FAMENET Annual Meeting

08 October 2025

Comet Meeting Center, Place Stephanie 20

1050 Brussels

Our agenda today, 08 October 2025

- Country talks
- Welcome and introduction
- Breakout sessions round 1
- Breakout sessions round 2
- Enjoy Brussels!

Our breakout sessions today

Pathways – impact evaluation

Innovation forum

Innovate your communication

Harnessing innovation

Our agenda tomorrow, 09 October 2025

- CLLD, SCOs, Evaluations
- Posters
- EMFAF reporting
- FAMENET 2025 and 2026
- Lunch and farewell

FAMENET Annual Meeting

08 October 2025

Comet Meeting Center, Place Stephanie 20

1050 Brussels

Dovile VAIGAUSKAITE
DG MARE

FAMENET Annual Meeting

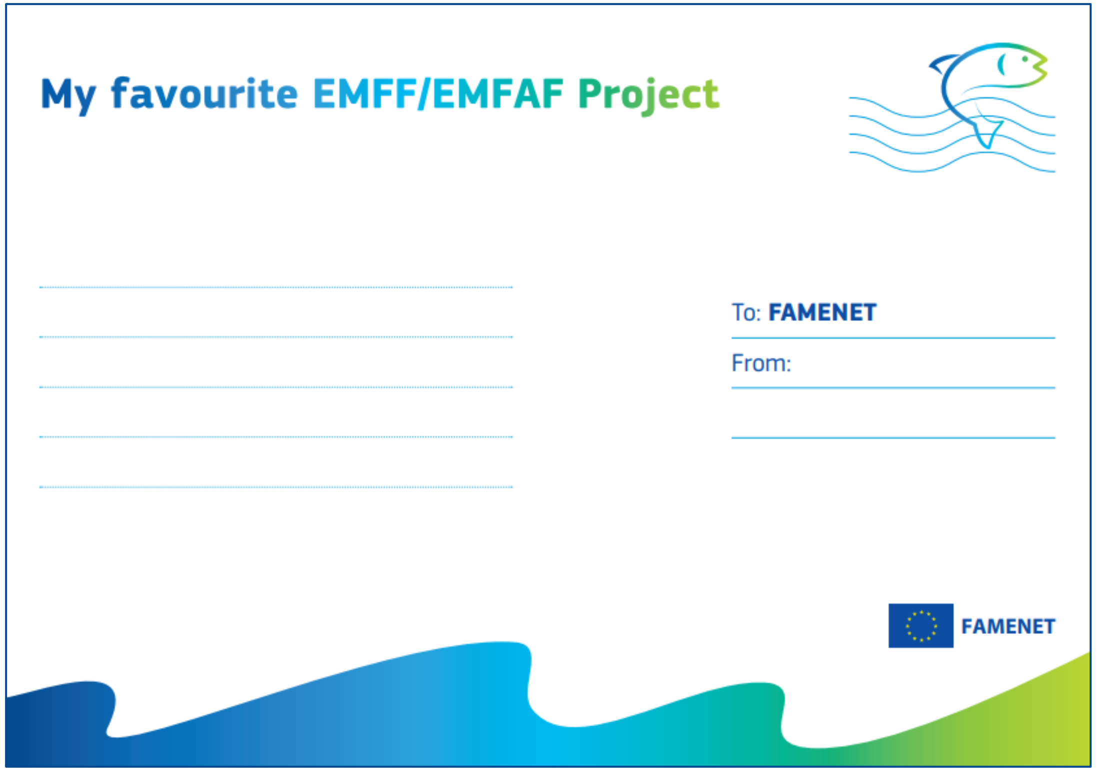
08 October 2025

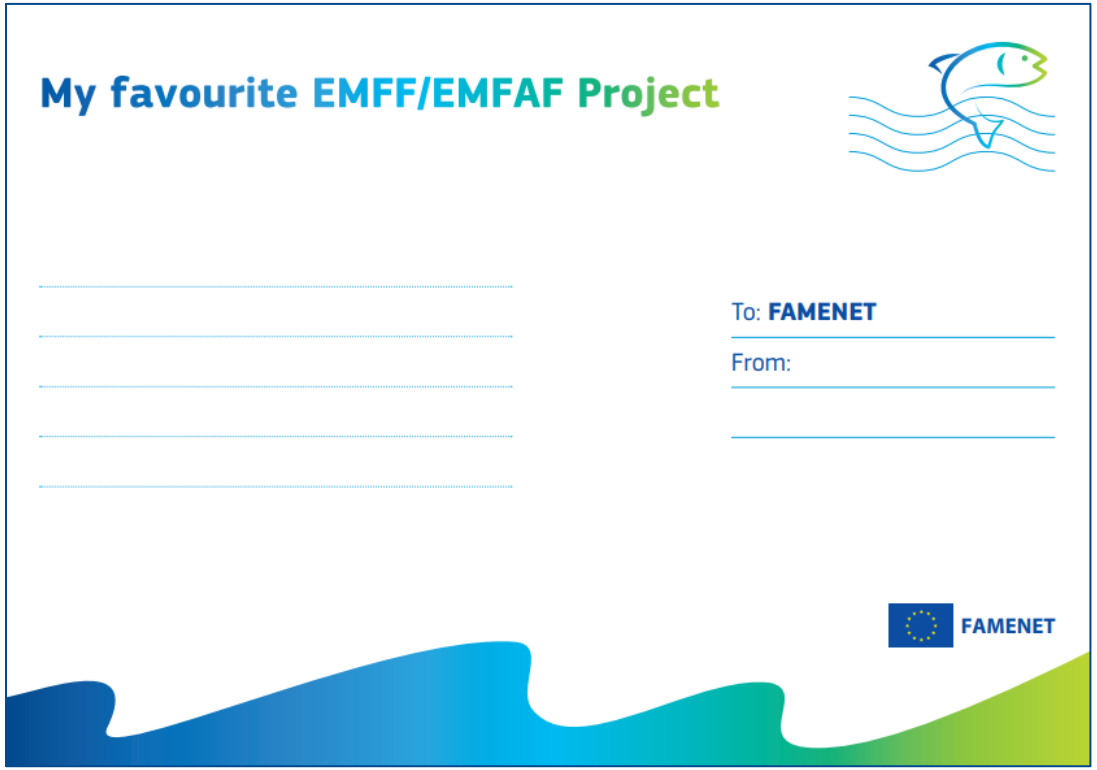
Comet Meeting Center, Place Stephanie 20

1050 Brussels

The FAMENET videos

The story tree





Our agenda today, 08 October 2025

- Country talks
- Welcome and introduction
- **Breakout sessions round 1**
- Breakout sessions round 2
- Enjoy Brussels!

Our breakout sessions

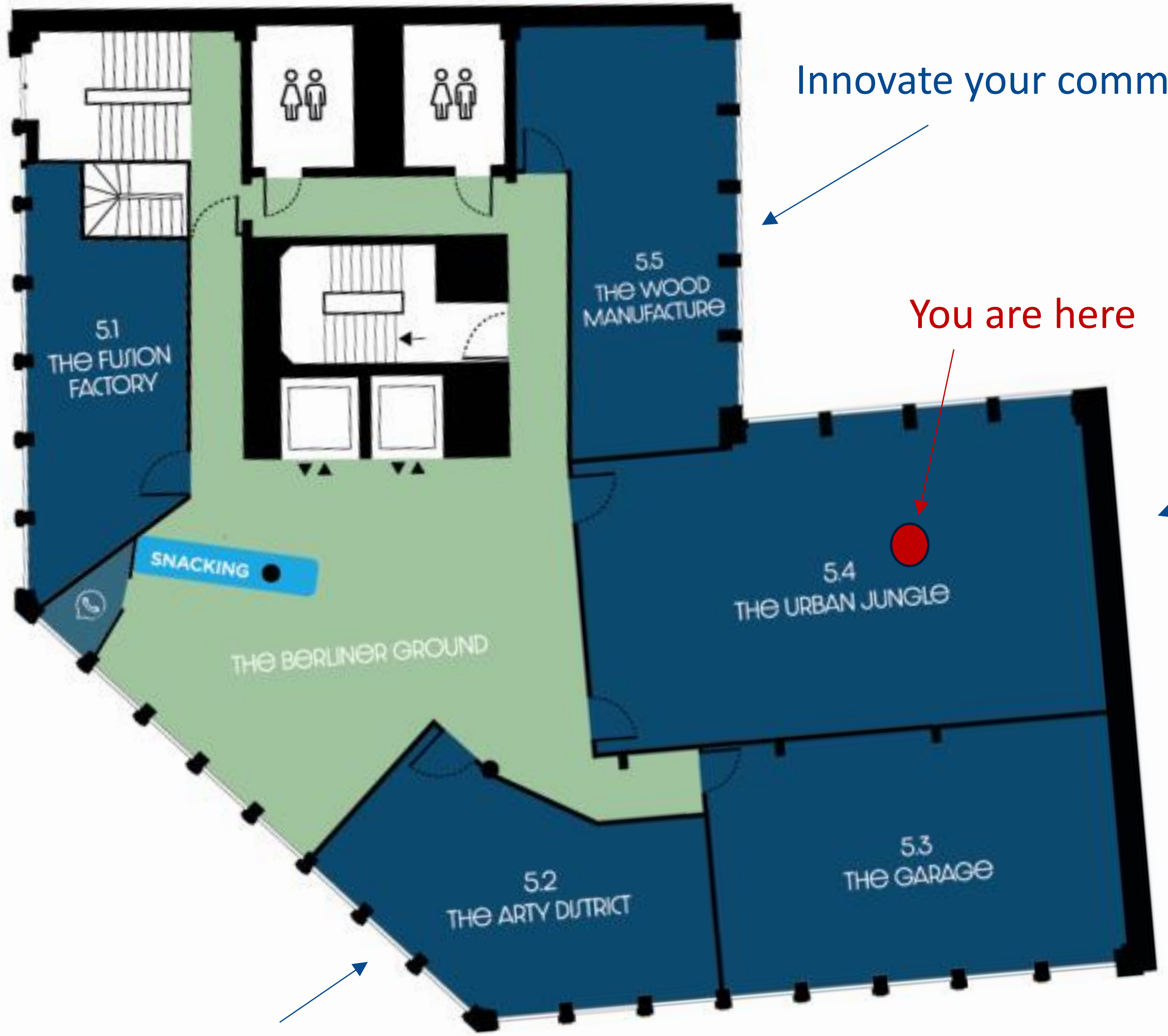
- **Round 1, starting 15:30**
- **Round 2, starting at 17:00**

Pathways – impact evaluation
room 5.4

Innovation forum
room 5.2

Innovate your communication
room 5.5

Harnessing innovation
room 5.3



Innovate your communication

You are here

Pathways – impact evaluation

Harnessing innovation

Innovation forum

Our breakout sessions

Pathways –
impact evaluation
room 5.4

Innovation forum
room 5.2

Innovate your
communication
room 5.5

Harnessing
innovation
room 5.3

Our breakout sessions

Pathways – impact evaluation
room 5.4

Innovation forum
room 5.2

Innovate your communication
room 5.5

Harnessing innovation
room 5.3

Our breakout sessions

Pathways –
impact evaluation
room 5.4

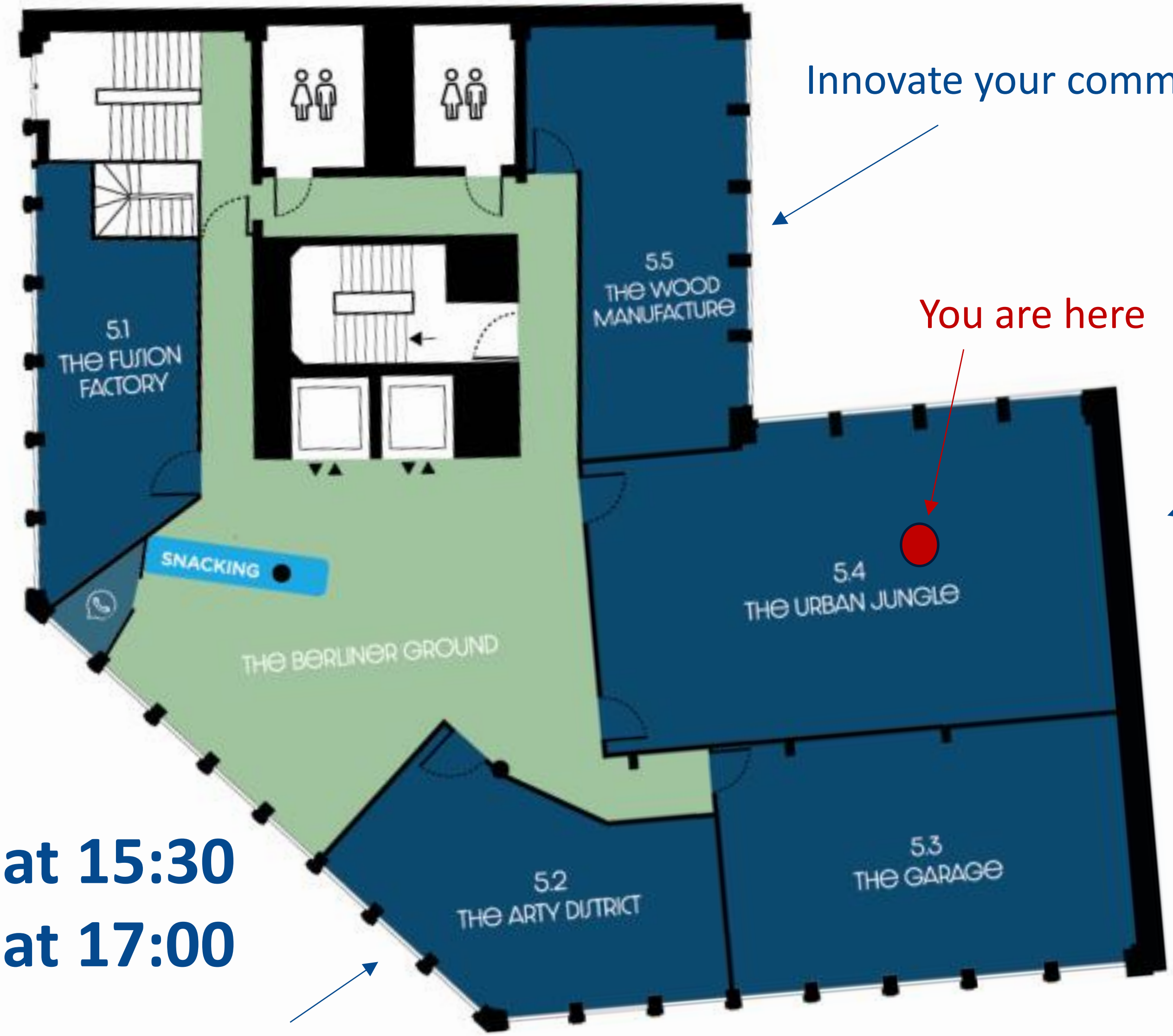
Innovation forum
room 5.2

Innovate your
communication
room 5.5

Harnessing
innovation
room 5.3

Our breakout sessions

Pathways – impact evaluation room 5.4	Innovation forum room 5.2
Innovate your communication room 5.5	Harnessing innovation room 5.3



Innovate your communication

You are here

Pathways – impact evaluation

Harnessing innovation

Innovation forum

Round 1 starts at 15:30
Round 2 starts at 17:00

Breakout sessions

You know where to find us!

info@famenet.eu

https://www.famenet.eu

FAMENET Annual Meeting

WIFI: REALMEETINGS2025

09 October 2025

Comet Meeting Center, Place Stephanie 20

1050 Brussels

Our agenda today, 09 October 2025

- CLLD, SCOs, Evaluations
- Posters
- EMFAF reporting
- FAMENET 2025 and 2026
- Lunch and farewell

Our agenda today, 09 October 2025

- CLLD, SCOs, Evaluations
- Posters
- EMFAF reporting
- FAMENET 2025 and 2026
- Lunch and farewell

CLLD Evaluation Working Paper

How to use the working paper and future capacity building

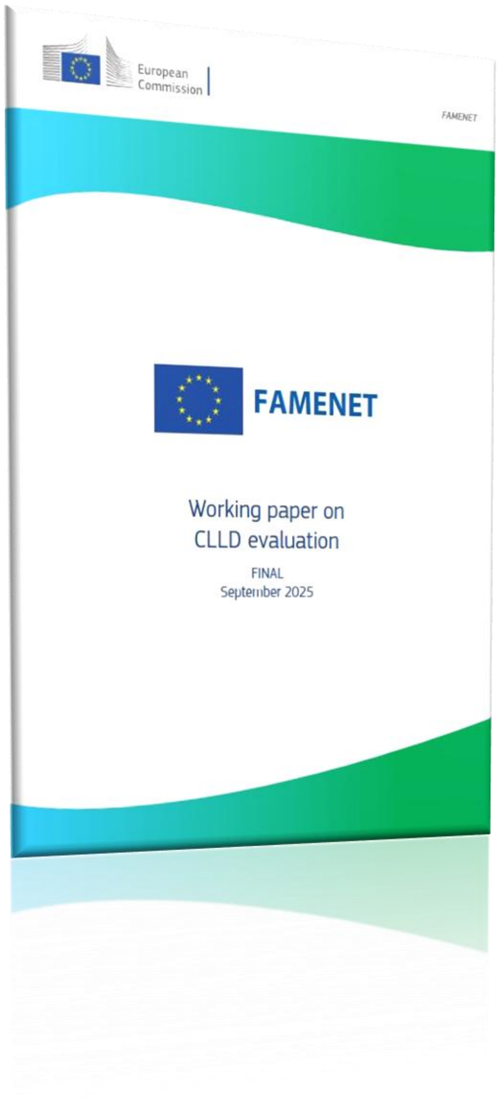
Helle Breindahl and Richard Freeman
FAMENET Support Unit

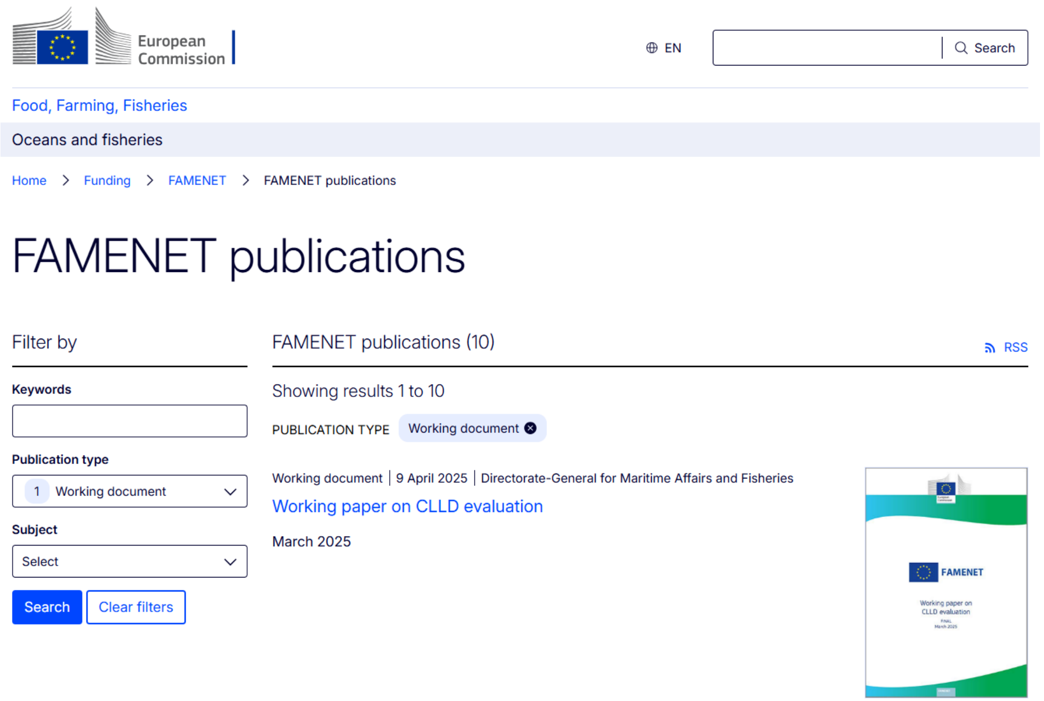
FAM 2025, Brussels, Belgium

WHY IS EVALUATING CLLD IMPORTANT?

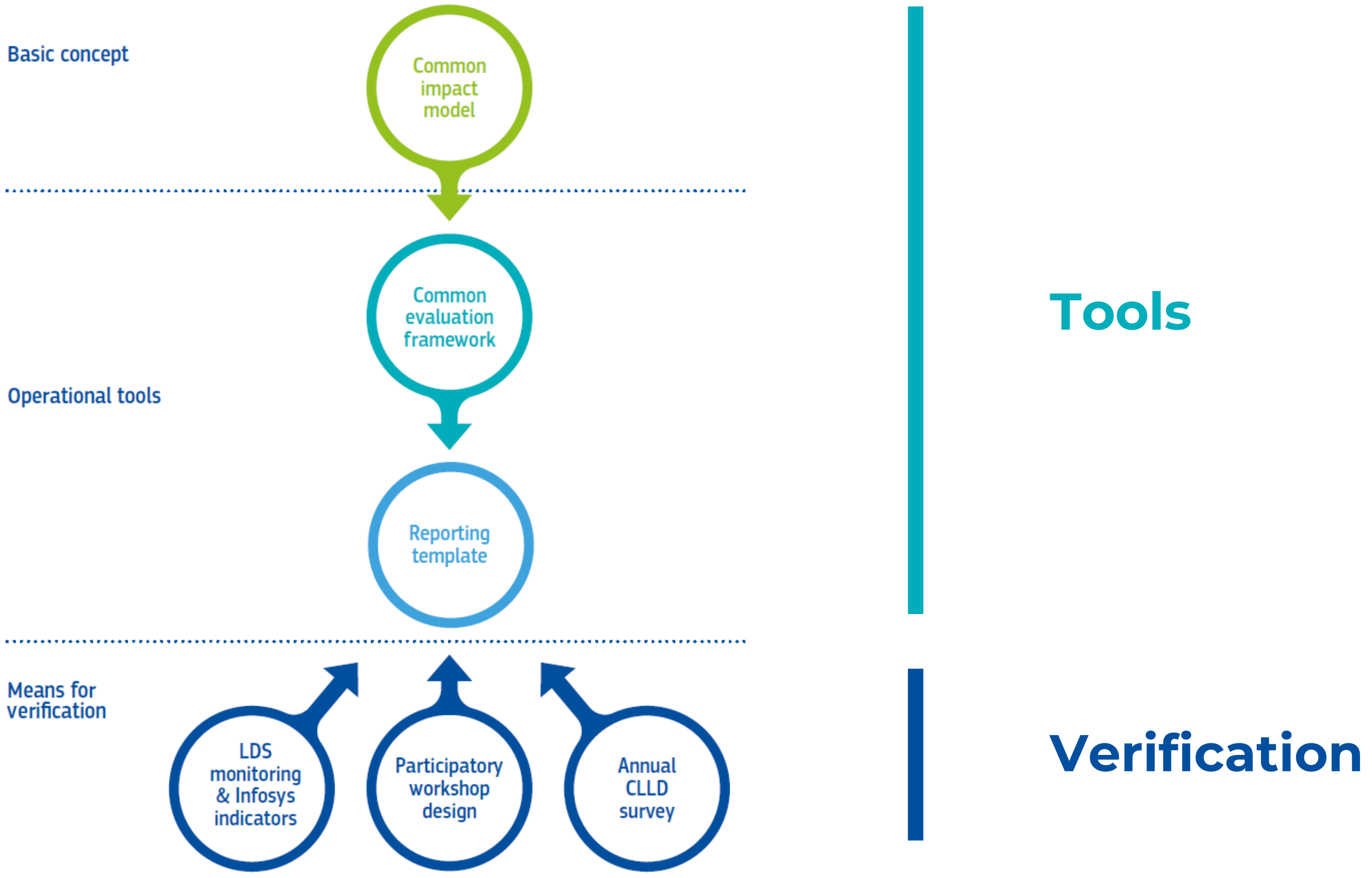
- It must be done! It is a **legal requirement** under the CPR (EU 2021/1060).
- It **improves strategies** and processes.
- It **demonstrates impact** and supports future policy.

WHERE TO FIND THE WORKING PAPER





TOOLS TO SIMPLIFY EVALUATION



HOW TO USE THE WORKING PAPER

Understand regulatory requirements

It summarises monitoring and evaluation obligations under the CPR, outlining what is mandatory and the timing of evaluations

Common impact model

The paper introduces an impact model with pathways, conditions, goals, and external conditions

Common evaluation framework

Based on the impact model, evaluation questions, judgement criteria, and indicators are proposed that can be used directly or adapted

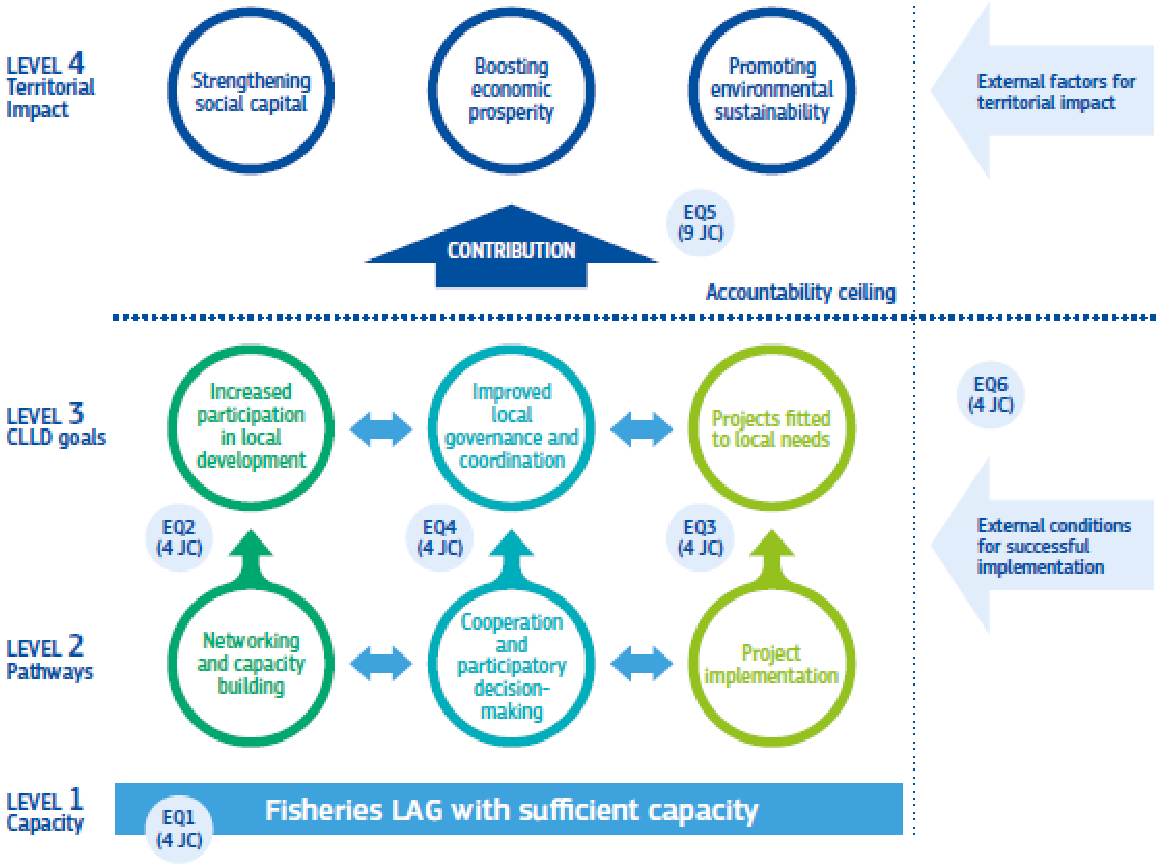
Verification (Information sources)

It explains where to source information (Infosys, surveys, case studies)

Evaluation reporting template

Step-by-step guide on how to use the evaluation report template, as well as how to visualise findings

COMMON IMPACT MODEL FOR CLLD



KEY ASPECTS

- Defines impact **pathways**
- Outlines **external conditions**
- Defines an **"accountability ceiling"**

COMMON EVALUATION FRAMEWORK FOR CLLD

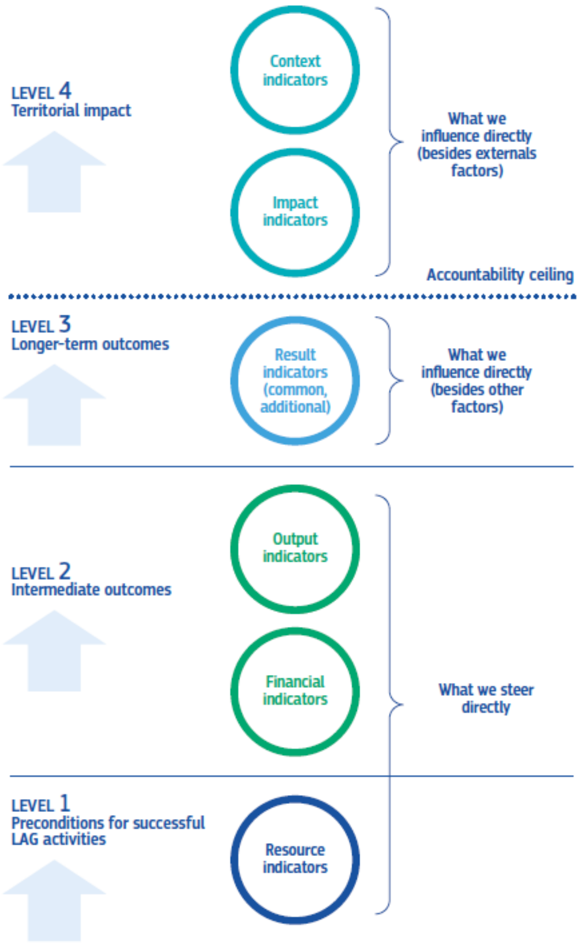
EQ1: To what extent are sufficient capacities (Level 1) in place for LAG activities?

Judgement criteria	Examples of indicators
JC 1.1 A LAG has been established which is representative of the local community	• Number of people on the LAG decision-making body
	• Number of different interest groups represented on LAG decision-making body
	• Number of women on LAG decision-making body
	• Number of young people on LAG decision-making body
	• Mechanisms exist for new members to join the LAG
JC 1.2 A LDS has been prepared in a bottom-up, participative manner	• Number of different sectors and interest groups involved in developing the LDS
	• Number of people mobilised to provide input to the LDS
	• Number of young people consulted for developing the LAG strategy
	• Perception of local stakeholders of their views being reflected in LDS

KEY ASPECTS

- **Evaluation questions** are defined
- **Judgement criteria** are defined
- **Indicator** are outlined and proposed

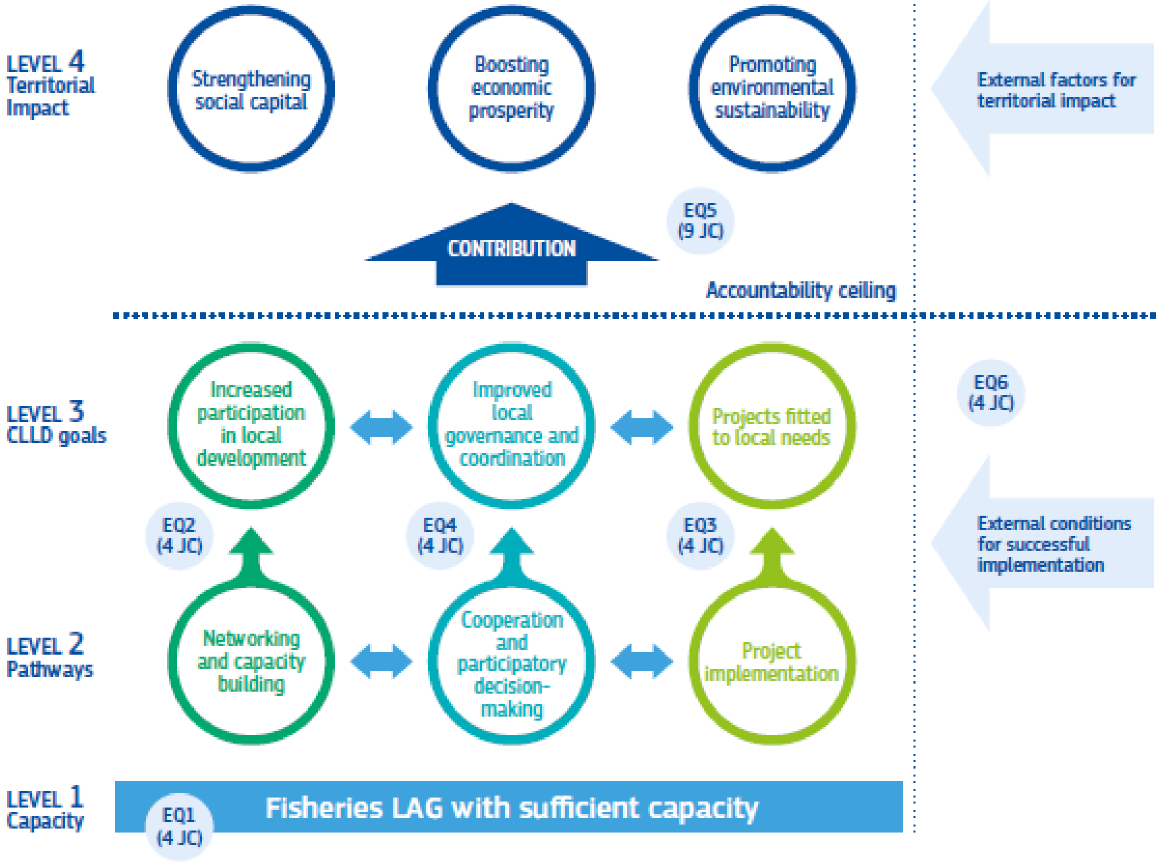
COMMON EVALUATION FRAMEWORK FOR CLLD



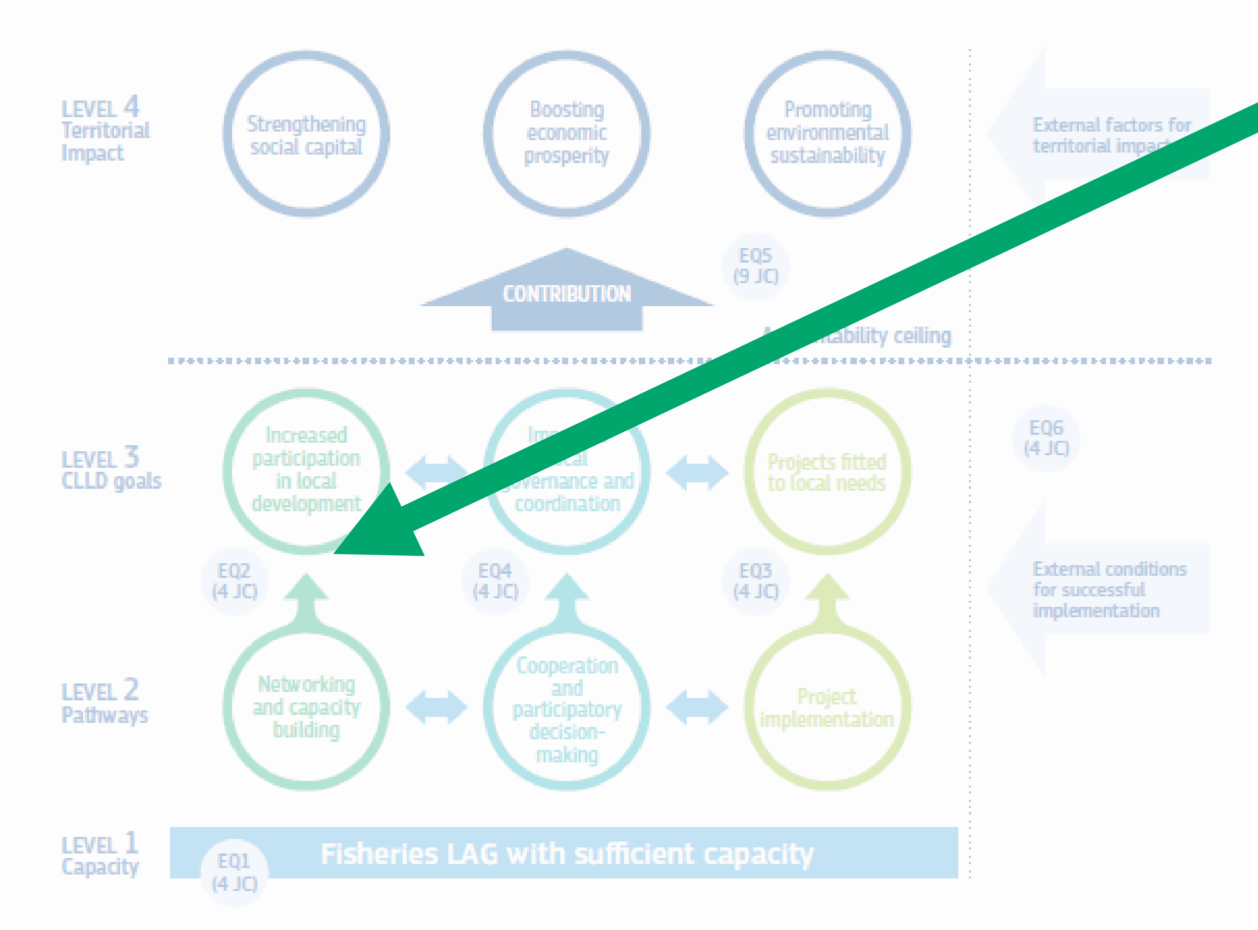
KEY ASPECTS

- **Evaluation questions** are defined
- **Judgement criteria** are defined
- **Indicator** are outlines and proposed

FROM IMPACT MODEL TO EVALUATION FRAMEWORK



FROM IMPACT MODEL TO EVALUATION FRAMEWORK



EXAMPLE (EQ2)

- Communication and animation taking place
- Better awareness of funding opportunities
- Better understanding of local challenges
- Local stakeholders are proposing actions

EVALUATION REPORTING TEMPLATE

Outcomes to be achieved, thanks to the LAG	Progress achieved at a specific point in time						Justification
	ND	0	1	2	3	4	
JC 1.1 A LAG has been established which is representative of the local community					○		e.g. 12 different people sit on the LAG decision-making body (nine men and three women), representing eight different interest groups.
JC 1.2 A LDS has been prepared in a bottom-up, participative manner				○			e.g. The LDS was developed by a technical expert in a very short period due to the overarching framework conditions an … It was not fully possible … community in public con… workshops and surveys. … the LDS with the local c… made after the approval
JC 1.3 The LAG is adequately staffed with experienced people					○		e.g. Two full-time equiva… the LAG with combined e… outreach, economic deve… management of EU fund… years of relevant experie… local fisheries and aquac…
JC 1.4 The LAG members are active in supporting the local development process				○			e.g. Some LAG members … active than others, but m… the project selection me…

Source: FAMENET 2024

Key facts about the LAG

LAG name and FAMENET code (see list in CLLD factsheet for your Member State)

text

Context information regarding:

- Programming period the fisheries LAG was first launched;
- Implementation model: close integration with LEADER vs. "independent fisheries LAG", mono- or multi-funded approach;
- Any other information relevant for the evaluation.

text

Timing of the evaluation and implementation status:

- Very early date => assess only evaluation question 1 and 6
- Moderate implementation status => assess evaluation questions 1, 2,
- Well advanced implementation status => assess all evaluation questio

text

Concluding answer to EQ1 and deriving recommendations

- Regarding the capacity of the LAG, moderate to substantial achievements were observed at the time of the internal evaluation.
- A LAG has been established that is generally representative of the coastal community that the strategy is targeting. The main sectors are represented but gender equality on the decision-making board could be improved. The LAG is well staffed, even though knowledge of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors is less strong. Not all LAG members are as engaged as they should be in supporting the local development process. Recommendations include organising specific actions to engage the less active members of the LAG.
- Tapping into the experience of the LAG members from the fisheries and aquaculture sectors could help to support the staff in engaging these sectors and to build up their knowledge of the sectors.
- Consider replacing LAG members that cannot be motivated further with relevant female candidates.

Source: FAMENET 2024

SUPPORT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

- FAMENET capacity building for your LAGs covering how to:
  - *Evaluate CLLD*
  - *Use the impact model*
  - *Use the evaluation framework and template*
  - *Conduct a participatory assessment*
  - *Visualise evaluation findings*

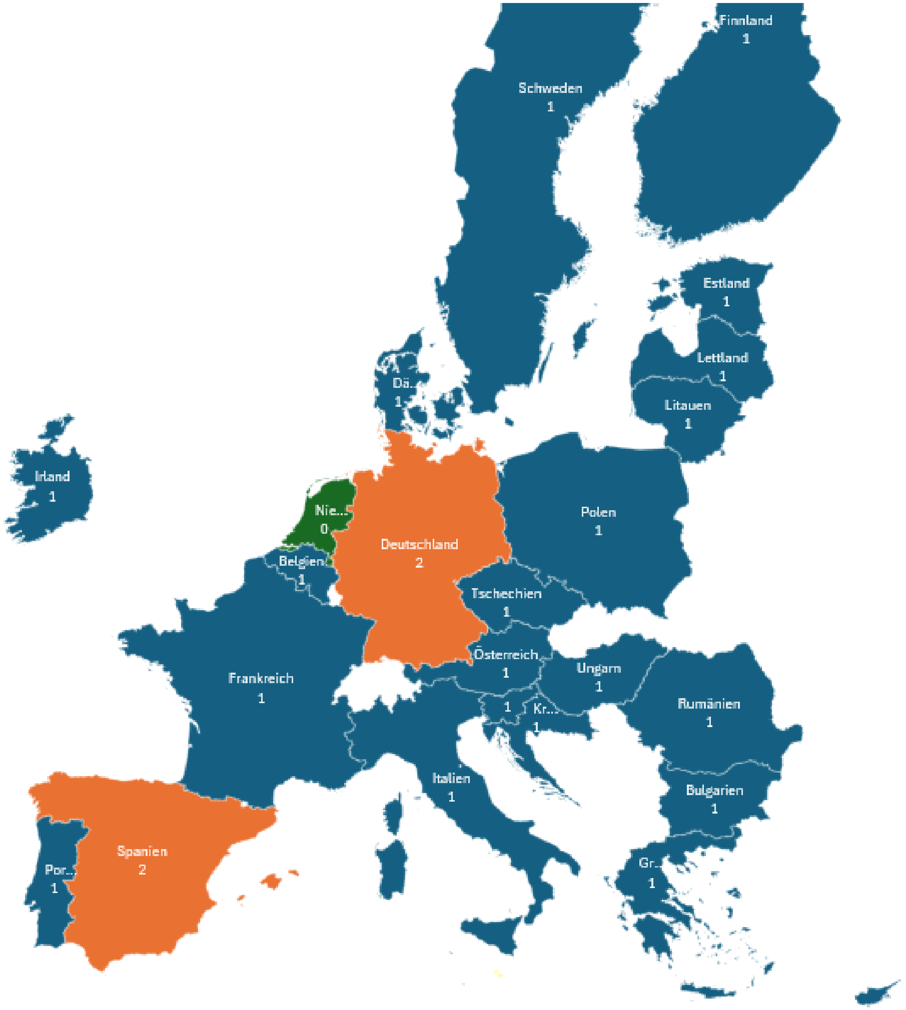
Contact your country lead!

Status of SCO implementation under the EMFAF – 2025 survey findings

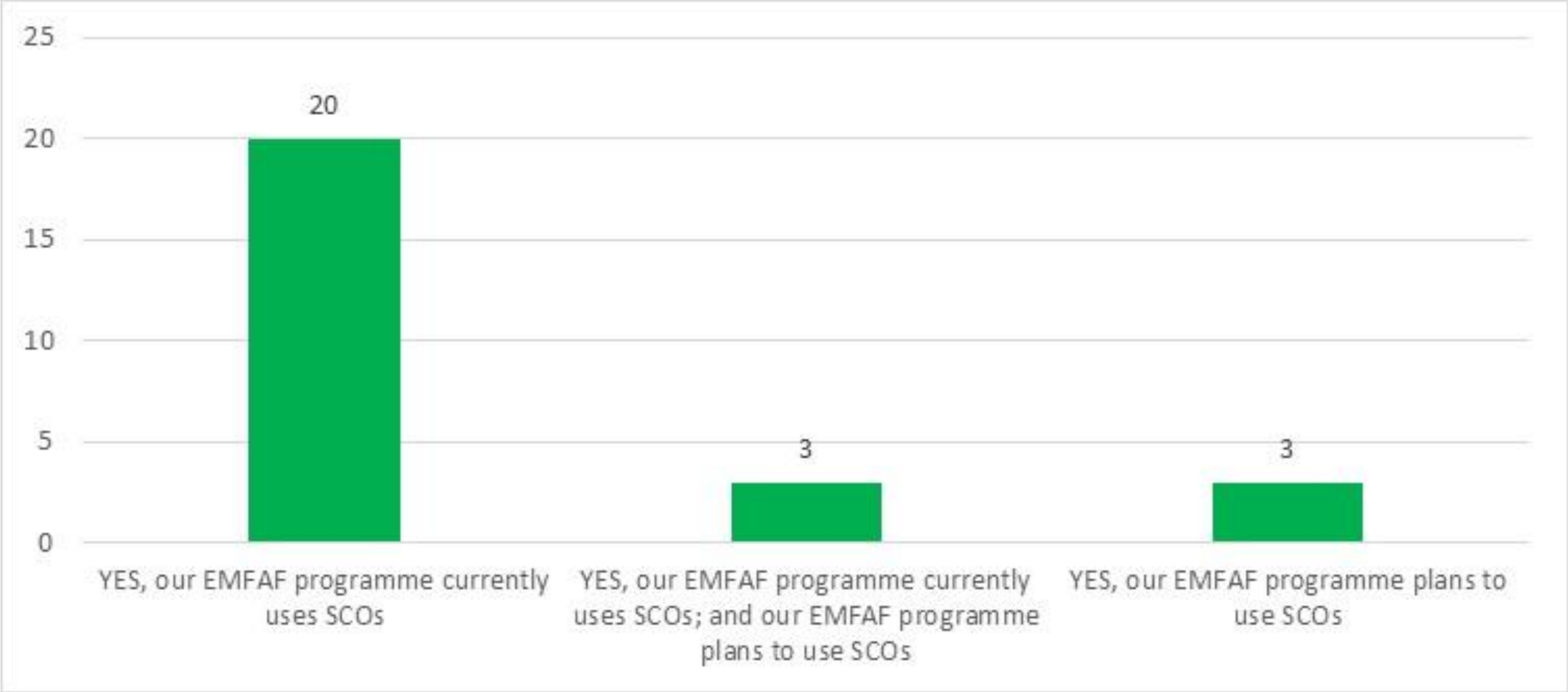
Introduction

- Simplified Cost Options (SCO) are a way of reimbursing costs that should reduce the administrative burden for both beneficiaries and implementing bodies
- Ready-made solutions offered in the 2021-2027 CPR or tailor-made solutions developed at programme level can be used
- FAMENET conducted in July 2025 an online survey to gather information from all MAs and relevant implementing bodies on the status of SCO implementation under the EMFAF
- This presentation will outline the findings and further process steps

The survey results – 26 responses from 24 MS - provide a good picture on the implementation status of SCO



There is a high uptake of SCOs. Most MS are already using SCO to implement EMFAF, some of them want to expand the use of SCO. In addition, some MS are planning to use SCO



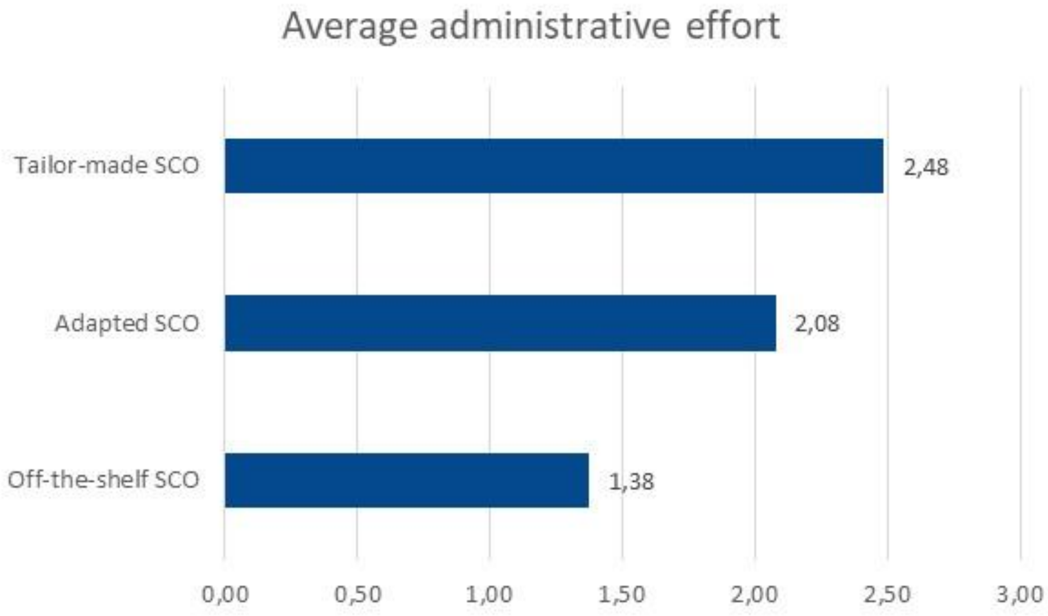
A total of 167 SCOs were reported by 24 MS, ranging from 1 to 15 SCOs per MS. All SCOs were collected in an inventory and presented in a structured manner

MS	Name of SCO (used/planned)	SCO implementation status	Type of SCO	Overall benefit (Ratio)	Description
AT	Flat-rate indirect personnel costs	Used and payments made	Flat rate indirect costs: up to 15% of eligible direct staff costs, Art 54(b) CPR	acceptable	
AT	Unit costs (hourly rate)	Soon to be used, in preparation	Unit cost: 1720h method for staff costs (hourly rate), Art 55(2)(a) CPR	acceptable	
BE	15 % flat rate personnel costs	Used and payments made	Flat rate indirect costs: up to 15% of eligible direct staff costs, Art 54(b) CPR	good	payslip on 1 January of year X, or the first available payslip
BE	Standaard Uur Tarief (SUT)	Used and payments made	Unit cost: hourly rate for staff costs, Art 55(2)(b) CPR	good	payslip on 1 January of year X, or the first available payslip
BG	Staff costs for scientific researchers	Soon to be used, in preparation	Flat rate for staff costs: up to 20% of direct cost other than direct staff cost, Art 39(3c) ETC		
BG	6% project management and travel costs	Used, but no payments made yet	Flat rate indirect costs: up to 7% of eligible direct costs, Art 54(a) CPR	ideal	
BG	7% indirect costs	Used, but no payments made yet	Flat rate indirect costs: up to 7% of eligible direct costs, Art 54(a) CPR		

Inventory

49% of SCOs are tailor-made (high effort). 26% are off-the-shelf SCOs (low effort). 22% are adapted SCOs from other programmes (medium effort)

Type of SCO	in absolute numbers	in %
Off-the-shelf SCO, low effort	43	26%
Adapted SCO, medium effort	37	22%
Tailor-made SCO, high effort	81	49%
Other	6	4%
Total	167	100%



SCOs are already being used or planned in all Specific Objectives of the EMFAF. SCOs have become a universal tool that can be used in all thematic areas, not just in compensation

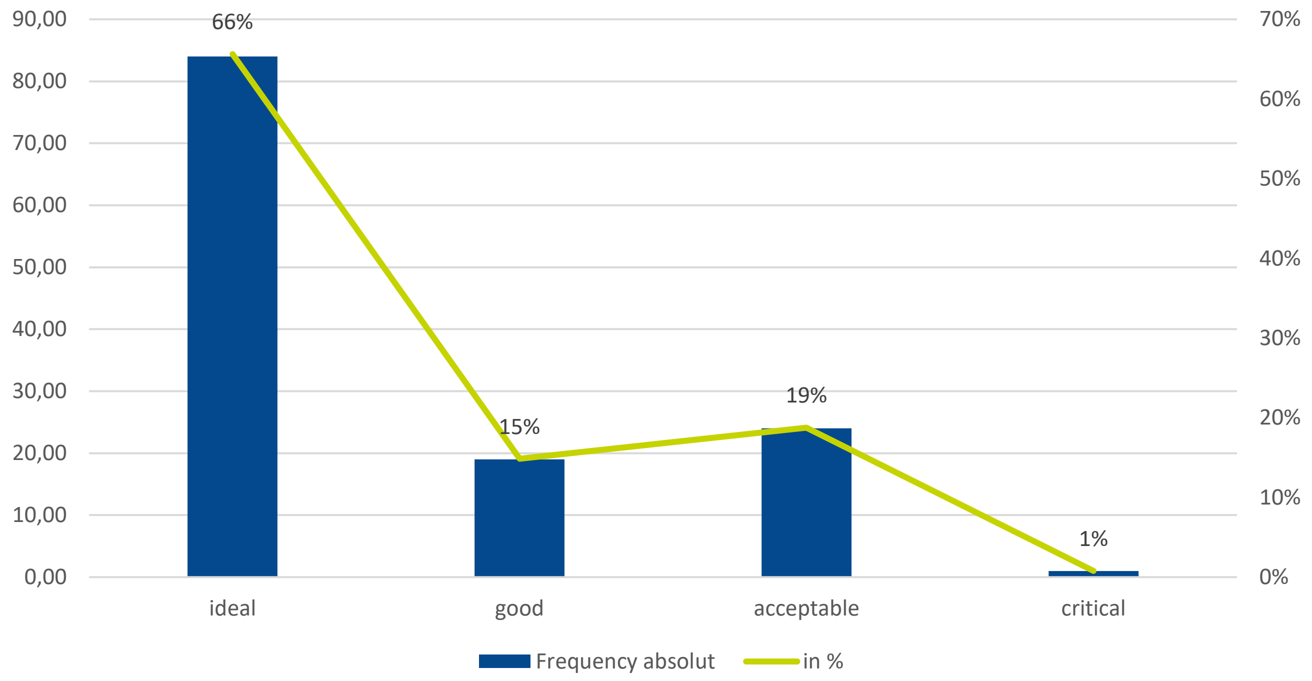
EMFAF Priorities	EMFAF Specific Objectives	Number of mentions in which SO, SCO are used or planned
Priority 1 – Sustainable fisheries & conservation of aquatic resources	1.1.1: Sustainable fishing activities (except Art. 17 & 19)	14
	1.1.2: Sustainable fishing activities (under Art. 17 & 19)	6
	1.2: Energy efficiency and reducing CO2 emissions	5
	1.3: Permanent or temporary cessation	10
	1.4: Control and enforcement	16
	1.5: Fishery and aquaculture in the outermost regions	4
	1.6: Protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems	15
Priority 2 – Sustainable aquaculture, processing & marketing	2.1: Sustainable aquaculture activities	23
	2.2: Marketing, processing of fishery and aquaculture products	20
Priority 3 – Sustainable blue economy & community development	3.1: Sustainable blue economy and community development	14
Priority 4 – International ocean governance & safe, secure, clean seas	4.1: Marine knowledge, maritime surveillance, coast guard cooperation	6
Technical Assistance	5.1: Technical Assistance – Art. 36(4) CPR	4
	5.2: Technical Assistance – Art. 37 CPR	1
Total		138

A higher proportion of programme funds is implemented by SCOs in Eastern European MS (Finland, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Cyprus)

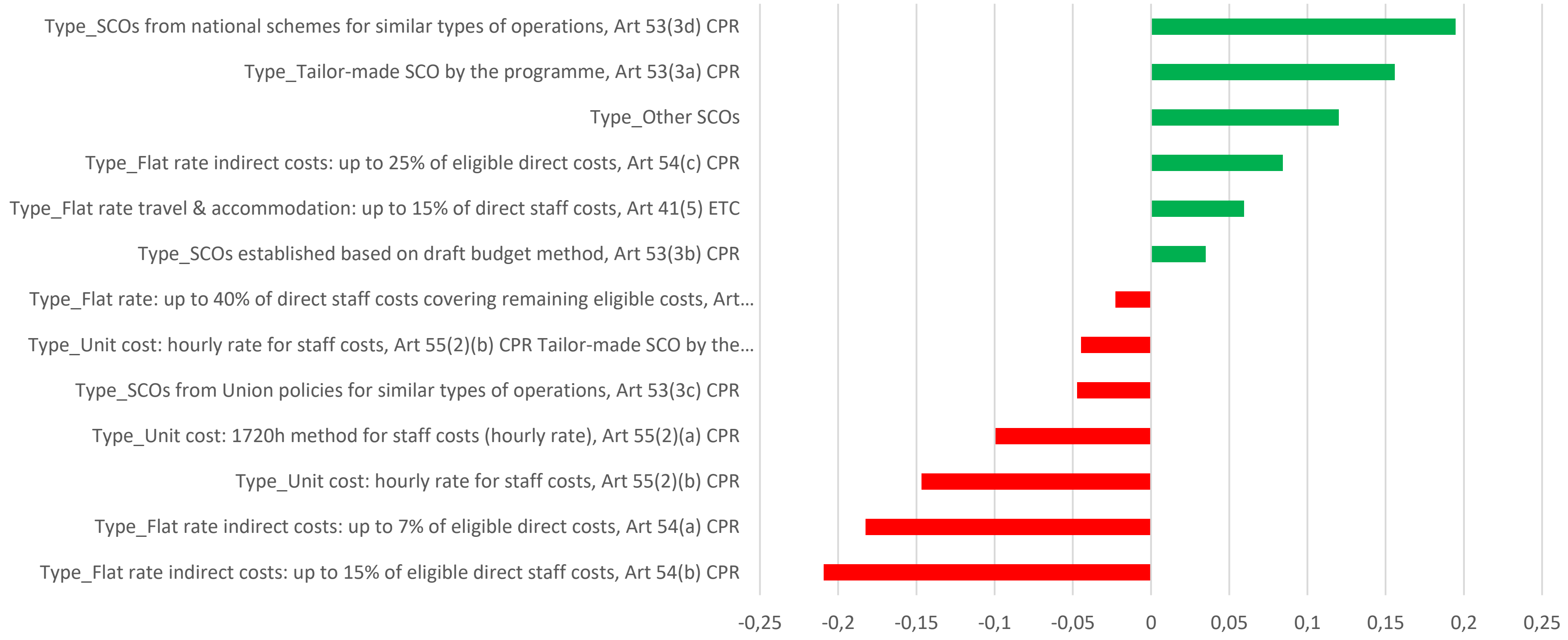
The respondents were asked to estimate benefits of each SCO for the administration and beneficiaries on an ordinal scale. From this, the overall benefit was derived

Benefit for the administration	Benefit for beneficiaries	Overall benefit (ratio)
High	**High**	ideal
Low	**Low**	critical
Moderate	**Moderate**	acceptable
Low	**High**	acceptable
High	**Low**	acceptable
Moderate	**High**	good
High	**Moderate**	good
Low	**Moderate**	acceptable

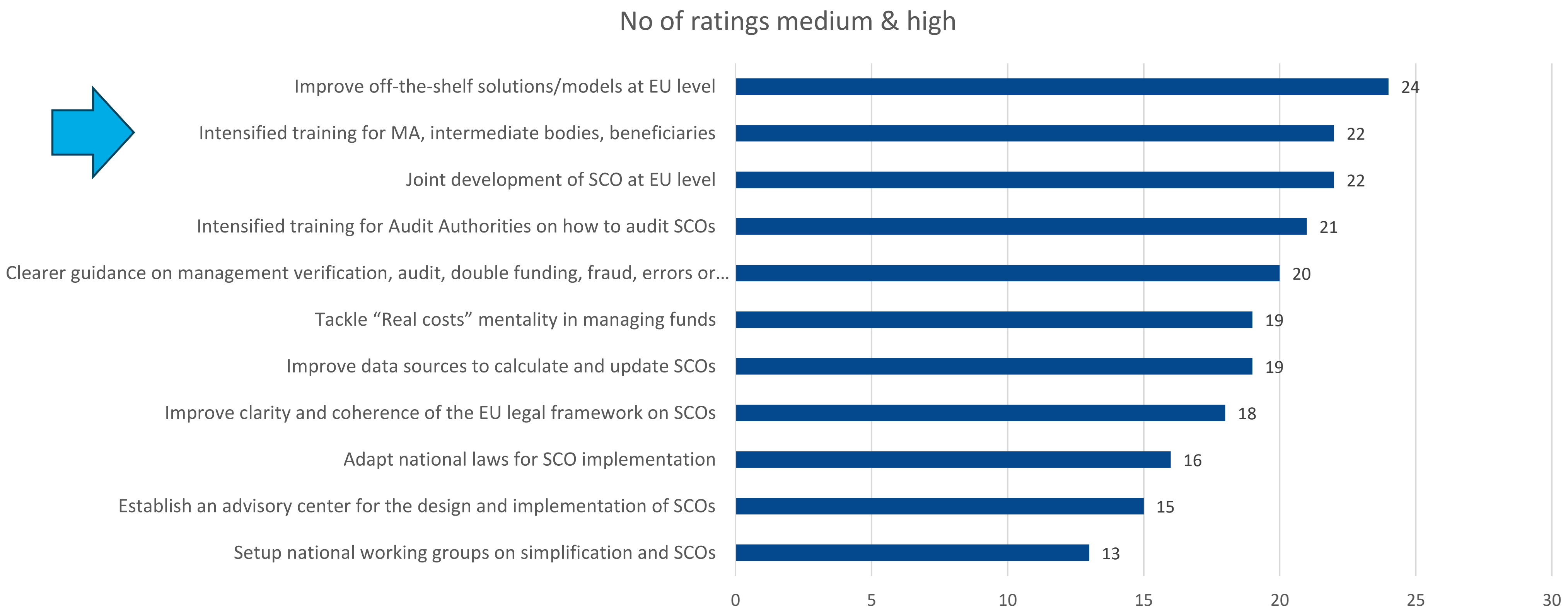
66% of SCOs are estimated to have an ideal overall benefit and 15% a good benefit. An acceptable benefit is indicated for 19%. A single SCO is assessed as critical. The potential for improvement is ca. 34% of SCOs



There is a tendency for customised or adapted SCOs to receive a better overall benefit rating, while off-the-shelf SCOs tend to receive poorer ratings



Strengthen SCO implementation by improving ready-made models, fostering joint development, and intensifying training for both implementing bodies and audit authorities



Further process to strengthen SCO implementation

- Presentation of survey results, 09 October
- Submission of a short working paper to MS, end-October
- Discussion of findings and further needs/steps via an online channel in November
- Addressing specific needs

Member State evaluations of the EMFF and EMFAF

09 October 2025

We’ve been hard at work!

Compiling evaluations from our MAs

Screening and analysing

Synthesising evaluations

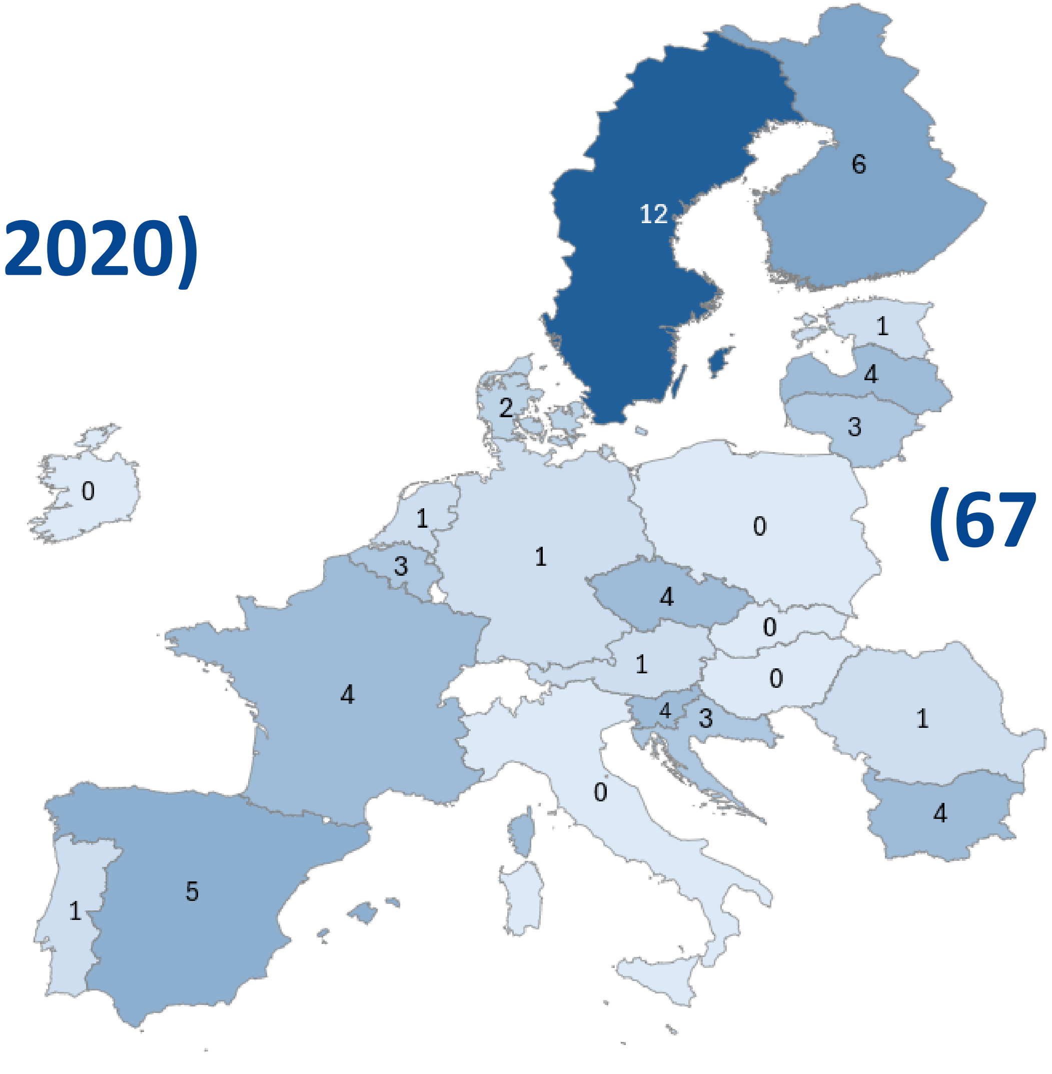


Trying to paint a clearer picture:

- **82 evaluations gathered** during Needs Assessments (67 EMFF, 15 EMFAF)
- **21 Member States** covered
- Spanning **9 years** (2016-2025)
- Including **baseline studies**, **process evaluations**, **implementation evaluations**, **impact evaluations**, and **thematic studies**

And you've been busy too!

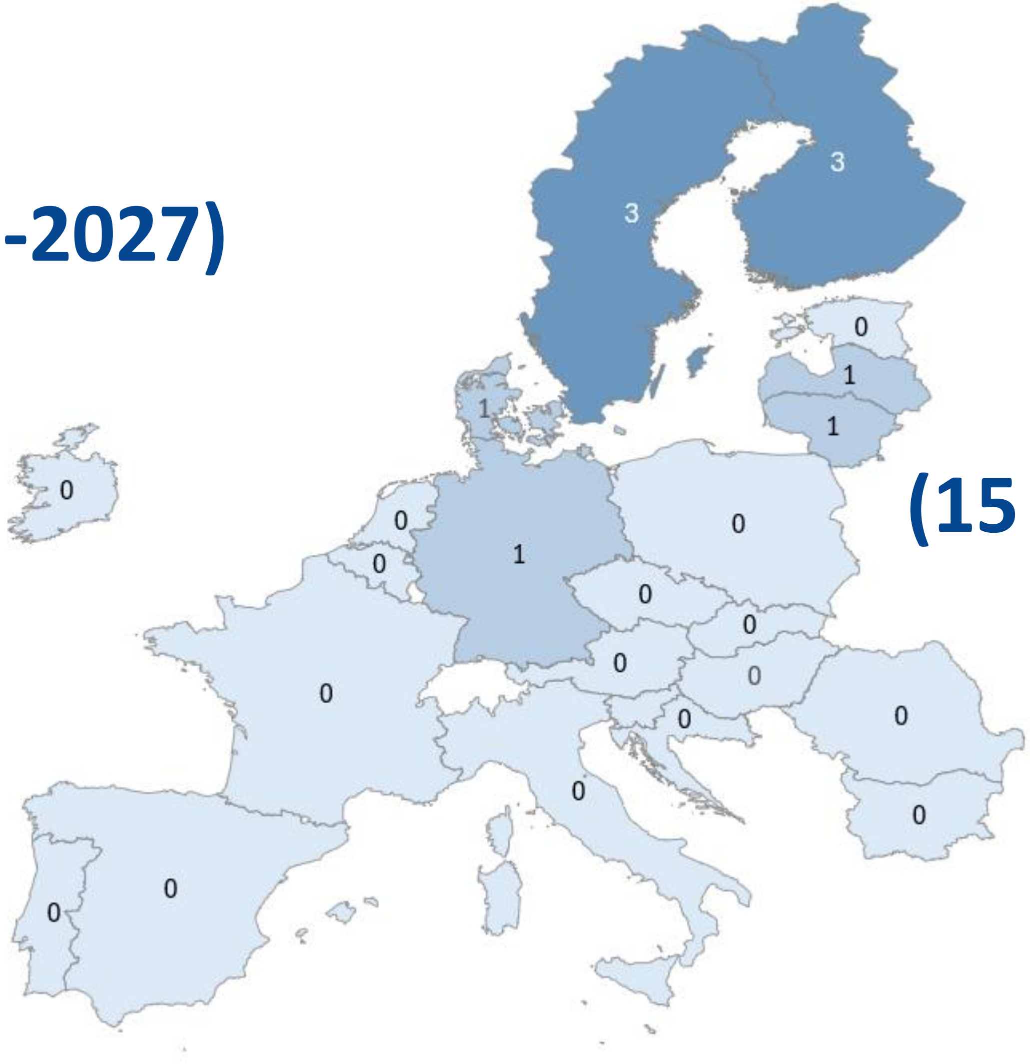
EMFF (2014-2020)
evaluations:



(67 received so far)

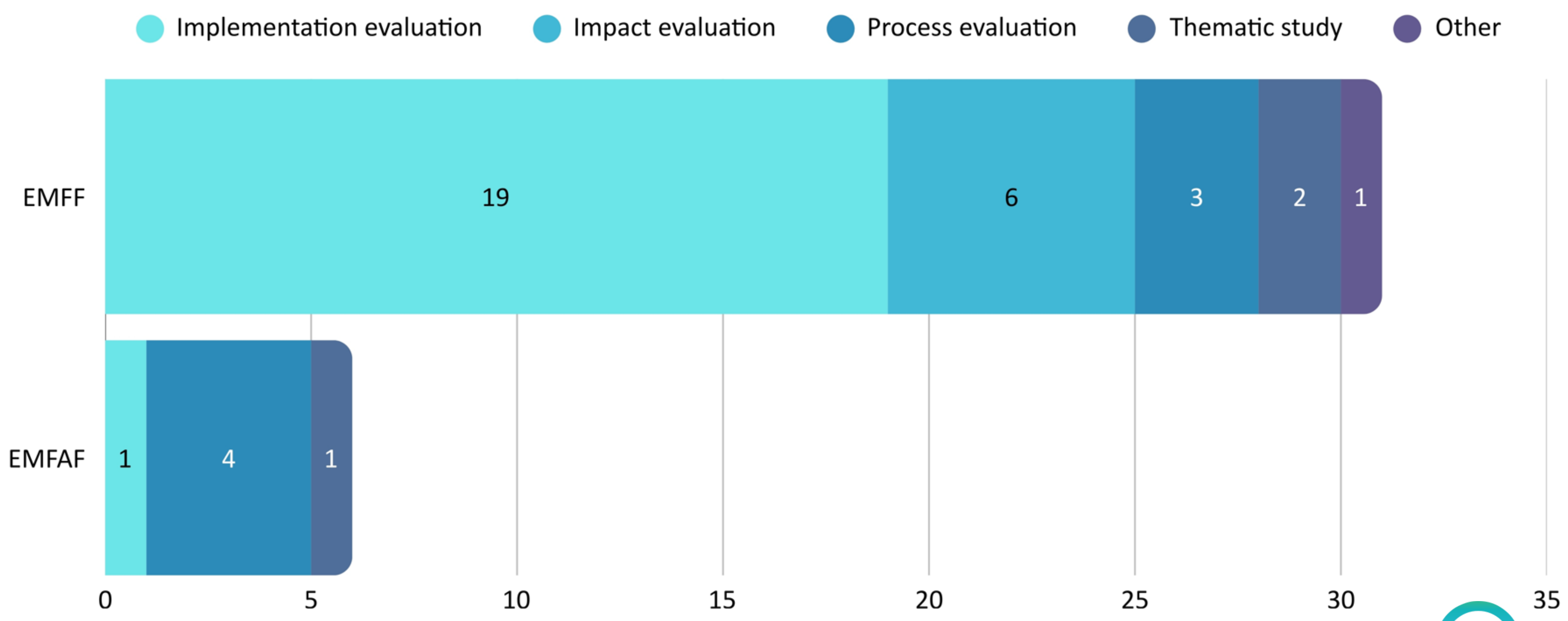
And you've been busy too!

EMFAF (2021-2027)
evaluations:

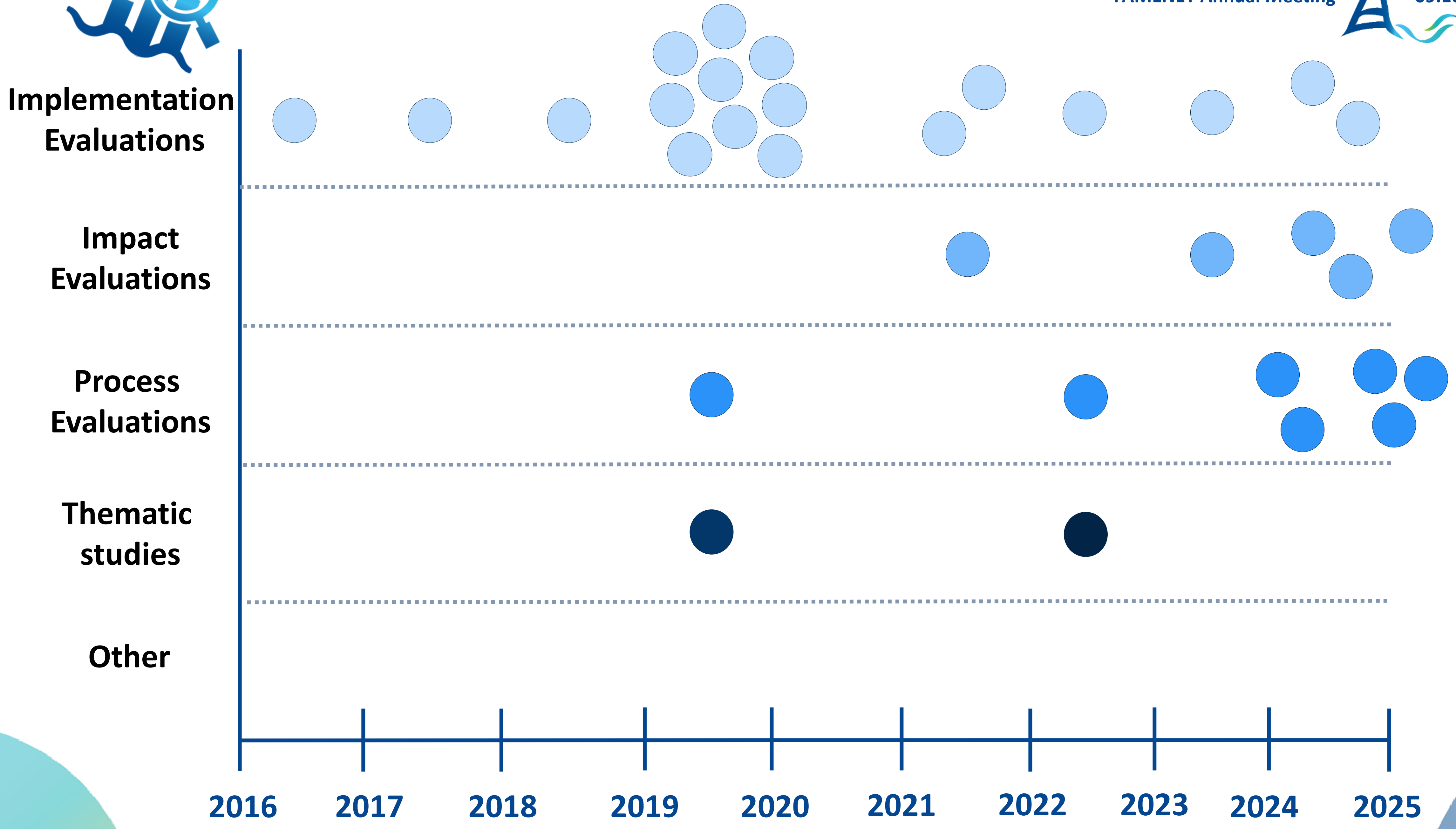


(15 received so far)

Delivering many different types of evaluations…



(As of first screening of 37 evaluations so far)


Implementation Evaluations
Impact Evaluations
Process Evaluations
Thematic studies
Other
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
2025

'…but what's the point of all this?', you ask

Coming soon!

FAMENET Evaluation Synthesis Working Paper


FAMENET

CT 5.1

Evaluation Synthesis Working Paper

Version 1.0

December 2025

- ✓ Synthesis of MS evaluations of EMFF/EMFAF
- ✓ Methodologies, data sources, types of evaluations in Member States
- ✓ Good practices and case studies from Member States

Our agenda today, 09 October 2025

- CLLD, SCOs, Evaluations
- Posters
- EMFAF reporting
- FAMENET 2025 and 2026
- Lunch and farewell

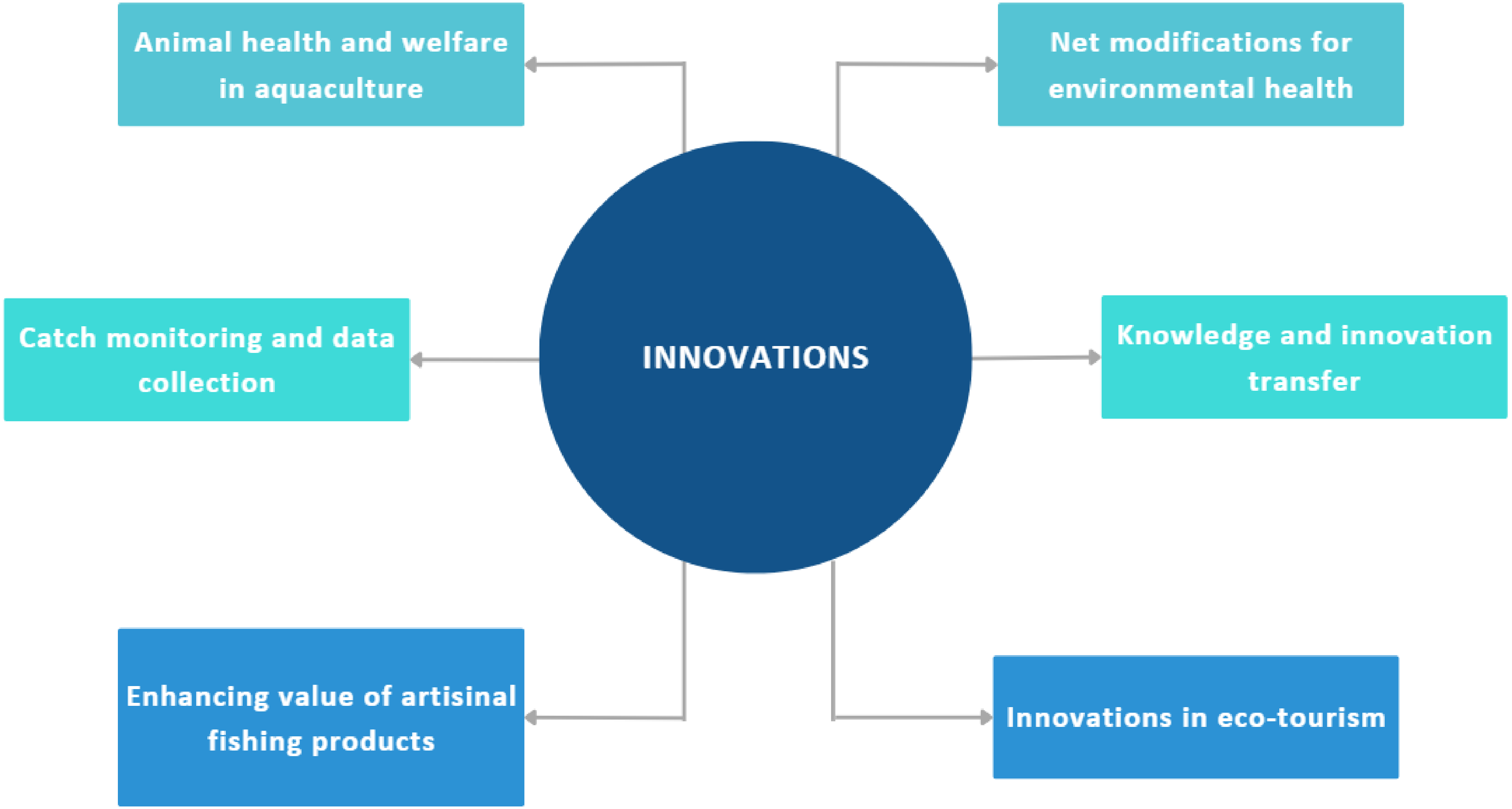
FAM 2025

Poster Session:

Innovative projects funded under the EMFF & EMFAF

09 October 2025, Brussels

Exploring innovations under the EMFF/EMFAF:



Poster exhibition and snack break – we resume at 11:15 ☺

Our agenda today, 09 October 2025

- CLLD, SCOs, Evaluations
- Posters
- EMFAF reporting
- FAMENET 2025 and 2026
- Lunch and farewell

Implementing EMFAF

Last Infosys reports, 31 July 2025

- Majority of reports submitted in time!

- Follow-up in summer period …

- Late resubmissions -> EU database needs to wait

Infosys reporting challenges, 31 July 2025

- Only few types of errors
- for example:
  - *Related to exchange rate fluctuation (non-EUR countries)*
  - *Common Fleet Register (CFR) numbers (not in the CFR database; fishers on foot)*

Majority of warnings relate to CR values:

- **Baseline values for nearly all CRs shall be zero**
  - Exceptions: CR01, CR12 and CR18.1 / CR18.2

- **Indicative CR values expected, normally:**
  - NOT zero
  - Within a certain range

- **Ex-post CR values, normally:**
  - NOT zero
  - >= than indicative values expected
  - Within a certain range

but…

CR values in ToD

May contain double/multiple counting!

Challenge of aggregating CR values

- Example - Beneficiary A is an aquaculture company. They employ 5 FTEs. And they implemented two projects supported by EMFAF. The result indicator chosen for both projects was *CR07 Employment maintained*.
- In Infosys for each operation the beneficiary reports CR07 value of 5 persons. Nothing wrong here!
- When aggregated, CR07 sum is 10

What to do?

Challenge of aggregating CR values

- Nothing
  - Keep 10 as aggregated value = **overreporting**

or…

- ~~For one operation report zero CR value in Infosys~~
  - ~~For which one?~~
  - ~~Why choose zero for that operation? – it did save jobs!~~
  - ~~Who modifies CR values at operation level – beneficiary, IB?~~

or…

- Other tailor-made solutions established by the MA

OR …

How to address double counting?

- **Aim:** exclude majority of potential double/multiple counting from aggregated reports in ToD reporting
- **Task:** Identify **selected** operations, where **4 points** match:
  - The **same** beneficiary reports more than once
  - the **same** CR code and the
  - **same** CR value
  - under the **same** SO

SO	Beneficiary code	CR	CR value
2.1	AAA	CR07	5
2.1	AAA	CR07	5

The 4-points approach, pros and cons

Pros

- User-friendly
- Automated
- Consistent

Cons

- Minor under-reporting risk
- Some false positives and false negatives

The 4-points approach, downside

- You win some, you lose some!
- Example: Beneficiary A has two projects.
- The first project - 5 new jobs reported
- The second project - additional 5 new jobs created

Only 5 jobs will be “left” in the ToD reporting

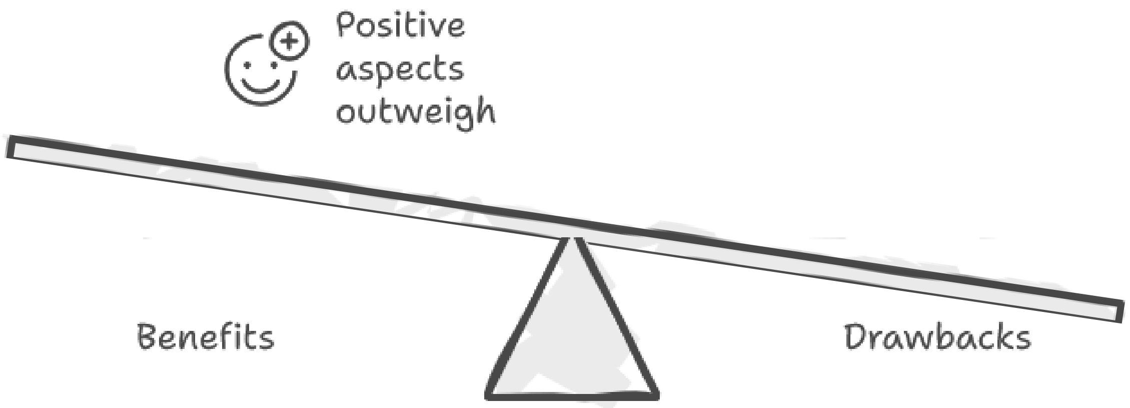
The 4-points approach, downside

- Some double counting might not be eliminated
- Example: Beneficiary maintained 5 employes during the first project
- And 6 employees during the second project
- But there are only 6 “real” employees….

11 jobs will be shown in the ToD reporting

The 4-points approach, advantages

- Most double counting is eliminated; approach is conservative and sound
- Double counting is addressed and implemented in a coordinated, systematic and consistent manner, ensuring an adequate audit trail
- Time and effort savings for involved authorities
- The earlier the better – double counting impact gets bigger with time



The 4-points approach, possible implementation

- **Within** the FAMENET Infosys validation tool, all aggregation as usual
- AND **additional ToD table 9** with adjusted double counting, automatically created from Infosys
- AND **documentation** of all operations affected by the 4-points approach to be used for **audit** purposes as needed

But please keep in mind

- This is an approach and tool to **support and facilitate** MAs work
- It is only a **recommended** tool
- MAs still **need to check** on the operations affected (but documentation helps)
- MAs still may decide to **use another approach** to eliminate double counting

Next steps

- DG MARE informs during the **EMFAF Experts Group** in November 2025
- FAMENET implements modifications in the **Infosys validation tool** by December 2025
- FAMENET **online channel** in early/mid January 2026
- 4-points approach to be applied to ToD reports starting from the **January 2026** submissions

Our agenda today, 09 October 2025

- CLLD, SCOs, Evaluations
- Posters
- EMFAF reporting
- FAMENET 2025 and 2026
- Lunch and farewell

FAMENET in 2025

420 tickets so far

CLLD seminar in Greece

Infosys, ToD
EMFAF reporting

12 capacity building workshops,
3 online channels

Working papers on impact
evaluation, SCOs, evaluation in
Member States

Good practices, stories, videos
and many more!

FAMENET in 2026

Annual Work Plan 2026

Preparation of the annual work plan for 2026

EMFF Closing

Finalization of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund

EMFAF Full Speed

European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund reaches peak activity

Evaluation Preparation

Member States begin preparing for evaluations

New MFF

Introduction of new Multiannual Financial Framework and Performance Framework

Another FAMENET Annual Meeting…

- Lessons learned?

Evaluation

www.menti.com

Code: **47 34 77 22**

Our agenda today, 09 October 2025

CLLD, SCOs, Evaluations

Posters

EMFAF reporting

FAMENET 2025 and 2026

Lunch and farewell

You know where to find us!

info@famenet.eu

https://www.famenet.eu