



SESSION 4

INTPA support to evaluations

The Eval Module

Planning Evaluations

INTPA support to evaluations: Session Outline

INTPA D4, Evaluation section & Evaluation support service (ESS)

The EVAL module

Planning Evaluations – the Operational Evaluation Plan (OEP)

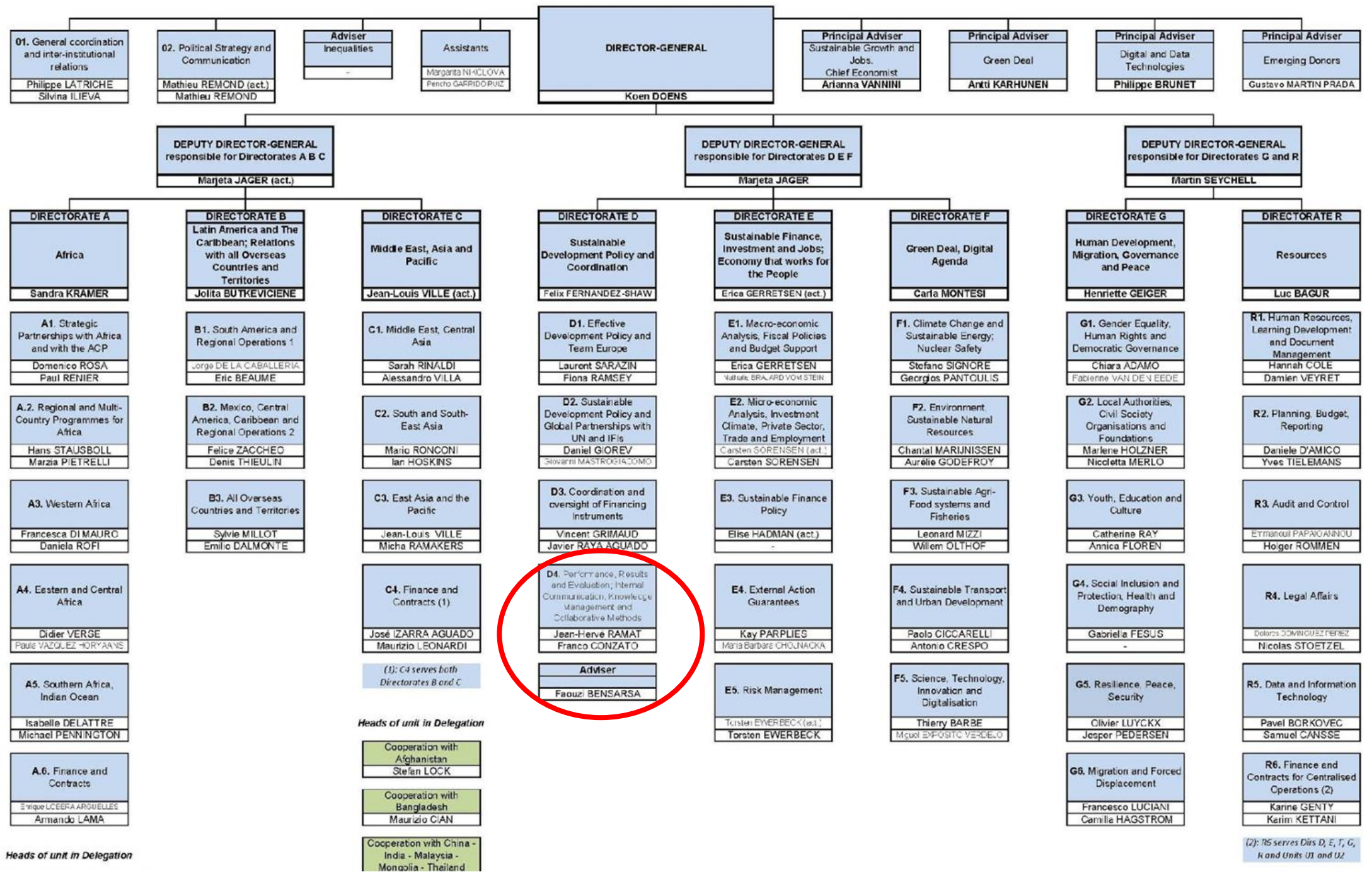




Who does what?

Introduction to the evaluation section
of INTPA Unit D4

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS



Unit D4 - Evaluation and Results

- **Mission**

Unit D4 aims at **improving the quality and enhancing the impact of EU development cooperation** at each stage of the intervention cycle.

- **Vision**

Is for INTPA to become an **accountable organisation** delivering results, and a **learning institution** proactively sharing knowledge and best practices to **improve current action** and build **policy making on evidence and lessons learned**

Unit D4 Performance, Results and Evaluation; Internal Communication, Knowledge Management and Collaborative Methods

24/02/2021

Internal groups

Evaluation Correspondents Network (ECN)
Chair: TBD

External groups

EU-UN FAFA working group
D4 participation: Franco Conzato (meet 1/year)

OECD DAC working group
- Results (meet 2/year)
- Evaluations (meet 2/year)

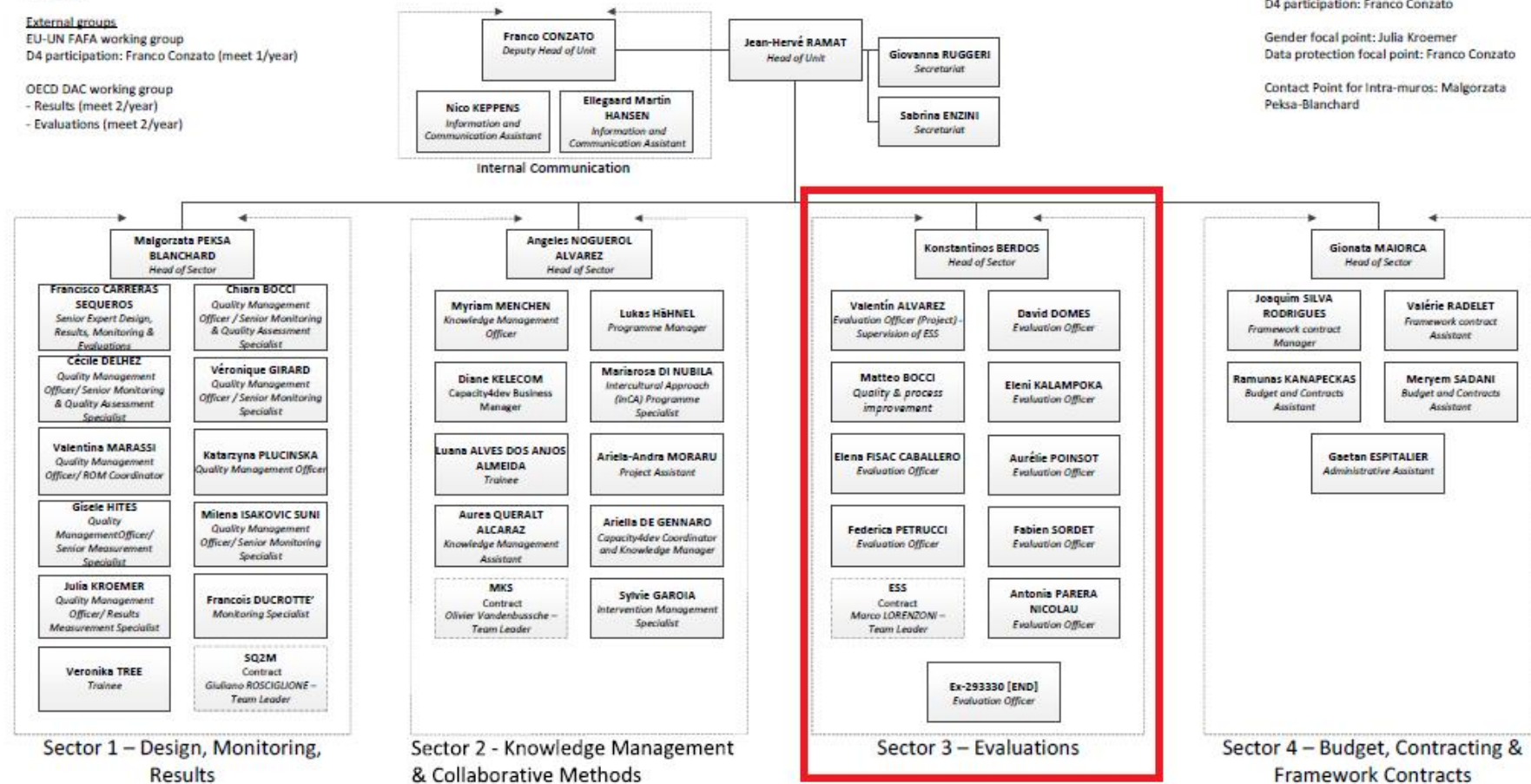
Strategic Steering Committee

D4 participation: Franco Conzato

Gender focal point: Julia Kroemer

Data protection focal point: Franco Conzato

Contact Point for Intra-muros: Malgorzata Peksa-Blanchard



External groups

EU expert group on results
Chair: Franco Conzato (meet 1-2/year)

Internal groups

DEVCO methodological network
Chair: TBD (meet 3-4/year)

Communication Coordination Network: Ariella De Gennaro
Knowledge Management Correspondent: Ariella De Gennaro

Internal groups

Evaluation Network of the Commission (managed by SG)
D4 participation: Franco Conzato

External groups

Group of Heads of EU Member States' Evaluation Services for External/Development Cooperation and the European Commission (EU-HES)
Chair: Franco Conzato (meet 1/year)



European
Commission

Unit D4 - Evaluation and Results

- **Section 1: Design, Monitoring, Results:**

This Section supports INTPA services in the **Quality of Design: Identification and Formulation; Monitoring and Data Collection and Corporate Performance Assessment.**

- **Section 2: Knowledge Management & Internal communication:**

This section supports INTPA (HQ and EUDs) in the areas of **Training and Knowledge Dissemination** (MKS, C4D, events) and **Methodology** (PPCM, ROM, EU RF)

- **Section 3: Evaluations:**

This section contributes to **enhancing the quality of EU development cooperation** as well as its management through the steering, coordination, monitoring and reporting on the evaluation activities of the Directorate-General.

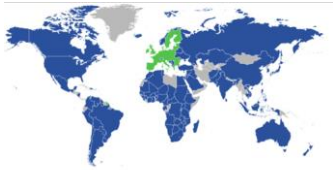
Evaluation: who does what?



- The **Evaluation and Results (INTPA D4) unit** is responsible for **steering, supporting and co-ordinating the evaluation function**



- INTPA D4 (**Section 3**) manages **strategic/complex evaluations** (10-15 per year)



- **Project and programme evaluations** are managed by the **EUD / Operational Units** (150 - 175 per year) through the **Eval module** and supported by INTPA.D4 (**Section 3**)



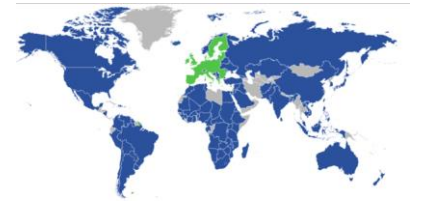
- Evaluations are contracted out through **framework contracts** (SIEA 2018 for P/P, COM2015 and new EVA2020 for SE)

Strategic evaluations

- D4 is directly responsible for **planning and managing** strategic evaluations
- These include evaluations of: **strategies, policies, instruments, themes, country and regional programmes and implementation modalities**;
- They produce evidence to inform **decision making** processes across the organisation, while also serving an **accountability** objective;
- Main users: INTPA Management, units in INTPA/ EEAS and EU Delegations;
- They also contribute to **wider debates at international level** on what works, what doesn't and why.

Evaluations in Delegations and Units

- Unit D4 **coordinates** and **assists** the evaluations carried out by **Delegations and Units**
- Unit D4 aims at reinforcing the **horizontal analysis** and **uptake of knowledge** produced by this type of evaluation
- Unit D4 launches and coordinates evaluation **planning** (OEP)
- Unit D4 is the business manager of the **EVAL module**

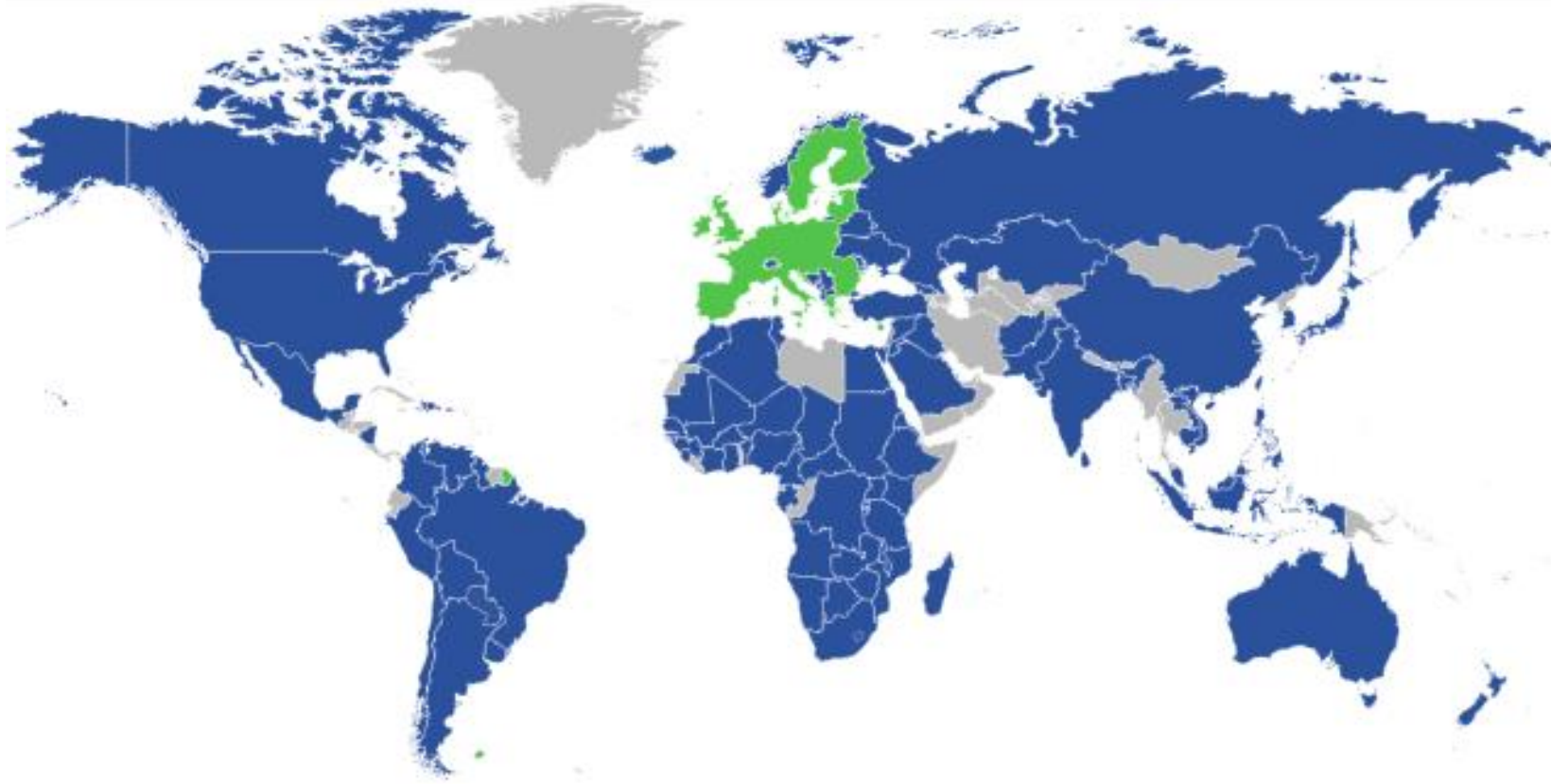


Unit D4 supports the work of DG INTPA and EU Delegations:

- To strengthen the **quality** of evaluations
- **To improve the capacities** of INTPA staff in evaluation
- To stimulate **knowledge sharing and learning**

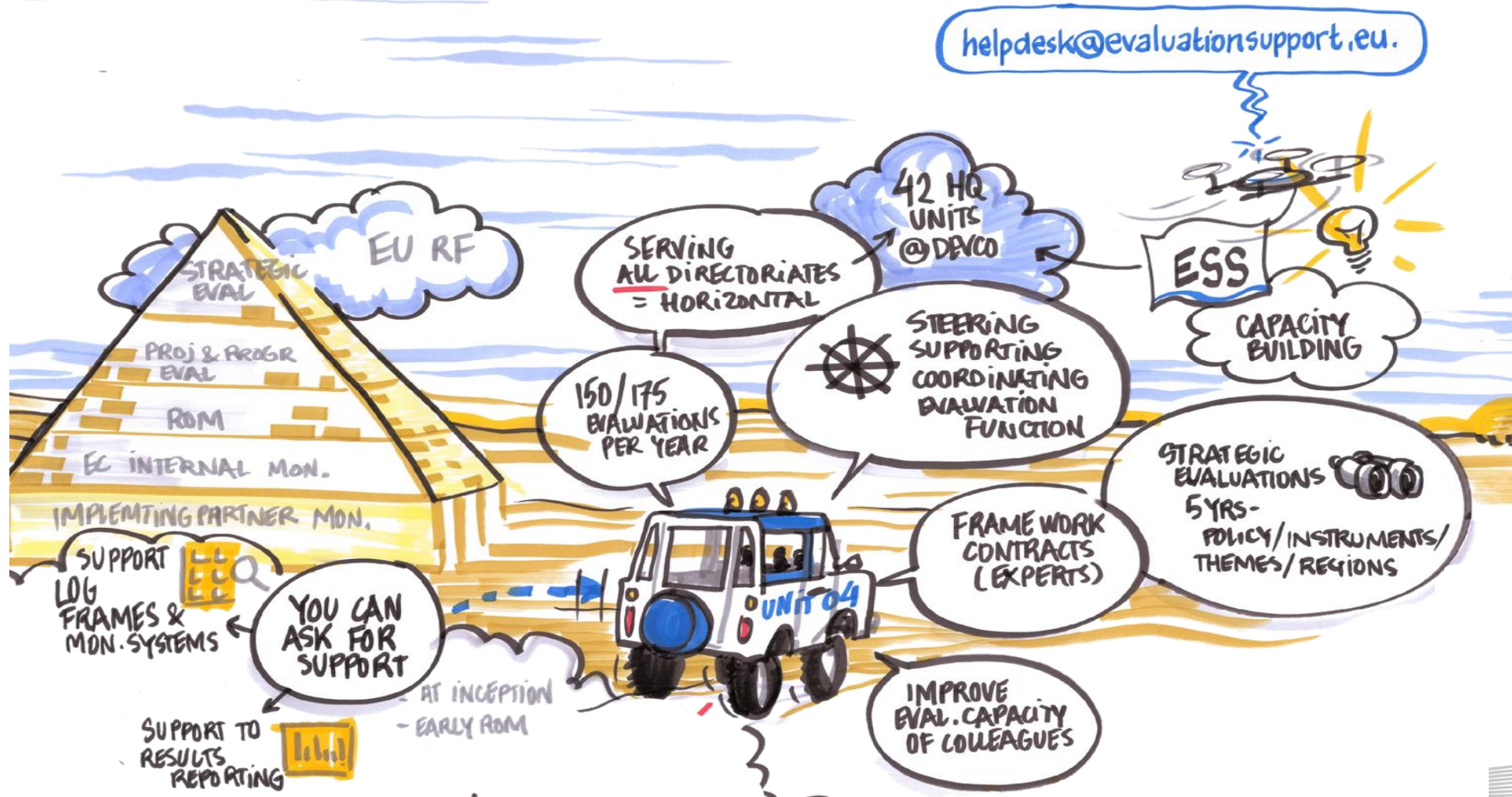


143 EU Delegations



European Union Countries with EU delegations

The Evaluation Support Service



The Evaluation Support Service

- The ESS supports INTPA D4 and provides support to Delegations and Units at HQ, and carries out analytical work to reinforce the uptake and use of information produced by evaluations.

ESS Team

Core team

- Marco LORENZONI, *Team Leader and Senior Evaluation Expert*
- Michaël POTAR, *Evaluation Advisor*
- Hur HASSNAIN, *Senior Evaluation Expert*
- Matteo BOCCI, *Senior Evaluation Expert*
- Saskia VAN CRUGTEN, *Senior Evaluation Expert*
- Saskia BRAND, *Senior Evaluation Expert*

Forms of support (since March 2017):

- online/telephone
- onsite events in Delegations and HQs,
- non IT support EVAL module,
- Evaluation Correspondent Network,
- Capacity 4 Development,
- Webinars

Typical questions answered through helpdesk@evaluationsupport.eu

- ✓ Please comment on the objectives of my evaluation.
- ✓ Can you review the proposed Terms of Reference?
- ✓ Could you review my Evaluation Questions?
- ✓ Whom should I involve in my reference group?
- ✓ What are the ideal profiles for my evaluators?
- ✓ How can I judge the quality of the methodology and tools proposed by contractors?

Average response time:
less than a working day !
Satisfaction rate: 98% !

1500 wd of NON CORE experts

The Evaluation Support Service



EVERYTHING STARTS WITH GOOD PLANNING...

It is impossible to evaluate all interventions; therefore, those to be evaluated are to be **carefully selected**.

Have you considered discussing your selection criteria (OEP) with us?



EVALUATION MUST BE USEFUL TO YOUR WORK

It is not a box-ticking exercise. **What do you want to achieve** with your evaluation?

Even before writing your Terms of Reference we are here to help you in defining its scope, focus and type; a simple phone call may help.



ARE THE OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF YOUR EVALUATION CLEAR?

What are your key **evaluation questions**? Are the **resources** and **evaluators' profiles** consistent with the evaluation scope?

70% of the complex requests we receive are to revise a draft ToR, and rightly so! A good evaluation starts with clear and unambiguous ToR, and **resources must be consistent with the evaluation scope**.

Looking for an expert review and revision of your ToR? Share your draft with us.



IS THE METHODOLOGY PROPOSED BY THE EVALUATORS GOOD FOR MY EVALUATION?

One size does not fit all, and we know this for a fact: a methodology that is good for one evaluation could be inappropriate for another. Sometimes a small change can make a big difference in terms of quality... and quality matters!

IS THE EVALUATION REPORT GOOD?

Is your evaluation report based on sound **evidence**, are **conclusions derived from findings** and do **recommendations follow from conclusions**?

This analysis can be tricky, but you can rely on us: after your revision, send us your report for a critical friend's advice.

WHAT ABOUT DISSEMINATION OF THE EVALUATION RESULTS?

Evaluations provide an ideal opportunity to **communicate about the results of our cooperation** work to a wide audience; this important step is sometimes overlooked.

Since preparing your ToR, you may want to involve us for an opinion on the dissemination strategy for your evaluation: products, messages, channels...

SEMINARS, WEBINARS, ONSITE SUPPORT

We regularly co-animate the **regional seminars** on Monitoring and Evaluation organised by DEVCO Unit "Results and Evaluation" and we offer **webinars** on different evaluation topics. Contact us to find out about upcoming dates for your diary. You and your colleagues may also want to have **dedicated on-site support** on specific themes, such as evaluation in hard-to-reach areas or others.

Get in touch with us to explore possible options.





Managing evaluations in EVAL



Tell us what you expect from this session

Are you familiar with EVAL?

Have you used it already, or are you expected to work with it in the future?

Do you have questions, suggestions?

➤ Tell us in the comments, feel free to interrupt!

The EVAL module, in a nutshell

- Was **launched in May 2016**
- Used for **all intervention-level evaluations** managed by **DG**
- All e
The
- Cor
- Via
- Cur
Fin
- For the moment EVAL is a stand-alone platform, with external links to CRIS and EAMR
- In the future, all will be **integrated** under the single umbrella of **OPSYS** (→ less duplication)

938
on €

On average, more than 170 evaluations
per year are managed in EVAL module

What can you get from EVAL?

- A **management** tool
 - Overview of your portfolio, to support your decision-making
 - Slicing the process into clear phases and deliverables
 - Sharing files and tasks with other actors (contractors, RGM)
- An “evaluation **coach**”
 - Methodological tips, Quality Assessment Grid
 - Links to guidance and methods, support
- An institutional **reporting tool**
 - OEP + EAMR indicators
- A **library** of past reports and ToRs

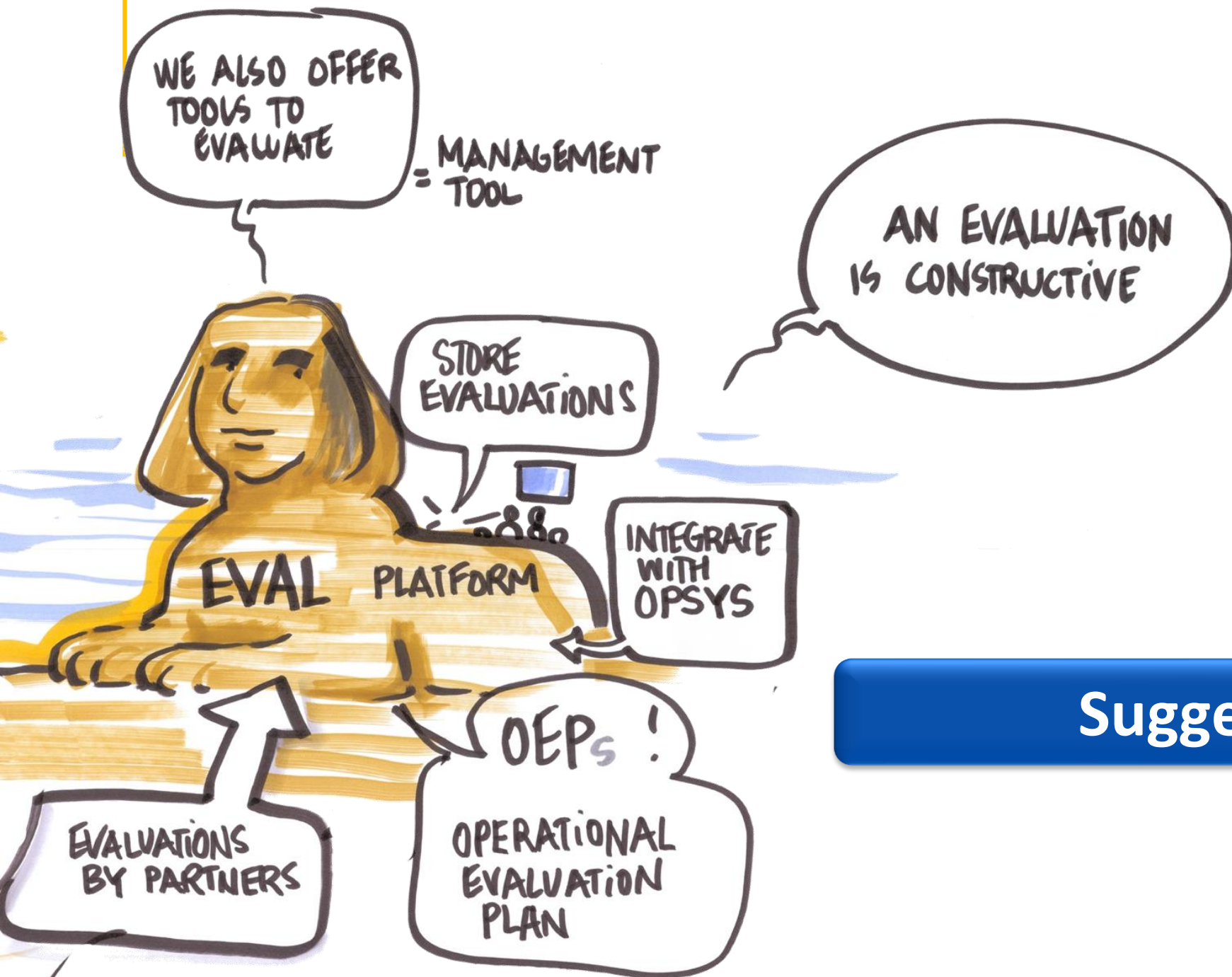
Do you want to know more on EVAL?

Go to the Evaluation Support Service (INTPA-ESS) playlist:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NbstuBAXjNc&list=PLp9Zi5-UNdneDVLvxaALWPxBmxcWWuMUr&index=5>

Webinar on “*How to manage an evaluation in EVAL, tips and tricks & online demo*”



Suggestions?



Planning Evaluations

Planning Evaluations: INTPA Operational Evaluation Plan (OEP)

It is important to plan intervention evaluation activities to:

- Obtain **meaningful, useful** and **timely information** on the **results** and **impact** of EU funded interventions
- Strengthen INTPA **evidence-based decision making** process.

The OEP:

- Is part of the **planning obligations** of EUDs and HQ Units;
- Evaluations planned for Year X should be included in the respective Management Plan and reported on within the **EAMR** exercise (indicator I2).
- Submitted via the **EVAL module** (deadline mid January)



Planning

Planning is important to ensure that:

- A **significant portion of portfolio** of Actions is evaluated for accountability and transparency purposes – NB legal obligation to evaluate all actions with a significant budget.
- Evaluations are conducted **at the right time** to be **useful for learning** and “uptake” purposes
- **Resources** to be devoted to managing the evaluations are efficiently allocated within each Unit and Delegation

Neither feasible nor justified to evaluate every Action; each Delegation/Unit must select a sample of Actions to be evaluated – based on needs in terms of decision making, learning and accountability.



Prioritising

Some possible selection criteria

- **Operational** and **decision-making needs** for evaluation: *Does the Action need some redress? Are activities going according to plan?*
- **Possible follow on action**: *Will the Action be continued in some way in the future? Would it be useful to have elements/insights for the next programming phase?*
- **Good possibilities for learning**: Actions that reflect the priorities of EUD/Unit, that are innovative or that seem particularly successful/unsuccessful.



A few figures on evaluations in INTPA

- Average evaluations per year in INTPA: **160** (~2 evaluations / year / Delegation)
- Average budget per evaluation **105.000 €**
- A wide range of practices, depending on size of cooperation portfolio:
Between 1 and 5 evaluations per year, on average, but can be more.

How many evaluations should I plan in my delegation?

→ As much as you need,

→ and only the ones that you really need

What the OEP looks like:

Michael POTAR (potarmi)



EVAL MODULE

Operational Evaluation Plan

European Commission > Directorate-General for Informatics > EVAL Module > Operational Evaluation Plan

NEW EVALUATION

MY EVAL

OPERATIONAL EVALUATION PLAN

SEARCH

MY NOTIFICATIONS

ADMINISTRATION

PAST EVALUATION

IT/METHODO HELP

Planning Operational Evaluation Plan

Submitted Operational Evaluation Plans

1. Sort projects

Overview for planning

Filters:

Show only CRIS ref. with EU Contribution >= 5.000.000 EUR

Show only CRIS ref. in the EAMR list of projects

Delegation / Unit in charge

RW - Rwanda

	CRIS ...	Title	Ev...	OM in charge	EU Cont...	Projec...	Projec...	DAC Sector	Modality	Instrument	K...	K...	Date ...	ROM pl...	Evaluati...	R...
	☐															
	☐	C-332... Sector Policy Support Pr...		PEDRETTI MASS...	36,000,...	14/11...	13/01...	21020 - Ro...	Budget sup...	European D...				No	No	
	☐	C-341... Prepaid Energy. Rent to...		PEDRETTI MASS...	6,000,0...	17/07...	31/12...	23230 - Sol...	Project	European D...			28/07...	No	No	
	☐	D-327... Energy Water and Sanit...		MUGAMBIRA JU...	23,000,...	19/03...	19/03...	23630 - Ele...		European D...			11/09...	No	No	
	☐	C-375... Budget Support Compo...		PEDRETTI MASS...	156,00...	20/05...	09/05...	23630 - Ele...	Budget sup...	European D...				No	No	
	☐	C-376... Budget Support Compo...		ZAHONERO PAS...	182,00...	23/06...	22/06...	31120 - Agr...	Budget sup...	European D...				No	No	
	☐	C-382... Basket fund to support ...		KAYITENKORE M...	9,800,0...	07/12...	06/11...	16062 - Sta...	Project	European D...				No	No	
	☐	D-380... ACCOUNTABLE DEMOCR...		MORONI XAVIER	14,000,...	16/12...	16/06...	15110 - Pu...		European D...				No	No	
	☐	C-386... EU support to the Bask...		MORTON SION	9,800,0...	06/06...	05/07...	15111 - Pu...	Project	European D...				No	No	

10 items per page

1 - 8 of 8 items

Definitions

To plan an evaluation, select one or more CRIS ref. in the table above the table **Plan Evaluation**

To export the rolling operational evaluation plan of a Unit or Delegation, select the Delegation / Unit in charge in the filter above the table **Export Preview OEP**

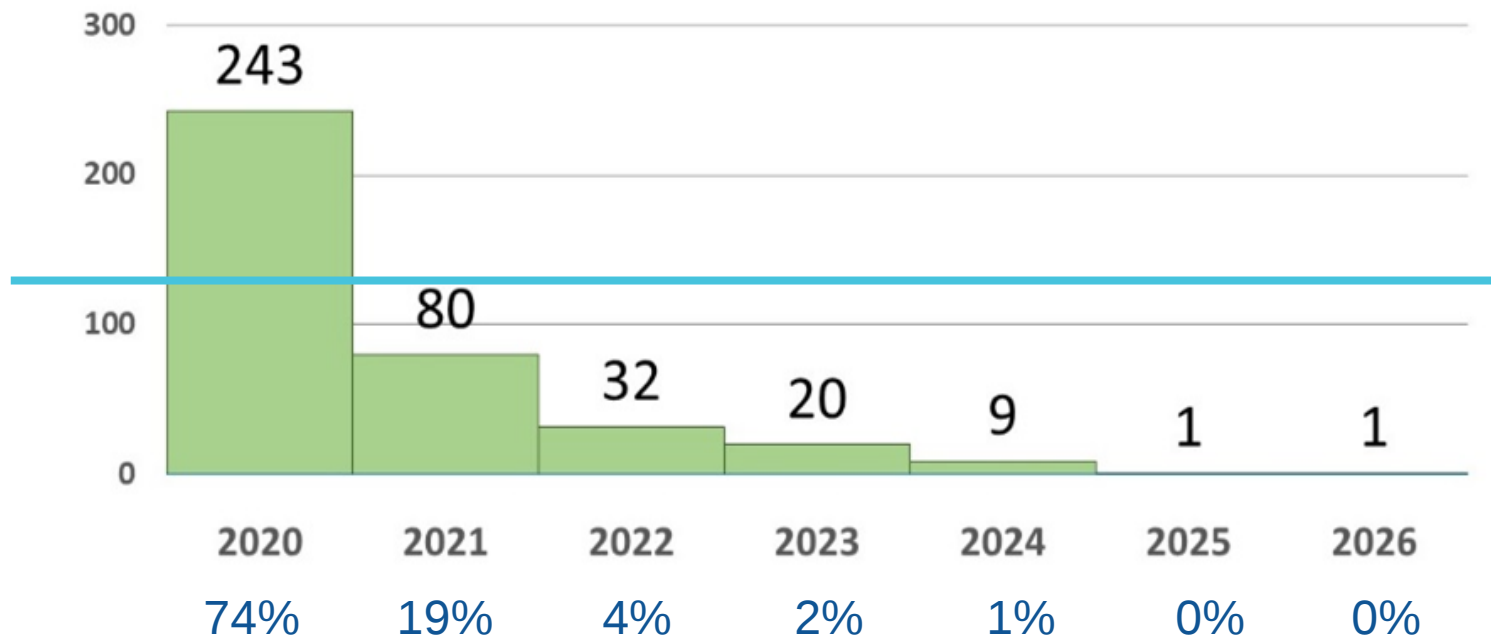
3. Submit OEP

Submit Operational Evaluation Plan

An example of evaluation plan (OEP2020)

Distribution of planned evaluations per year (2020)

Total on graph = 386 incl HQ and Delegations

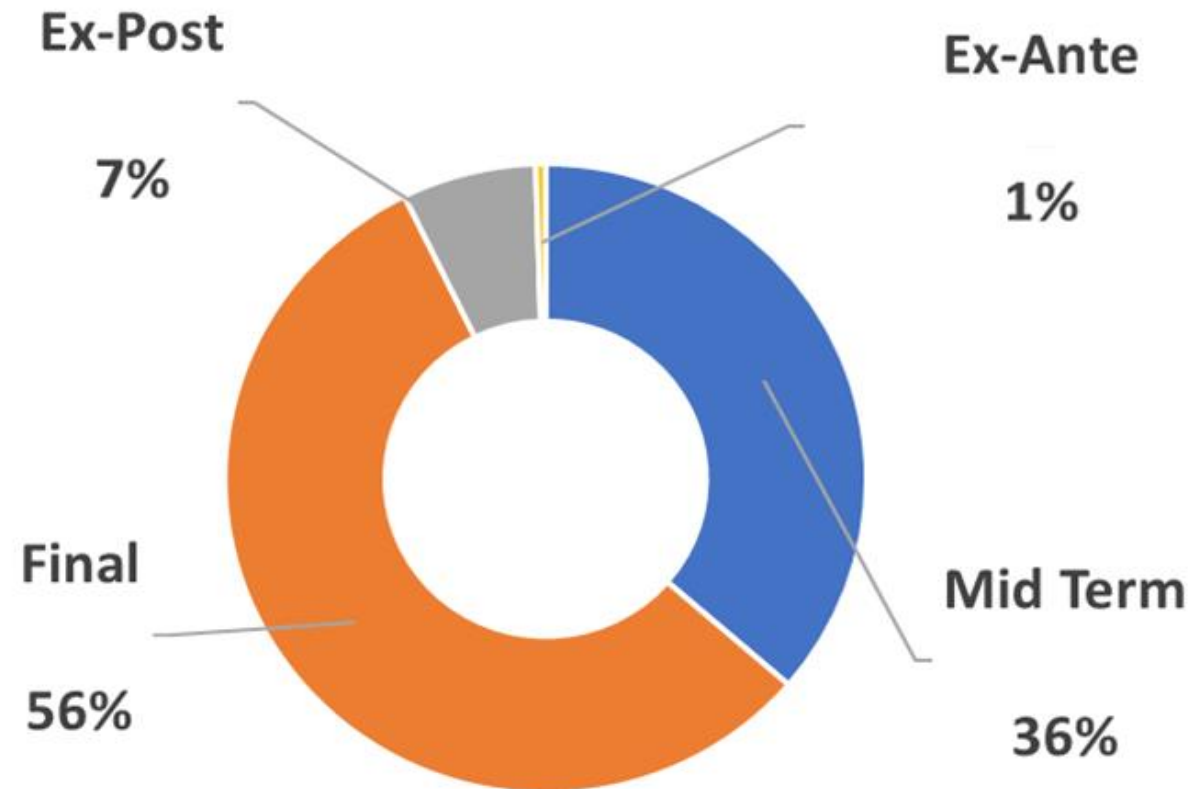


Average = 160
evaluations / year
in INTPA

Evaluations planned in the 1st year
are likely to be postponed to the next year.

The OEP Operational Evaluation Plan:

Planned evaluations, per type



Main Findings of the OEP assessment 2018-2019, by ESS

- Conclusion 1:** Evaluations of the **portfolio of interventions** does not satisfy the “**significant coverage**” criterion: low in number of interventions (INTPA 36% - NEAR 37%) and low in volume of budget covered (INTPA 25% - NEAR 22%).
- Conclusion 2:** The recommendation to evaluate all interventions above **5M€** (INTPA) and to - prioritise interventions above **10 M€** (NEAR) **is not sufficiently followed**.
- Conclusion 3:** The **share of budget assigned** to evaluation activities is very low compared to worth of Actions evaluated (0.4% ratio-to-budget in INTPA – 1.4% in NEAR).
- Conclusion 4:** EUDs and Units mostly report evaluations planned in the **current year**.
- Conclusion 5:** It is not clear for EUDs/Units **which projects can/should/must be evaluated**.
- Conclusion 6:** **Evaluation planning is not respected. Roughly, only 30%** of planned yearly evaluations in INTPA evaluations – 10% for NEAR – are contracted as planned (in the year).

Recap of the key points on the OEP

Go to the Evaluation Support Service (INTPA-ESS) playlist:



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=92BOnwduB_8&list=PLp9Zi5-UNdneDVLvxaALWPxBmxcWWuMUr&index=6

Webinar on “**Operational Evaluation Plan (OEP) 2020 and planning principles (EN)**»

Thank you!



© European Union 2020

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the [CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are

