



EVALUATION PLAN 2005
PLANNING AND EVALUATION OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT POLICY
SPANISH SECRETARIAT OF STATE FOR INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION

A. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND.

The development of the Spanish evaluation system of international development cooperation initiated with the Law 23/1998, 7th July, of International Development Cooperation, which states in Article 19: *“the Secretariat of State for International Cooperation (SECI) will evaluate the development cooperation policy, the programmes and projects financed with public funds, in progress or finalised, from their design to their results. The evaluation will consider the adequacy of the objectives and their level of accomplishment, as well as the level of effectiveness and efficiency attained, the impact generated and the sustainability of the finalised projects and programmes”*.

From 1998 onwards, the evaluation function of Spanish Development cooperation has been strengthened. The SECI elaborated and published a “Methodology for Development Evaluation” (1998, 2nd edition 2001), presenting a summary of the main approaches to evaluation from the international community and the most relevant doctrine in this matter, and proposing a methodological tool to the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI). A number of evaluations are programmed and carried out annually (16 evaluations between 1998 and 2004). The evaluation reports are published and distributed. There have been training programmes on evaluation within Spain’s Autonomous regions development offices.

Notwithstanding the progress in the evaluation function, Spain’s Development evaluation system has relevant challenges ahead to advance to its institutionalization. Mainly, the need for a more strategic planning of the evaluations according defined and transparent criteria; a stronger involvement and partnership with partner countries in the evaluative process; a broader implication and coordination among the different actors and organisations responsible for the management of Spain’s official aid delivery; a better use of the evaluation results and recommendations in policy formulation and decision making.

The *Director Plan of Spanish Development Cooperation 2005-2008* foresees the launch of different mechanisms oriented towards a results based monitoring and evaluation system. In this context, evaluation processes will be strengthen

with more emphasis on results and impacts of development aid, by the promotion of a systematic and participatory evaluation, that contributes to accountability and, especially, to feed lessons and recommendations into ongoing and future programmes and to improve present policies and actions.

To this end, the Master Plan 2005-2008 will strengthen the evaluation function, with the specific objectives of improving dissemination and feedback, a stronger collaboration among Spain's actors of official development cooperation in evaluation, by collaborating with the future *Spanish National Agency of Evaluation of Public Policies and Services*, increasing Spain's participation in international evaluation forums, by improving the annual planning of the evaluations and the improvement of the evaluation methodologies and management.

B. EVALUATION PLAN 2005

For the year 2005, the planning of evaluations will be annual, although in the future there might be a bi-annual planning.

The competence of evaluation of Spain's development policy is responsibility of the Secretariat of State for International Cooperation (SECI), through the Planning and Evaluation Office of Development Policy. This unit will be increasingly directed towards the evaluation of policies and relevant programmes, while strengthening the capacity of the management units to carry out projects evaluations.

The evaluation is understood by this institution both as an analytical and accountability tool, as well as a **learning process** about the results of development actions for their continuous improvement. In this regard, each phase of the process will be well defined as part of a cycle, with the objective of guarantying the participation of all stakeholders and the use of evaluation results in the improvement of aid effectiveness.

The Evaluation Plan for 2005 will focus on the following areas:

1. Finalization, dissemination and feedback of the evaluations started in 2004:

- Evaluation of the Fiduciary Fund Spain-UNDP for good governance in Central America: Nicaragua and Guatemala.
- Evaluation of the Programme on Alphabetization and Basic Education for Adults (PAEBA): Nicaragua and Honduras.
- Evaluation of the Project of Integral Development at Tiguent, Mauritania.
- Evaluation of Spanish Development Cooperation in Health in Mozambique.
- Evaluation of the Programme of Municipality Capacity Building and Local Development in Honduras (PRODEMTHON).

2. Evaluations programmed for 2005:

Three relevant interventions of Spain's ODA will be evaluated, referred to an instrument, a sector programme and a country. Throughout the year, there may be other – smaller – evaluations to be done.

The evaluations programmed for this year are:

- Evaluation of the Microcredit Fund for Social Development Projects (FCM). *Instrument evaluation.*
- Evaluation of the Spanish Development Cooperation Programme for biodiversity preservation and sustainable development in Latin America, ARAUCARIA. *Programme evaluation.*
- Evaluation of Spanish Development Cooperation in Morocco. *Country evaluation.*

3. Review and update of the methodologies and management procedures of evaluation of Spanish Development Cooperation

- Elaboration of an "Evaluation Manual" for the management of evaluations in each phase of the Evaluation cycle.
- Update of the current Evaluation Methodology of Spanish Development Cooperation "Metodología de Evaluación de la Cooperación Española".(1998, 2001).

4. Delimitation of the different phases of the Evaluation Cycle.

The different phases and steps of the evaluation cycle will be delimited and disseminated to all actors of Spanish Development cooperation, strengthening the activities at each phase in order to standardize procedures and improve the quality of evaluations.

Therefore, throughout the evaluative cycle, the SECI will promote the following¹:

- The participation of all stakeholders.
- The tendency to partner and joint evaluations.
- The elaboration of specific recommendations by the SECI based on the evaluation reports, for the management Units to elaborate an Action Plan to address the recommendations.
- The future monitoring of the Action Plan.

5. Coordination among decentralized actors of Spain's Development cooperation

In order to contribute to the Development policy as a State policy, as it is stated in the *Director Plan of Spanish Development Cooperation 2005-2008*, there has been created a Working Group in evaluation within the *Interterritorial*

¹ See Anex: Fases del Ciclo de Evaluación.

Commission of International Cooperation, with the purpose of a better coordination, collaboration and joint work in ODA evaluation.

The actions planned in this group are:

- Training programme in evaluation for the Autonomous Communities Development offices.
- Joint evaluations, specifically, the Country evaluation of Morocco.

