

Evaluating “channelling of aid” by the European Commission through the UN-WB-EIB

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Aide à la Décision Economique S.A.
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Purpose of the presentation

Context

- Delivering aid through other organisations (“channelling”) is more and more used by donors, including the European Commission (EC)

But

- Evaluations at a strategic or global level of such aid delivery are still scarce

Examples exist

- The Commission has recently undertaken three evaluations of such “channelling of aid”

Two questions

- How can such aid delivery modality be evaluated?
- To what type of conclusions can such evaluations lead?

The core idea

*If adapted to specific challenges,
the methodology for sector / thematic evaluations
can be applied for evaluating “channelling of aid”,
and allows drawing useful conclusions*

Agenda

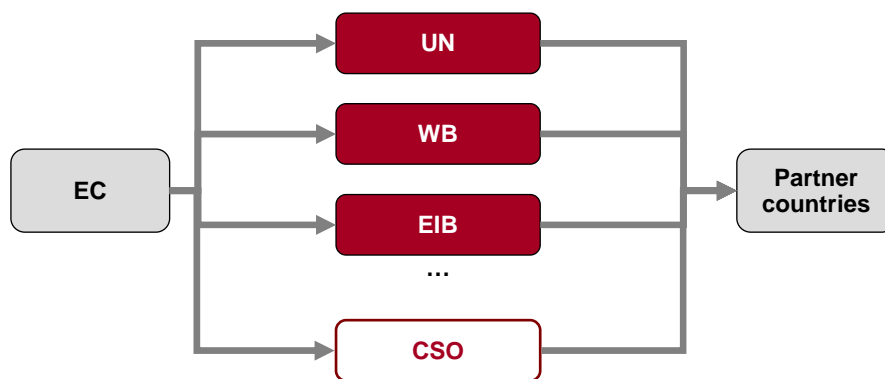
- The channelling of aid – Three recent EC evaluations
- EC sector / thematic evaluations and their methodology
- Specificities of “Channelling” evaluation approach
- Examples of conclusions of evaluations on EC channelling
- Dissemination activities

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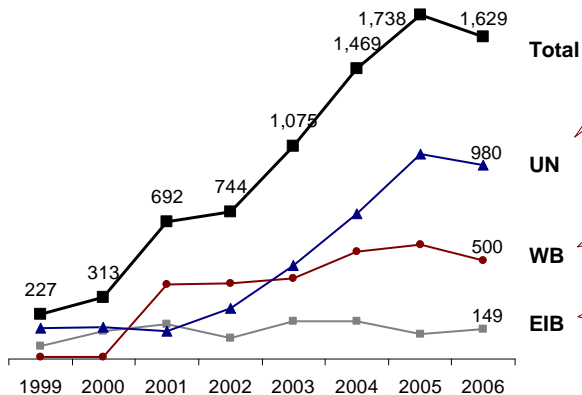
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“Channelling of aid”



EC channelling increased significantly over 1999-2006

Funds channelled by the EC through the UN-WB-EIB,
Order of magnitude (€m)



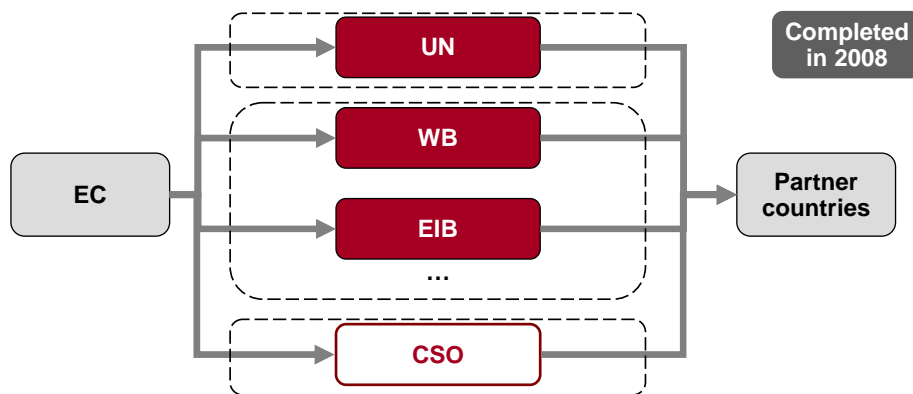
UN: 1688 EC contracts with 28 UN bodies, from food aid to electoral assistance

WB: EC contributions to 83 Trust Funds, from debt relief to post-conflict reconstruction

EIB: Risk capital, interest subsidies, TA on loans, debt relief

Channelling through the UN-WB-EIB amounted in 2006 to 23% of EC aid

Evaluations of "channelling of aid"



The evaluations addressed the five DAC evaluation criteria + coherence, visibility, and EC added value

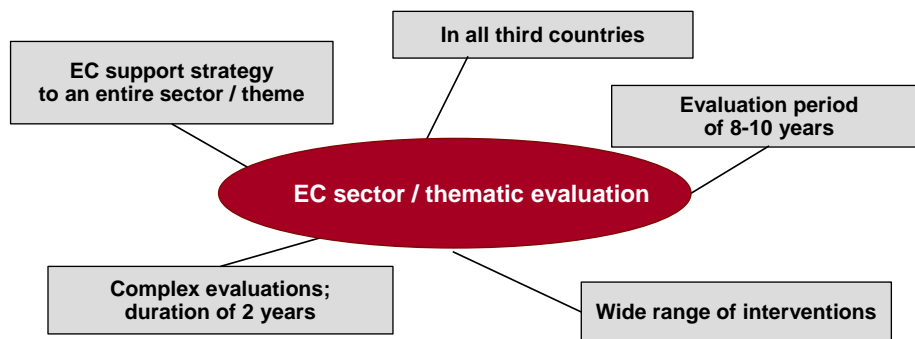
→ not an evaluation of the organisations themselves

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EC* sector / thematic evaluations are complex evaluations at a strategic level



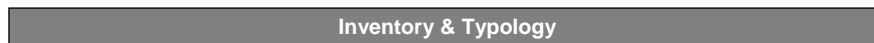
Examples : Rural development, Trade capacity building, Energy, Statistical support, Good governance, etc.

Unlike programme or project evaluations sector evaluations intervene at a “macro” level (as do country evaluations)

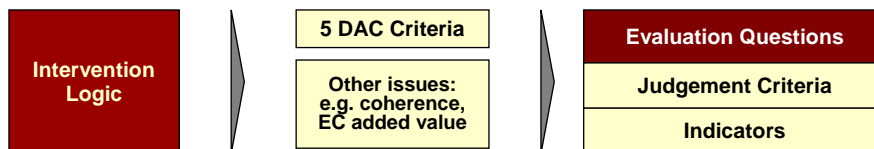
Sector / thematic evaluations are based on a structured methodology



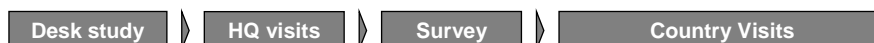
Understand the subject



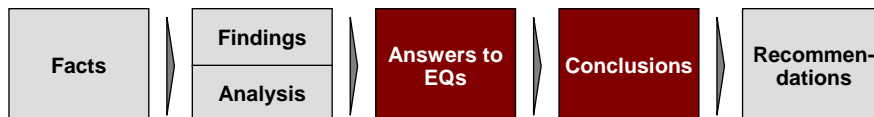
Define the evaluation framework



Collect data



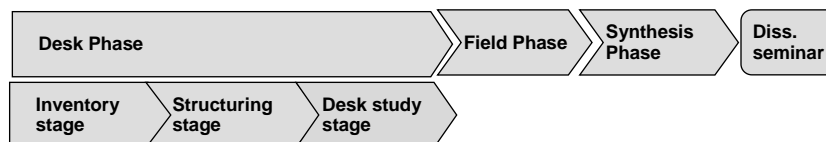
Analyse and synthesise



Implemented through a well-defined process*



Phases



Deliverables

- Inventory Note
- Inception Report
- Desk Phase Report
- Debriefing presentation
- Final Report
- Dissemin. seminar

*This process is similar in EC country evaluations

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Certain adjustments to the thematic evaluation methodology allowed to tackle specific “Channelling” challenges



Methodological framework for thematic evaluations

Specific Challenges

Evaluating the use of an aid delivery *modality*

Wide and complex scope

Limited information available

Sensitive subject

Specific Approach

Two-dimensional Intervention logic

Evaluation questions covering the two dimensions

Extensive Inventory & Typology

Multiplication of sources and tools

Consultative approach

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Useful overall conclusions could be drawn on this type of aid delivery



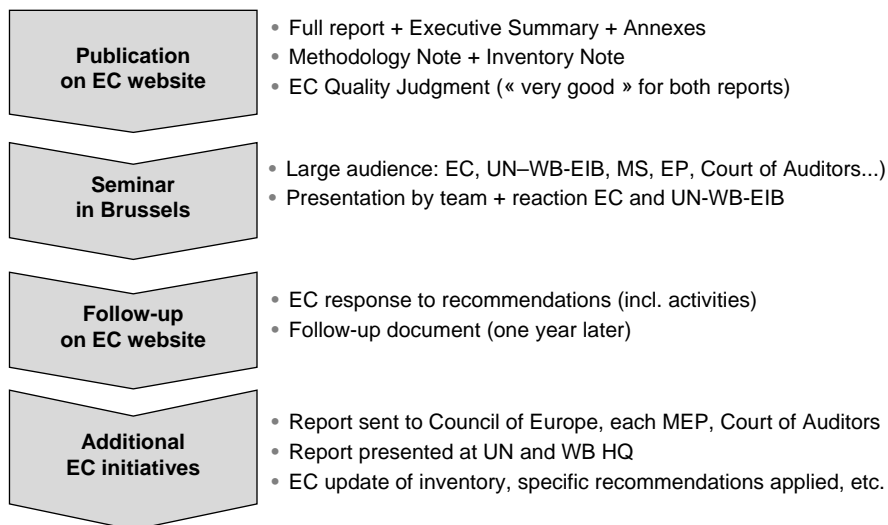
Examples of conclusions (for channelling through both UN and WB)

- ▶ Pragmatic rather than structured strategic approach
- ▶ Unique possibility to deliver aid in specific contexts
- ▶ Added value for different stakeholders
- ▶ High visibility at country level owing to coordination mechanisms;
Limited visibility at general level owing to lack of initiatives
- ▶ Key role of useful global administrative framework,
although difficulties at implementation level
- ▶ EC organisational structure not commensurate
with magnitude of channelling

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Active dissemination ensured usefulness of these evaluations



Wrap-up

Evaluating aid delivery through other organisations is possible and leads to useful conclusions

The EC methodology for thematic evaluations can be applied for this purpose, if it is amended to tackle specific challenges

Appropriate dissemination practices are key to ensure usefulness of the evaluations

Additional information?

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www.ade.eu

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/index_en.htm