

► Luxembourg

Mandate and role

Pursuant to the DAC Peer Review of 2008, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg is currently working on formalising an evaluation strategy for development co-operation. The Quality Control Division of the Ministry contains a Monitoring, Audit and Evaluation Unit, which oversees the conduct of external evaluations of ODA overseen by the Directorate for development co-operation (bilateral aid, multilateral aid and aid channelled through NGOs).

Regarding bilateral aid, the Ministry's implementing agency for Development Co-operation, Lux-Development, has an internal evaluation strategy in place. Its aim is to identify good practice and lessons for the future, as well as to provide information about the effectiveness of Lux-Development's work, to meet the agency's accountability obligations. With the help of external consultants Lux-Development undertakes two types of internal evaluations: self-evaluations, managed by the Operations Directorate, and independent evaluations, managed by the Evaluation and Capitalisation department (Expertise and Quality Directorate). All interventions are systematically evaluated mid-term and upon completion.

Evaluations examine four of the DAC evaluation criteria (relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability) as well as three cross-cutting aspects: gender, good governance and environment. Impact evaluation is done in the framework of *ex-post* evaluations carried out by the Ministry. Lux-Development asks evaluators to systematically assess whether the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, specifically alignment and harmonisation, were applied, and what results were achieved in terms of capacity development.

Internal and external evaluations (carried out by Lux-Development and the Ministry respectively) have different but complementary objectives. This implies close consultations between Lux-Development and the Ministry in the evaluation process.

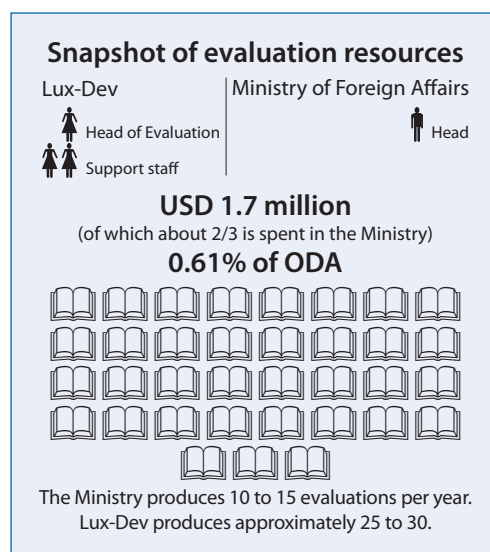
Other partners, like development NGOs, are also encouraged to budget evaluations and communicate the results to the Ministry, where they are shared with the head of evaluation. Development NGOs which have concluded a multi-annual framework agreement with the Ministry are evaluated by external consultants every three years; this evaluation is financed by the Ministry.

Quality

Lux-Development's Quality Department has guidelines and templates in place to guide staff in the elaboration of terms of reference for evaluation missions, in the briefing of experts and the editing of evaluation reports. Ad-hoc evaluation committees provide additional oversight.

Independence

All external evaluations appointed by the Ministry are acquired via public tendering. The evaluation teams will usually consist of sector specialists and regional experts. Moreover, the Ministry requires that local experts be associated to each mission in



order to complement the external consultants’ view with their pertinent local insight. Evaluators are required to give an independent and impartial feedback of their findings, following the terms of reference elaborated jointly by all implicated partners under the co-ordination of the Ministry. Evaluation missions are expected to deliver reports containing recommendations in terms of policy, as well as practical and administrative guidance.

Lux-Development also employs consultants and consultancy firms and takes particular care in foreseeing local expertise for evaluation missions. This external view strengthens the impartial and independent nature of evaluations.

Both evaluation departments are institutionally separate from programme management; while the Lux-Dev department reports to its quality assurance division, the head of evaluations at the Ministry reports directly to the Director of Development Co-operation. Public tendering for evaluation missions is controlled by the Directorate for Financial Control, which reports to the Ministry of Finance and Budget. The heads of evaluation participate in the senior management meetings.

Reporting and use

Setting up a systematic response and follow-up system is currently under consideration. Reports are distributed to various audiences through annual meetings and regular contacts in Luxembourg and in the field. This is done through agency staff, via regular meetings with senior management in the Ministry and the Agency, through communication efforts in developing countries, and in bi-monthly meetings with NGO representatives and Ministry staff. Evaluations also feed into the annual declaration on development co-operation by the minister to the parliament. At this time neither evaluation department has its own website. This is, however, as far as the ministry is concerned, work in progress and full evaluation reports will soon be accessible in French and English.

Summary of the institutional set-up of evaluation

