COUNTRY BEST PRACTICES

Guidelines

Best Practice Guidelines

Definition
A "best practice" is defined as a practice, technique or method that has proven to work well and produced good results and is therefore recommended as a model or benchmark.

Principles
- Provides a method or technique that has consistently shown good results compared with those achieved with other means;
- Provides a set of guidelines, ethics or ideas that represent the most efficient course of action;
- Is usually evidence-based and hence can used as a benchmark;
- Can evolve to become better as improvements are discovered;
- Can be used to maintain high quality and efficiency.

Criteria
Identifying best practices involves judgement, which requires prior analysis using the following set of criteria: effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, ethical soundness, sustainability, denoting a high possibility of replication and upscaling, and with strong interest – promising the involvement of partners, the community and securing political commitment (Table 1). By definition, a best practice should meet at least the **effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, ethical soundness, and possibility of replication criteria**, in addition to a few other criteria highlighted in table 1 below.

Examples

Agriculture Resilience

http://www.fao.org/3/i5624e/i5624e.pdf

http://www.fao.org/3/i5585e/i5585e.pdf

http://www.fao.org/3/i6429e/i6429e.pdf

Skills Development

https://nepad.org/skillsportalforyouth/good-practice/youth-harness-initiative-project

https://nepad.org/skillsportalforyouth/good-practice/hospitality-college-uses-technology-step-plate-during-covid-19

https://nepad.org/skillsportalforyouth/good-practice/nairobits-finds-powerful-ways-of-utilising-social-media

Table 1. Best Practice Criteria

Criterion	Description
Effectiveness	This is a fundamental criterion implicit in the definition. The practice must work and achieve results that are measurable
Efficiency	The proposed practice must produce results with a reasonable level of resources and time
Relevance	The proposed practice must address the priority areas of current or potential users
Ethical soundness	The practice must respect the current rules of ethics for dealing with related socio-economic and people-centred development dynamics
Sustainability	The proposed practice, as carried out, must be implementable over a long period with the use of existing resources
Possibility of replication	The proposed practice, as carried out, must be replicable elsewhere in the Member State or region or continent
Involvement of partnerships	The proposed practice must involve satisfactory collaboration between several stakeholders
Community involvement	The proposed practice must involve the participation of the affected communities
Political commitment	The proposed practice must have support from the relevant national or local authorities

Table 2. Attributes of Best Practices

Criterion	Description
Credibility	Documented, sound evidence/results that can be advocated by respected persons or institutions
Observability	Potential users can see the results in practice, e.g. pilot/experimental or demonstration sites
Relevance	Addresses a persistent or serious problem or policy priority
Relative advantage	New practice offers a benefit over existing practices so that potential users are convinced that the costs of implementation are outweighed by the benefits
Easy to install and understand	Process of scaling up the practice is not complex and complicated, but rather simple
Compatibility	The practice fits well with the practices of the national programme and with the potential users' established values, norms and facilities
Testability	The practice can be tried out incrementally on a small pilot scale before large-scale adoption

Table 3. Outline for Documenting Best Practices

Item	Description
Title of the best practice	Catchy and easy-to-understand the description of the practice
Brief description	This should provide the context of and justification for the practice, and address the following issues: • What was the problem that needed to be addressed? • Where was the best practice implemented? • Which population was affected, and where? • What was the practice set out to do? • What results were achieved?
Detailed description	• What is the problem being addressed? • Which population is being affected? • How did the problem impact the population? • What were the objectives and targets of implementing the best practice?
Implementation of the practice	• What were the main activities carried out? • When and where were the activities carried out? • Who were the key implementers and collaborators? • What resources were used?
Results of the practice to date – Outputs and Outcomes	• What were the concrete results achieved with regard to: • A) outputs (immediate) and • B) outcomes (changes in target population's practices)? •
Lessons learnt and success factors	• Was an in-depth review, assessment or evaluation of the practice carried out? If yes: • What worked really well – and what facilitated this? • What did not work – why did it not work? • What could have been done better or differently? •
Innovation and Adaptation	• What are the 3 to 5 key features of the practice that make it stand-out as a best practice? • How has the practice contributed to innovations in the thematic or geographical area of operation? • To what extent is the target population embracing and assimilating the new practice – as an innovation in its socio-economic development pursuit?

Recommendations	• What are the key considerations if the practice is to be replicated elsewhere successfully? • What are the conditions (institutional, economic, social, and environmental) that need to be in place for the good practice to be successfully replicated (in a similar context)?
Contact details	• Contact details of the "owners", implementing institutions of the best practice
Further reading	Provide a list of references and source documents (e.g. URL) that give additional information on the "best practice" for those who may be interested in knowing how the results benefited the Member State.