

POP2 (2007-2013), the EARFD in the Netherlands: fulfilling or missing its objectives?

An ex-post impact assessment of projects subsidized within POP2 by the “European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development” in the Netherlands

Bachelor-thesis (B.Sc) International Development Studies (12 ECTS)

Author: Lukas Rydzek

Student ID: 920929-720-100

1st Supervisor: Dr. Hanna Schebesta (LAW)

2nd Corrector: Dr. Kai Purnhagen (LAW)

Department of Law & Governance
Wageningen University and Research Centre

Date: 26.01.2015



WAGENINGENUR
For quality of life

I. Declaration of Authenticity

Herewith, I declare that all the materials and findings presented in this thesis are my own work or completely acknowledged whenever took over from other sources. Therefore, I comprehend that if at any point of time, it is proven that I have significantly misrepresented material presented in this Bachelor thesis, any degree awarded to me on the basis of it may be withdrawn.

I proclaim that all information and statements contained herein are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Lukas Rydzek

.....
Lukas Rydzek

II. Executive Summary

Policies and funding for rural areas have become an increasingly important issue in the European Union and its Common Agricultural Policy. Policy evaluations ex-ante, mid-term and ex-post, therefore represent increasingly important tools to assess these policies and to give statements about their impacts. This bachelor thesis presents an ex-post policy assessment of the second period of funding of the “European Agricultural Fund for Regional Development” in the Netherlands. The main findings of this paper are based on different qualitative and quantitative data. In line with the “Working Paper on Approaches for assessing the impacts of the Rural Development Programmes in the context of multiple intervening factors” (EC, 2010) the four different axes of the EAFRD are assessed.

Furthermore I use the seven impact indicators of the CMEF to provide evaluations on the targeted measurements per axis in terms of: Input-output relation, results, impacts, efficiency, effectiveness and relevancy of measurements. The final outcomes of these evaluations are mixed, some measurement performed well while others left room for improvement or even failed. The findings within this work should represent a forecast onto the official ex-post evaluation by the Dutch government. Furthermore, I try to draw connections between my findings and the next period of funding (POP 3, 2014-2020) and how they relate to each other.

III. Acknowledgment

This Bachelor thesis has benefited from the support of many people. For this reason I would like to express my gratitude to some of them within this section.

At first, I want to thank my supervisor, Dr. Hanna Schebesta for her efforts and advice throughout the past months. She always provided competent remarks and suggestions which positively contributed to the final outcome of this work.

I would also like to thank Dr. Kai Purnhagen, who established the contact to Hanna in the very beginning of this work and for his commitment as the second corrector of this work.

Furthermore, I would like to thank my fellow student and friend Steven Anders, for reading my thesis and offering helpful advice and critics.

Finally, I want to thank my parents for continued moral and financial support throughout my whole study program.

IV. Table of Content

I. Declaration of Authenticity

II. Executive Summary

III. Acknowledgment

IV. Table of Content

V. List of Abbreviations

1. Introduction

2. Theoretical Framework

3. Research Methods

3.1 Literature research

3.2 Face to Face Interviews

3.2.1 Method

3.2.2 Procedure

3.3 Research limitations

4. Overview and assessment of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

4.1 What is the legal framework of the EAFRD?

4.2 Axis 1: Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector

4.2.1 Assessment Axis 1

4.3 Axis 2: Improving the environment and the countryside

4.3.1 Assessment Axis 2

4.4 Axis 3: Quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy

4.4.1 Assessment Axis 3

4.5 Axis 4: LEADER

4.5.1 Assessment Axis 4

4.6 Assessment by comparing POP2 with POP3

5. Conclusion & Discussion

VI. References

VII. Legislative Instruments

VIII. List of Figures

IX. List of Tables

X. Transcript Interview 1

XI. Transcript Interview 2

V. List of Abbreviations

AES – Agricultural Environmental Scheme

CAP – Common Agricultural Policy

CMEF – Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

EAFRD – European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

EU – European Union

EUR – EURO (currency)

GDP – Gross Domestic Product

ILG – Investeringsbudget Landelijk Gebied, translation: Investment budget for rural-development

LAG – Local Action Group

LFA – Less Favoured Areas

NSP – National Strategy Plan

POP2 – Plattelandsontwikkelingsprogramma 2, translation: Rural development program 2

RD – Rural Development

RDP – Rural Development Program

1. Introduction

The consequences of globalization are already now and will be increasingly important in the future for agriculture and rural land use in the European Union. Especially demand for food and fuel, and the liberalization of trade will affect farmers activities and their income. These challenges are on the agenda of the EU policies and its Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The European agricultural fund for regional development (EAFRD) is one policy instrument, set up to tackle these challenges. The EAFRD is thus the European agricultural fund which represents the EU's financing budget of the Rural Development Program (RDP). The fund was first established by Council Regulation (EC) 1257/1999 and is part of the second pillar (Rural Development) of the EU's CAP. First institutionalized in 1997 within the "Agenda 2000", the EAFRD implies different objectives, which varied per funding period, in supporting the development of the EU's rural areas.

In Council Regulation (EC) 1698/2005, the general legal framework and objectives for the second period of the EAFRD are laid down. Within article 4 the regulation indicates that the fund should contribute to: increase "the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry", improve "the environment and the countryside" and enhance "the quality of life and the management of economic activity in rural areas". (Art. 4 Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005) (Amschler, 2014)

Furthermore, the EAFRD contributes financially to the actions of national, regional and local authorities by co-financing different projects. The supported projects will be monitored by the European Commission as well as by the respective member states themselves.

Before the start of a new funding period, all of the EU member states have to hand in a national strategic plan (NSP) concerning their rural development programs at the European Commission. These action plans may vary per country. As a consequence some of the member states presented a single national action plan (e.g. Sweden, Austria, France), while others proposed regional programs (e.g. Germany, UK) or even mixtures of both including a national plan with regional programs (e.g. Spain). (Dwyer et al., 2007) (Beckmann et al., 2009)

These national strategic plans incorporate different sections, like an assessments of the overall social, economic and environmental situations, national priorities and coordination plans, and the interplay of the EAFRD with other funds of the CAP. As a result, national strategies have to be developed and

established, aiming to serve the different objectives of the EU rural development program (RDP). The specific content of the EU RDP objectives is divided among 4 different axes. Within the EAFRD regulation Article 2 (c) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005, an axis defined as: “a coherent group of measures with specific goals resulting directly from their implementation and contributing to one or more of the objectives set out in Article 4;”.

Axis 1: Improving competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector

Axis 2: Improving the environment and the countryside

Axis 3: Improving quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy

Axis 4: LEADER – the organizational structure which takes care of the implementation, support and monitoring of projects from Axis 1-3

(Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005)

The content of the different axes will be particularly assessed within the different sub chapters of chapter four. Due to the fact, that the four axes represent the main objectives of the fund, impact assessments within this work will be carried out separately per axis. The funding period, this essay refers to (POP2) started with the first of January 2007 and ended with the 31st of December 2013. Within this funding period, the EAFRD allocated 20% of the whole CAP budget among the different member states of the EU. This amounted in total 96.3 billion EUR of which the Netherlands received 593.197.167 EUR (Table 1) which is a share of 0,6% (Figure 1). Moreover, during the whole funding period, the Council annually determined breakdown rates of the fund and the total amount of support allocated to each member state. Aiming to ensure and monitor quality, efficiency and effectiveness, rural development policies have to be evaluated nationally ex-ante, midterm and ex-post.(Art. 86 & 87 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005) (Derichs, 2007)

As already mentioned above, this Bachelor thesis will particularly focus on projects which belong to the funding period from 2007-2013. Furthermore narrowed down by only examining the Netherlands. The purpose of this work is therefore to provide an ex-post policy assessment based on the findings of a literature review, available statistics, semi-structured interviews. The interviews for this research project have been conducted with or filled in by contact persons of subsidized projects within the respective period of funding. In the end, final conclusions will be drawn, based on the different

findings resulting from the different sub chapters within chapter four. Additionally, this work will provide a detailed overview on to the general legal framework of this fund and elucidate how national and international political bodies interact with each other.

2. Theoretical Framework

The main objective of this ex-post policy evaluation of the funding period POP2, is to give a useful and balanced policy assessment. To provide the reader a better understanding of why it is necessary to assess European funding, chapter 4.1 will explain the legal basis and the legal framework of this fund. Additionally I elaborate on the EAFRD's roots in the EU's CAP. I perceive this knowledge as elementary to understand the need of assessing the different axes. The main objective of these assessments is to measure the input, output, results and impacts of the targeted measurements per axis. Consequently, the resulting research question of this bachelor-thesis is:

How is the period POP2 of the EAFRD in the Netherlands to be evaluated from an ex-post perspective?

This research question will be answered by particularly examining the different axes and their specific tasks. In order to do so, this work assesses, based on the input and output levels of measurements, the possible impact per Axis with regard to the respective impact indicators defined within the CMEF. (Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005)

Therefore, this thesis will examine the different formulated objectives and assess on the basis of practical outcomes the overall impact. These assessments can be found in the sections 4.2.1, 4.3.1, 4.4.1 and 4.5.1. and will be based on available qualitative and quantitative data. This data was collected both within the literature research, and within the conducted interviews.

The assessments structure will be carried out as close as possible according to the guidelines of Council Regulation EC 1698/2005 . As mandated by this regulation, ex-post policy evaluations by the member states have to be in line with the Evaluation guidelines (Guidance Note B) and the guidance questions of the CMEF (Art. 80 Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005) . Therefore, provided assessments within these chapters will follow the intervention logic of the above mentioned Evaluation Guidelines.

This intervention logic is structured as followed:

Input + Output → Result → Intermediate Impacts → Global Impacts

Based on this, the evaluation guidelines provided a structure how researchers have to develop ex-post policy assessments. This has to be done by establishing an argumentation chain as summarized in the box above. The chain starts with an analysis on the interaction of input and output indicators. This interaction leads to the results. Results will have certain impacts on the project scale, measured as the intermediate Impacts) as well as in on broader scale, measured in Global impacts.

Within this research, indicators act as tools to assess and evaluate outcomes at different levels.

Furthermore indicators are useful to measure the achieved value of certain objectives. Indicators can be found in many economic and social science disciplines and display an important tool in different kinds of assessments and evaluations. Within this work I will use the following definition from the EC to operationalize the term indicator:

“An indicator can be defined as the measurement of an objective to be met, a resource mobilised, an effect obtained, a gauge of quality or a context variable. An indicator should be made up by a definition, a value and a measurement unit.” (European Commission, 2006, p.5)

In the chapters 4.2.1, 4.3.1, 4.4.1 and 4.5.1, of this work the following indicators will be applied to assess the fund:

Input indicators: refer to the budget or resources which have been provided

Output indicators: examine the measures which have been realized with the budget

Result indicators: aim to measure the direct effect of the measurements

Impact indicators: should measure the benefits on the level of intervention as well as in a broader context

(EC, 2006)

The assessments per axis are based on this structure and aim to provide well founded statements on possible results and impacts of the chosen measurements per axis. In the end of each assessment, the

measurements chosen within the Dutch program will be evaluated in terms of effectiveness, efficiency and relevance to be in line with Art.81.1 Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005.

Due to the fact that the impact and result evaluations rely on a large amount of qualitative data, which is not accessible yet, it will be challenging to assess results and impacts reliably. These statements will be based only on my findings of the literature review and the interviews. I am aware of the fact that this is too little information to make generalizable statements.

Nevertheless, this work will provide an impact assessments on the basis of the available data.

In order to do so, the following impact indicators has been used to highlight the advantages of a program and examine beyond the intermediate effects. The EC has defined these seven impact indicators within the CMEF:

1. Economic growth
2. Employment creation
3. Labour productivity
4. Reversing biodiversity decline
5. Maintenance of high nature value farming and forestry areas
6. Improvement in water quality
7. Contribution to combating climate change

(European Communities, 2010)

Impact indicators will be used to formulate assessments on the impact of the different measurements.

In line with these assessment, impacts will be measured on different stages, starting from the project level to regional, national, European or even global level if applicable. With these judgments, it will be possible to set the results and impacts of the fund into a broader context.

With the objective of triangulating data, and providing as reliable statements as possible, interviews with former project coordinators of the Leader projects (Axis 4) and applicants for subsidies will be included as well into the qualitative part of the assessments. These people have been either responsible for the achievement of the specific targets set for the axes 1-3 or applied for subsidies by themselves.

For this reason, it will be assumed that these people have necessary information available to give well founded opinions and to make statements in which they can assess on whether funding was successful or not. Especially former Leader-project coordinators are the people who worked closest to the projects on a daily basis. They can make reliable statements on the impacts of subsidized projects from axis 1-3. Because of that, their opinions will be used as expert opinions which makes them suitable for triangulating data.

Furthermore, an additional assessment will be provided within chapter 4.6. In this assessment this work examines on possible additional indicators for success or failure by considering the changes of the next funding period (POP3). This assessment is based on the following concept:

It will be assumed, that if the structure and the overall framework of the European rural-development policy lead to the achievement of it's goals, the EU might be likely to only adjust the goals and keep the structure and framework since it has proven to be successful in the achievement if its overall objectives.

Within this concept it will be compared which elements have been kept and examined on what has changed. In case it turns out, that only targets have changed while the structure and framework remained the same as in the period from 2007-2013, this will be perceived as an indication that there was no need for improvement on the structure and framework. This approach is not a scientific prove, for the fact that the structure achieved its goals, but it can be used as an indication that the structure did not failed in achieving the EU's objectives.

At this point it will be assumed that it is only a logical consequence that the EU keeps the framework and structure while it only adjusts the targets. The old targets have been achieved and rural-development programs can move forward to achieve new objectives within the next funding period.

Based on the separate axis evaluations and the additional assessment of chapter 4.6, final conclusions will be drawn in chapter 5. Furthermore it might be possible that the findings of the axes assessments and the additional assessment of chapter 4.6 might provide useful arguments for the re-formulation and

re-structuring process of EAFRD policies for the next period of funding which is also part of the conclusion and discussion chapter.

Scientific relevance of this research

The EU member states are obliged to give ex-ante, midterm and ex-post policy evaluations of their rural development policies. (Art. 85 & 86 European Council (EC) No 1698/2005)

In order to serve this obligation, this work provides useful information on a smaller scale compared to these official reports and therefore displays a forecast on the official ex-post assessment which is not released yet (January, 2015). Furthermore, this work will provide an overview which includes perceptions of the rural population. This personal qualitative data is usually not provided within the official reports. Interviews are quantified and personal impressions, perceptions and experiences get lost. This differentiates this ex-post assessment from the official one.

Societal relevance of this research.

The money which is provided via the EAFRD is public money, originating from the citizens of the EU member states. (Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005)

Because of that, it is perceived as fundamental and necessary to inform the society about the way the EU is spending this money. Furthermore, researchers have to provide assessments on whether the funding was useful or not. Nobody wants public money to be wasted. Additionally, the development of the EU's rural areas is not only important for the people in those areas but also for the overall society. The production of food, providing recreational areas and living space but also nature conservation are just a few examples for the utility of these regions. As a matter of that, sustaining rural areas in good condition is important for many different economic, social and environmental reasons. .

Research Methods

3.1 Literature research

The main findings and conclusions, drawn within this research are based onto a broad literature study. Within this study, reviewed scientific articles from different authors originating from different scientific

backgrounds have been reviewed within the pre-writing phase of this work. Furthermore, additional information has been accessed via the official EU homepages and the official EU documents, statistics and reports. Moreover, information about subsidized projects from 2007-2011/13 within the Netherlands has been accessed via the Dutch government pages and independent web pages.

3.2 Face to Face Interviews

The underlying intention to conduct face to face interviews, was to gain additional information, personal impressions and experiences of former applicants and project leaders. These persons, especially those who were responsible for the Leader projects can be seen as experts since they dealt with this fund on a daily basis over a few years. All of the interviewees worked for, or are still working for projects or organizations which received subsidies via the EAFRD in the POP2.

3.2.1 Method

The interviews conducted for this work have been semi-structured interviews including open questions. With this method, interview questions and content changed slightly per interviewee and left some space open for additional ideas and comments of each interviewee. With this approach, the author aimed to prevent leading interview partners into a certain direction or to answer questions in socially desirable ways.

3.2.2 Procedure

The interview participants have been contacted and informed via email or telephone about this research project. After an appointment was made, the interviews took place either at their workplace or at a location of the Wageningen University and Research Centre. The interviewer took notes on a prepared interview guide. Additionally, the interviews have been recorded via a smart-phone to ensure the interviewer can re-check the notes made during the interview. This made the writing process of the interview transcripts easier and more reliable. After finishing the interview, the worked out transcripts have been send back to the interviewee to let him/her check if all statements, were understood correctly.

In case the interviewer understood anything wrong, adjusted versions have been send back. Only the

re-checked, and if necessary adjusted interview transcripts, have been used for this research project and can be found in the annex of this work.

3.3 Research limitations

Due to the restrictions of time and scope, it was only possible to carry out two semi-structured interviews. This is not sufficient to build any proven facts or theories about the impacts of this fund only based on interviews. Furthermore, there is a chance that interviewees may always be biased. As a matter of this, statements from the interviews have only been used as additional perceptions and experiences and not as proven facts.

Moreover, with regard to the fact that even the official ex-post evaluation from the dutch government is not finished at this point of time (January, 2015) important information is not accessible yet. Article 86 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 states that ex-post evaluations should be provided by the member states in 2015, so the ex-post evaluation should be released within this year. Because of this important missing information, this ex-post policy assessment may possibly face an ambiguity effect. As a matter of this it remains hard to draw general conclusions within a work of this small scope.

Furthermore, the qualitative data collected within the assessments as part of the literature review is mainly based on experts opinions. These experts have a certain scientific background and may face the problem of overseeing facts due to a framing bias. Therefore it was important to read diverse articles written by experts from different scientific areas aiming to overcome this problem and to erode possible knowledge gaps.

Summarizing it up, this ex-post policy analysis appears to have its limitations because of lacking information, which is not accessible at this point of time (January, 2015). Additionally it appears to be not 100% neutral because of the bounded rationality and possible framing biases of individuals. This may the author of this work, participants of interviewees and the authors of the scientific literature which has been used in this Bachelor thesis.

4. Overview an assessment of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

4.1 What is the legal framework and the structure of the EAFRD?

This section will explain the origins, elucidate on the structure and elaborate on the mechanisms of the legal framework of the EAFRD as part of the European Regional Development policy in the second period of 2007-2013.

The financing part of the EAFRD is provided by the European Union. The maximum amount for the broad categories of funding are defined within a multi-annual financial framework. (European Commission, 2012). Issues and guidelines concerning the financing are laid down in Council Regulation (EC) No 1290/2005 on the financing of the common agricultural policy. Within this regulation, the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission decided on provided money. This provided money mainly originates from the contributions of the different member-states of the EU and import duties. The aim of the Commission is to provide money in the form of grants aiming to implement projects which are in line with the European Union policies (European Commission, 2012). In addition to (EC) No 1290/2005, Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 provides the general framework and the of the EAFRD and elaborates on the objectives. These two regulations formed the basis of the EAFRD in the second period of funding. Now, in the third period of funding, 2014-2020, both of them are repealed by EU Regulation 1305/2013.

For the rural development and the agricultural sector, the EU has implemented the Common agricultural policy (CAP). Since “Agenda 2000” reforms, and the of Council Regulation (EC) 1257/1999 (EC, 1999), the policy consists of two different pillars: 1. The direct payments; and 2. The rural development policy. With those two pillars, the CAP was simplified and reorganized to tackle the problems and challenges of the EU rural areas. (Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999).

In the context of this policy, the EAFRD is part of the second pillar policy and displays one of the three structural funds. These funds are set up in line with the already mentioned multi-annual framework and the Lisbon strategy. (Spaziante & Murano, 2009)

The four priorities of the Lisbon strategy are:

- Investing more in knowledge and innovation;
- Unlocking business potential (particularly of SMEs);
- Improving employability through flexicurity;
- Better management of energy resources

(Commission of the European Communities, 2009)

The legal basis of the EAFRD for the second funding period (POP2) can be found in the Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 on the support for regional development by the EAFRD. Within this regulation, the general framework is defined and the financial procedures are stated.

Furthermore there is a section called Strategic guidelines. Within this section, the EU has defined the general priorities and objectives of this structural fund. As already mentioned in the introduction of this work, countries are obliged to set up National Strategy Plans (NSP). Those NSPs are in line with the Council Regulation 1698/2005 and the general EU guidelines. Within a NSP a country is presenting its priorities and objectives for the next funding period (seven years) to the EU. (Art. 11 Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005)

Additionally to the NSPs countries have to present their Rural Development Programs, which are either set up for the whole country or only for certain regions within the respective country. Article 7 of the Proposal for a Council Regulation on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) states, that “Member States shall be responsible for implementing the rural development programmes at the appropriate territorial level, according to their own institutional arrangements, in accordance with this Regulation” (European Commission, 2004, p.18). Both RDP and NSP have to be handed in by the European Commission for approval. The job of the Commission is then to examine whether they meet the criteria and serve the general objectives of the EU RD policy. These objectives are laid down in Council Regulation (EC) 1698/2005 and formulated within the first three axes. The content of each axis is set out and elucidated within the regulation of the EAFRD. The first three axes are:

1. improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector

2. improving the environment and the countryside
3. improving the quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy.

The purpose of the last axis: 4. “Leader”, is to integrate the foregoing community initiative “Leader” into the RD policy. This means establishing local action groups (LAG), which try to implement the measures and objectives of the other three axes. (Cardwell, 2008) Leader projects are thus the organizations which take care of reaching the objectives of the axes one to three.

For reaching the objectives of the EAFRD, financial resources are necessary. Aiming to keep a certain balance between the objectives of the fund and the implementation of the Leader approaches, the regulation of the EAFRD stipulates a certain minimum contribution of the funding to the different axes. In practice the money is divided as followed: Axis 1 and 3 receive each at least 10% of the EAFRD contributions to the national Rural Development policies. 25% of are at least assigned to axis 2 and at least 5% of the overall EAFRD funding needs to be attached to axis four and it’s Leader implementations. (Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005)

In contrary to EU funds from the first pillar of the CAP, the funds of EAFRD always need to be co-financed by either national or regional public money. In this context the financial contributions of the fund vary with the economic situation of a region and with the accompanying axis.(Cardwell, 2008) By evaluating the economic status of a region, the fund distinguishes between convergence and non-convergence regions.

A convergence region is a region of which the per capita GDP amounts less than 75% of the average GDP of the EU-25 countries (Art.17 Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006). For the financing of the projects, it means that axis 1 and 3 measurements receive 50% public investment given by the European Union within the non-convergence regions and 75% public investment in the convergence regions. For measurements of axis 2 and the implementation of axis 4, the EU invests 55% within non-convergence and 80% within convergence regions.(Rodriguez-Pos & Fratesi, 2004) Due to the fact that the Netherlands does not have any convergence regions this explanation is not relevant for this research but only to complete the explanation of structures of the EAFRD. (Schmid et al., 2010)

Concerning the final budget, the Netherlands received in total 593.197.167 Euro of the whole EAFRD budget within the second period (POP2) (Table 1), which amounts only 0,6% of the overall EAFRD budget (Figure 1).

This money was divided among the 12 different regions in the Netherlands to achieve the targets of the NSP (Region Gelderland, 2011). In this context, 75% of the overall EAFRD funding was invested into the budget for rural-development (ILG). These 75% of the EAFRD funding amounted only 10% of the total Dutch rural-development budget which was in total 450 million EUR per year. (Rural Development Plan Management Office, 2010)

The budget for rural-development (ILG) includes all measurements invested in, for the RD policies, as well as support for water management and the recovering of damaged soils.

4.2 Axis 1: Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector

Axis one supports objectives for improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and the forestry sector. Receiving aid for axis one via the EAFRD can be granted for several reasons. This may imply measurements that are proposed to promote knowledge and improve human potential by particular trainings.

Furthermore the formation of farmers under the age of 40, including the earlier retirement for older farmers (55 or older) who are willing to transfer ownerships to those younger farmers are subsidizable. Additionally, the foundation of consulting services for farmers and forest owners can be subsidized, in order to evaluate and improve performance. (Art. 20 Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005

Moreover, Axis 1 subsidizes measures which anticipate to restructure and develop physical potential. This may imply measurements which steer towards modernizations and lead to improvements in economic performance, like investments in new technologies. Projects which contribute to investments in the marketing and processing of primary products as well as general improvements into the infrastructure within this business sector may receive financial support. (Art. 20 Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005

Additionally, for the rebuilding of production capacity of either agriculture or forestry which has been harmed by natural disasters subsidies can be granted. (Schmid et al., 2010)

Furthermore, subsidies are also given to measures aiming to improve the quality of production and products. This entails assistance for farmers in adapting the rules in EU legislation, as well as encouragement for farmers to join promotion schemes of food quality. Finally, provisional measures for the new member states, can also be granted as part of the first axis. However, explanations to the provisional measures are ignored since the Netherlands is an old member-state which makes provisional measurements irrelevant for this work. (Art. 20 Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005)

4.2.1 Assessment Axis 1

This section will provide a well founded statement on how to assess the performance of axis one. As already mentioned within the theoretical framework of this work, assessments per axes are based on the qualitative and quantitative data found within the literature research, and if applicable conducted interviews. This assessment will be in line with the guidelines for policy evaluations set by the EU and the CMEF which both can be found in the Theoretical framework of this paper.

The stated objective for Axis one was to improve the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector. Therefore 18 different measurements have been indicated by the EU as contributory for achieving this objective. Therefore all of them could have received monetary support via the first axis of EAFRD. Within the Dutch NSP 8 of these 18 measurements have been picked out and targeted to achieve the objective of axis one within the Netherlands.

111 – Vocational training and information actions

114 – Advisory services to farmers and forest holders

121 – Farm modernisation

123 – Adding value to agricultural and forestry products

124 – Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and the forestry sector

125 – Improving and developing infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry

132 – The participation of farmers in food quality programmes

133 – Information and promotion activities

As we can see from the statistics of the “State of implementations per measures” (ENRD 1, 2014), two of the chosen 8 target measurement have not been realized for unknown reason. This means, measurement 123 “Adding value to agricultural and forestry products” and measurement 133 “Information and promotion activities” reached 0,0% on target.

Five of the 8 measurements: 114, 121, 124, 125 and 132 reached all between 11,4% and 74% of the targeted value of output. At the same time, these measurements used between 43% and 96% of the planned budget. The highest share of the total input received the measurements 121 and 125 (Figure 2).

The most conspicuous measurement subsidized within this axis is definitely measurement 111. Measurement 111 provided “Vocational training and information actions” to farmers. The targeted number of participants for these trainings was set at 16.500. However, 98.741 participants joined these training occasions. This amounts more than 598% of the original targeted value. This is positive and an indication that there was high demand for these trainings and actions. The contradictory fact is at the same time, that trainings and actions of this measurement only used 56% of the planned budget. This is an indication, that the budget planning beforehand was insufficient or at least improvable. The measurement provided the service for nearly 6 times more participants than targeted and used only half of the budget. This is one the one hand very efficient, but also contradictory.

The criticism on budget planning continues by considering the other measurements of axis one.

The calculated average value of the allocated budget or input (ENRD 2, 2014) amounts only 52,8% of the planned budget for axis one measurements. Using only the half of the expected amount of money makes the budget planning inefficient. Money for axis one measurements which was not allocated within POP2 could have been better used for additional measurements or at other axes.

Considering the outputs of this axis, the average value sounds very positive since it amounts ~95%. At this point the average value as not suitable to give founded statements. This is why 2 measures without any output (0%) and one measure with nearly 600% output have too much influence on this calculation. Therefore the median value is for this axis more suitable since it is less sensitive for such extreme values. The median is thus at ~41,25% of realized output targets. Summarizing up the output

statistics within POP2, ~41,25% of the targeted outputs of axis one measurements have been realized by a budget allocation (input) of 52,8% which displays a relatively positive input – output relation.

The results and impacts of those outcomes appear hard to be measured within the scope of this paper. To do this, a broad qualitative examination with a big sample of dutch farmers answering all of the evaluation questions of the CMEF would have been necessary. (EC, 2007)

Due to limitations of time, scope and budget this was not possible within this bachelor thesis. This data will be accessible for the overall society with the release of the official ex-post evaluation of the Dutch government.

Nevertheless this paper will still provide an answer on impacts and results which might be less reliable due to these limitations. Within the “Working Paper on Approaches for assessing the impacts of the Rural Development Programmes in the context of multiple intervening factors” (EC, 2010) measurement per axis have been identified which are positively correlated to the seven impact indicators of the CMEF. Therefore the targeted measurements carried out in the Netherlands, which are identified as being correlated to the impact indicators stated within the working paper will be assessed. Within this paper, measurements 121, 123, 124, 125, 132 and 133 are identified for having a positive influence on economic growth. Considering the outputs of those measurements, it can be noted that only measurement 124 (Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and the forestry sector) reached more than 50% of the target value (74%). However two of the other measurements nearly reached half (49%) of their target values (125, 121) while two of them completely failed (123 & 133). Due to these mixed outcomes, the impacts on economic growth of axis one measurements are interpreted as neither positive nor negative. It is assessed as partly contributing to economic growth, since most of the measurements only reached parts of their targeted values. Economic growth may have impacts on nearly every level, farmers may receive higher incomes, which contributes to a higher national GDP and also may have an impact on European scale, but these effects can only be measured in the longer run. (Grieve & Weinspach, 2010)

The next impact indicator which is applicable to axis one measurements is improving “Labour

productivity”, according to the EC (EC, 2010) the measurements 121 & 125 may have an influence on improved labor productivity. By analyzing the outputs of these measurements, it can be noted that both of them only achieved 49% of the targeted value. This not a great success and still leaves room to improve, but both of them reached at least nearly half of the target which can be perceived as some progress. For this reason these measurements are evaluated for having a positive, but limited impact on improving “Labour productivity”. Effects on labor productivity are also only long term measurable according to the findings of Grieve and Weinspach. (Grieve & Weinspach, 2010)

The last impact indicator which is correlated to axis one measurements is impact indicator 7: “Contribution to Combating Climate Change” (European Communities, 2010). Three of the subsidized measurements within axis one of the Dutch NSP may have a positive influence on that impact indicator. Again measurements 121 & 125 which reached 49% each, but also the failed measurement of 123 which achieved 0% of its target value. (ENRD 1, 2014) Because of that the assessment for this impact indicator less positive. Two of them realized at least some progress, but the third one completely failed since it reached zero output goals. The performance of axis one measurements was thus in correlation to the impact indicator of “Contributing to Combating Climate Change” the poorest of all three impact indicators of the first axis.

Summing up axis one, the main objective was to improve the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector. Because of that, it appears to be logical that most of the chosen measurements of this axis should be positively correlated to economic growth. This was the case, since six of the eight targeted measurements directed towards this impact. For this reason, the general relevancy of the chosen measurements can be assessed as good. However, the main criticism focuses on the effectiveness and efficiency of axis one measurements. There was only one measurement which achieved or went beyond its target value. In addition to that, the best performed measurement (111) is not even positively correlated to economic growth (EC, 2006). For this reason the general effectiveness of the chosen measurements is questionable. The general efficiency of the chosen measurements is also part of the main criticism to this axis. Only 52% of the planned budget was finally allocated which leaves a lot of space open to improve on.

The interviews conducted within this research do not deliver relevant information for the analysis of axis one. For this reason they have not been taken into consideration within this assessment.

4.3 Axis 2: Improving the environment and the countryside through land management

Axis two funding aims to steer land management towards a more sustainable development. Therefore, forest holders and farmers have been introduced to different methods which have been indicated as being helpful to protect the natural environment and preserve landscape and natural resources. The European Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora was building the legal basis for this axis. Furthermore, the ecological network of “Natura 2000” sites has been set up to support the objectives of axis 2. (Leneman et al. 2009)

Within the borders of the European Union, an estimated of 20.3 billion EUR of the EAFRD has been directed to Axis 2 objectives for the RDP of the member states. This money was divided among different agri-environment measures, for measures which strengthen biodiversity and to support Natura 2000 sites, which are nature protection areas. (Commission of the European Communities, 2009)

Within the borders of the Netherlands, these Natura 2000 areas cover around 1,120,000 ha.

Nevertheless, five percent of these areas are dedicated to agricultural activities. In order to still serve the function of a nature protection area, agricultural activities mostly imply the provision of grazing land as feeding areas and living space for different bird species. (Jongman & Bogers, 2008).

According to Scheller, landscape impoverishment is continually exacerbating as a matter of increasing demand for renewable energy sources. One reason to that is the increased production of plants which are used for bio fuels. In connection to this production, less productive areas and grounds remain to be unused and important fields for biodiversity decrease due to the higher demand on huge scale fields for these bio fuels crops. (Scheller, 2014)

4.3.1 Assessment Axis 2

As already explained in the introduction 4.3, axis 2 measurements should especially contribute to “Improving the environment and the countryside”. In order to do so, in 2008 the European Council restated its commitment, aiming to strengthen efforts and activities which steer towards reduced biodiversity loss by 2010 and beyond. In this context the European Council particularly highlighted the

essential role of Natura 2000 sites in achieving this objective (Commission of the European Communities, 2009).

In Axis 2, environment is mostly linked to physical areas. This means that the measurements are directed to the components of the environment like: “water, land and soil, flora, fauna habitats and ecosystems, waste and pollution, air, climate, protected areas as well as issues like cultural landscapes, sustainable agriculture and forestry, and the sustainable use of local (natural) resources, biodiversity and climate change.” (EC, Guidance note C, 2007)

The assessment of Axis 2 measurements in this chapter concentrates on the 5 targeted measures chosen out of 12 possible measurements. Within the Dutch NSP the following measurements have been targeted to serve axis 2 objectives:

212 – LFA Payments to farmers in areas with handicaps, other than mountain areas

214 – Agri-environment payments

216 – Non-productive investments in farm holdings

221 – First afforestation of agricultural land

227 – Non-productive investments in forest holdings

(ENRD 1, 2014)

The first three of these measures have been rather successful concerning their output levels. The measurements 212 and 214 did even go beyond their target values. Within measure 212 the number of supported holdings amounted 11.905 instead of the targeted 7.180, which amounts around 165% of target achievement. The supported agricultural land within this measure reached 84,5% of the targeted value which can be assessed as a success as well. (ENRD 2, 2014)

The agri-environment payments from measure 214 did partly achieved their objectives. This measurement was subdivided into two different kinds of outputs. The one which was successful: “Areas under agri-environmental support against 2007-2013” reached about 225% of the targeted value and was thus beyond expectations. In addition to that, the fact that these agri-environment payments received the highest share of money among the second axis has to be highlighted. (Figure 3). Measure, 216 reached about 63,9% of its targets which is a rather positive result as well.

The other two measurements subsidized via axis 2 did not succeed at all. Measure 221 which aimed first afforestation of land still reached at least 2% of its target value while measure 227 “Non-productive investments to forest holders” performed even worse and reached 0% of the targeted value. (ENRD 1, 2014)

Examining the input, it is obvious that measurement 212 (LFA payments) reached more output than targeted while using with 82% a reasonable amount of the planned budget. This is assessed as positive and as a possible result to the findings which Jonman and Bogers made in 2008. They discovered that: “Less Favoured Areas (LFA) payments in the Netherlands have been coupled with specific agrienvironmental measures; as a result the utilisation of this scheme has been fairly low among farmers. To encourage more farmers to apply for LFA payments, the Netherlands will decouple compensation payment from a number of agri-environmental measures, such as for deep marshy pasturelands (approximately 40.000 ha)” (Jongman & Bogers, 2008)

So decoupling of compensation payments might have been a necessary mid-term correction which steered this measurement and its output towards this good final performance.

As already mentioned above, Measure 214 (agri-environment payments) received the highest share of the provided money of axis 2 (Table 3). This measurement did not only reached beyond the planned output, it exceeded the planned input as well. Around 113% have been allocated among the participants until the end of 2013. However, the input-output level is still in balance which justifies the exceeding budget. Other measurements of this axis used less input than planned so the total input for axis two measurements is still under the total targeted budget.

Measurement 216 reached 63% with only accumulating 25% of the whole budget. However the worst measurement concerning the input output evaluation is definitely measurement 221. As already mentioned above, only 2% of the targeted output has been achieved while this measurement used 99% of the planned budget. This is unacceptable budget planning. The input and output level are highly disproportional. Additional research on how these disproportions arise would be important to overcome these problems within future EAFRD funding.

The last measurement targeted did not have any output so it is logical that nothing of the planned input has been allocated. Nevertheless, on average 61% of the targets have been realized with an average use of 93% of the planned capital.

Facing again the same limitations in measuring the results and impacts as in chapter 4.2.1, this chapter will provide the result and impact assessment again based on the measurements per axis which have been identified as positively correlated to the respective impact indicators of the CMEF. The basis of this is again the “Working Paper on Approaches for assessing the impacts of the Rural Development Programmes in the context of multiple intervening factors” (EC, 2010). In order to do so, again the targeted measurements carried out in the Netherlands which are correlated to the impact indicators stated inside this working paper will be assessed.

Within the working paper, measurement 214 is identified as being positively correlated to contribute to the impact indicator of reversing biodiversity decline. Due to the fact that the output of this measurement was even higher than planned beforehand the impact is assessed as positive and successful. Target values have been surpassed so this measurement should have had a positive impact on reversing biodiversity decline. The impact-level of reversing biodiversity decline can be measured mainly national, especially in the beginning of the measurements (intermediate effects). In case that due to this measurement, threatened species can recover in the Netherlands, this species might grow and contribute to an improved biodiversity in other European countries as well (Global impacts).

The working paper identified measurement 214 and measurement 216 as positively influencing water quality which is also one of the seven impact indicators. (European Communities, 2010) Due to the fact that measurement 214 reached beyond its expected output and measurement 216 reached 63% which is nearly two-thirds I assess that the measurements chosen within the Dutch NSP also contributed to improve water quality in the Netherlands. The intermediate impact-level of improved water quality is best to be measured on regional and national scale. This may also have further effects, e.g. in case of a river which crosses national borders, neighbor countries might profit as well (Global Impacts).

Additionally, measurement 214 is identified for positively influencing the impact indicator “contributing to combating climate change”. This measurement does not only supports the improvement of water quality but also has a positive impact on climate change. Climate change challenges are never only national affairs (European Communities, 2010). For this reason the impact-level exceeds national borders and affects combating climate change on a global level.

The other four of the seven impact indicators are not correlated to any other measures of this axis. Assessing axis two in general, measurements which aim to address farmers or which are used for agriculture performed well. These are the measures 212, 214, and 216.

They reached a high amount of the targeted outputs, while using reasonable inputs. For this reason those three can be assessed as 1. Effective since they achieved their goals, 2. Efficient because most of the planned money has been allocated and as 3. Relevant due to the high demand for these measurements among the participants.

However the other two measures which aimed to address forest holders or stimulate afforestation failed. The first, measure 221 failed since it reached output of only 2% with a capital accumulation of 89%. This is obviously ineffective and inefficient.

The second, measurement 227 aimed to support forest holders with non-productive investments but there was no granting of money at all. Reasons of that would be only speculative which would not give any additional value to this analysis. Due to the fact that this measurement has not been carried out at all, the dutch government should question the relevancy of it with regard to future funding. Apparently there was no demand which makes it irrelevant and not well chosen. The planned budget for this measurement could have been better allocated to other measurements within the NSP like for Natura 2000 measurements.

According to the outcomes of van der Sluis et al., the Natura 2000 approach is identified as a powerful instrument which affects different land uses. They carried out research in Heerde (Netherlands) an area along the river IJssel, and at the Hoge Veluwe which are protected under the Natura 2000 objective. These areas only benefited from AES-schemes and the Life program. (van der Sluis et al., 2013)

This is in line with the data on the EAFRD, which states that there was no funding via the EAFRD for the measurements contributing to “Natura 2000” but only the AES-schemes and the Life program. The measurements 224 and 213 which are the only measurements supporting Natura 2000 sites and projects via the EAFRD have not been targeted within the Dutch NSP. Money planned for measurement 227 with zero input and output could have been better allocated to the Natura 2000 program and the respective measurements. This program has at least proven its advantages and therefore its right to exist.

Last to be mentioned is the fact, that it was obligatory for the EU member-states that their chosen “Axis 2 expenditure must contribute to three areas of EU environmental policy: biodiversity and the preservation and development of high nature value farming and forestry systems and traditional agricultural landscapes; water; and climate change” (Keenleyside, 2006, p.11). This obligation was successfully fulfilled to with the upset of the Dutch NSP.

The interviews which have been conducted are not suitable to give any additional value to this analysis for this reason they have been left out of the assessment.

4.4 Axis 3: Quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy

With the objective to strengthen diversification of the rural areas and the rural economy, the regulations of Axis 3 contain especially measures which steer towards the diversification to non-agricultural activities in the rural areas. These measurement offer support for the development and establishment of micro-businesses and promote investments for attracting tourists. At the same time axis three measures direct towards the protection of natural heritage which is contributory to a sustainable economic development.(European Communities, 2010)

In the general, the quality of life within the rural areas should have been improved by including axis 3 measurements into a countries NSP. Furthermore, the revitalization of rural villages, the sustaining of rural heritage was aimed to be secured. Additionally measurements under axis three should also support the development and implementation process of local development strategies.

4.4.1 Assessment Axis 3

The following section will assess axis three measurements and give a comparable evaluation as already provided in the chapters 4.2.1 and 4.3.1. The structure of this assessment will follow the explanations within the theoretical framework of this work. The assessment of this axis is again based on the qualitative and quantitative data found within the literature research, and if applicable the conducted interviews. This assessment will be in line with the guidelines for policy evaluations and the CMEF which can be found in the Theoretical framework as well.

The general stated objective of axis three was “Improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of the rural economy”. In order to achieve this objective, the EU formulated 9 different measurement which might steer towards this development. The Dutch government decided within its NSP to target 8 of these 9 measurements to achieve axis three objectives. Measurements 311, 312, 313, 321, 322, 323 and 341. (ENRD 1, 2014)

311 – Diversification into non-agricultural activities

312 – Businesses creation and development

313 – Encouragement of tourism activities

322 – Village renewal and development

341 – Skills acquisition and animation with a view to preparing and implementing a local development strategy

Considering the output of these measurements: Measurement 313 “Encouragement of tourism activities” and 321 “Basic services for the economy and rural population” performed best and went beyond the programmed target value. They achieved 172% and 108% in their total number of participants. Furthermore the measurements 322 “Village renewal and development” and 323 “Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage” achieved 63,4% and 77,4% of the targeted value in number of participants which can be assessed as a reasonable output.

However, the measurements 311 “Diversification into non-agricultural activities” (35% output), 312

“Business creation and development” (10,2% output) and 341 “Skills acquisition, animation and implementation of local development” (0,6% output) can be assessed as not achieving enough output levels in comparison to their original target values. (ENRD 2, 2014)

In total, the Netherlands directed 20-30% of their Rural Development budget to this axis (Berninger, 2011) which is the highest amount of all axes. By examining the input for axis three measurements, input levels for all measurements reached from 61 % until 92% percent of the planned budget. Among all of the measures, measure 313 “Encouragement of tourism activities” received the highest share of axis 3 measurements (Figure 4).

As a matter of this, the first general impression of input levels is positive, especially for those measurements which reached beyond or achieved their target output levels. By considering the fact that measurements 311, 312 and 341 with relatively low outputs used as well a reasonable amount of the programmed money, this can be perceived as an indicator that budget planning for these measurements was improvable. Especially measurement 312 and 341 have a bad input – output relation. Measurement 312 used 92% budget while it achieved only 10% of planned output and measurement 341 used 61% of the budget at only 0,6% targeted output. (ENRD 1, 2014) (ENRD 2, 2014)

Despite to the same limitations in measuring the results and impacts as in chapter 4.2.1 and 4.3.1, I provide in the following section a result and impact assessment which is based on the measurements per axis which have been identified as positively correlated to the respective impact indicators of the CMEF. This is again based on the “Working Paper on Approaches for assessing the impacts of the Rural Development Programmes in the context of multiple intervening factors” (EC, 2010).

In line with that, the assessment will examine the target measurements carried out in the Netherlands which are correlated to the impact indicators stated inside the working paper.

Within the working paper the measurements: 311, 312, 313, 321, 322 and 323 are identified as being positively correlated to support economic growth. Conspicuous at this point is, that six of the seven chosen measurements of this axis can contribute to economic growth. This is an indication that the dutch government especially wanted to strengthen economic growth inside the rural areas with axis 3

measurements. To be regarded at this point is the fact, that the third axis in the end also received the highest financial support of all axes. At least four of these six axis 3 measurements which contribute to economic growth performed well in terms of outputs (European Communities, 2010). For this reason, the impact of these measurements on economic growth within the rural areas can be assessed as rather positive. Intentionally, the level of impact was to strengthen economic performance on a local level, but an economically well performing agricultural sector contributes to a better national economy. (Bravo-Ortega & Lederman, 2005) For this reason the impact on economic growth on different levels can be measured as positive and contributory, not only farmers and subsidized projects will profit, but also the Dutch economy and the national GDP.

Furthermore the measurements 311, 312 and 313 are identified as being contributory for employment creation (EC, 2010). Due to the fact that only one of those three, measurement 313, did well (172% output) while the other two only reached 10% or 35%, the impact on job creation can be neither assessed as positive nor as negative. It can be expected that those three measurement in each case lead to progress. This progress could have been higher since two measurement which should have contributed to employment creation performed way below the target values. The resulting impact of job creation is best to be measured in the longer run (Grieve & Weinspach, 2011). The impact-level on job creation can thus be measured similar as the impact level economic growth as evaluated above. It will be contributory on different levels especially in the longer run.

The last indicated impact indicator by the CMEF for measurements of this axis, is “Contribution to combating climate change”. At this point measurements 311 and 312 should have contributed to this impact indicator. As already elaborated before, both of them failed concerning their expectations of output. Therefore the impact of axis three measurements in contributing to combating climate change was very low.

Possible reasons to that can be found in the results of Interview Transcript 2, This interview was conducted with a farmer who received subsidies via the EAFRD for setting up solar panels as part of the diversification into non-agricultural activities (measurement 311). His perception was partly

different to the interpretations of the output analysis, since he perceived the project as a success and contributory to the EAFRD objectives. Due to the investment, he became a producer of green energy which helps combating climate change.

Additionally, to the solar panels this farmer renovated his roofs and got rid of his asbestos which is positive for the environment as well.

Nevertheless, he thinks that solar energy sector in general has to prove its existence and advantages. He perceives his personal advantages of the project as rather low and stated that he would not have realized the project without subsidies.

The statement of limited personal advantages, is a possible reason for the relatively low number of participants of measurement 311. In case that farmers perceive their personal advantages of an investment like solar panels as too low, it might have a negative influence on the total number of applicants. This can be set in connection to the statistics examined beforehand. The monetary advantages of investments in solar panels may therefore only have a small impact on the project level which is a possible reason for the low number of applicants among measurement 311.

Assessing measurements of axis 3 in general, with regard to the stated objective of “Improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of the rural economy”, it was foreseeable that most measurements chosen should steer towards economic growth and employment creation.

For this reason, the general the relevance of chosen axis three measurements can be assessed as positive. The measurements 313 and 321 have been identified as most effective since they went beyond expectations of output. More than the targeted values have been achieved, which indicates also high demand and need for those measurements among the participants. Since these two measures allocated around 80% of their planned budget they performed efficient as well. The main criticism on the third axis focuses on measurement 341 “Skills acquisition, animation and implementation of local development”. According to the CMEF this measurement does not contribute to anyone of the seven impact indicators. In addition to that, outputs and inputs are highly disproportional to each other. This makes measurement 341 ineffective because of low output, inefficient due to the high amount of

budget used, and irrelevant for achieving the targets of the third axis since there is no correlation identified to any of the seven impact indicator. The budget allocated for this measurement did not delivered any positive results and could have been better used for measurements which performed better.

4.5 Axis 4: Leader

Subsidies which are allocated under the LEADER axis belong to the establishments of local development strategies by “local action groups”. These public-private partnership groups have been set up to realize strategies which aim to achieve the objectives of the other three axes mentioned above. This means that the Leader approach can be understand as the institutional or organizational infrastructure which cares for the establishment of the measures from Axis one, two and three.(Smit et al., 2013)

Furthermore these established local groups, depending on their territorial position, should strive not only for improvement on the inter-territorial level but also for a better transnational cross border cooperation of projects. With the Leader approach, the EU applied the subsidiarity principle according to Beckmanns findings (Beckmann, 2005). This means that the regulation provides the opportunity to decentralize decision making. “In areas of shared competence, the EU can only act if the objectives sought cannot be sufficiently achieved through the action of the Member States themselves and can be better achieved at the EU level ” (KPMG, 2011, p.14)

As a consequence, policies are decided on the local or regional level including stakeholder participation which leads to more flexible and local context oriented policies. Furthermore, the leader approach reduces costs and fastens up administration procedures (Derichs, 2007). Especially areas which already had earlier experiences with bottom-up actions in rural-development polices seem to be “more likely to have deployed the measures available under the RDR in imaginative or innovative ways” (Dwyer et al., 2007, p.882).

4.5.2 Assessment Axis 4

Within axis 4, the dutch NSP covers all of the five possible measurements. These are the

measurements:

411 – Increasing competitiveness in the agricultural and forestry sector

412 – Improving the environment and the countryside

413 – Improving quality of life in rural areas and diversifying rural economy

421 – Cooperation

431 – Running costs, skills acquisition, animation

For the output analysis the measurements 411, 412 and 413 are highly interconnected. For this reason they have been bundled within this analysis and also in the output statistics (ENRD 1, 2014). Together they have targeted 5 different objectives on which they performed very well. The output levels range from 72,7% until 194%.

On average, the five objectives achieved thus 111% of the targeted outputs which was beyond expectations. This output level was achieved by an average input level of ~72% of the planned budget.

Measurement 421 performed concerning its input – output relation very well, 37% output with the allocation of 33,9% of the planned budget is appropriate. Nevertheless the total output of 37% can be assessed as relatively low.

The other measure, 431 did not performed that well considering its input – output relation, only 7,8% output has been achieved with an allocation of 56% of the total budget planned. As a matter of this, it can be assumed that the budget planning beforehand could have been improved for this measurement. (ENRD 2, 2014)

The limitations in measuring the results and impacts remain the same as in chapter 4.2.1, 4.3.1 and 4.41 but this chapter will provide again a result and impact assessment. This assessment will be again based on the measurements per axis which have been identified as positively correlated to the respective impact indicators of the CMEF like in the chapters before. The “Working Paper on Approaches for assessing the impacts of the Rural Development Programmes in the context of multiple intervening factors” (EC, 2010) is therefore again used as the main elaboration tool.

In order to do so, measurements carried out in the Netherlands which are correlated to the impact indicators stated inside the working paper have been examined. In line with this examination the measurements 411, 412 and 413 are identified as being positively correlated to economic growth. As already outlined in the output analysis of these measurements, they performed on average beyond expectations. As a matter of fact these measurements had a positive influence on economic growth within the respective sectors. The effects of economic growth in the short run can be best measured on the project level. By comparing the before and after economic performance of a company after the implementation of a certain project, impacts can be measured. Over time the general impacts of economic growth within the agricultural sector will also affect national GDP, but these impacts can better be measured within the long run. Longitudinal studies monitoring economic growth within this sector can be used to give statements on how measurements contributed or not.

Furthermore according to the literature does “The Leader method helps to mobilise local actors and their knowledge and to enhance the awareness of local people with regard to landscape and environmental heritage.” (Grieve & Weinspach, 2011, p.17) This contribution to the environment was not mentioned in the impact indicators of the working paper but should be regarded by assessing this axis.

In a broad qualitative study, Blokland et al. discovered that the leader networks deliver a lot of additional values. Within their study they interviewed a large sample of farmers within the Netherlands who worked in cooperation with the leader scheme to achieve certain measurements. Nearly every participant was under the impression that delivered results of measurements would not have been possible without the leader approach concerning their scale, in relation to time and for the same financial investments. (Blokland et al., 2013)

Furthermore there is also consensus that local governance as a measure under the leader approach may also contributed to enhanced quality of life which was the main objective of axis three (Grieve & Weinspach, 2011) and that “the involvement of actors at the local level and the participation of environmental NGOs have a positive effect on the perceived environmental effectiveness of AESs. Therefore, it is not surprising that most actors involved in the decision making of AESs are in favour of further decentralisation and participation in order to tackle agri-environmental problems.” (Beckmann,

2005, p.689)

Summing up the outcomes of the data and literature, overall contributions to the other axes are reasonable high, which results in general to a positive assessment.

The objective of the leader approach was to support the establishment and realization of the overall objectives from the axes 1-3. The literature as well as the statistics used within this report give indication that this was the case.

These findings are also in line with the statements of one of my interview participants. (Interview transcript 1). He worked for the organization “Oregional” which was set up as a leader organization.

Within this organization they supported for example an “Interreg” project. The goal of this project was: “Increasing the purchase of local products and promoting regional products directly from the farmers and sell it to other parties within the region, in line with that increasing farmers income due to shorter chain. Farmers had also economic benefits due to our promotion activities including more visitors on their farms. Additionally which is positive for the regional economy is that the money stays in the region. More income for farmers helps them to keep the rural area in good condition” (Interview transcript 1)

The outcomes of this interview deliver therefore additional indications that the leader approach was a successful tool with a high impact on realizing Axis 1-3 objectives. The interviewee stated also that the region of Gelderland (Dutch province) was satisfied with the outcomes of their project since the project delivered the targeted objectives (Interview transcript 1).

4.6 Assessment by comparing the structure of POP2 with the structure of POP

This section examines on the next funding period POP3 (2014-2020) and compares its structure with the structure of POP2. This assessment will differ from those provided in the other chapters since it is not content related to the axes. The assessment within this chapter does not examine any specific outcomes of the funding period POP2. This assessment only compares the structure and framework of POP2 and POP3. Based on this comparison, it will be possible to draw conclusions by elucidating on

whether the structure changed, and if yes why? What was the structure from application to funding within POP2 and how did it changed until POP3:

POP 2 (Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005)	POP 3 (REGULATION (EU) No 1305/2013)
1. The EU defines the goals of the new funding period, within the four axes model.	Remained, but the content and number of goals has changed. In POP3 the EU no longer provides axes to subsidize, but defines priorities.
2. Member states develop NSP's which have to be in line with the overall objectives and the legal framework the EU	Remained, but the NSP's within POP3 do not have to serve all priorities (former axes). NSP's have to cover at least four of the six priorities.
3. Hand in of NSP at the EC, they can confirm or reject the plan	Remained
4. In case NSP is confirmed, member-states receive a certain amount of money. This money is used for the measurement of the different axes.	Remained
5. Leader approach LAG's takes care of the implementation and realization of projects from the Axes 1-3 (subsidiarity principle)	Remained

Additional sources: (European Commission, 2014), (Jongeneel et al., 2010)

By evaluating the table, it becomes obvious that the content and focus of the next funding period has changed. The content is now focused on the “Europe 2020” strategy. This means that all EU policies within this period of time, should contribute and steer towards a “smart, sustainable and inclusive growth”.(Art. 5 of Regulation EU No 1305/2013)

To be in line with that and contribute to this growth strategy, the new priorities of the EAFRD have been set up towards the Europe 2020 strategy. These priorities, can be found in the conclusion & discussion part of this work, including further explanations.

The overall structure remained. This is perceived as an indication that the overall structure and the

framework of POP2 must have been successful in achieving its objectives. This is partly in line with the findings of the assessments which can be found in chapter 4.2.1, 4.3.1, 4.4.1 and 4.5.1. Some of the measurements achieved their targeted value or even reached beyond while other measurements failed completely. Therefore it can be assumed that the system itself is not to blame or to be blamed for the final outcomes. Success or failure highly depends on many factors, like local context, and on the support of the leader approach to reach the objectives of the other four axes. There is consensus among the literature about this dependency. (assessment axis 4)

Moreover, the two pillar system of the CAP remained which was first established with the Agenda 2000 (EC, 1999). The fact that the overall structure remained is thus no scientific proof that the funding period POP2 was a success, but it is an indication that it was not a failure. In case the system would not have been able to achieve its goals, the EU would have changed the system and not kept a structure which was not able to achieve the targets set.

Last to be mentioned, within the new system of priorities instead of axes, the flexibility is increased. In the new scheme, member-states are allowed to choose four out of six possible priorities. This option provides new opportunities to set up context oriented policies which can serve not only European objectives but also the national interests. This is perceived as an important step to adjust the EAFRD policy to the different stages of development in economic, social and environmental terms among the EU countries.

5. Conclusion & Discussion

The main objective of this paper was to provide the reader an assessment on whether funding via the EAFRD in the period of POP2 was successful. Answering this question with a simple yes or no is with regard to the outcomes of the axes assessments not possible.

Within this work, different outcomes have been examined. Some measurements went right and achieved their targets while others failed. Especially the criticism on budget planning was continually resurfacing for at least one measurement of each axis. As a result, assessments for these measurements turn out to perform either ineffective or inefficient or even both. Moreover the Dutch NSP targeted measures with relatively low or even zero output. Reasons for this may vary and often appear to be speculative. According to the findings of Istudor, it was “the economic crisis which has created

problems for applicants and has challenged the authority and capacity to adapt and find solutions in particular in finding sources of financing. (Istudor, 2011) This is also stated in the Europe 2020 strategy which can be found in the end of this chapter.

However, the different assessments created the impression that money which was planned for measurements with zero output could have been allocated elsewhere within the NSP of the Netherlands. In total only 74% of the total planned money has finally been allocated. For this reason it is not a big surprise that the EU has cut the budget for the EAFRD for the next funding period (POP3, 2014-2020). (European Commission, 2010)

Nevertheless, this paper examined as well positive facts and impacts, the Dutch NSP contributed to all of the seven impact indicators which are laid down in the CMEF. Moreover, “The Netherlands focuses very strongly on biodiversity conservation: all measures are related to this objective” (Berninger, 2011, p.7).

Additionally, people have to be aware of the fact, that the effects and impacts of this funding period in terms of created workspace, added economic, social and environmental values on the national scale best can be measured in the longer run. (Grieve & Weinspach, 2011) Necessary data to provide these reliable statements on the national impacts is not accessible at this point of time.

Furthermore, the impact of measurements on the “Quality of life” is hard to assess. Quality of life is very perceptual and intangible, it may vary among the perceptions, contexts and life circumstances of people. Because of that, this paper proposes for further research to carry out a broad qualitative study with a large sample of participants to give an appropriate definition what “Quality of life” means to the rural population in the Netherlands. This would make it possible to better measure the impacts of chosen measurements on the Quality of life of the Dutch rural population.

To carry out this qualitative research was not possible within the time and scope of this work, but this should have been realized within the official ex-post report of the government. As a consequence findings onto this axis within this work only display a forecast on the official ex-post evaluation which will be released this year.

Within the current period of funding (POP3) the EU made a few adjustments as already elaborated on in chapter 4.6. The most obvious change was from the system of the four axes to a system with six priorities of which the countries RDP has to target at least four of. With this approach the EU made the mechanisms of the rural development policy more flexible and adjustable to national priorities which is definitely progress. The new six EU priorities for POP3 are:

1. fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas;
2. enhancing the viability / competitiveness of all types of agriculture, and promoting innovative farm technologies and sustainable forest management;
3. promoting food chain organisation, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture;
4. restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry;
5. promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift toward a low-carbon and climate resilient economy in the agriculture, food and forestry sectors;
6. promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas.

(European Commission, 2014)

As stated in Art. 5 of Regulation EU No 1305/2013, these targeted objectives should "contribute to the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth". Inside the Europe 2020 strategy the European Commission formulated the need to steer Europe into a new direction. The economic crisis hit Europe, and for this reason all respective policies concerning the European economy have been adjusted towards this strategy. Although, the objectives of the EAFRD have been adjusted towards these new goals, the overall framework remained. Member-states still have the opportunity to set up NSP's on their own responsibilities with a national focus. The subsidiarity principle thus remained for the third funding period of the EAFRD. This is perceived as a confirmation of the EU, that in general the member-states performed well in POP2 and that there was no need to change the general framework from the applied bottom-up approach to a top-down policy. (European Commission, 2010)

VI. References

Amschler, Julia. "6. Welche Möglichkeiten ergeben sich aus EFRE, ELER und ESF zur Förderung von Natur und Landschaft." In *Materialien Seminar „Internationale und europäische Umweltübereinkommen“ 07.–09. Januar 2014 in Brüssel*, p. 22.

Beckmann, Volker, Jörg Eggers, and Evy Mettepenningen. "Deciding how to decide on agri-environmental schemes: the political economy of subsidiarity, decentralisation and participation in the European Union." *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management* 52, no. 5 (2009): 689-716.

Berninger, Kati. "Overview of agri-environment payments and water protection measures in selected EU countries.", TEHO (2011).

Blokland, P. W., de CJAM Bont, van den A. Ham, and H. Prins. "Leren in een praktijknetwerk: Evaluatie regeling Praktijknetwerken." (2013).

Bravo-Ortega, Claudio, and Daniel Lederman. *Agriculture and national welfare around the world: causality and international heterogeneity since 1960*. Vol. 3499. World Bank Publications, 2005.

Cardwell, Michael. "Rural Development in the European Community: Charting a New Course." *Drake J. Agric. L.* 13 (2008): 21.

Derichs, Sascha. "Regional und Rural Governance: ein effektiver Steuerungsansatz zur regional bestimmten Eigenentwicklung?." PhD diss., Universitätsbibliothek, 2007.

Commission of the European Communities. "Communication From the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee, and the Committee of the Regions: A Mid-Term Assessment of Implementing the EC Biodiversity Action Plan." *Journal of International Wildlife Law & Policy* 12, no. 1-2 (2009): 108-120.

Dwyer, Janet, Neil Ward, Philip Lowe, and David Baldock. "European rural development under the Common Agricultural Policy's 'second pillar': institutional conservatism and innovation." *Regional Studies* 41, no. 7 (2007): 873-888.

EC. "Guidance note A – Choice and use of indicators." Last modified 2007.
http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rurdev/eval/guidance/note_a_en.pdf.

EC. "Guidance note C - Ex-ante evaluation guidelines including SEA" (2007)
http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rurdev/eval/guidance/note_c_en.pdf

European Commission. "COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION EUROPE 2020 A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth." EC. Last modified November 3, 2010.
<http://ec.europa.eu/eu2020/pdf/COMPLET%20EN%20BARROSO%20%20%20007%20-%20Europe%202020%20-%20EN%20version.pdf>.

European Commission. "Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)." EC. Last modified October 19, 2010. http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-post-2013/legal-proposals/com627/627_en.pdf.

European Commission. "Rural development 2014-2020." EC. Last modified December 23, 2014. http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rural-development-2014-2020/index_en.htm

European Commission. The New Programming Period, 2007-2013: Methodological Working Papers - Draft Working Paper "Indicators for monitoring and evaluation: a practical guide", 23 January 2006,

ENRD. "Delivery Mechanisms of Rural Development Policy Final Report." ENRD. Last modified December 2011. <http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/enrd-static/fms/pdf/D44FCDEB-C1DC-3F8B-8EDE-B5C89302360C.pdf>.

ENRD (1). "State of implementation per measure (the Netherlands)." ENRD. Last modified February 2014. http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/app_templates/enrd_assets/pdf/monitoring_indicators/financial_and_physical_indicators/rdp/Output_indicators_2007-2012_NL.pdf.

ENRD (2). "State of the Total Public and EAFRD expenditure per measure." ENRD. Last modified February 2014.
http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/app_templates/enrd_assets/pdf/monitoring_indicators/financial_and_physical_indicators/rdp/b_financial-expenditure-2014_nl.pdf

European Communities. "WORKING PAPER ON Approaches for assessing the impacts of the Rural Development Programmes in the context of multiple intervening factors." ENRD. Last modified March 2010. <http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/enrd-static/fms/pdf/6999FF39-0307-D7F3-EE33-16D47E2C2144.pdf>.

Grieve, John, and Ulrike Weinspach. "Capturing impacts of Leader and of measures to improve Quality of Life in rural areas." In *122nd Seminar, February 17-18, 2011, Ancona, Italy*, no. 99363. European Association of Agricultural Economists, 2011.

Grieve, John, and Ulrike Weinspach. "WORKING PAPER ON Capturing impacts of Leader and of measures to improve Quality of Life in rural areas." EC. Last modified July 2010.
<http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/fms/pdf/98275CF6-C4FD-1908-07DE-1F1EA065BC29.pdf>.

ISTUDOR, Nicolae, Gabriel Florentin NICULESCU, and Bogdan LUCOV. "ANALYSIS OF ACCESSING EUROPEAN FUNDS FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN EU MEMBER STATES." *REVISTA ECONOMICĂ*: 390.

Jongman, Rob, Marion Bogers, and Wageningen UR Alterra. "Current status of the practical implementation of ecological networks in the Netherlands." (2008).

Jongeneel, Roel, Bert Smit, Suzanne van Dijk, and Pieter de Wolf. *Stimuleren van concurrentie en*

duurzaamheid bij nieuw Europees landbouwbeleid. LEI Wageningen UR, 2010.

Keenleyside, C. (2006) EAFRD regional programmes 2007-13 “An opportunity to be realised?” a report of the PURPLE network based on work to date in 12 European regions in 8 Member States. PURPLE network: Den Haag

KPMG. "The KPMG Guide to CCCTB - Part 1 - Oxford LAW faculty." KPMG International. Last modified November 2011. <http://www.law.ox.ac.uk/themes/tax/documents/ccctb-part1.pdf>.

Leneman, Hans, M. J. Bosaardt, and Pim Roza. "Costs of and public funds for Natura 2000 in the Netherlands." *Report-Landbouw-Economisch Instituut (LEI) 2009-073* (2009).

Saraceno, Elena. "Rural Development policies and the Second Pillar of the Common Agricultural Policy." (2005).

Scheller, Marie. "8. Die Gemeinsame Agrarpolitik—Überblick und Ausblick." In *Materialien Seminar „Internationale und europäische Umweltübereinkommen“ 07.–09. Januar 2014 in Brüssel*, p. 31.

Schmid, Julia Christiane, Astrid Hager, Kurt Jechlitschka, and Dieter Kirschke. "Modelling the impact of EAFRD policies on rural development and structural change." In *114th Seminar of the European Association of Agricultural Economists*. 2010.

Smit, A. B., J. H. Jager, H. Prins, J. W. Kuhlman, A. D. Schouten, and G. S. Venema. "Monitoringsystemen voor plattelandontwikkeling; Een actueel overzicht." (2013).

Spaziante, Agata, and Chiara Murano. "Rural development programmes and strategic environmental assessment: towards a sustainable rural territory." *International Journal of Agricultural Resources, Governance and Ecology* 8, no. 2 (2009): 205-222.

Region Gelderland. "Afrondingsovereenkomst ILG Rijk - provincie Gelderland", (2011);

http://sis.prv.gelderland.nl/brondoc/PS/2013/VOORSTEL/SIS_12086.PDF

Region Gelderland. "Bijlagen behorende bij POP subsidies", (2008);

<http://www.gelderland.nl/4/Home/Bijlagen-bij-de-POP-beschikking.html>

Rodriguez-Pose*, Andrés, and Ugo Fratesi†. "Between development and social policies: the impact of European Structural Funds in Objective 1 regions." *Regional Studies* 38, no. 1 (2004): 97-113.

Rural Development Plan Management Office, "European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD): Europe invests in its rural areas", Arnhem, (2010);

http://www.glasvezelbuitengebied.nl/documenten/europa-pop_samenvatting-subsidies_eng.pdf

van der Sluis, Theo, Søren Bech Pilgaard Kristensen, Pia Frederiksen, Georgia Cosor, Angheluta Vadineanu, Evangelos Pavlis, Theano S. Terkenli, Veronika Gaube, and Jens Peter Vesterager. *Deliverable No 2.3 Landscape change processes in case study areas (WP2)*. VOLANTE, 2013.

Vermonden, Yvonne. "What do the changing rules regarding the ERDF, Interreg and POP mean with regard to the rules of participation and financial regulation for the subsidies and what are the implications for PNO?." (2013).

VII. Legislative Instruments

EC. Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999 of 17 May 1999 on support for rural development from the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) and amending and repealing certain Regulations. EUR-Lex. (1999) <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:31999R1257&from=EN>

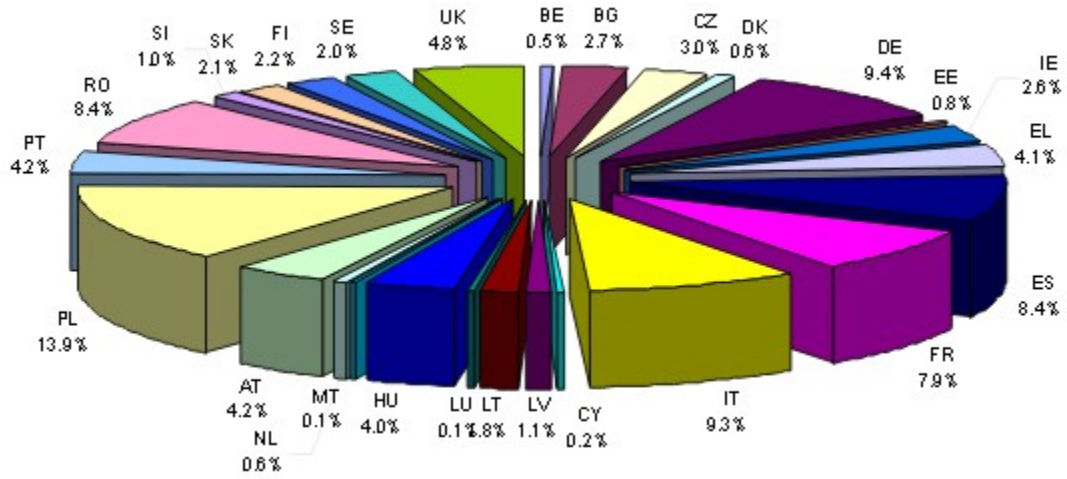
EC. Council Regulation (EC) No 1290/2005 on the financing of the common agricultural policy. EUR-Lex. (2005). <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/uri=CELEX:32005R1290&from=EN>

EC. "COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 1698/2005 of 20 September 2005 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). EUR-Lex. (2005). <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2005:277:0001:0040:EN:PDF>.

EU Regulation No1310/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down certain transitional provisions on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

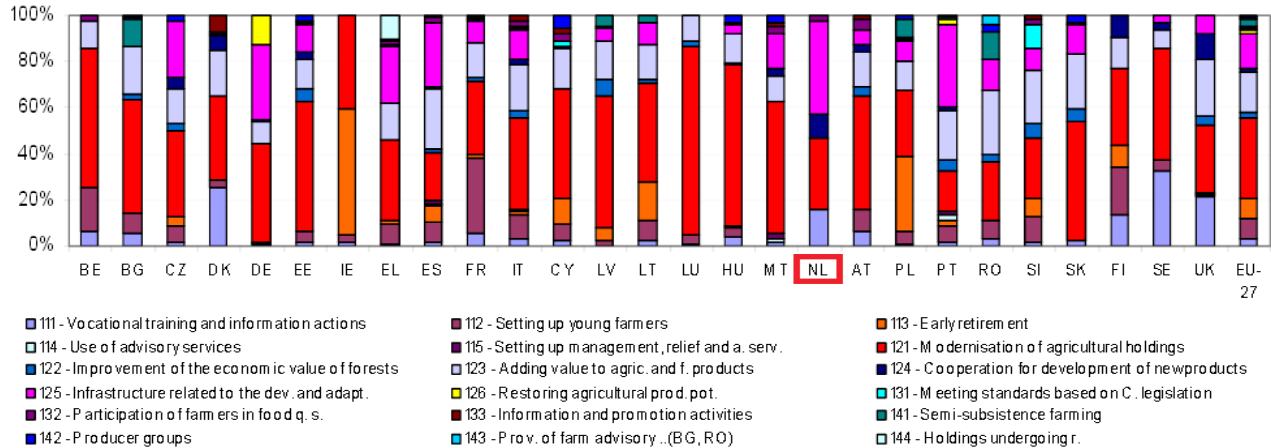
VIII. List of Figures

Figure 1: Share of the EAFRD funding per Country (2007-2013)



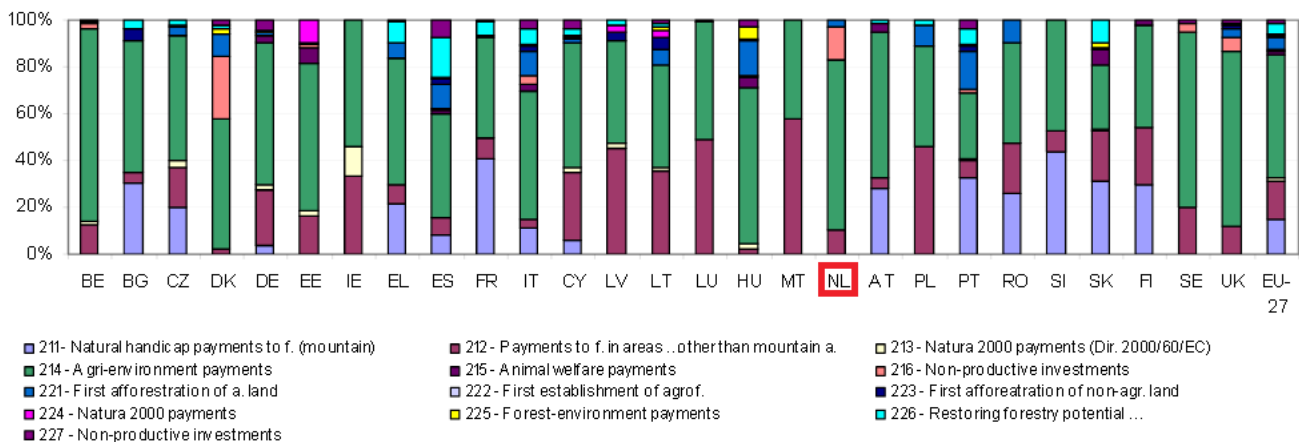
Source: (http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/statistics/rural-development/2011/ch4_en.pdf)

Figure 2: Relative importance of Axis 1 measures per Member State within the total EAFRD contribution allocated to this axis (2007-2013)



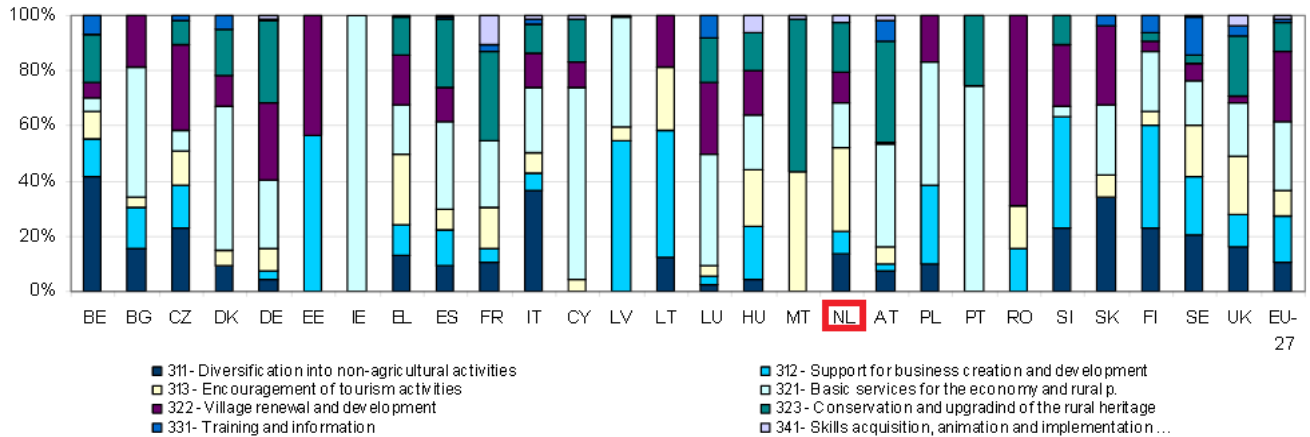
Source: (http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/statistics/rural-development/2011/ch4_en.pdf)

Figure 3: Relative importance of Axis 2 measures per Member State within the total EAFRD contribution allocated to this axis (2007-2013)



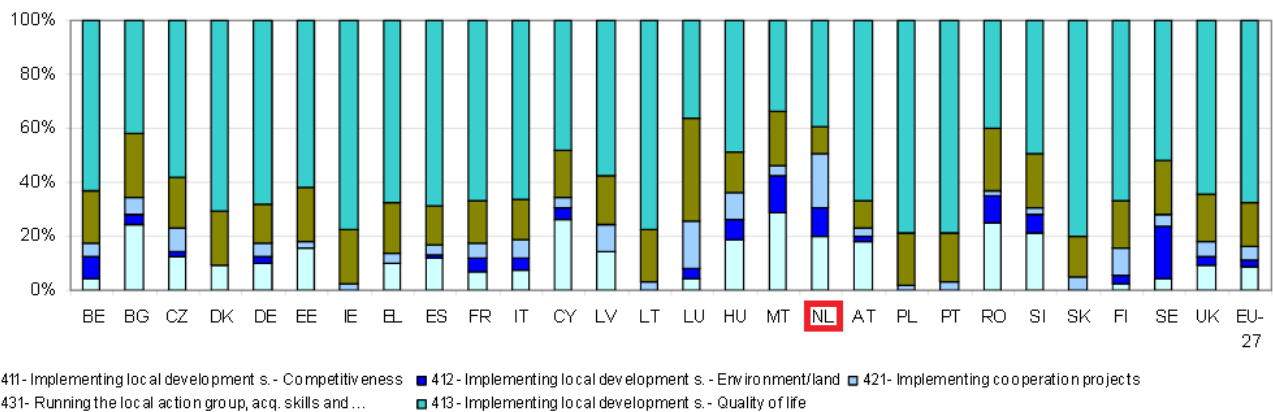
Source: (http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/statistics/rural-development/2011/ch4_en.pdf)

Figure 4: Relative importance of Axis 3 measures per Member State within the total EAFRD contribution allocated to this axis (2007-2013)



Source: (http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/statistics/rural-development/2011/ch4_en.pdf)

Figure 5: Relative importance of Axis 4 measures per Member State within the total EAFRD contribution allocated to this axis (2007-2013)



Source: (http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/statistics/rural-development/2011/ch4_en.pdf)

IX. List of Tables

Table 1: Breakdown by Member State of Community support for rural development from 2007 to 2013 (in current prices in Euros)

Member State	Total 2007-2013	of which minimum for regions under the convergence objective - Total
Belgium	487 484 306	40 744 223
Bulgaria	2 642 248 596	692 192 783
Czech Republic	2 857 506 354	1 635 417 906
Denmark	577 918 796	0
Germany	9 079 695 055	3 174 037 771
Estonia	723 736 855	387 221 654
Ireland	2 494 540 590	0
Greece	3 906 228 424	1 905 697 195
Spain	8 053 077 799	3 178 127 204
France	7 584 497 109	568 263 981
Italy	8 985 781 883	3 341 091 825
Cyprus	164 563 574	0
Latvia	1 054 373 504	327 682 815
Lithuania	1 765 794 093	679 189 192
Luxembourg	94 957 826	0
Hungary	3 860 091 392	2 496 094 593
Malta	77 653 355	18 077 067
the Netherlands	593 197 167	0
Austria	4 025 575 992	31 938 190
Poland	13 398 928 156	6 997 976 121
Portugal	4 059 023 028	2 180 735 857
Romania	8 124 198 745	1 995 991 720
Slovenia	915 992 729	287 815 759
Slovakia	1 996 908 078	1 106 011 592
Finland	2 155 018 907	0
Sweden	1 953 061 954	0
United Kingdom	4 612 120 420	188 337 515
TOTAL	96 244 174 687	31 232 644 963

(Source: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/statistics/rural-development/2011/ch4_en.pdf)

X. Transcript Interview 1

Company/ Former Project: Oregional & Interreg (2010-2012)

Date: 06.01.2015

Name of the interviewee: Huub Hubregtse

Are you okay with recording the Interview? Yes

Can you describe the project you have managed?

It was a Leader project and I was involved in the acquisition.

Goals of the projects:

We founded this organization and beforehand, we carried out research on which organizational infrastructures fits best our objectives. Furthermore we shared this knowledge on organizational infrastructure with other regions. (Oregional - Leader)

Increasing the purchase of local products and promoting regional products directly from the farmers and sell it to other parties within the region, in line with that increasing farmers income due to shorter chain. Farmers had also economic benefits due to our promotion activities including more visitors on their farms. Additionally which is positive for the regional economy is that the money stays in the region. More income for farmers helps them to keep the rural area in good condition. (Interreg)

Supplementary to each other, the leader project was the organization we build to achieve the objectives of the Interreg project.

Why has it been subsidized by the EAFRD (which objectives)?

The project contributed to Rural Development and the organization was part of Leader.

How did the application for EU subsidies worked?

I was not involved in this process.

What did you know about the legal basis/framework around those EU subsidies?

I read some articles to get informed, but for my position at this time it was not that relevant. We had our targets and those have been in line with the general objectives of the region. So we made our plans and submitted those to the province.

How important have been those EU subsidies to your company/project?

It was very important and helpful, it helped us to make a start and in the end to achieve our goals.

Do you think that the amount of subsidies given was too low, sufficient or too high?

It was sufficient, and we could do all things necessary. There was no waste of money.

How would your company/project have looked like without the subsidies from the EAFRD?

It could, but than it would have taken a few years longer, and I think it would not have been as successful as it is now. Furthermore, I think it would have been on another scale I think. Now it is professional, on a good scale, build up strategic and within the right time. Without we would not get this far.

For what reason do you think that your project fulfilled or missed its objective?

The province of Gelderland was very satisfied with the outcomes of the project, because of the result. We achieved what we wanted to achieve. There is an organization, there are people involved, farmers were helped and we contributed and still contribute to regional development.

Personally, I think it was an success, as well. We established an organization which is still active in helping farmers in the region. And this is of course relevant for the overall society of this region.

Additional information:

None

XI. Transcript Interview 2

Interview: Projecten – Subsidies ELFPO (EAFRD)

Bedrijf: Maatschap J.J. En J.D.M. Van Zetten

Date: 14.01.2015

Name: Dick van Zetten

-Original Version, Dutch-

Kunt uw in een paar zinnen uitleggen wat uw bedrijf doet?

Ons bedrijf heeft melkvee, we hebben momenteel 84-85 melkkoeien en we hebben ook nog mais en gras velden.

Waarom, of voor welke doelstelling heeft uw bedrijf subsidies ontvangen via de ELFPO tijdens POP2 (2007-2013)

Dat is voor Zonnepanelen geweest wat bij doel diversificatie energieproductie bijbehoort. Verder hebben we ook voor de “Regeling jonge Landbouwers” subsidies ontvangen, ik denk dat dit doel van verbreding van landbouw bijbehoort, maar ik weet het niet zeker.

Met wie heeft uw samen gewerk om voor de subsidies aan te vragen? Was er samenwerking met een organisatie, als ja welke?

Ik heb niet met een organisatie samengewerkt. Ik heb de aanvrag zelf gedaan met behulp van mijn boekhouder. Bij het boekhouderkantoor hebben ze iemand, die daarin gespecialiseerd is in het aanvragen van subsidies. De heele process van aanvragen tot dat het goedgekeurd was duurt ongeveer een half jaar. Darna moesten we dan het project realiseren in een bepaalde tijd zodat we het geld hebben gekregen. Dus moesten we de opdracht van de zonnepanelen eerst zelf voor financeren en dan hebben we daarna een deel van het geld terug gekregen.

Wat weet uw persoonlijk over de ELFPO en zijn doelen?

Ik heb me via de internetpagina en ook via mijn boekhouder geïnformeerd over de ELFPO en zijn

doelen. Verder heb ik ook een nieuwsbrief ontvangen met subsidie mogelijkheden. Als iets van teopassing is kun je dan zelf daarop reageren om subsidies aan te vragen.

Was de financiële ondersteuning voor uw project voldoende, te weinig of te veel?

Het was een goede befrag, we hebben ongeveer 25% van de totale kosten terug gekregen. Het was dus voldoende.

Hoe belangrijk zou uw de subsidies voor uw bedrijf inschatten, en hoezo?

Zonder de subsidies voor de zonnepanelen had ik dit project waarschijnlijk niet zelf gerealiseerd.

Ten einde, hoe schatt je in het algemeen uw project (subsidies voor Zonnepanelen) in? Succes of niet, hoezo?

Ik denk het was een success en zou zeker een bijdrage leveren aan de doelen van de ELFPO want het draagt bij aan het realiseren van groene energie. Verder zijn we door dit project ook door ons asbest afgekomen, dit was een deel van dit project en is zeker ook goed voor de omgeving. Het was dus ook mogelijk om mijn asbestverzekering op te zeggen waarme ik geld kan besparen.

Toch heb ik persoonlijk misschien niet zo een heel grote voordeel door dit project gehaad. Dit is omdat de zonnenergie moet denk ik zich zelf nog een beetje bewijzen dat ze voordelen heeft.

Als ik het zelf had gerealiseerd had ik het geld terug verdient tussen 10-12 jaren. Dit is door subsidies verkort naar 5-7 jaar wat mooi is, maar daar zijn nog geen onderhoudskosten, reparatie en verzekeringskosten met inbegrepen. Verder was het ook berekend op het energieprijis van toen, die is nu ook weer anders. Voor reparatie en onderhoudskosten ontvang je geen subsidies meer van de ELFPO, het was allen om ze aan te schaffen.

Als nodig ,toegevoegde informatie: Geen

-End original version, Dutch-
-Translation English-

Company: Maatschap J.J. En J.D.M. Van Zetten

Date: 14.01.2015

Name: Dick van Zetten

Could you explain your companies activities?

We have around 84-85 cows for milkproduction and some field with corn and grassland

Why, of form which objective did your company get subsidized by the EAFRD within the period POP(2007-2013)

We received subsidies for solar panels, why was part of the objective: energy diversification, additionally , we received subsidie for the project “Regeling jonge Landbouwers”. I am not sure to which objective this belongs, but I think it was part of broadening of agricultural activities.

How did your company applied for the subsidies of the EAFRD, did you received aid by some organizations? In case yes, which organization?

I did not worked together with an organization. I applies by myself whith some help of my accountant. At the office of my accountant, works an somebody who is specialized in the application procedure of subsidies. The whole process, start from application until submission took around half a year. After that we had to realize the project within a certain time in order to receive the money. This means that I had to pre-finance the money for the solar panels en after realization we received a part of the money back.

What do you personally know about the EAFRD and its objectives?

I informed myself via the homepage and via my accountant over the EAFRD and its objectives. Additionally, I received a newsletter over possibilities to subsidize. In case there was anything applicable, I had the possible to react and ask for subsidies.

How would you measure the financial contribution to your project? Was it sufficient, insufficient or too much?

It was a good amount, we got around 25% of the total costs back, so I would measure it sufficient.

How important would you measure the subsidies for your company and why?

Without the subsidies for the sun panels, I would probably not realized (financed) the project by myself

Finally, how do you perceive your project in general (subsidies for sun panels)? Was it a success or not, give reason.

I think it was a success and it will surely contribute to the objectives of the EAFRD. This is why it contributes to the realization of providing green energy. Additionally, in line with this project we have been able to get rid of our asbestos which is positive of the environment. As a matter of this, it was possible for me to terminate my asbestos insurance, so I can save money.

Nevertheless, I perceive my personal advantages of this project not as very high. This is why I think that solar energy at first has to prove itself and its overall advantages.

If I would have realized the project of the sun panels by myself, it would have taken 10 up to 12 years until I got a return on investment. This time is reduced to 5 up to 7 years through the subsidies which is positive, but maintenance costs, reparations and insurance costs are not covered by this. Additionally, this was calculated on the energy prices of that time, which have changed now. For the reparations, maintenance costs and insurance we do not receive any additional subsidies by the EAFRD, it was only for the purchase.

Any additional information: None

- End translation English-