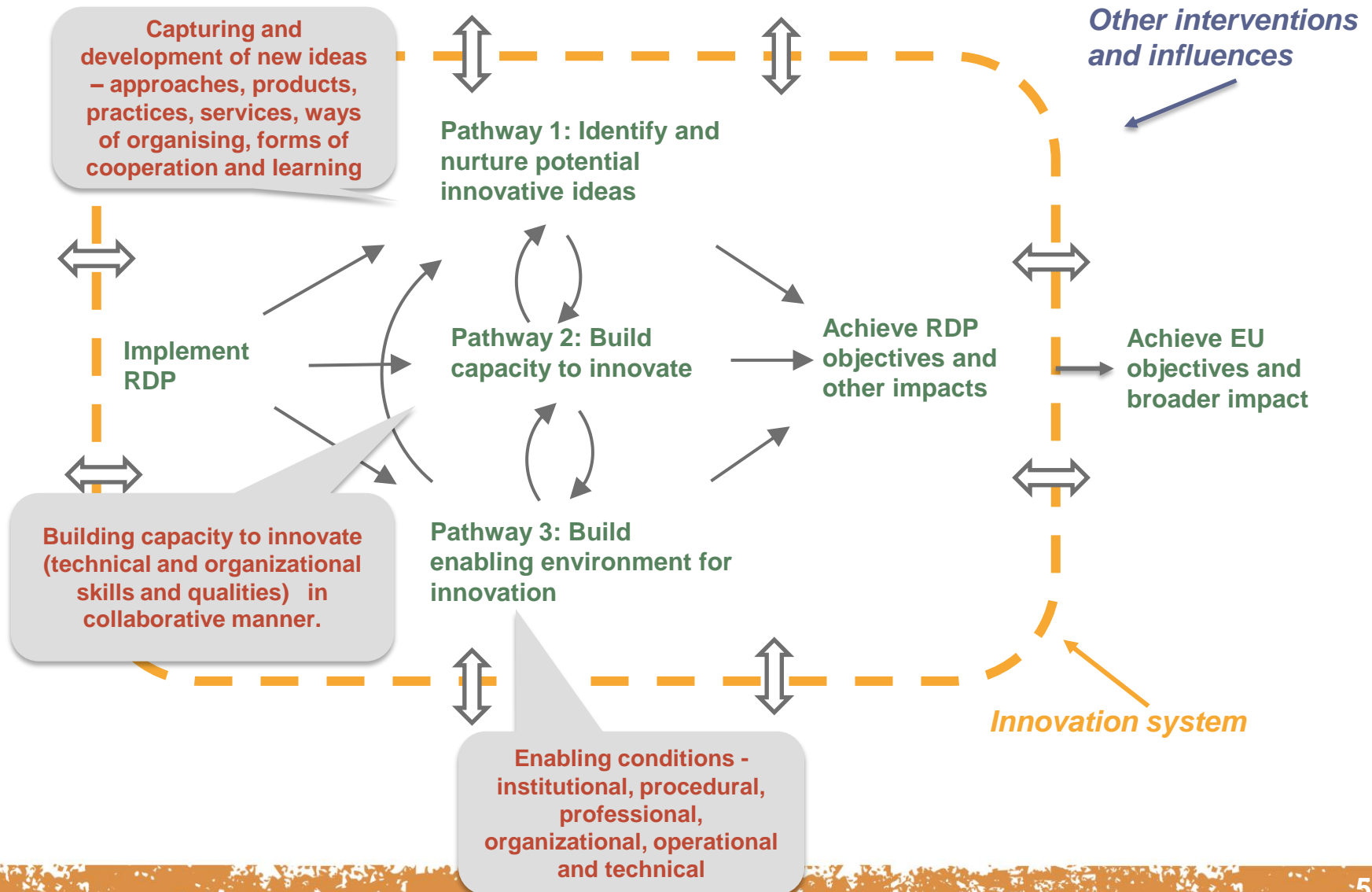
**New idea that proves
successful in practice**

*DG Agriculture and Rural Development, Guidelines on
programming for innovation and the implementation of the
EIP for agricultural productivity and sustainability, Dec. 2014*

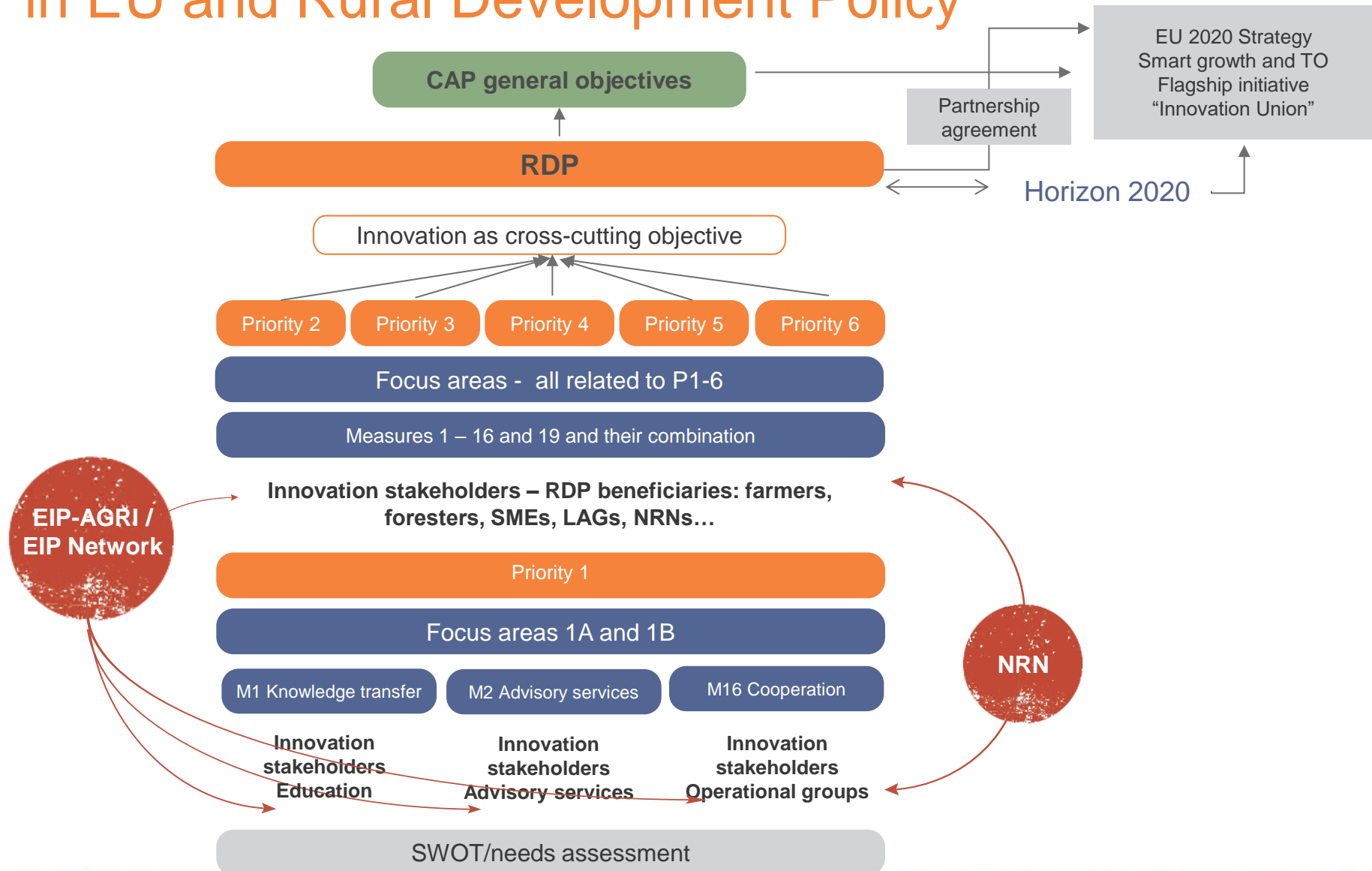
Innovation system in rural areas



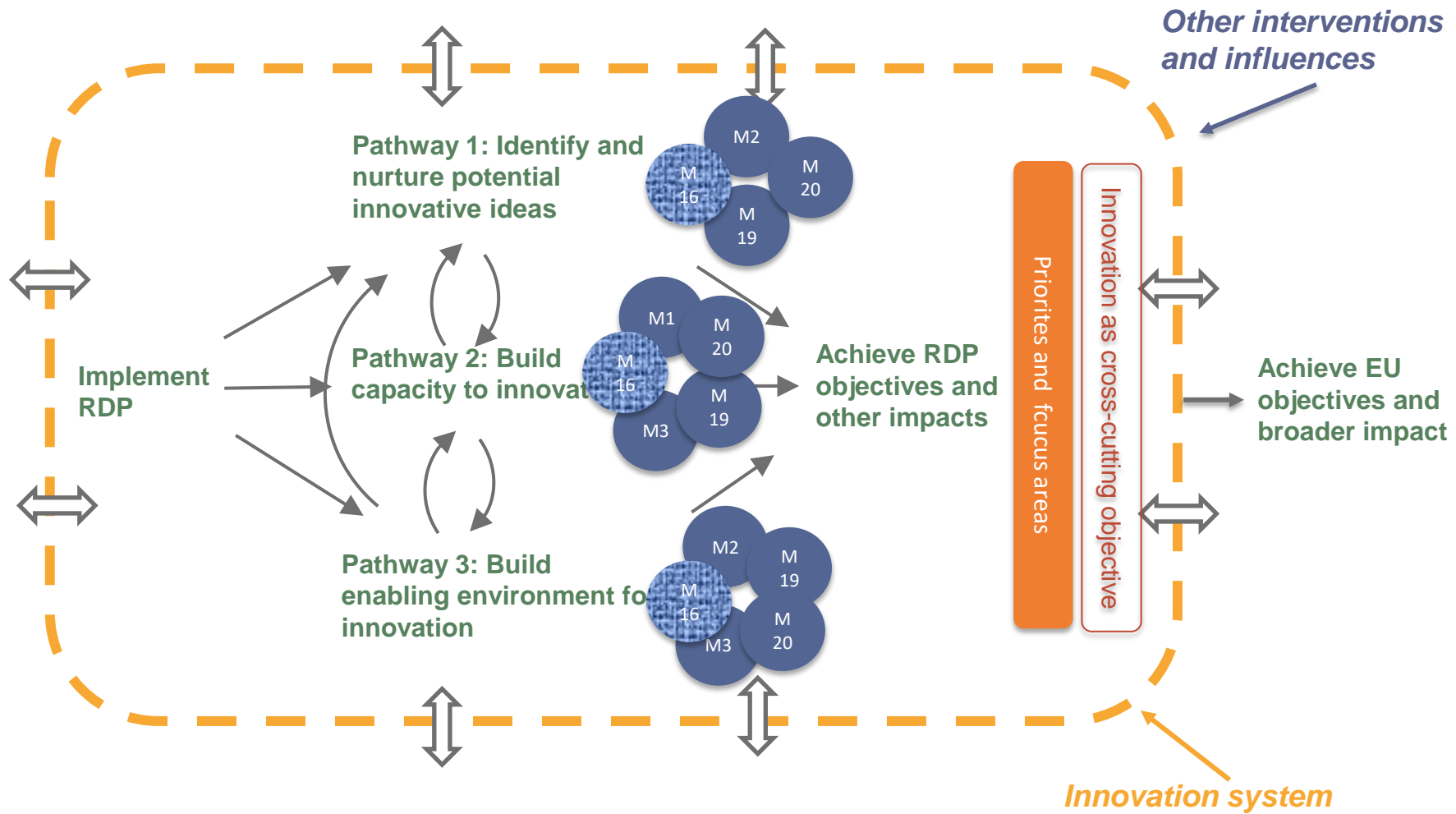
EU rural policy and innovation



The policy framework for innovation in EU and Rural Development Policy



EU rural policy and innovation



Why to evaluate innovation?

Show the accountability of rural development interventions and demonstrate:

- how they have fostered innovation in rural areas and
- how innovations contributed to programme results and impacts, to EU rural policy and EU 2020 Strategy objectives.

Better target the EAFRD support to innovation by:

- selecting the most relevant programme beneficiaries and territories,
- employing most suitable eligible actions and
- ensuring effective and efficient operations in line with the findings of the SWOT and needs assessment.

Enhance common learning among stakeholders on how to best support and implement innovation by learning from past experiences, by understanding conditions for success.



Legal requirements related to evaluation of innovation

MA specify in the Evaluation plan:

- topics and activities linked to cross-cutting issues

MA ensure the assessment of RDP results and impacts, provide answers to the evaluation questions related to

- **Focus area 1A and 1B** (AIR of 2017, 2019, ex post)
- **Cross-cutting objective on innovation:** „To what extent has the RDP contributed to fostering innovation?“ (AIR in 2019, ex post)

MA report on evaluation of innovation in the AIR in 2017, 2019 and in the ex post

(808/2014)





Requirements for reporting on evaluation of innovation

2017 AIR

Quantification of programme achievements in relation to innovation, in particular through answering CEQ1, CEQ2 and CEQ21 and their respective indicators



2019 AIR

Progress towards innovation as a cross-cutting objective of the programme and its contributions to achieving the EU headline target on innovation and to smart growth through inter alia assessment of the programme's net contributions to fostering innovation through answering CEQ23 and CEQ30 and changes in their indicators values



EX POST (2024)

Results of the assessment of effectiveness efficiency, impact and achievements of the RDP in relation to the EU 2020 target on innovation and RD cross-cutting objective of innovation

Answers to CEQ1, CEQ2, CEQ21, CEQ23, CEQ30 and programme-specific EQS, conclusions, recommendations in relation to innovation

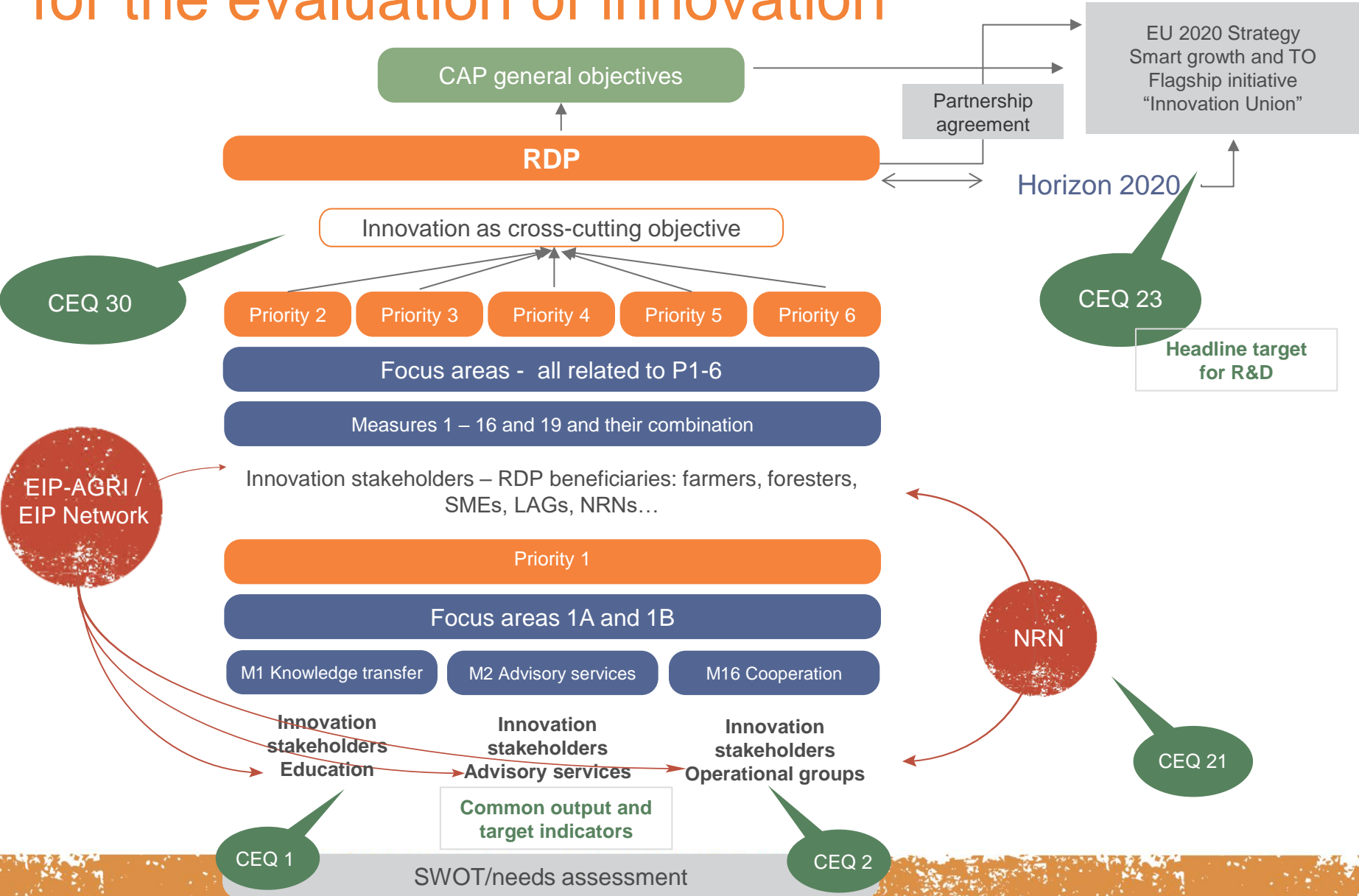


The common evaluation elements for the evaluation of innovation

Common evaluation questions related to:

- **Focus areas** – CEQs 1 and 3 linked to the objectives of Focus Area 1A and 1B to capture the contributions of interventions in terms of expected **outputs and results**.
- **Other aspects of the RDP** - CEQ 21 to capture the expected **outputs and results** achieved by NRNs.
- **EU level objectives**
 - CEQ 30 is linked to the cross cutting objective on innovation and assesses the contributions of the RDP in fostering innovation
 - CEQ 23 is linked to the EU headline target of investing 3% of the EUs GDP in research and development

The common evaluation elements for the evaluation of innovation





Challenges in evaluating innovation

Conceptual challenges

Challenges linked to implementing the CMES

Methodological challenges

Organisational challenges

Conceptual challenges

How to identify the evaluation subject/focus?

How to map the knowledge and innovation system?

How to review the approach of the RDP towards innovation (innovation potential)?

Challenges linked to implementing the CMES

How to develop additional and programme specific evaluation elements (evaluation questions, judgement criteria, indicators)?

How to report evaluation results?

Methodological challenges

How to attribute innovations to RDP interventions?

How to measure contributions of primarily and secondarily programmed measures?

How to assess transfer effects/synergies?

How to design adequate evaluation approaches?

How to ensure effective and efficient data management for evaluation of innovation in RDPs 2014-2020?

Organisational challenges

How to ensure sufficient resources and right timing for evaluation of innovation?

How to coordinate involved stakeholders?

How to use evaluation findings for improving the policy design and implementation?





Thematic working group: objectives and expected outcome

Objectives

Examine and address the major challenges in the evaluation of innovation

Review existing experiences in the evaluation of innovation

Identify and design effective solutions in the evaluation of innovation inside of the RDP

Expected outcome

Guidelines for the evaluation of innovation, complementing existing guidance and the CMES;



Thematic working group – composition

DRAFTING THE GUIDELINES

Permanent Team of
Evaluation Helpdesk

Core team members

Thematic experts

PEER REVIEWING

DG AGRI

Experts

INVOLVING STAKEHOLDERS

EXPERT GROUP ON MONITORING
AND EVALUATING THE CAP

ENRD Contact Point
EIP-AGRI Service Point

SOUNDING BOARD

Expert Group on Monitoring and
Evaluating the CAP

Rural Network Steering Group
Sub-group on innovation



Content of the guidelines

PART I **The conceptual framework**

The innovation system

**The EU policy framework
and evaluation of
innovation in 2014-2020**

**The challenges in
evaluating innovation**

PART II **How to evaluate innovation in RDPs**

**Approach and key steps in
evaluating innovation**

**Identifying the RDP innovation
potential**

**Complementing the common
evaluation elements for
innovation**

**Methods and data for the
evaluation of innovation and
assessing the achievements**

**Reporting and follow-up of
evaluation results**

PART III **ANNEXES**

Tools

Checklists

Examples

Glossary

References



Useful links

Guidelines for evaluation of rural development programmes in 2014-2020

[http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/evaluation/publications/e-library/_en?f\[0\]=im_field_enrd_publ_ehd_content_t%3A20147](http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/evaluation/publications/e-library/_en?f[0]=im_field_enrd_publ_ehd_content_t%3A20147)

Member States' questions and answers

http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/evaluation/publications/working-document-evaluation-related-queries_en

Guidelines for evaluation of rural development programmes in 2007-2013

http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/enrd-static/evaluation/library/evaluation-helpdesk-publications/en/evaluation-helpdesk-publications_en.html



Thank you for your attention!

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