

A new set of methods for evaluating social innovation and its impacts in marginalised rural areas

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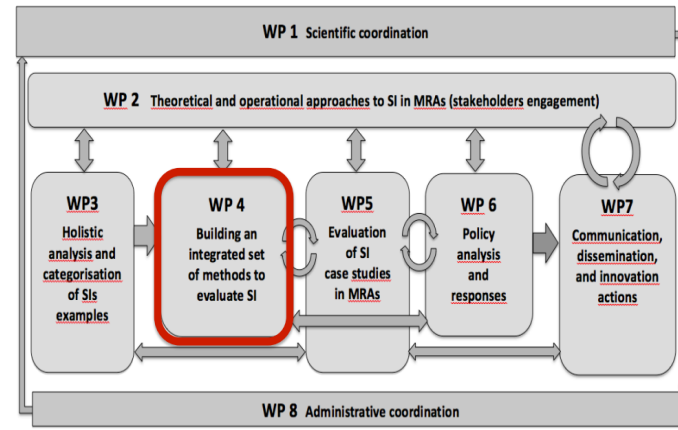
Outline

- Introduction: EU H2020 SIMRA project and Social Innovation definition
- Why do we evaluate?
- Steps towards the framework
- Our evaluation framework
- Tools for data collection
- Indicators
- Key messages

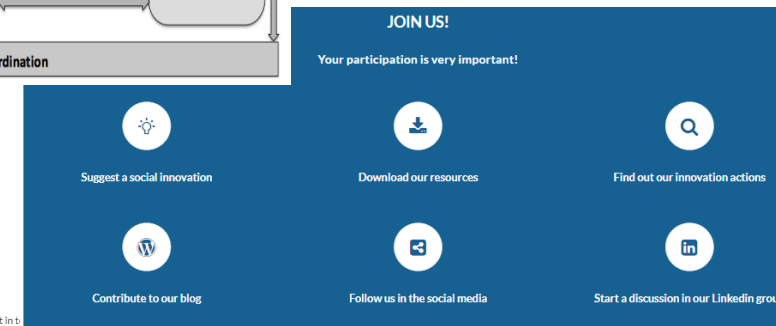
Introduction

EU H2020 SIMRA project

- 4-years Research and Innovation Action project
- 26 partners
- **Objective:** to fill the significant knowledge gap in understanding and enhancing Social Innovation in Marginalized Rural Areas.
- **Focus:**
 - Agriculture, forestry and rural development
 - Marginalized Rural Areas (MRAs)
 - Mediterranean region (including non-EU)
 - Case studies
 - Innovation Actions



<http://www.simra-h2020.eu/>



Introduction

Social Innovation (SI) definition

“The reconfiguring of social practices, in response to societal challenges, which seeks to enhance outcomes on societal well-being and necessarily includes the engagement of civil society actors”.

Why do we evaluate?

Evaluation

Definition: a **periodic**, “**systematic** and **objective assessment** of an ongoing or completed project, programme or policy, its design, implementation and results. The aim is to determine the relevance and fulfilment of objectives, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability” (OECD, 2000)

Why do we evaluate?

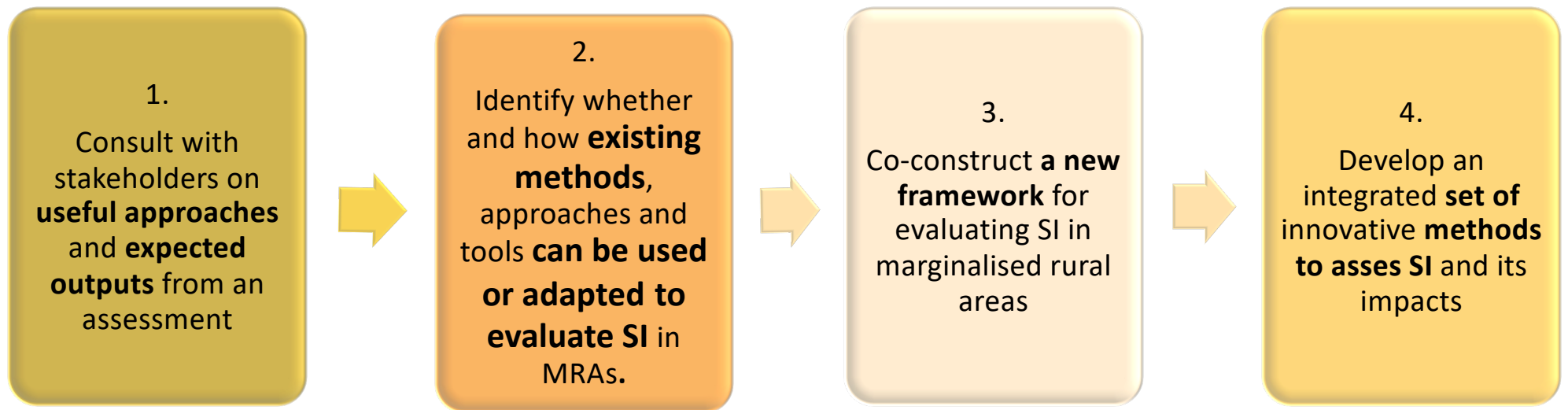
- Need evidence on what works
 - Limited budget and bad policies could hurt
- Improve policy/programme implementation
 - Design (eligibility, benefits)
 - Operations (efficiency and targeting)
- Information is key to sustainability

Impact evaluation

Definition: an **assessment of the causal effect of a project, programme or policy** on beneficiaries.

Steps

Which were our objectives?



Steps towards the framework

1.

Stakeholders consultation on useful approaches and expected outputs

Online questionnaire
Face to face session
Pro-action Cafè



2.

Identification and analysis of **existing methods**, approaches and tools to be **used or adapted to evaluate SI** in MRAs.

4 domains of impacts (economic, environmental, social, institutional/governance)

Collected and fully analysed:

- 163 frameworks/approaches/methods
- 214 tools

	A	B	C	D
1	ID	NAME OF ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK / APPROACH / METHOD / TOOL	ABSTRACT SUMMARY OF THE FRAMEWORK / APPROACH / METHOD / TOOL 125 words max	IS THE EVALUATION DESIGN Select
2				
407		Institutional analysis	Stakeholder surveys (face to face, telephone). In general, questionnaire surveys gather 'facts' like prices, quantities of goods bought, incomes, revenues and so forth. Surveys are often conducted by a national statistics agency or may be specially designed by an investigator to address a particular question. One of the main uses of surveys is 'Confronting theory with evidence': theory testing and 'anomaly generation'. Surveys can be applied to the methodological use of measurement. However, measurement is not an easy task: researchers are confronted with measurement problems similar to those of governance parties.	No
108				
408		Mixed methods	Triangulation and complementarity of findings through different methods. Measurable targets and agencies responsible for achieving them	-
109				
409		Multiple-criteria analysis	The assessment of the governance of an organization. The objective is to elaborate a diagnosis of the quality of governance of the Organization with respect to sustainable development and a cross-comparison of organizational governance. The objective is to	No
	< >	1.General-characteristics	2.Specificity-to-SI	3.Evaluation-characteristics
				4.Features-of-the-tools

Our evaluation framework

3.

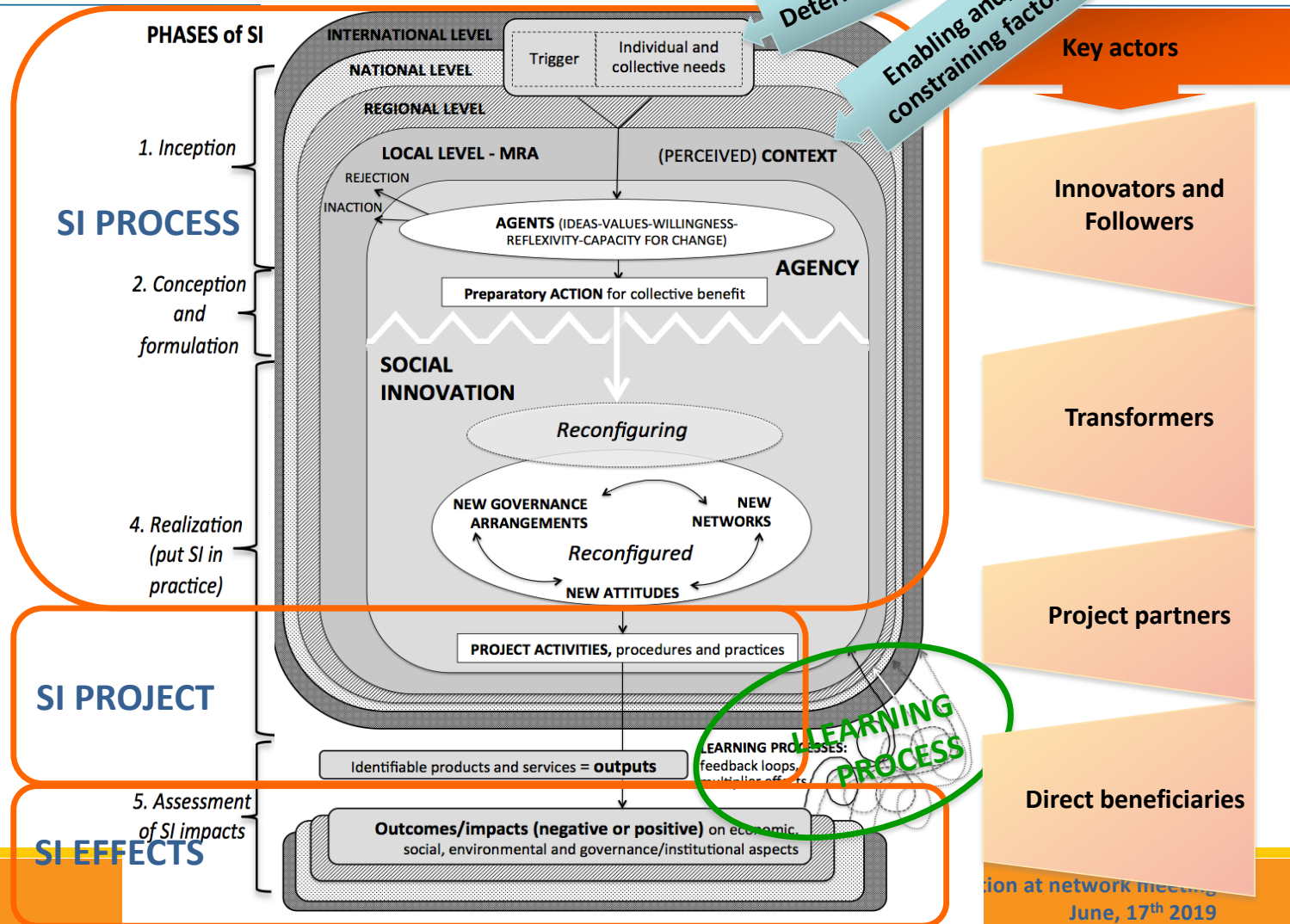
Co-construct a **new framework** for evaluating SI in marginalised rural areas

The **SI initiative** can be evaluated:

- only *ongoing*, final or *ex post*
- **at local level**
- considering its **3 parts (process, project, effects)**

The starting point and a core element of the evaluation is the **agency**

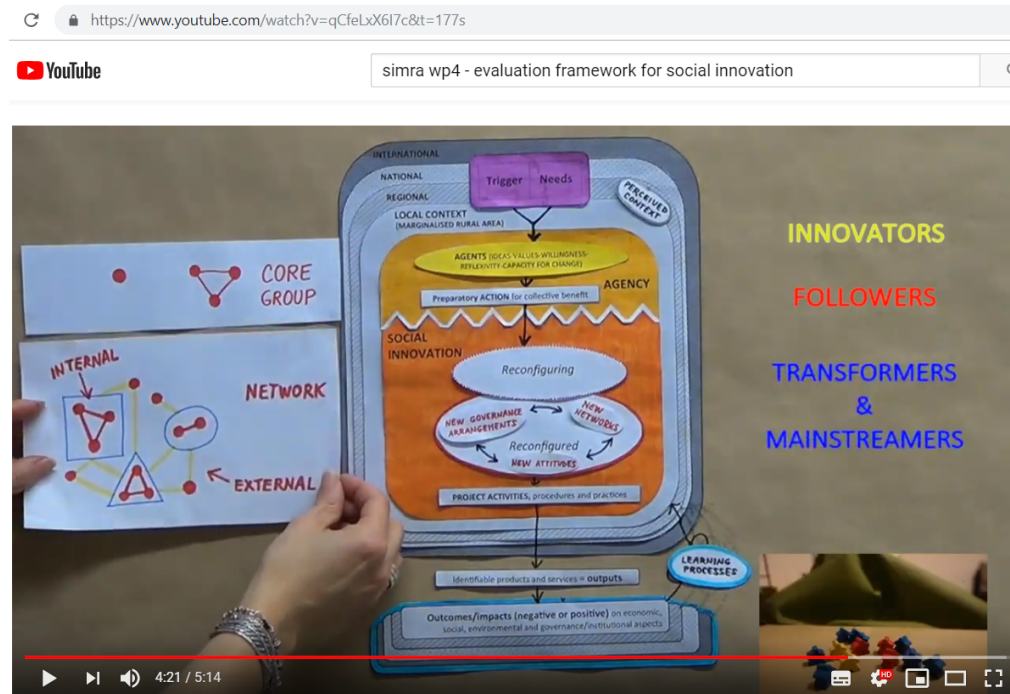
(Source: Secco et al. 2017: 81, D4.2)



Our evaluation framework

3.

Co-construct a **new framework** for evaluating SI in marginalised rural areas

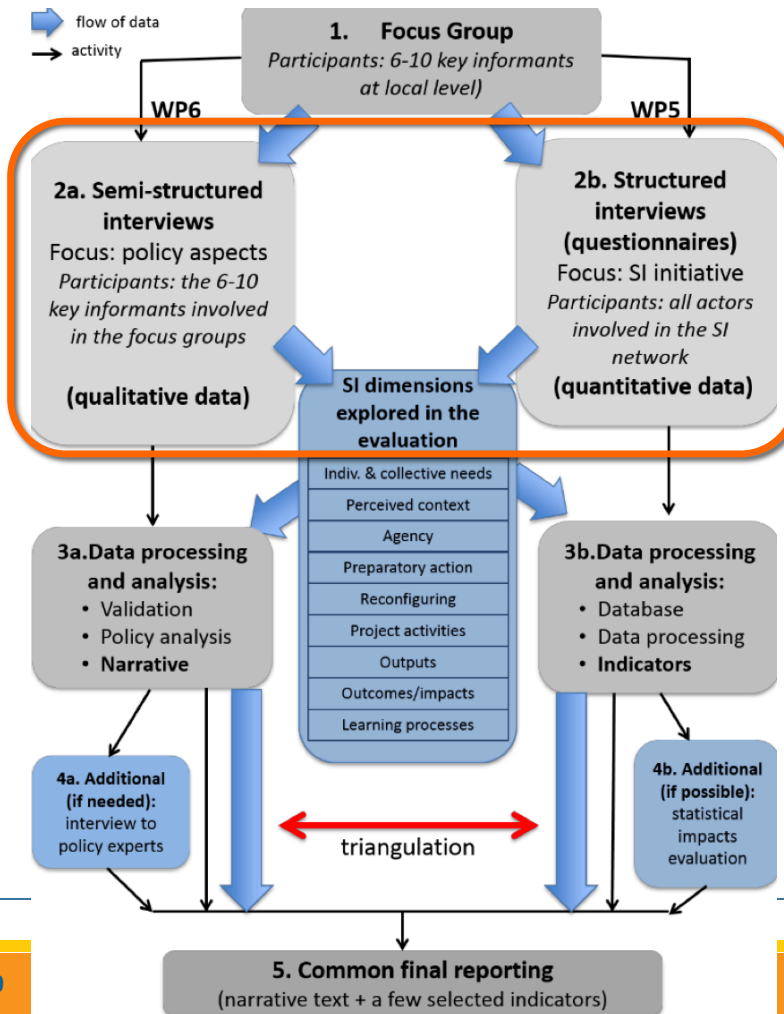


SIMRA WP4 - Evaluation framework for Social Innovation

Tools for data collection

4.

Develop an integrated set of innovative methods to assess SI and its impacts



Mixed methods tools

- Tool1 - Preliminary and **background information**
- Tool2 - **Focus group** with key informants

Quantitative tools

- Tool3 - **Questionnaire** to Innovators and Followers (Core Group) *census*
- Tool4 - Questionnaire to the Network: Transformers *census*
- Tool5 - Questionnaire to Project Partners *sample*
- Tool6 - Questionnaire to Beneficiaries

Qualitative tools

- Tool7 - **Semi-structured interview** to Innovators
- (Tool11 - Feedback tables)

Tools for data collection - example

Tool 3-6 – Structured questionnaires

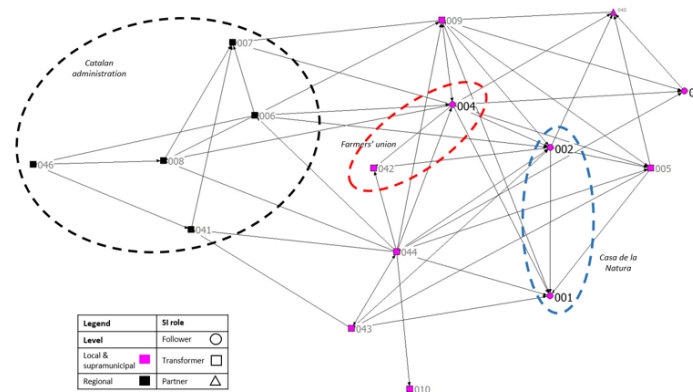
- Confidentiality is ensured
- Questions are coded → easier data entry
- Close-ended questions
 - ✓ Dichotomous
 - ✓ Items with Likert scale [1-10]
 - ✓ One choice
 - ✓ Multiple choice (“All that apply”)
- Few open-ended questions
- Very few filter questions
- Some questions on Social Network Analysis

E.a.3.7. Please indicate with which actors:

1. Did you collaborate before you began/joint the SI initiative?
2. Did you collaborate during the SI process?
3. Did you collaborate to achieve the SI outputs from the project implementation?
4. Do you still collaborate, but in other projects and initiatives?

(please provide the names of the actors involved in the SI network in the table and tick all that apply):

Actors of the SI network	1. Before you joint the SI initiative	2. During the SI process	3. For achieving the SI project outputs	4. After the SI project
Actor 001 [insert the name]	☐	☐	☐	☐
Actor 002 [insert the name]	☐	☐	☐	☐
Actor 003 [insert the name]	☐	☐	☐	☐
Add actors names				



Indicators - explanatory example

4.

Develop an integrated set of innovative methods to assess SI and its impacts

Indicator F1. "Expected vs. observed changes in the SI process"

Description: The indicator measures the extent of congruence between expected and observed changes. Both expected and observed changes are identified in terms of new networks, new governance arrangements and new attitudes. The match is based on analysis of qualitative answers provided by innovators, followers, transformers and mainstreamers.

Judgement criterion: The higher the congruence between expected and observed changes, the better the effectiveness of the SI process.

Tool(s) associated with the indicator

Question codes and types of answers foreseen and considered

Variables codes and ranges in Excel

Procedure to calculate the indicator

Indicator range

Tools	1	2	3	4	5	6
Question codes			D.b.1.2. E.a.2.2. E.b.1.7. E.c.2.3. + E.c.1.2.	D.b.1.2. E.a.2.2. E.b.1.7. E.c.2.3. + E.c.1.2.		
Type of answers			List	List		
Variable codes in Excel			D.b.1.2. (.3, .4) E.a.2.2 (.6, .7) E.b.1.7 (.3, .9) E.c.2.3 (.7, .8) + E.c.1.2 (.4, .12)	D.b.1.2. (.3, .4) E.a.2.2 (.6, .7) E.b.1.7 (.3, .9) E.c.2.3 (.7, .8) + E.c.1.2 (.4, .12)		
Variable range in Excel			Text			
Data computation			Step 1 – Every respondent can list from 0 to 3 expected changes Step 2 – Check if each respondent's observed changes fulfill his/her expected ones, matching the qualitative answers Step 3 – Sum all the expected changes Step 4 – Calculate the % of expected changes that have been fulfilled by the observed ones			
Indicator Range			[0-100]			

Notes: None.

First version: 160

- 60 REEIS
- 27 Social Innovation in a nutshell and Learning processes
- 73 SI dimensions

A. Individual and collective needs	Trigger		Social needs																					
	[1-10] Aa1 5,64	[0-100] Aa2 33,33	[0-6] Ab1 3,50																					
B. Perceived context	(P)OT																							
	[0-12] Bb1 2,38	[1-10] Bb2 3,36	[0-100] Bb3 42,86																					
C. Agency - Agents	Idea		Leadership		Vision	Resilienc	Capacities																	
	[0-100] Ca1 100,00	[1-10] Ca2 9,00	[0-100] Cb1 0,00	[0-100] Cb2 1,53	[0-100] Cc1 57,14	[1-10] Cd1 7,75	[0-1-inf] Ce1	[0-100] Ce2 35,71	[1-10] Ce3 5,21															
D. Agency – Preparatory actions	Exogeneous		Info		Engagement of actors																			
	[0-100] Da1 0,00	[1-10] Da2 3,98	[0-100] Db1 71,43	[0-100] Db2 83,33	[1-4] Dd1 2,25	[0-100] Dd3 84,85																		
E. Reconfiguring and reconfigured social practices	[1,2,3,4] Ea1 3,00		[0-1] Ea2 0,61	[1-10] Ea3 5,14	[0-100] Ea4 21,43	[0-100] Ea5 35,71	[0-100] Ea6 21,43	[0-1] Ea7 0,00	[0-1] Ea8 0,93	[0-100] Ea9 64,34	[1-inf] Ea10 7,92	[1-10] Ea11 9,29	[0-100] Ea12 100,00	[1-10] Ea13 5,21	[0-1] Ea14 0,06	New governance arrangements		[0-100] Ea15 29,76	[0-100] Ea16 7,14	[1-4] Ea17 2,14	[1-10] Ea18 3,43	[0-100] Ea19 66,67	[1-10] Ea20 7,07	[0-100] Ea21 35,71
	[1-10] Ea1 45,83		[0-100] Ea2 2,08	[0-100] Ea3 13,89	[0-100] Ea4 38,89	[0-100] Ea5 29,17	[0-100] Ea6 25,00	[0-100] Ea7 44,44	[0-100] Ea8 8,71	[1-10] Ea9 NA														
F. Project activities	Planning	Human re	Financial	Infrastruct	External	Administ	Monitoring	Support																
	[0-100] Fa1 45,83	[0-100] Fb1 2,08	[0-100] Fc1 13,89	[0-100] Fd1 38,89	[0-100] Fe1 29,17	[0-100] Ff1 25,00	[0-100] Fg1 44,44	[0-100] Fh1 8,71	[1-10] Fh2 NA															
G. Outputs	Beneficiaries																							
	[0-inf] Gb1 0,56	[0-100] Gb2 55,56	[0-100] Gb3 0,00																					
H. Outcomes and Impacts	Outcomes						Impacts				Impacts of the SI initiative													
	[0-100] Hb1 29,55	[0-100] Hb2 32,14	[0-100] Hb3 44,44	[0-100] Hb4 41,67	[0-100] Hb5 33,33	[0-100] Hb6 14,29	[1-10] Hc1 2,20	[1-10] Hc2 1,00	[1-10] Hc3 2,50	[1-10] Hc4 0,70	[1-10] Hc5 1,03	[0-100] Hd1 0,00	[0-100] Hd2 0,00	[0-100] Hd3 0,00	[0-inf] Hd4 5,40									

New version: 117

- 37 REEIS
- 23 Social Innovation in a nutshell and Learning processes
- 57 SI dimensions

Indicators

The Manual



Key messages

What is innovative in our evaluation framework?

- Its **scope of application** (SI in MRAs)
- **Science-stakeholders co-constructed** process of development, testing and validation
- The **full integration of both qualitative and quantitative** approaches and tools
- The **inclusion of contemporary, emerging issues** in the evaluation (e.g., **social capital, networks, governance, actors' level of satisfaction**)
- Its **complementarity with the Common Monitoring and Evaluation System (CMES)**
- The possibility to use it in **self-evaluation processes** (e.g., LEADER-Community Led Local Development implemented by LAGs)
- Its **flexibility** in allowing evaluators to analyse the different stages of SI, and the perspectives of the actors that progressively become involved in the initiative.

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Thank you for your attention!

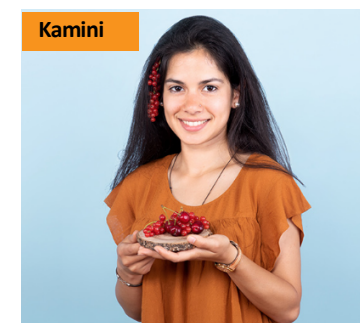
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