*PART III.8*

Supplementary Information Sheet for the notification of an evaluation plan

*EFTA States must use this sheet for the notification of an evaluation plan pursuant to Article 1(2)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 651/2014*[[1]](#footnote-1)*and in the case of a notified aid scheme subject to an evaluation as provided in the relevant Authority guidelines.*

*Please refer to the European Commission Staff Working Document “Common methodology for State aid evaluation”*[[2]](#footnote-2)*for guidance on the drafting of an evaluation plan.*

1. Identification of the aid scheme to be evaluated

 (1) Title of the aid scheme:

 Click here to enter text.

 (2) Does the evaluation plan concern:

 (a) [ ]  a scheme subject to evaluation pursuant to Article 1(2)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 651/2014?

 (b) [ ]  a scheme notified to the Authority pursuant to Article 1(3) of Part 1 of Protocol 3 to the Surveillance and Court Agreement?

 (3) Reference of the scheme (to be completed by the Authority):

 Click here to enter text.

 (4) Please list any existing *ex-ante* evaluations or impact assessments for the aid scheme and *ex-post* evaluations or studies conducted in the past on predecessors of the aid scheme or on similar schemes. For each of those studies, please provide the following information: (a) a brief description of the study's objectives, methodologies used, results and conclusions, and (b) specific challenges that the evaluations and studies might have faced from a methodological point of view, for example data availability that are relevant for the assessment of the current evaluation plan. If appropriate, please identify relevant areas or topics not covered by previous evaluation plans that should be the subject of the current evaluation. Please provide the summaries of such evaluations and studies in annex and, when available, the internet links to the documents concerned:

 Click here to enter text.

2. Objectives of the aid scheme to be evaluated[[3]](#footnote-3)

 2.1. Please provide a description of the aid scheme specifying the needs and problems the scheme intends to address and the intended categories of beneficiaries, for example size, sectors, location, indicative number:

 Click here to enter text.

 2.2. Please indicate the objectives of the scheme and the expected impact, both at the level of the intended beneficiaries and as far as the objective of common interest is concerned:

 Click here to enter text.

 2.3. Please indicate possible negative effects, on the aid beneficiaries or on the wider economy, that might be directly or indirectly associated with the aid scheme[[4]](#footnote-4):

 Click here to enter text.

 2.4. Please indicate (a) the annual budget planned under the scheme, (b) the intended duration of the scheme[[5]](#footnote-5), (c) the aid instrument or instruments and (d) the eligible costs:

 Click here to enter text.

 2.5. Please provide a summary of the eligibility criteria and the methods for selecting the aid beneficiaries. In particular, please describe the following: (a) the methods used for selecting beneficiaries (e.g. such as scoring), (b) the indicative budget available for each group of beneficiaries, (c) the likelihood of the budget being exhausted for certain groups of beneficiaries, (d) the scoring rules, if they are used in the scheme, (e) the aid intensity thresholds and (f) the criteria the authority granting the aid will take into account when assessing applications:

 Click here to enter text.

 2.6. Please mention specific constraints or risks that might affect the implementation of the scheme, its expected impacts and the achievement of its objectives:

 Click here to enter text.

3. Evaluation questions

 3.1. Please indicate the specific questions that the evaluation should address by providing quantitative evidence of the impact of aid. Please distinguish between (a) questions related to the direct impact of the aid on the beneficiaries, (b) questions related to the indirect impacts and (c) questions related to the proportionality and appropriateness of the aid. Please explain how the evaluation questions relate to the objectives of the scheme:

 Click here to enter text.

4. Result indicators

 4.1. Please use the following table to describe which indicators will be built to measure outcomes of the scheme, as well as the relevant control variables, including the sources of data, and how each result indicator corresponds to the evaluation questions. In particular, please mention (a) the relevant evaluation question, (b) the indicator, (c) the source of data, (d) the frequency of collection of data (for example, annual, monthly, etc.), (e) the level at which the data is collected (for example, firm level, establishment level, regional level, etc.), (f) the population covered in the data source (for example, aid beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, all firms, etc.):

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Evaluation question | Indicator | Source | Frequency | Level | Population |
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 Please explain why the chosen indicators are the most relevant for measuring the expected impact of the scheme:

 Click here to enter text.

5. Envisaged methods to conduct the evaluation

 5.1. In light of the evaluation questions, please describe the envisaged methods to be used in the evaluation to identify the causal impact of the aid on the beneficiaries and to assess other indirect impacts. In particular, please explain the reasons for choosing those methods and for rejecting other methods (for example, reasons related to the design of the scheme)[[6]](#footnote-6):

 Click here to enter text.

 5.2. Please describe precisely the identification strategy for the evaluation of the causal impact of the aid and the assumptions on which the strategy relies. Please describe in detail the composition and the significance of the control group:

 Click here to enter text.

 5.3. Please explain how the envisaged methods address potential selection bias. Can it be claimed with sufficient certainty that observed differences in the outcomes for the aid beneficiaries are due to the aid?

 Click here to enter text.

 5.4. If relevant, please explain how the envisaged methods intend to address specific challenges related to complex schemes, for example schemes that are implemented in a differentiated manner at regional level and schemes that use several aid instruments:

 Click here to enter text.

6. Data collection

 6.1. Please provide information on the mechanisms and sources for collecting and processing data about the aid beneficiaries and about the envisaged counterfactual.[[7]](#footnote-7) Please provide a description of all the relevant information that relates to the selection phase: data collected on aid applicants, data submitted by applicants and selection outcomes. Please also explain any potential issue as regards data availability:

 Click here to enter text.

 6.2. Please provide information on the frequency of the data collection relevant for the evaluation. Are observations available on a sufficiently disaggregated level, that is to say at the level of individual undertakings?

 Click here to enter text.

 6.3. Please indicate whether the access to the necessary data for conducting the evaluation might be hindered by laws and regulations governing confidentiality of data and how those issues would be addressed. Please mention other possible challenges related to data collection and how they would be overcome:

 Click here to enter text.

 6.4. Please indicate whether surveys of aid beneficiaries or of other undertakings are foreseen and whether complementary sources of information are intended to be used:

 Click here to enter text.

7. Proposed timeline of the evaluation

 7.1. Please indicate the proposed timeline of the evaluation, including milestones for data collection, interim reports and involvement of stakeholders. If relevant, please provide an annex detailing the proposed timeline:

 Click here to enter text.

 7.2. Please indicate the date by which the final evaluation report will be submitted to the Authority:

 Click here to enter text.

 7.3. Please mention factors that might affect the envisaged timeline:

 Click here to enter text.

8. The body conducting the evaluation

 8.1. Please provide specific information on the body conducting the evaluation or, if not yet selected, on the timeline, procedure and criteria for its selection:

 Click here to enter text.

 8.2. Please provide information on the independence of the body conducting the evaluation and on how possible conflict of interest will be excluded during the selection process:

 Click here to enter text.

 8.3. Please indicate the relevant experience and skills of the body conducting the evaluation or how those skills will be ensured during the selection process:

 Click here to enter text.

 8.4. Please indicate which arrangements the granting authority will make to manage and monitor the conduct of the evaluation:

 Click here to enter text.

 8.5. Please provide information, even if only of an indicative nature, on the necessary human and financial resources that will be made available for carrying out the evaluation:

 Click here to enter text.

9. Publicity of the evaluation

 9.1. Please provide information on the way the evaluation will be made public, that is to say, through the publication of the evaluation plan and the final evaluation report on a website:

 Click here to enter text.

 9.2. Please indicate how the involvement of stakeholders will be ensured. Please indicate whether the organisation of public consultations or events related to the evaluation is envisaged:

 Click here to enter text.

 9.3. Please specify how the evaluation results are intended to be used by the granting authority and other bodies, for example for the design of successors of the scheme or for similar schemes:

 Click here to enter text.

 9.4. Please indicate whether and under which conditions data collected for the purpose or used for the evaluation will be made accessible for further studies and analysis:

 Click here to enter text.

 9.5. Please indicate whether the evaluation plan contains confidential information that should not be disclosed by the Authority:

 Click here to enter text.

10. Other information

 10.1. Please indicate here any other information you consider relevant for the assessment of the evaluation plan:

 Click here to enter text.

 10.2. Please list all documents attached to the notification and provide paper copies or direct internet links to the documents concerned:

Click here to enter text.’’»

1. Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty (OJ L 187, 26.6.2014, p. 1), referred to at point 1j of Annex XV to the EEA Agreement, see Joint Committee Decision No 152/2014, published in OJ L 342, 27.11.2014, p. 63 and EEA Supplement No 71, 27.11.2014, p. 61 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. SWD(2014)179 final of 28.5.2014. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Beyond providing a general description of the objectives and eligibility rules of the scheme, the aim of this section is to assess how the eligibility and exclusion rules of the scheme may be used to identify the effect of aid. In some cases, the precise eligibility rules may not be known in advance. In those cases the best available expectations should be provided. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Examples of negative effects are regional and sectorial biases or crowding out of private investments induced by the aid scheme. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Aid schemes defined in Article 1(2)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 are excluded from the scope of the Regulation six months after their entry into force. After having assessed the evaluation plan, the Authority may decide to extend the application of the Regulation to such schemes for a longer period. EFTA States are invited to precisely indicate the intended duration of the scheme. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Please make reference to SWD(2014)179 final of 28.5.2014. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Please note that the evaluation might require sourcing of both historical data and data that will become progressively available during the deployment of the aid scheme. Please identify the sources for both types of information. Both types of data should preferably be collected from the same source as to guarantee consistency across time. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)