Why this guidance?

- Legal requirement of evaluation plans (art. 114)
- Member States' request for common guidance DG REGIO/EMPL

- Annexes:
  - Designing ToRs for impact evaluations,
  - Managing evaluation quality
Role of Evaluation Plan

- Quality of evaluations (time, methods, data)
- Use for programme management and policy making
- Sharing of evidence in different policy fields
- Feed into reporting:
  - MS: AIR; progress reports (2017, 2019);
    Report on evaluation findings (2022)
  - Commission:
    annual summary of AIR and evaluations (as of 2016);
    Strategic reports (2017, 2019)

Impact evaluations

- **What is required by Regulation?**
  - Evaluate contribution of OP to objectives of each priority (Art. 56)
  - Evaluate impact in relation to the EU2020 targets (Art.54)
  - Report on Funds contribution to change in result indicators + to EU 2020 achievement (AIR 2017 + 2019)

- **What does this mean?**
  - *Each specific objective should be covered* to allow for overall conclusion for each PA
  - The extent will differ according to nature of result, available evidence, policy importance
  - EU 2020: in most cases qualitative analyse, considering other factors
Impact evaluations

• Timing
  - As late as possible, as early as necessary: depends on nature of intervention; consider evaluating similar interventions 2007-2013
  - Evaluations will not be carried out at the same time

• Necessary data
  - Depends on evaluation method
  - Supported entities and individual participants (regulatory obligations: Art. 125 and Annex XII)
  - Data from other sources of information than monitoring systems: unemployment records, tax records...
  - Need to be planned in advance

Elements of evaluation plan - 1

1) Objectives, coverage, coordination

• What evidence available in different policy fields?
• Coordination between MA (evaluation coverage, findings, practice)
Element of evaluation plan - 2

2) Evaluation framework
• Responsibilities
• Evaluation process
• Involvement of partners
• Source of evaluation expertise, independence
• Training programme
• Strategy to ensure use and communication
• Timetable
• Budget
• Quality management strategy

Elements of evaluation plan - 3

3) Planned evaluations
• Indicative list, ad hoc evaluations possible
• Impact evaluations should be planned early
• Each evaluation:
  - subject, rationale, evaluation questions
  - Methods, data requirements
  - Duration and tentative date
  - Estimated budget
Review & follow up of evaluation plan

Regulation:

- Submitted no later than a year after adoption of OP to monitoring committee (approves, reviews, amends: Art. 114, 110)
- Follow up given to evaluation findings (Art.110)

Recommendation:

- MA publishes on website and sends via SFC
- MC debates on main expected results, policy importance, timing

Next steps

- Presented to REGIO - MS networks on 10 March
- DG EMPL Partnership: 21 March
- Publication on Inforegio: mid-April