

Summative Assessment

Talking Points

- Summative Assessment is essentially the name accorded to the evaluation to be carried out by the funded projects.
- It is different from the national evaluation, which must be independent and will be conducted centrally. But as stated in the RFI, there is a potentially rich source of evidence, as well as a potential means for identifying case studies and samples for surveys of beneficiaries.
- The DCLG is obliged to provide guidance informing projects how the Summative Assessment is to be carried out. We wish to provide this guidance to cover the requirements for summative assessment over the whole programme period (noting that each project is typically 3 years long).
- That guidance needs to be provided soon, since some projects have signed their Grant Funding Agreements and activities will begin.
- Guidance is currently being piloted with a small number (a dozen) of projects with a view to issuing a first phase of guidance to projects that have signed Grant Funding Agreements (end of June).
- This first phase of guidance has two main asks of projects:
 - to use a logic model format to describe the purpose and objectives of the project
 - to provide the Department with proposals concerning what input, output and outcome indicators (over and beyond the Operational Programme set) that they are thinking of using to evaluate their project.
- Projects will be provided with a template (currently an Excel spreadsheet) which they will be expected to use to present their logic model. The spreadsheet will also have space at appropriate points to enable projects to suggest indicators.
- At the time of commencing the Scoping Study and Summative Assessment support, the projects are not collecting baseline data. As outlined in section 6 of the RFI, it is the job of the contractor to design summative assessments ie set out the requirement for projects under the different ERDF objectives, communicate it, and support Growth Delivery Teams so that projects can fulfil those requirements.
- Growth Delivery Teams will provide support to projects in completing the logic models and in encouraging them to provide indicator proposals. (over time, the logic model will be embedded into the appraisal of project applications by GDTs)
- For each project that submits a return, the contractor will receive the completed logic model and suggestions of which indicators could be suitable for the project