



LATTANZIO
MONITORING & EVALUATION

**INDEPENDENT EVALUATION SERVICE OF THE
REGIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR
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**Dissemination Synthesis
ANALYSIS OF SELECTION CRITERIA**

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1. Summary of the Thematic Report on the Analysis of the Liguria RDP selection criteria

The Report to which this summary document refers provides an in-depth look at how the RDP is implemented in relation to the evaluation criteria used for setting scores and selecting applications for support under certain sub-measures.

The sub-measures in question are: 4.2 "Support for investments in the processing/marketing and/or development of agricultural products", 4.4 "Support for non-productive investments linked to the fulfilment of agri-climate and environmental objectives" and 6.4 "Investment in the creation and development of non-agricultural activities".

The evaluator's analysis was aimed at investigating the following questions:

- Are the criteria used significant in relation to the needs that emerged during the RDP programming phase?
- Are the criteria used consistent with the strategic objectives for rural development?
- Were the criteria used effective in selecting the projects that best serve the specific objectives of the measures concerned and the horizontal priorities of the Programme?

By revising the programme documents produced by the Liguria Region and the Regional Council's Deliberations concerning the implementation of the RDP Measures, the Evaluator was able to compare the main characteristics of the three sub-measures, including the relevant eligibility conditions, with the selection criteria adopted and then cross-reference the scores obtained from the instructed applications with some parameters specific to the companies applying for assistance.

2. Main elements emerging from the analysis of SM selection criteria 4.2

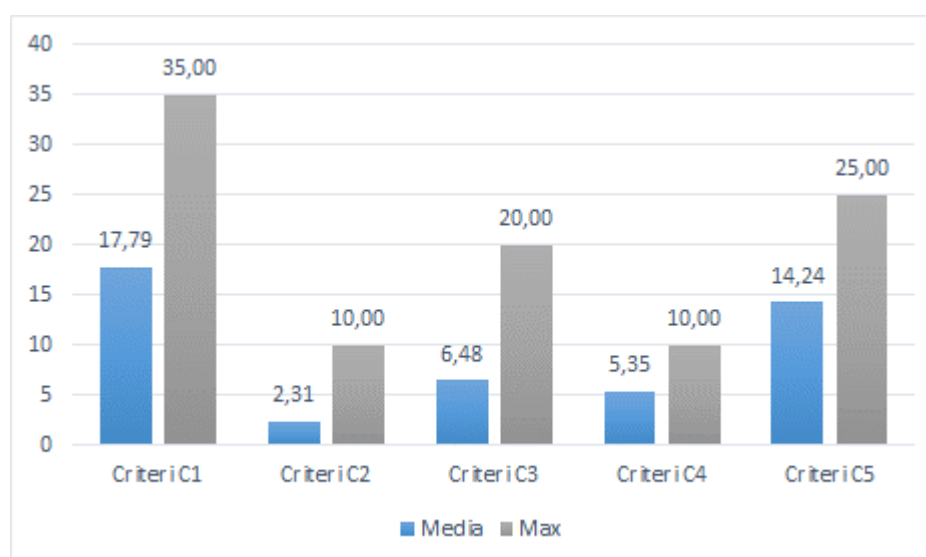
For submeasure 4.2 "Support for investment in the processing/marketing and/or development of agricultural products", the criteria adopted are significant overall with **Needs 09 and 10¹** and consistent with **Focus Area 3A**, dedicated to improving the competitiveness of primary producers by better integrating them into the agri-food supply chain. The breakdown of the criteria is summarised in the table below.

Table 1 - SM selection criteria/sub-criteria 4.2

Criteria	Sub-criteria	Definition
C1	C1.1	Process innovation
	C1.2	Product innovation
	C1.3	Operations included in supply chain projects selected under measure 16.4
	C1.4	Operations that plan to reach a new target with unchanged geographical area
	C1.5	Operations that plan to reach a new geographical area
Criteria	Sub-criteria	Definition
C2	C2.1	Operations carried out by associated farmers
Criteria	Sub-criteria	Definition
C3	C3.1	Flower products MPS / EUROGAP
	C3.2	PGI products
	C3.3	PDO products
	C3.4	Organic products (can be combined with the previous ones)
Criteria	Sub-criteria	Definition
C4	C4.1	Investments that lead to an increase in work safety conditions
Criteria	Sub-criteria	Definition
C5	C5.1	Investments with environmental added value, including investments that lead to an improvement in waste management in terms of reduction, prevention, recycling and reuse of waste if they contribute to the reduction of energy and water consumption and emissions.

By comparing the average scores assigned to the applications eligible for funding for each criterion with the relative maximum score that can be pursued, the two **criteria C1 and C5** are discriminating, which, by assigning the highest shares of overall score and being on average rather present among the applications analysed, **are those that have contributed significantly to the composition of the ranking.**

Figure 1 - SM 4.2: Average and maximum scores of eligible applications per criterion



¹ N09. Supporting company restructuring and conversion processes towards market-oriented production; F10 Stimulating investments in support of competitiveness and innovation.

From the analyses carried out it can be seen that, in terms of the **location of interventions by area**, the questions related to interventions located in **rural areas with development problems** (D areas) achieved an average score (50.59) higher than the others, thus being favoured.

Moreover, it is evident that the **economic dimension is a factor strongly influencing** the determination of the score generated by the selection criteria, highlighting how the **average score achieved increases as the amount requested increases**.

3. Main elements emerging from the analysis of SM selection criteria 4.4

For sub-measure 4.4 "Support for non-productive investments related to the fulfilment of agri-environment-climate objectives", the criteria adopted are significant overall in relation to the **Needs 13²** and consistent with the **Focus Area 4A**, dedicated to safeguarding, restoring and improving biodiversity. The breakdown of the criteria is summarised in the following table

Table 2 - - Sub-measure selection criteria/sub-criteria 4.4

Criteria	Declination
Investments in national and regional parks and "Natura 2000" areas	0.25 points for each percentage point % incidence of interventions located in Natura 2000 parks and areas compared to the total interventions
Operations carried out by beneficiaries of measures 10 or 11 of the RDP	- Beneficiaries Size 10 = 15 points - Beneficiaries Measure 11 = 25 points
Restoration of drywall	0.3 points for each percentage point % of total investments in drywall restoration
Dry stone walls: location of interventions in areas of greatest criticality according to relevant analyses at river basin level	0.2 points for each point % incidence of interventions located in areas of greater criticality than the total number of interventions

The following table shows the characteristics of the selection criteria adopted and the average score achieved for each of them (the second criterion was distinguished between adherence to Measure 10 and Measure 11).

Table 3 - SM 4.4: Characteristics of the selection criteria and scores achieved

Criterio	Punteggio medio su domande istruite	% sul valore max conseguibile
Investments in national and regional parks and "Natura 2000" areas	7,08	28%
Operations carried out by beneficiaries of measure 10 of the RDP	2,70	18%
Operations carried out by beneficiaries of measure 11 of the RDP	1,25	5%
Restoration of drywall	30,00	100%
Dry stone walls: location of interventions in areas of greatest criticality according to relevant analyses at river basin level	6,84	34%

From the table it can be seen that the **type of interventions subsidised was not diversified**, since: all the applications examined included actions for the restoration of drywall. Likewise, the beneficiaries' adherence to measures 10 and 11 was very limited. The ranking was therefore almost exclusively attributable to the **location of the interventions**, with specific reference to interventions in **parks or in Natura 2000 areas** and

² F13. Restoration and maintenance of the elements of the agro-forestry landscape and local eco-forestry systems.

in **critical areas**. For both types of intervention, the best performance was recorded in urban and peri-urban areas (Areas A).

4. Main elements emerging from the analysis of SM selection criteria 6.4

For submeasure 6.4 "Investment in the creation and development of non-agricultural activities", the criteria adopted are significant overall with **Need 15³** and consistent with **Focus Area 2A**, dedicated to improving the economic performance of all farms and encouraging the restructuring and modernisation of farms. The breakdown of the criteria is summarised in the table below.

Table 4 - Sub-measure selection criteria/sub-criteria 6.4

Criteria	Declination
Job-creating investments	5 points for each full-time job (or full time equivalent) created.
Age of the beneficiary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - from 18 years to 25 years = 30 points - from 26 years to 40 years = 25 points - from 41 years to 50 years = 20 points - from 50 years to 60 years = 10 points - 61 years and over = 5 points
Investments made in rural areas C and D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Areas C = 17 points - Areas D = 27 points
Ratio between costs and benefits	<p>Based on the demand for support, the ratio between investment needs and jobs maintained is calculated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - up to 30,000 €/job = 28 points - from 30,001 to 50,000 €/job = 25 points - from 50,001 to 75,000 €/job = 20 points - from 75,001 to 100,000 €/job = 15 points - over 100,000 €/job = 8 points

The analysis of the average and maximum scores for each criterion shows a clear **correspondence between the scores attributed to the criteria and the actual feedback on the applications submitted**. In the case of the criterion concerning the location of the intervention in rural areas C and D, in particular, the average score is even 72% of the maximum score obtainable. Slightly lower but still very positive the performance of the criteria related to the cost/benefit ratio (61%) and to the age of the beneficiaries (59%), while the criterion that gave the lowest score to the applications was the one related to the creation of new jobs (22% of the maximum score).

³ N15. Encourage the development of new production models oriented to the diversification of farms in rural areas.

Figure 2 - SM 6.4: Average and max scores per criterion

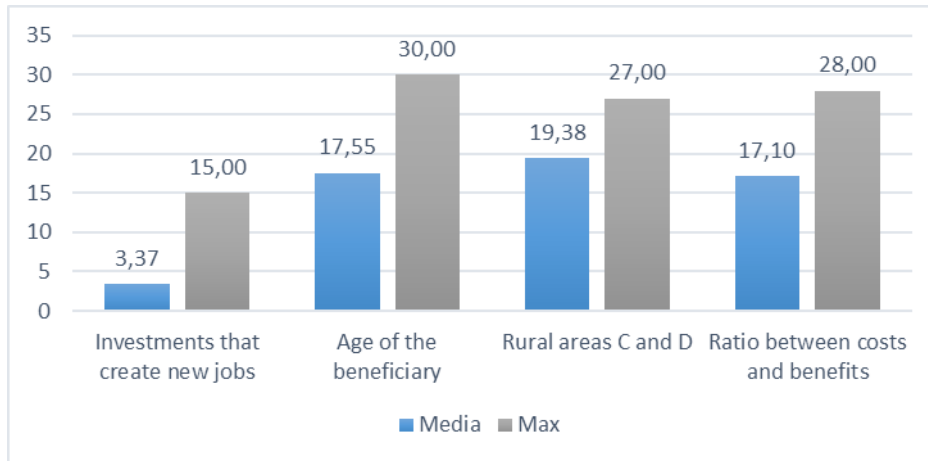
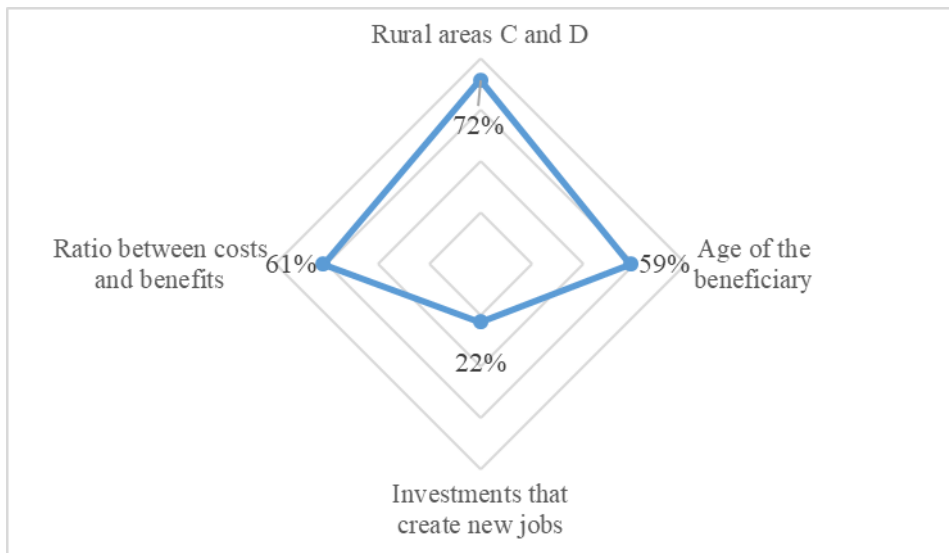


Figure 3 - SM 6.4: % comparison of average and maximum scores per criterion



If we cross-reference the scores of the various criteria with the RDP areas, it can be seen that the applications with interventions in type A areas show a lower performance than those in areas C and D. By declining the score by individual criteria, the geographical location in areas A expresses a slightly higher average score with regard to the number of jobs created.

With regard to the amounts requested, an inversely proportional **link emerges between the economic dimension of the intervention and the outcome of the punctuation process**. The contribution of the cost/benefit criterion is therefore decisive in generating a benefit to a lesser extent as the economic dimension grows, while as far as the age and new employment criteria are concerned, the trend is diametrically opposed.

5. Conclusions and recommendations

If the coherence analysis provided a picture of perfect correspondence between the scores assigned to the selection criteria/sub-criteria with respect to the objectives and the specific priority intervention needs that emerged from the SWOT analysis, the effectiveness analysis, through a precise examination of the impact of the criteria on the determination of the final rankings for each submeasure, made it possible to identify those who performed a discriminating function and those who made a little significant contribution.

In addition, the joint analysis between the average scores achieved and some of the beneficiaries' specific characteristics provided interesting food for thought, bringing to light some elements that may have partly influenced the composition of the ranking useful for the attribution of RDP contributions.

As far as SM 4.2 is concerned, while the criteria generally ensured a selection of interventions in line with the objectives identified by the Programmer, it also emerged that some of the selection criteria were less effective, for which it is necessary to understand the reasons.

With regard to SM 4.4, it seems appropriate to suggest in particular a reflection on the role of some criteria that have proved to be partly irrelevant, producing effects not always in line with those desired by the Programmer (restoration of dry stone walls) or not meeting the response of local operators (adhering to measures 10 and 11).

Finally, as far as SM 6.4 is concerned, it can be said that the analysis has shown that the criteria identified for the submeasure were effective in selecting a project park consistent with the priorities identified by the Ligurian RDP on the basis of the characteristics and needs of the rural areas concerned.