



Preparing the ex-ante evaluation of the CAP Strategic Plan and SEA in Finland

Eero Pehkonen
Managing Authority
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland

Outline



- Background
- The ex-ante evaluation process in Finland
- The SEA in the programme design
- Preliminary reflections

Background



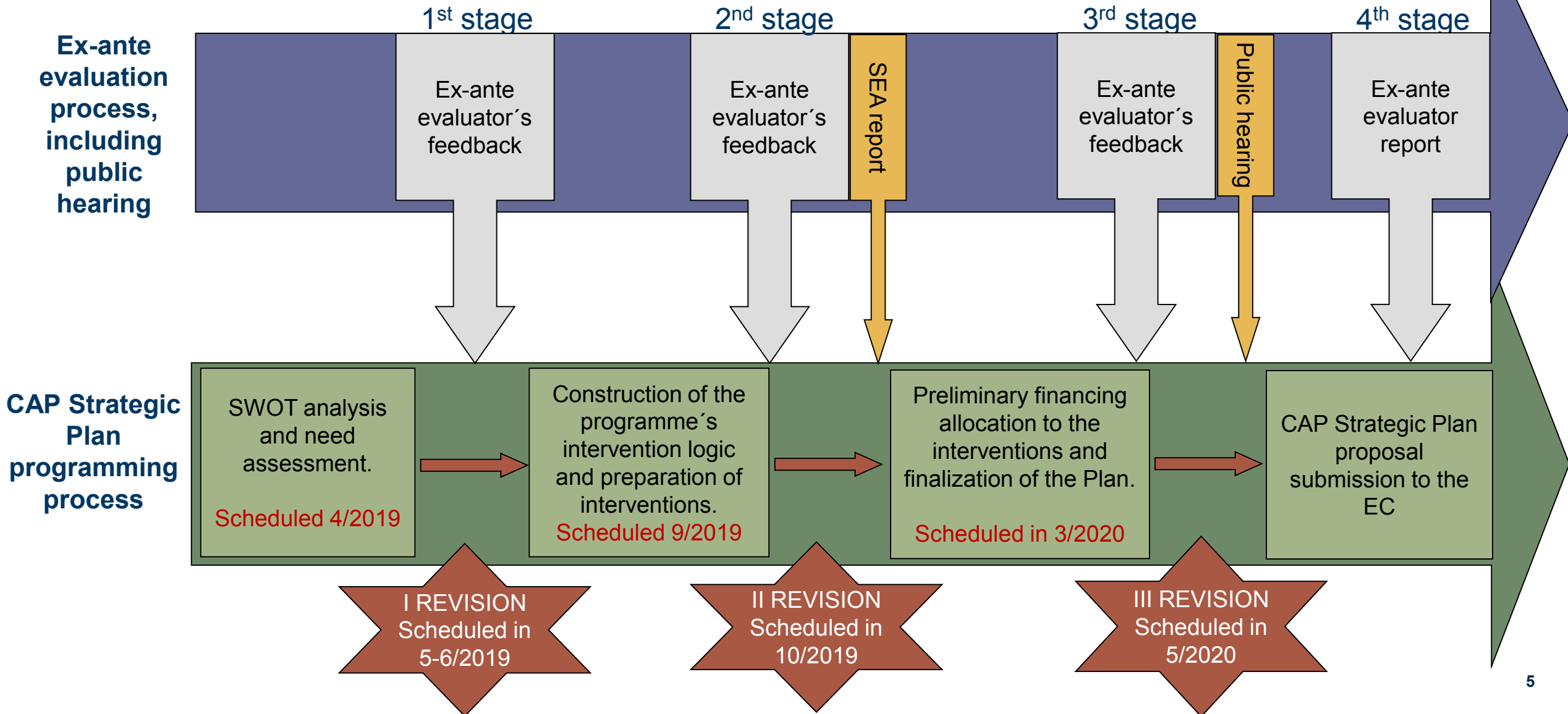
- 2021-2027 is the fifth CAP financing period for Finland
- The CAP Strategic Plan will cover Mainland Finland and Åland Island
- We aim to start the implementation of the CAP Strategic Plan at the beginning of 2021 > Lots of work to do in 2019 (and Finland EU Presidency)
- Currently: drafting the tender for the ex-ante evaluation (external evaluator)
- April 2019: public procurement procedure will be launched!
- One single tender for ex-ante evaluation, covering also SEA and financial instruments

The ex-ante evaluation process in Finland (1)



- The Managing Authority has prepared a roadmap for the preparation of the CAP Strategic Plan and its ex-ante evaluation. It includes:
 - A timeline
 - A description of the working steps
 - The milestones (e.g. public hearings, allocation of funds, submission of the draft CAP Strategic Plan to the Government and European Commission)
- The roadmap is divided in four stages mainly to:
 - Plan the two processes in an interactive manner
 - Structure the ex-ante evaluator contract according to deliverables (the evaluation payment cannot wait for final approval of the CAP Strategic Plan)
- The roadmap will be published online in March 2019

The ex-ante evaluation process in Finland (2)





The SEA in the programme design

- SEA is planned to contribute to better programme design
- The SEA will compare the environmental impacts of the CAP in four different scenarios:
 - A. Same current CAP rules and financial allocation, but different budget
 - B. Higher environmental requirement to CAP Pillar I (increased enhanced conditionality and eco-schemes), with CAP Pillar II focused on other specific objectives (e.g. economic and social)
 - C. Higher environmental requirements in CAP Pillar II (e.g. higher budget allocation to agri-environmental schemes), with CAP Pillar I focused on other specific objectives
 - D. Shifting environmental CAP requirements to national legislation, and focusing CAP Pillar I and II to other objectives
- The environmental impacts will be observed in terms of:
 - achievements of EU environmental legislation targets (CAP Plan regulation Annex XI)
 - farmer and rural areas economy
 - environment (soil, water, air, biodiversity)



Preliminary reflections

Challenges	Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Financial and human resources are tight and difficult to estimate (previous budget for RDP ex-ante evaluation was: 78 000 euros, consortium with four institutes, 200 working days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More resources should be devoted to this task because the strategic importance of the ex ante evaluation of the CAP Strategic Plan is higher than RDP, and the focus is broader (both CAP Pillars)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Selecting the skilled evaluator within the current market (e.g. Finnish language is a crucial criteria)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specify clearly what it is expected from the evaluator → Managing Authority should be aware of their main needs to clearly formulate what is expected from the evaluators
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning and developing a useful and strategic ex-ante evaluation to support the design of the CAP Strategic Plan (e.g. proposing detailed recommendation in terms of beneficiary criteria, intervention logic, budget allocation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More tools and methodologies are necessary to coordinate the multiple interactions between evaluators, policy makers and stakeholders who will closely work together along the programming process



Thank you

Eero Pehkonen

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

eero.pehkonen [a] mmm.fi