European Commission

#EUHaveYourSay

Better Regulation for better results

How European Commission engages citizens in EU law and policy making

How does Better Regulation work?

Three pillars: (1) evaluation; (2) impact assessment; (3) stakeholder engagement throughout the policy cycle.

Evaluation looks critically how existing legislation has worked. Identifies strengths and weaknesses, costs and benefits, and the drivers behind.

Impact assessments look at: problems, possible solutions and their impacts including the three pillars of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental impacts).

Stakeholder engagement uses consultations and feedback opportunities to seek actively the views and data from interested stakeholders.

Evaluations

- Systematic evaluation of EU legislation
- The Commission's applies an "evaluate first principle", before revising the Commission evaluates the existing legislation
- It assess what works, what not and why; the costs and benefits; the coherence with other legislation; and the necessity to act at EU level
- Evaluations identify potentials for simplification and cost reduction
- About 100 evaluations are carried out per year
- Evaluations were carried out for:
  - Less than half of all impact assessments in 2016
  - Almost 70% in 2017
- European Commission, among top OECD performers

What is evaluation?

It is an evidence-based judgement of the extent to which an intervention has been effective and efficient, relevant given the needs and its objectives, coherent both internally and with other EU policy interventions, and achieved EU value added

Key elements

- **Takes a critical look**
- ***Independent*** **and objective judgement based on evidence**
- **Also looks at unintended or unexpected changes**
- **Not what has happened but why and *how much* has changed**
- **Looks for evidence of causality**

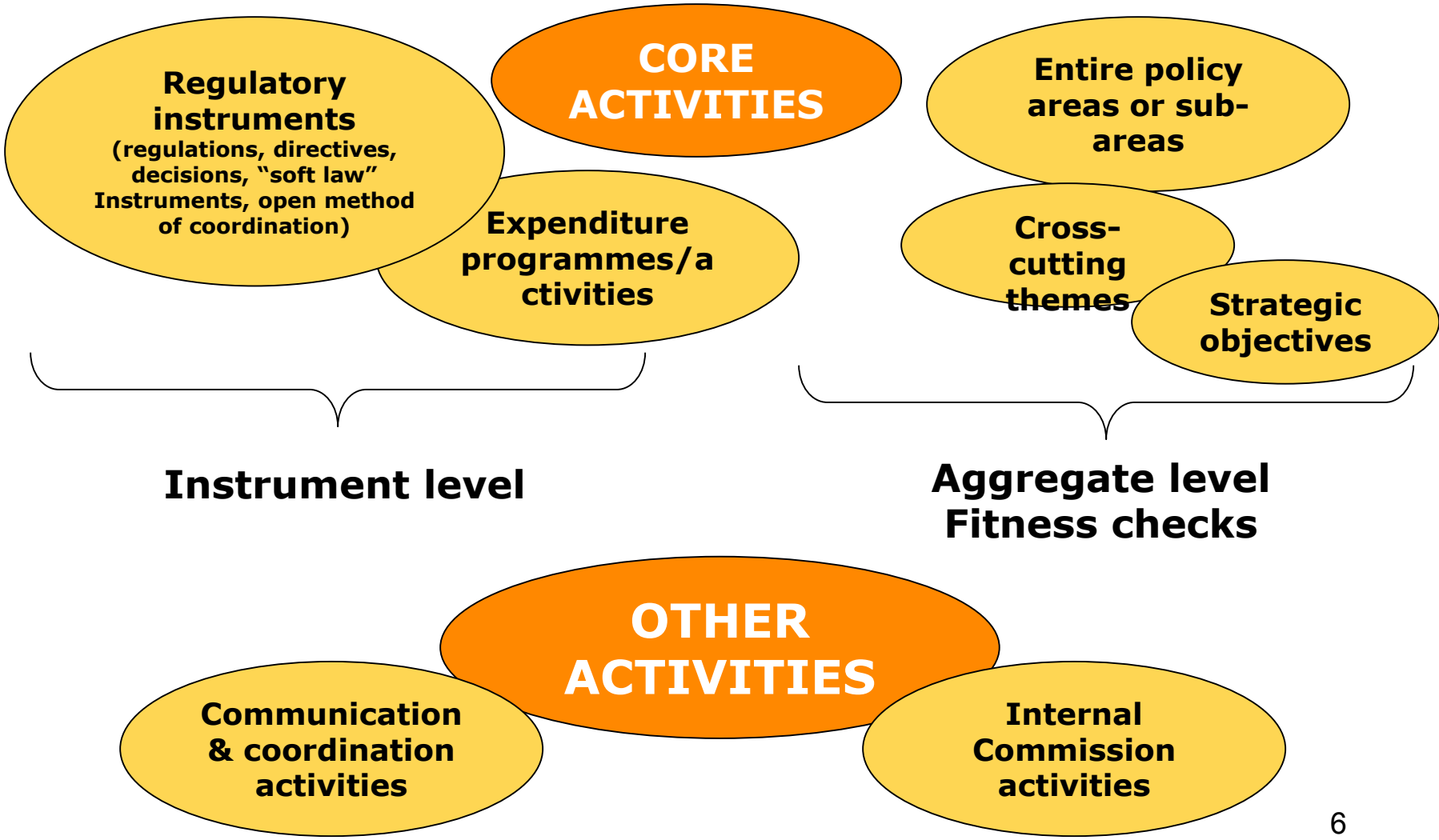
The purpose

Inform decision-making, input to strategic priority-setting

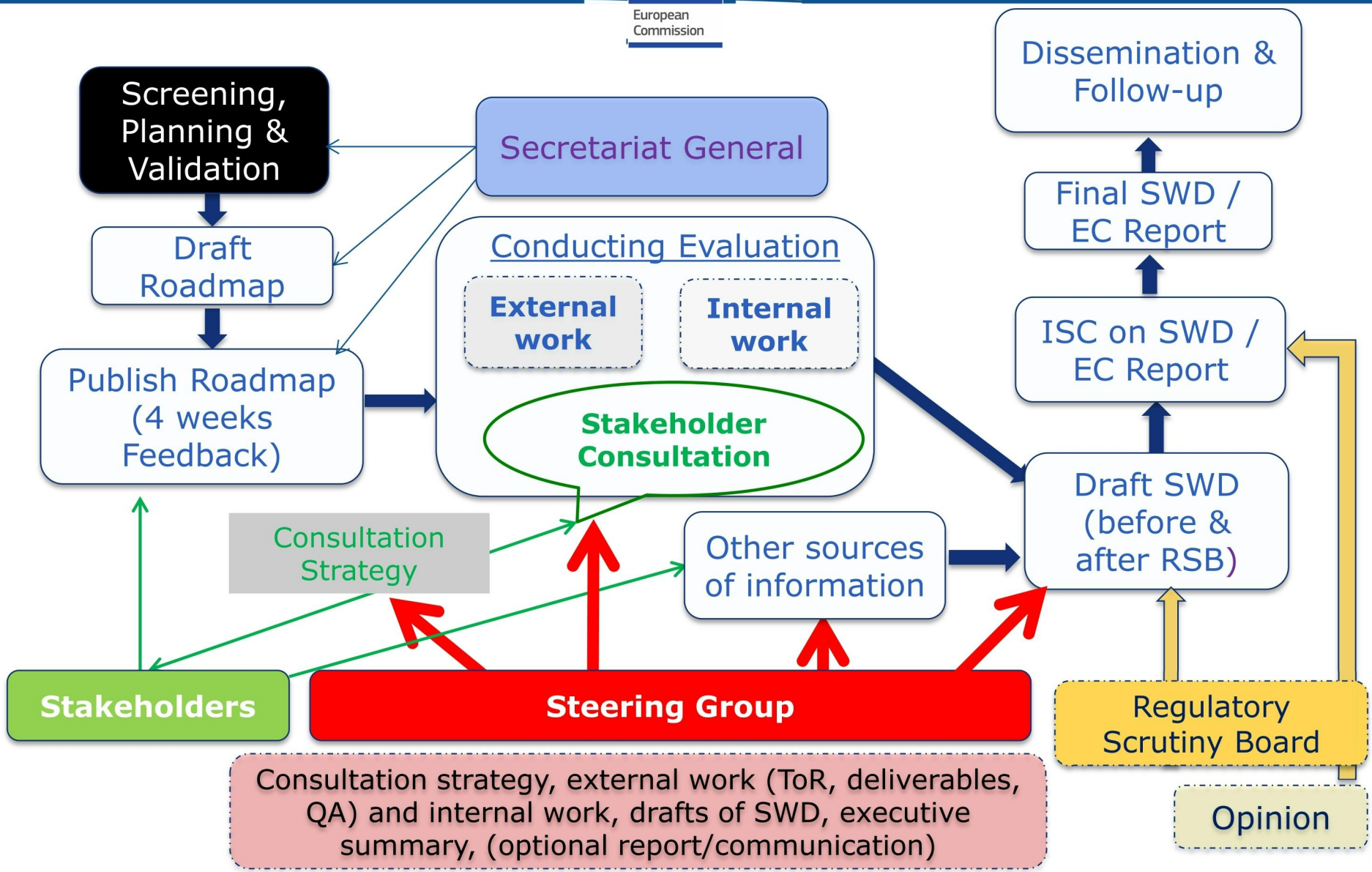
Transparency, accountability

Assist in efficient resource allocation

Organisational learning - improve design, good & bad practice, justify new initiatives


CORE ACTIVITIES
Regulatory instruments
(regulations, directives, decisions, "soft law" Instruments, open method of coordination)
Expenditure programmes/activities
Entire policy areas or sub-areas
Cross-cutting themes
Strategic objectives
Instrument level
Aggregate level
Fitness checks
OTHER ACTIVITIES
Communication & coordination activities
Internal Commission activities

Evaluation Process



Roadmap

European

EVALUATION / FITNESS CHECK ROADMAP	
Roadmaps aim to inform citizens and stakeholders about the Commission's plans in order to allow them to provide feedback on the intended initiative and to participate effectively in future consultation activities. Citizens and stakeholders are in particular invited to provide views on the Commission's understanding of the problem and possible solutions and to make available any relevant information that they may have, including on possible impacts of the different options.	
TITLE OF THE EVALUATION/FC	The title of the Roadmap has to be identical to the short title in DECIDE! Guidance on the proper drafting of short titles is available in GoPro.
LEAD DG – RESPONSIBLE UNIT – AP NUMBER	
INDICATIVE PLANNING **(PLANNED START DATE AND COMPLETION DATE)**	*PI use quarterly format (e.g. Q4 2017)*
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	*Insert link to the specific website for the evaluation or website covering the policy area (if there is none, put: – in the field).*

The Roadmap is provided for information purposes only. It does not prejudge the final decision of the Commission on whether this initiative will be pursued or on its final content. All elements of the initiative described by the document, including its timing, are subject to change.

***Tip:* The Evaluation Roadmap will be published by the SG on the Commission's web site and citizens and stakeholders will be able to provide feedback for a period of 4 weeks. It should be considered as an information tool addressed to the public and therefore it should be written in non-technical language, avoiding acronyms, jargon and detailed technical or legal analysis. It should be finalised at the earliest stage of the evaluation so that best use can be made of feedback from stakeholders**

Although the interservice steering group does not have to be consulted on the draft Roadmap, it is good practice to involve DGs with related policy areas from an early stage in the process.

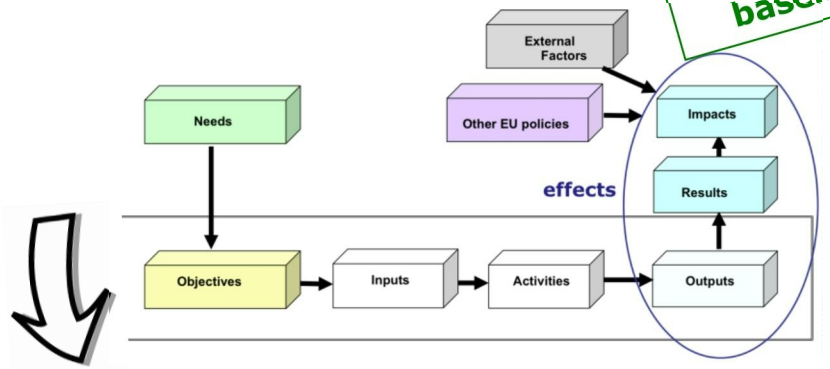
Please note that the length limits shown for the various sections are indicative but it is essential that the author DG keeps to an overall maximum of 3 to 4 pages in order to keep the text readable for the public.

Design

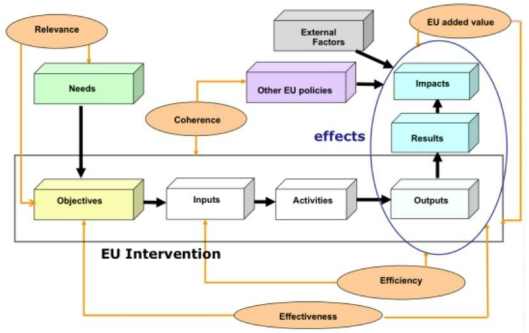
European Commission

1 Intervention logic

Including the **baseline**



2 Evaluation criteria



3 Evaluation questions

Effectiveness:

- To which extent have the objectives been achieved as a result of the implementation of Regulations (EC) No 396/2005 and 1107/2009?
- Where expectations have not been met, what factors have hindered their achievement?
- Which unintended effects were observed?
- Did other factors influence the results observed?
- The answers to these questions should address the situation at both EU and at MS level.

Efficiency:

- To which extent the costs for the Commission including EFSA, Member States, operators involved in the approval of substances and authorisation of plant protection products, in the setting of MRLs have been justified and evenly distributed given the effects achieved?
- Are there issues which pose particular problems for SMEs and micro-enterprises?
- Which benefits were achieved from the implementation of the legislation?
- Is the legal framework generating unnecessary regulatory burden and which actions could reduce regulatory burden or potential alternative policy mechanisms that could improve cost-effectiveness?

Relevance:

- Are the objectives of the Regulations pertinent to the evolving needs, problems and issues in field of placing on the market of PPPs and pesticides residues today?

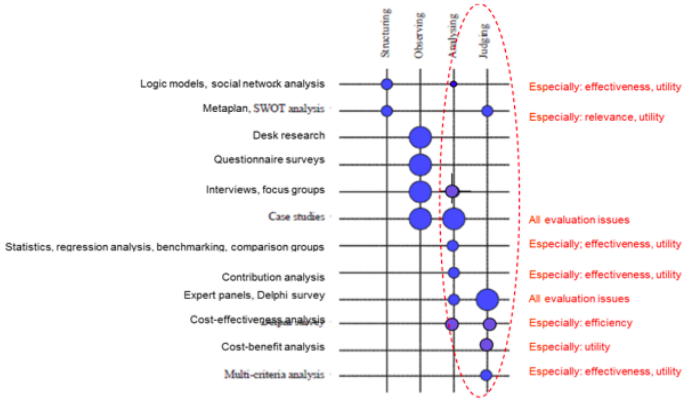
Coherence:

- To which extent Regulations (EC) No 396/2005 and (EC) No 1107/2009 established a coherent policy in the area of pesticides?
- To which extent is the legal framework coherent with agricultural policies, food policies, environmental policies and policies on chemicals and biocides?
- To which extent is the legal framework coherent with international rules and agreements related to trade, food, environment and chemicals?
- Where coherence is not achieved, what factors or elements have hindered its achievement? Which are the main differences, overlaps and inconsistencies? How do these shortcomings impact the compliance level?

EU added value:

- What is the added value of setting a legislation on plant protection products and pesticides residues at EU level?
- To which extent have Regulations (EC) No 396/2005 and 1107/2009 resulted in added value with regards to the objectives pursued that could not be achieved at national/international level?

4 Methods



What is an intervention logic?

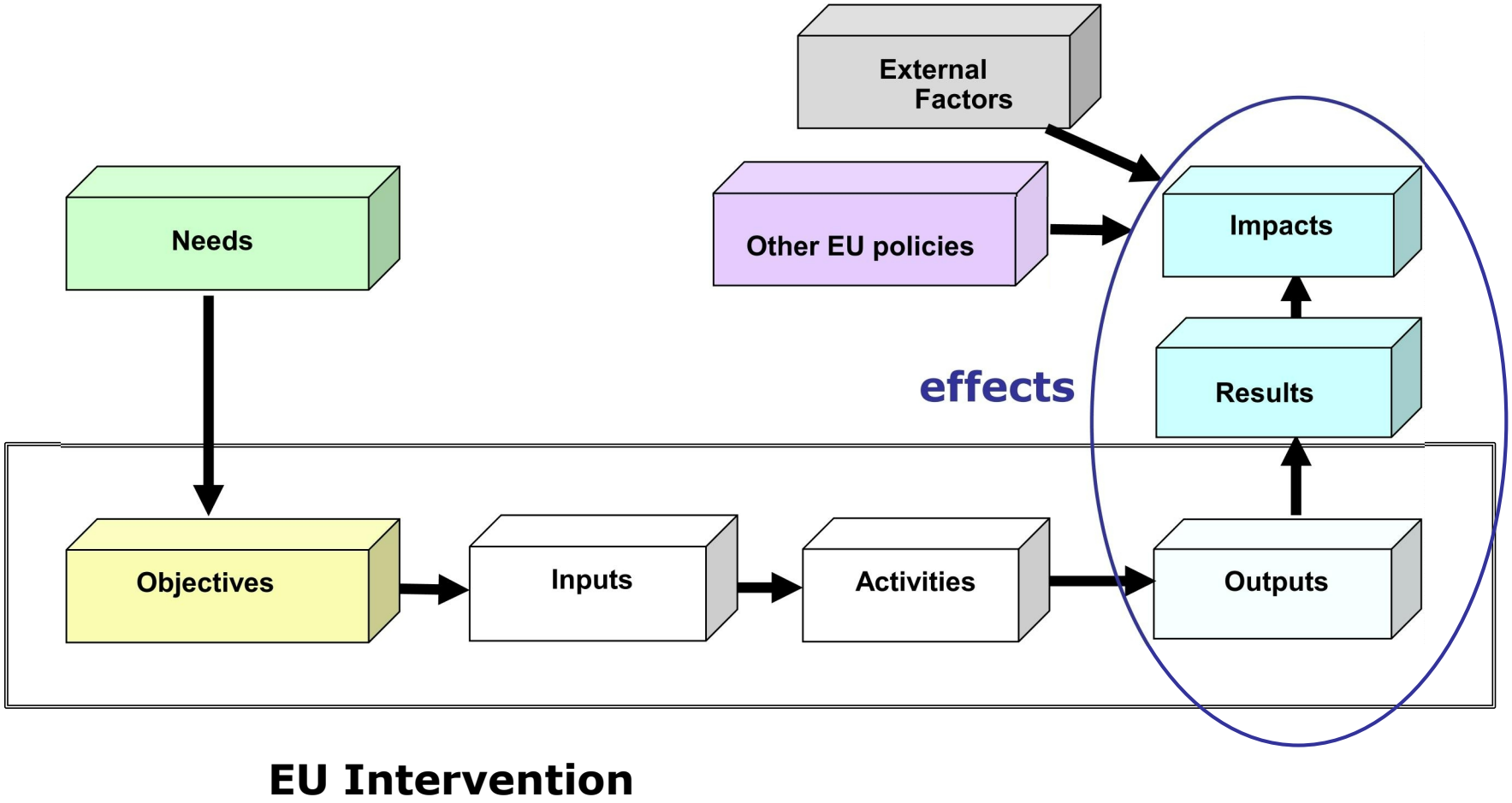
To address an identified problem the EC develops an intervention, which comprises a set of activities that are aimed at contributing to one or several objectives

The logic of the intervention is the **set of statements and assumptions explaining how** these activities will lead, step by step, towards these objectives.

We do this… → **To change that…** → **And have an impact on …**

Usually **reconstructed** from official documents, tested with key stakeholders, and validated in the ISG

Generic model



Evaluation criteria

Effectiveness	***to what extent were the set objectives achieved and how was this linked to the EU intervention? do the effects correspond to the objectives? Were there any unexpected or unintended effects?***
Efficiency	***were the effects (benefits) achieved at a reasonable cost?***
Relevance	***do the objectives correspond to the needs?***
Coherence	***does the intervention contradict others with similar objectives? Does it work well together with other EU interventions?***
EU added value	***what is the additional value resulting from EU activities, compared to what could be achieved by MS at national and/or regional levels?***

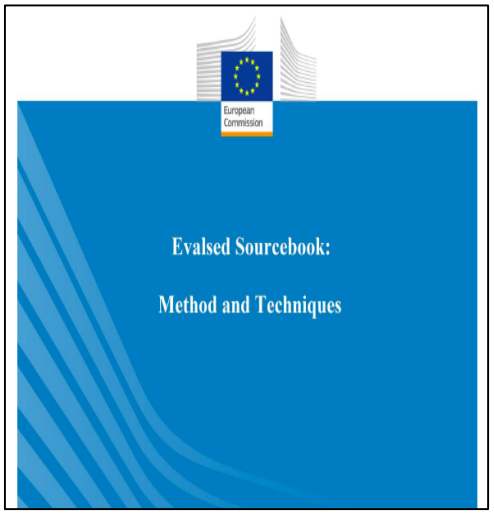
Evaluation questions

Descriptive	What happened?
Causal	What relationship with the intervention?
Normative	Is the effect satisfactory?
Predictive	What will happen as a result of the planned intervention?
Critical	What can be done to address specific problems/bottlenecks? Or to tap on opportunities?

METHODOLOGY

- Logic models
- Social network analysis
- SWOT
- Metaplan
- Desk research
- Survey questionnaires
- Individual interviews
- Focus groups
- Case studies
- Descriptive statistics
- Inferential statistics

- Regression analysis (modelling)
- Comparison groups
- Contribution analysis
- Benchmarking
- Delphi survey
- Cost-benefit analysis
- Cost-effectiveness analysis
- Multi-criteria decision analysis
- Expert panels



Staff Working Document

Executive Summary

SECTION 1
Introduction
Purpose
& scope

SECTION 2
Background
to the intervention
(objectives, baseline)

SECTION 3
Implementation / state of play
(Current situation)

SECTION 4
Method
(How evaluation was carried out and when)

SECTION 5
Analysis and answers to the evaluation questions

SECTION 6
Conclusions

Stand-alone

Good referencing

Not for experts

Ownership

Good drafting

Logic flow

At least

Annex
Procedural information

Annex
Synopsis Report (Stakeholder Consultation)

Annex
Methods and Analytical models

Commission Report / Communication to other EU institutions

- May have requirement to report to other EU institutions (check legal base)
- SWD summary as basis of the EC report
- College adoption

Dissemination

- Dissemination plan recommended
- Minimum - **publish all evaluation documents** – roadmap to SWD
- EU Bookshop and Studies database
- Think about dissemination early
- Match dissemination to (different) audience needs
- Set-up a website for the evaluation

IMPORTANT!

Follow-up

- **USE** evaluation findings, feed into IA, new guidance etc.
- Often report to **other EU** institutions
- Recommend draft **follow-up action plan** within 6 months of completing evaluation
- **Engage** senior management in follow-up (and throughout evaluation)

SECTION 6
Conclusions

SWD

Learning

Legal requirements

The Commission's Better Regulation agenda:
https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/law-making-process/better-regulation-why-and-how_en

EU law-making process:
https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/law-making-process_en

Ways you can contribute to the law-making process:
https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/contribute-law-making_en

Find out more