

LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

The drafting of the Logical Framework (LF) matrix, in its simplified version, is optional. The matrix can be filled in and uploaded to the platform for each request for grant submitted.

The LF clearly and concisely describes the different elements making up a project proposal, allowing its feasibility and sustainability to be verified.

In the simplified version the matrix features 4 rows and 3 columns (see Tab. 1).

Tab. 1 - Logical Framework

INTERVENTION LOGIC	INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION
OVERALL GOAL <i>Long-term change that the project contributes to achieving after its realization.</i> ex. Improving the well-being of the X region's child population	<i>Quantitative and/or qualitative variable that objectively measures the contribution to the achievement of the overall goal.</i> ex. 20% reduction of X and Y pathologies in the child population	<i>Sources of information and methods used to ascertain whether the project has contributed to achieving the overall goal in the terms outlined by the indicators.</i> ex. Local Health-care Authority's database, Ministry of Health data
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE <i>Short and medium-term change that will be achieved at the end of the project.</i> ex. Reducing obesity in children in the area X	<i>Quantitative and/or qualitative variable that objectively measures the achievement of the specific objective.</i> ex. 20% decrease in obesity among 0-10 years old in the area X	<i>Sources of information and methods used to ascertain whether the specific project objective has been achieved in the terms outlined by the indicators.</i> ex. Ad hoc survey carried out within the framework of the project
OUTCOMES <i>Changes achieved in the short to medium term in the behaviour, skills, attitudes, living conditions of the beneficiaries through the project actions: intermediate objectives necessary to achieve the specific objective.</i> ex. O1 Improved quality of school canteens O2 increased household awareness of the importance of high-quality food	<i>Quantitative and/or qualitative variable that objectively measures the achievement of the outcomes.</i> ex. O1 80% of school canteens in territory X offer high-quality food O2 at least 50% of parents surveyed show greater awareness of the importance of high-quality food	<i>Sources of information and methods used to ascertain whether the outcomes have been achieved in the terms outlined by the indicators.</i> ex. O1 Statistics/studies from the Department for School Services, the municipality and/or the <i>Local Health-care Authority</i> . O2: ex-ante and ex-post questionnaires for families

ACTIVITIES		
<i>Actions aimed at producing the goods, services, products (outputs) necessary for the achievement of outcomes.</i> ex. A1 Nutrition education meetings for families A2 Round-tables between institutions, families and schools on new school catering policies	<i>Quantitative variable that objectively measures the implementation of the activities.</i> ex. A1 Holding of 7 food education meetings addressed to families in the area X A2: at least 8 policy proposals drafted on improving the school catering service	<i>Sources of information and methods used to ascertain whether the activities have been carried out in the terms outlined by the indicators.</i> ex. Attendance registers/signature sheets/operator reports/documents drawn up by participants at tables, meetings etc.

The **INTERVENTION LOGIC** of the project, contained in the **FIRST COLUMN**, is arranged into four levels or elements, linked to each other by a bottom-up cause-effect relationship. These are the fundamental elements of the **Intervention Logic**:

Activities: These are the actions that are intended to be carried out to create the good, services, products (outputs) that are needed to achieve the outcomes. In other words, the activities are the tasks (the components of the work programme) that must be performed to achieve the outcomes. Remember that a single activity can generate several outcomes.

Outcomes: These are the short- or medium-term changes in the behaviour, skills, attitudes or living conditions of the beneficiaries resulting from the implementation of the activities and leading to the achievement of the specific objective; in detail, therefore, these are the benefits generated by the activities on the target group that each project action aims to bring about.
(ex. of outcomes: improved skills of local farmers in organic farming in Region X; increased employment opportunities for young people in the area X).

Specific objective: This refers to the unique purpose of the project and describes the change, in terms of tangible, verifiable and quantifiable improvement, achieved by the beneficiaries as a result of the project's implementation. Remember that the specific objective is only one.
(ex. of specific objective: reduce the maternal-infant mortality rate in the XXX district by XXX%; increase the absolute value (TWh/year) of energy produced from renewable sources in the XXX district).

Overall goal: it corresponds to the long-term impact, for the community, that the project contributes to achieving; these are, therefore, primary and secondary effects produced by the action, but not during the life of the project. The general goal identifies the connections existing between the project and the reference context.
(ex. of overall goal: Improving the health conditions of the elderly population in Regions X Y Z; Reducing school drop-out rates in Regions X Y Z).

The **SECOND COLUMN** of the LF refers to the **INDICATORS** instead.
The **Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVIs)** are quantitative and qualitative measuring variables that serve to prove objectively whether and to what extent the results and purposes have been achieved and the activities carried out. They are placed in line with the overall goal, the specific objective, the outcomes and the activities, since they must provide a framework compliant with what the project intends to achieve for each level of the intervention logic.

The **THIRD COLUMN** refers to the **MEANS OF VERIFICATION**.

Means of Verification (MoV) are the tools and sources of information used to ascertain whether the project objectives and results have been achieved and the activities carried out, in the terms specified by the indicators.

In the means of Verification column, the following information are required:

- how the data were collected, who collects them or makes them available, where these can be found;
- the format in which the information is made available (progress report, accounting data, registers, official statistics, etc.) and how often the information is provided (monthly, quarterly, annually, etc.).