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Evaluation of the English ERDF Programme

National Growth Programme Board

14th September 2017



Scope of session

- Draft National Evaluation Plan
- Project Summative Assessments



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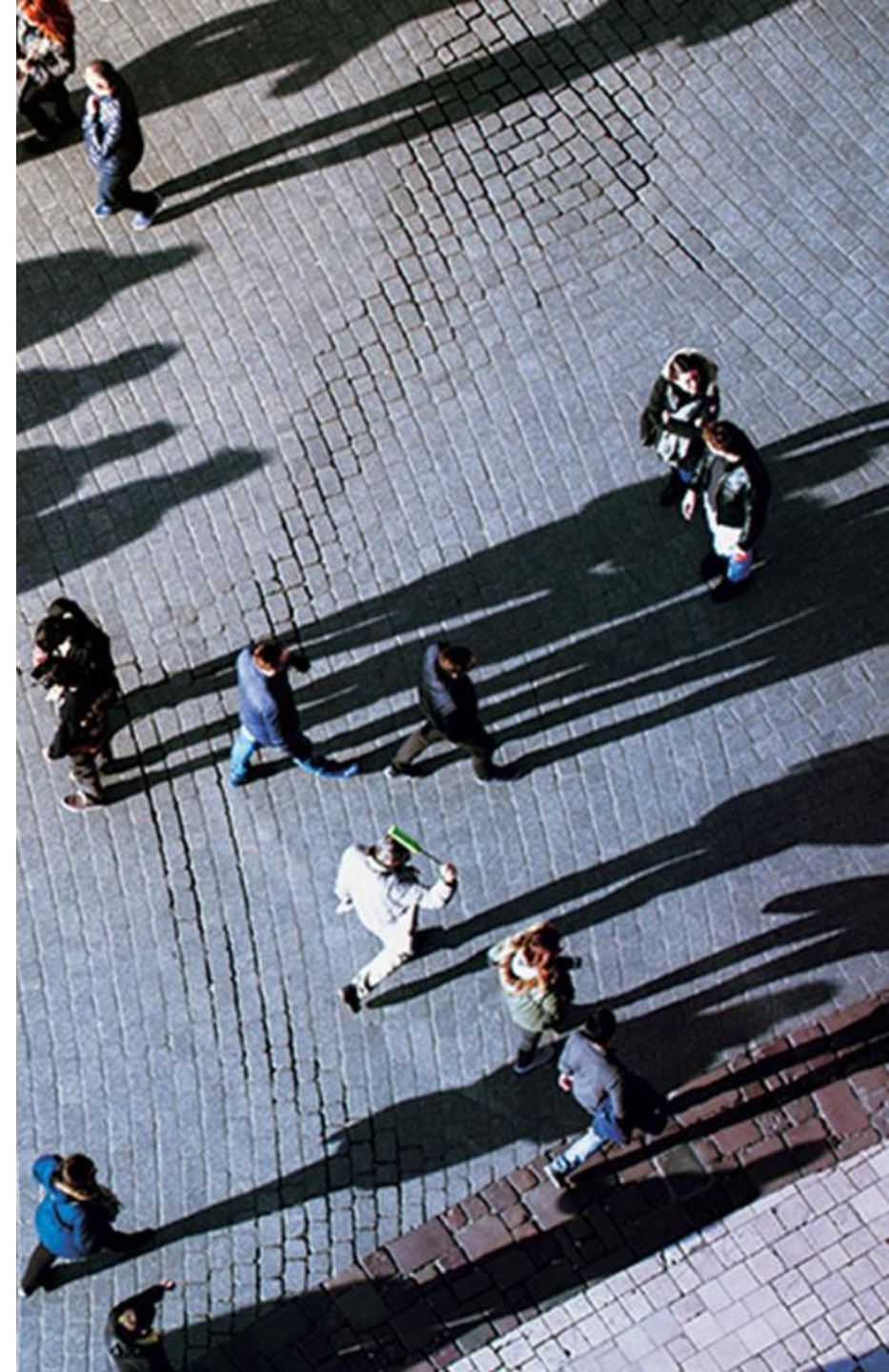
National Programme Evaluation



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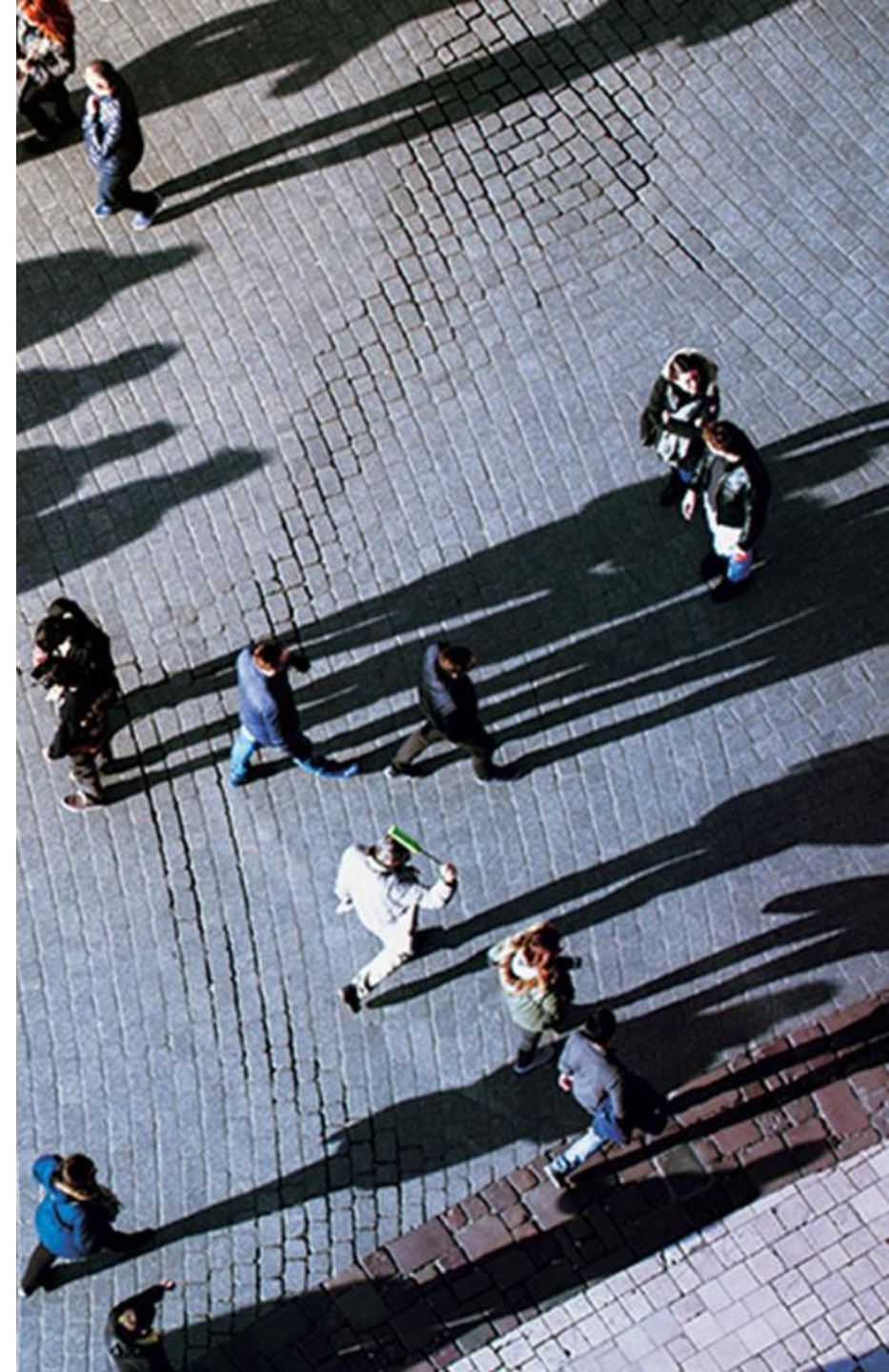
Scope of evaluation

- Programme evaluation is an EU requirement and SAs are a key input
- Shaped by EC and other guidance
- Five main strands proposed:
 - Relevance, appropriateness and consistency
 - Financial and output progress
 - Process evaluation
 - Impact evaluation
 - Economic evaluation



Factors shaping design of plan

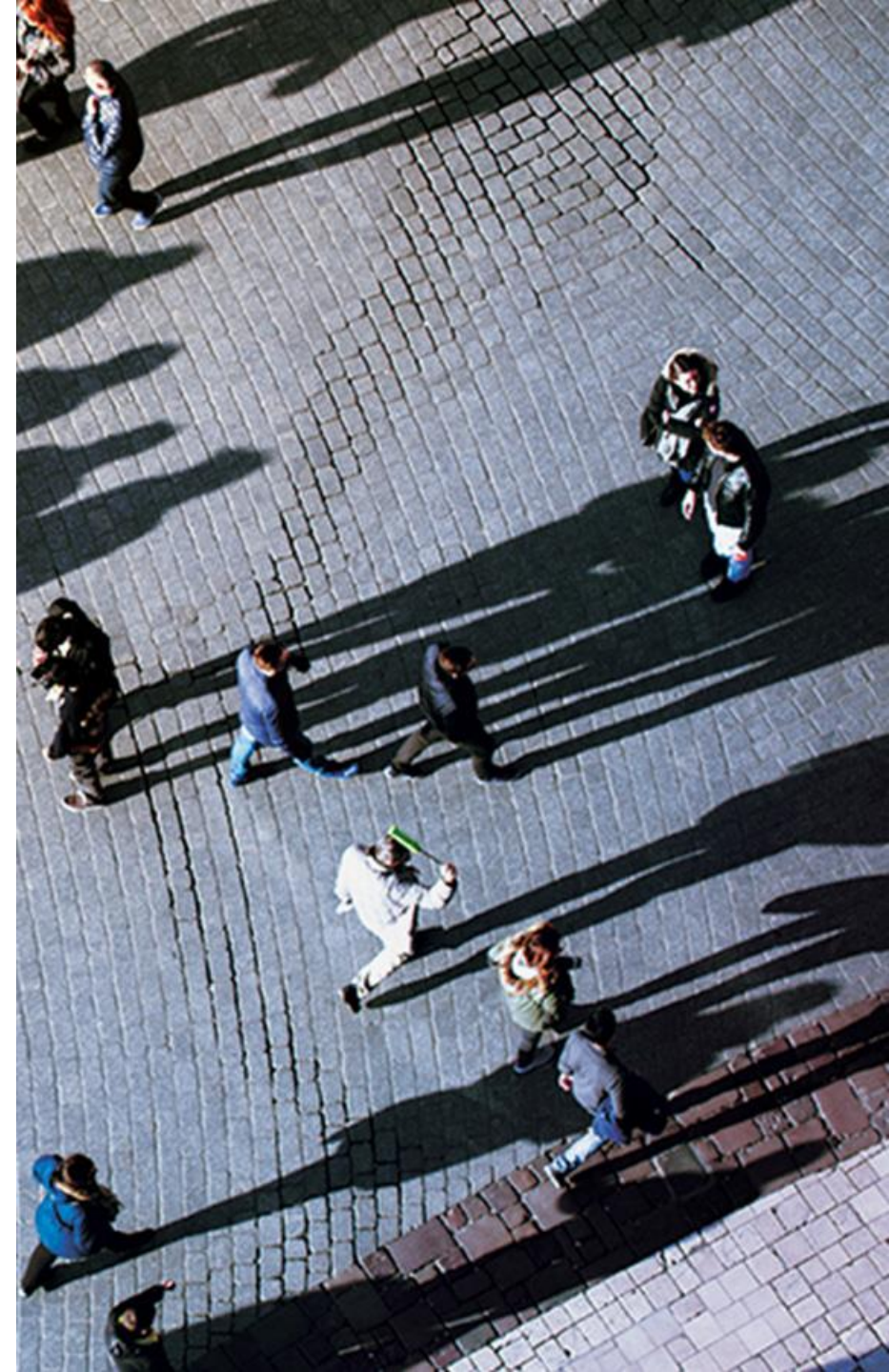
- Programme duration
- Scale and spread of resources
- Eligibility of all areas
- Diverse impacts and time lags
- Challenges of robust impact evaluation
- Universal Summative Assessment requirement



Strand 1: Relevance/Consistency

Purpose: Test Original Design and Continued Relevance and Consistency

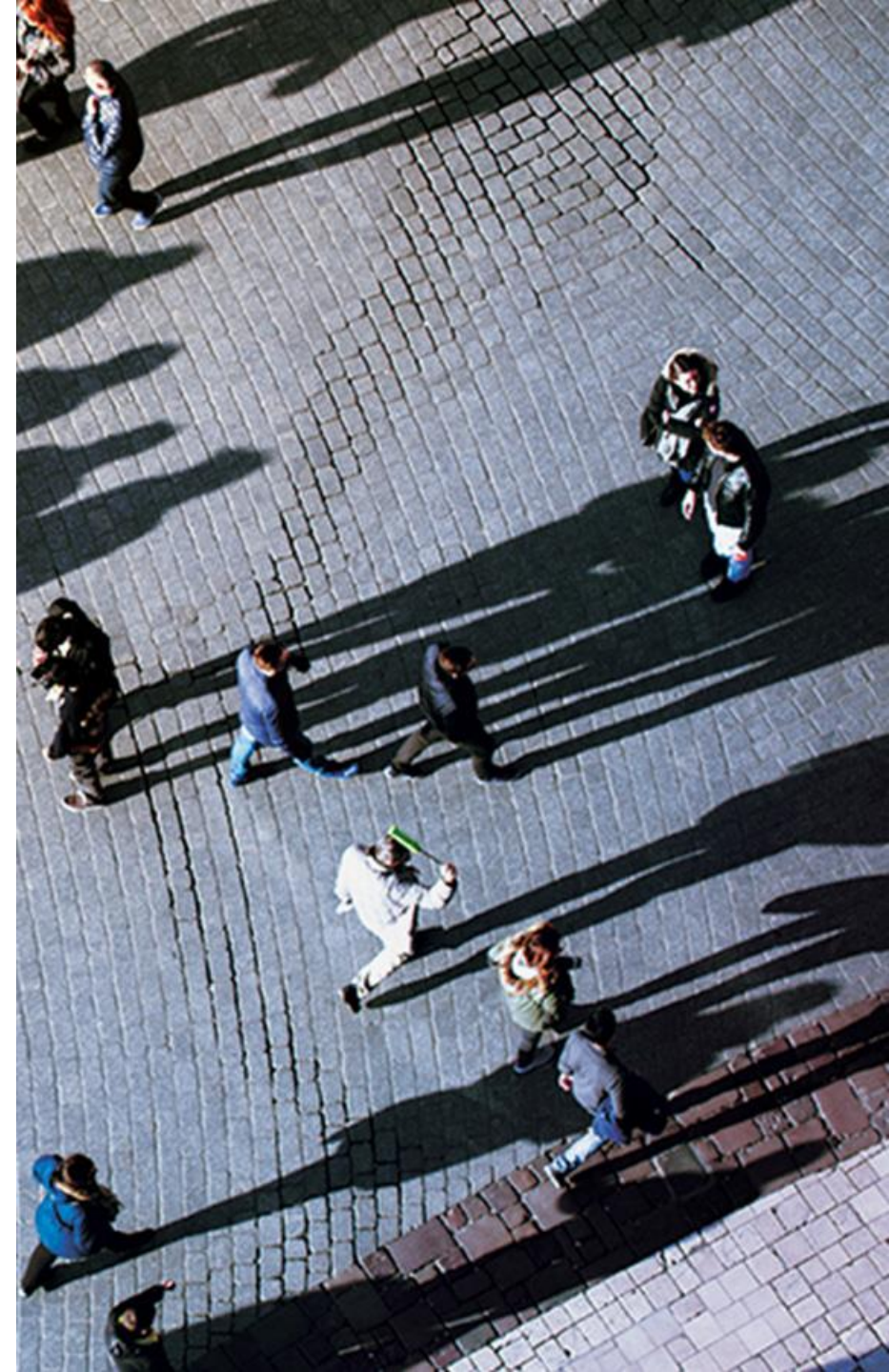
- Fairly straight forward to implement
- Light touch review Spring 2018 and full review end 2019
- Main uncertainty is outcome of Brexit negotiations



Strand 2: Review of Progress

Purpose: Review of progress against targets, forecast outturns and factors causing variation

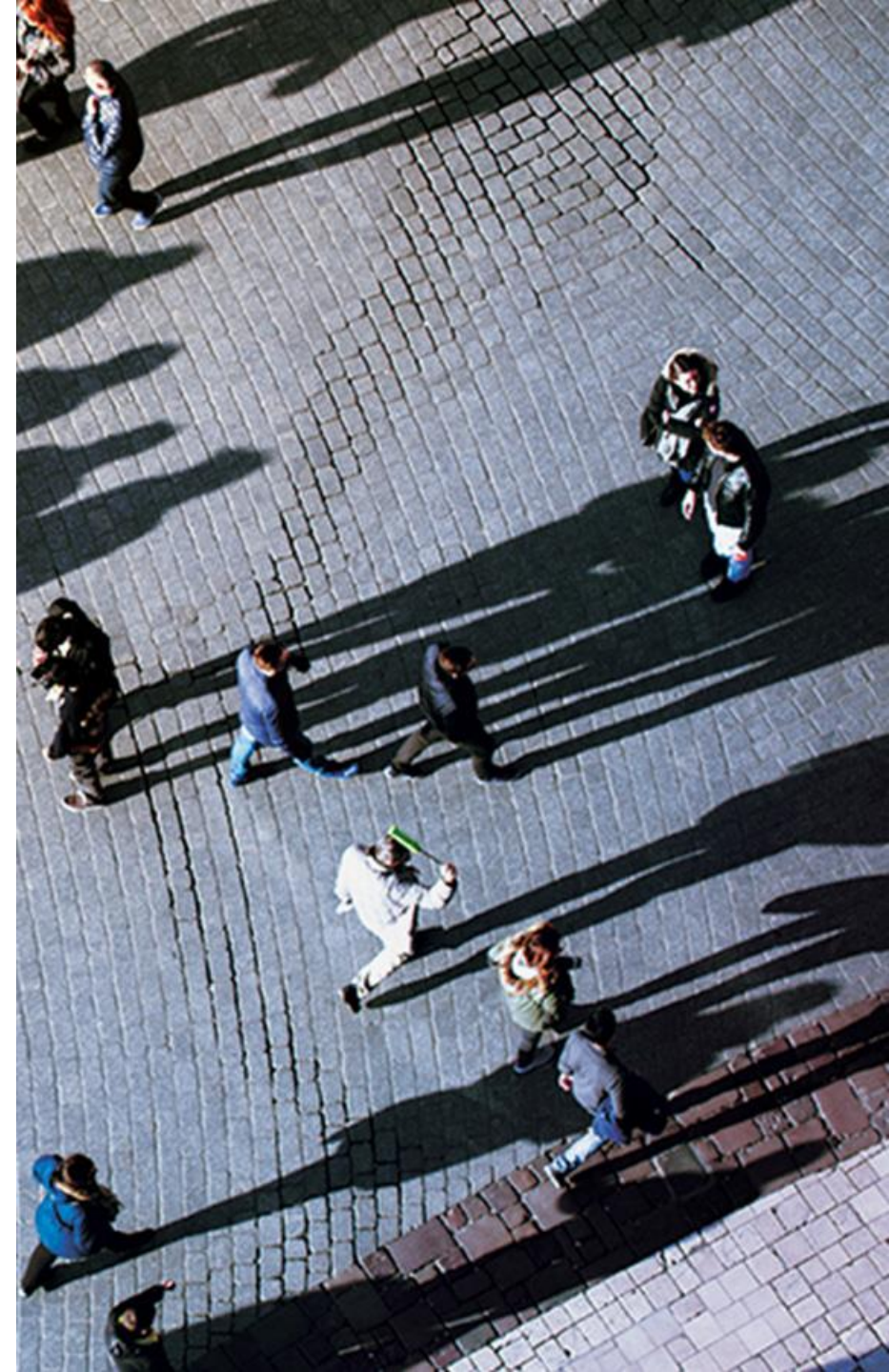
- Again, fairly straight forward to undertake performance to date
- Builds on work of MA and uses mostly quality assured performance data
- Initial assessment in Spring 2018, in-depth review Autumn 2019 and update later



Strand 3: Process Evaluation

Purpose: Review of implementation, delivery and management of programme

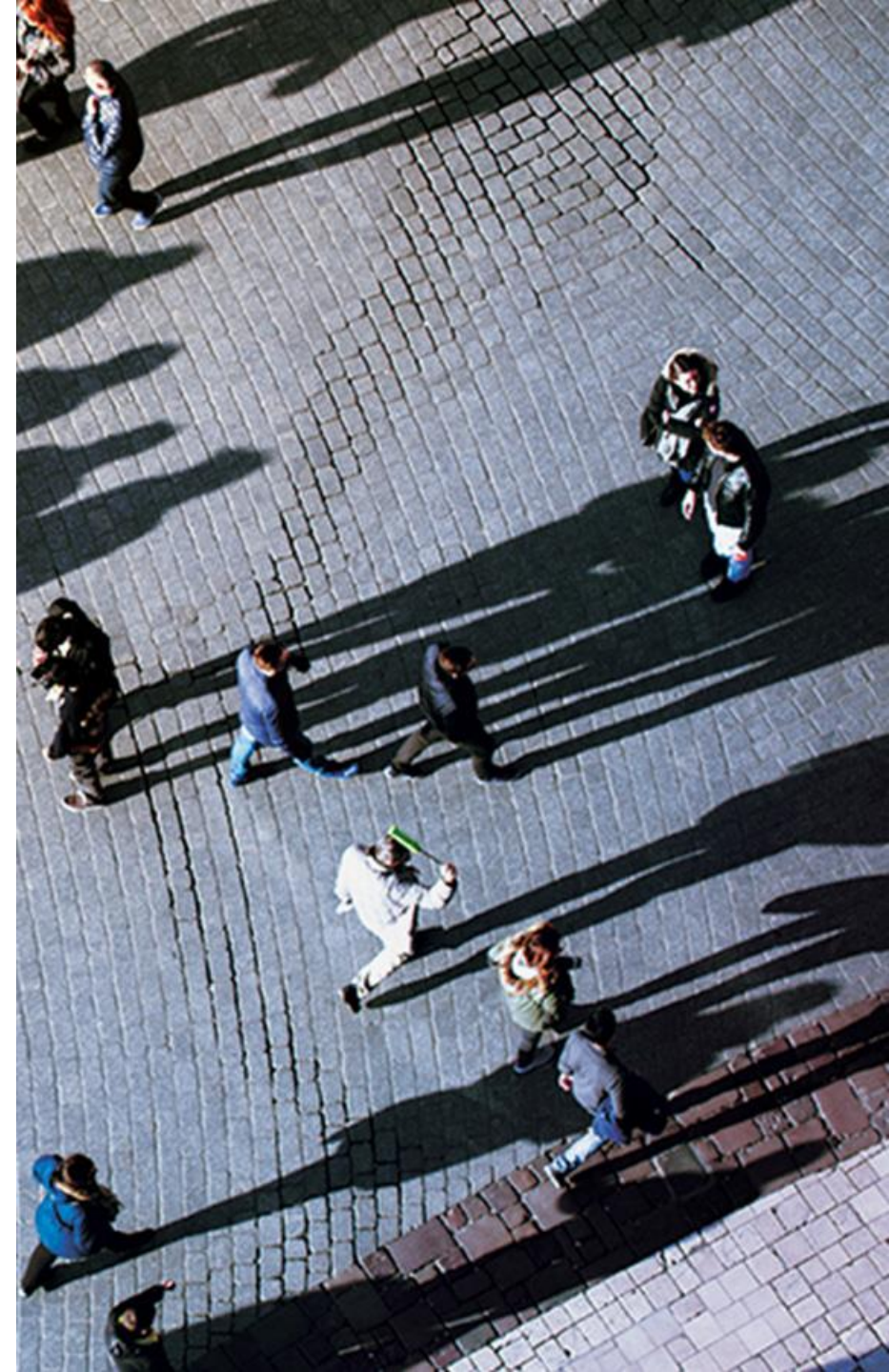
- Broad focus of analysis:
 - Role and involvement of local partners
 - The applicant experience
 - Management and governance
 - Information, advice and guidance
 - National and pan-LEP approaches
- Emphasis on analysing processes and extensive consultation
- Main analysis Spring 2018, with valuable lessons for future approaches



Strand 4: Impact Evaluation

Purpose: Assess relevant economic, environment and social impacts attributable to programme investments

- Emphasis on gathering robust impact evidence
- But resources and approaches need to be tailored
- Mixed methods needed including:
 - Counterfactual impact assessments
 - Beneficiary surveys
 - Project case studies
 - Project level Summative Assessments

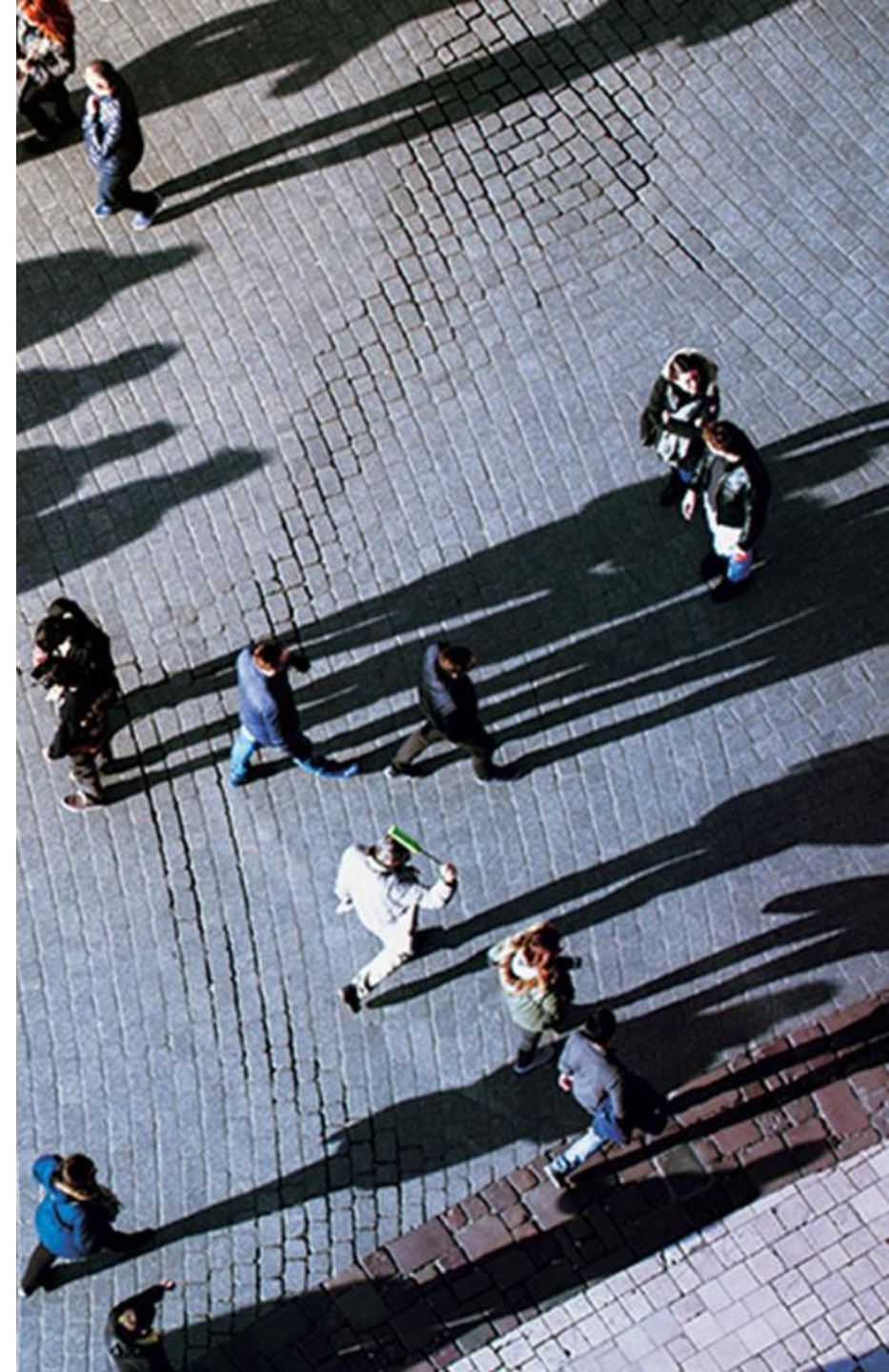


	National Evaluation Gathered Evidence			Project Summative Assessment Evidence		
	CIE assessment	Beneficiary surveys	Project case studies	CIE assessments	Qualitative assessments	Light touch assessments
Research and Innovation Infrastructure & Facilities	★	★	★ ★	★	★ ★ ★	★
Business Advice/ Guidance/ Finance for Start-ups	★ ★	★ ★	★	★ ★	★ ★ ★	★
Business Advice, Guidance and Finance for Established SMEs	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★	★ ★	★ ★ ★	★
Business Related Infrastructure			★ ★	★	★ ★ ★	★
Transport Infrastructure		★	★	★	★ ★ ★	★
Other Infrastructure			★	★	★ ★ ★	★
Low Carbon Generation			★	★	★ ★ ★	★
Resource/energy/efficiency			★	★	★ ★ ★	★
Community Led Local Development			★	★	★ ★ ★	★

Summary of the Sources of Impact Evaluation Evidence by Intervention Type				
Key: volume of evidence	★ ★ ★ = high	★ ★ = medium	★ = low	★ = very limited evidence
Key: robustness of impact evaluation evidence	High	Medium	Low	N/A

Strand 4: Impact Evaluation

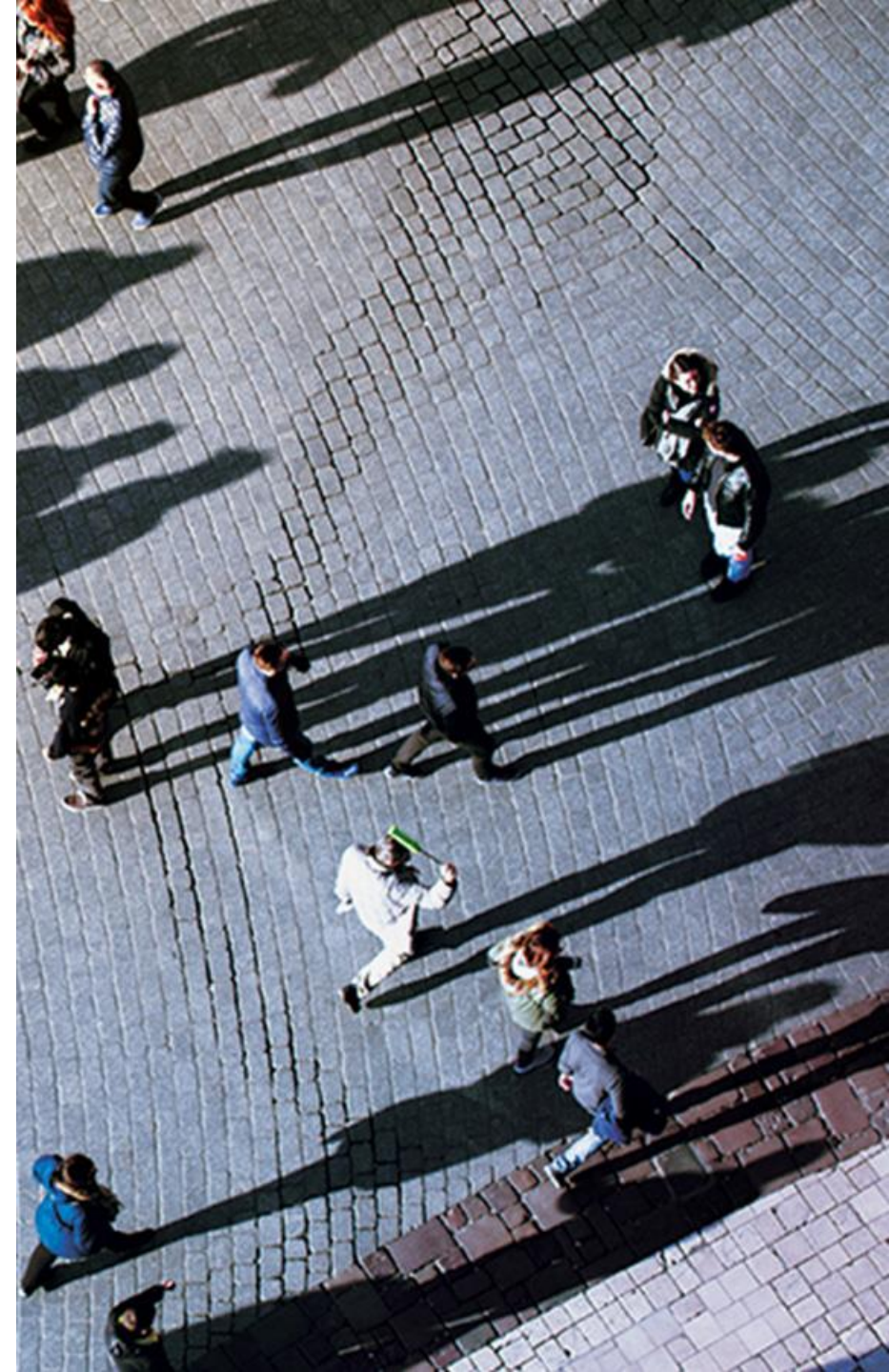
- Factors influencing success:
 - Need to ensure appropriate project data collection and availability
 - Ensuring good standards and consistency of Summative Assessments
 - Encouraging use of counterfactual methods by grant recipients
 - Sharing of evaluation experience and lessons
- But where attribution of impact not possible, SAs and other methods may provide valuable qualitative insight



Strand 5: Cost-Effectiveness

Purpose: Assess the overall cost-effectiveness of the ERDF programme, the Priority Axes and approaches

- Significant challenges due to:
 - Diverse mix of outcomes and impact
 - Variable robustness of net additionality estimates
 - Timing of impacts, etc
- Proposed approach is based on simple and limited number of unit costs
- Needs further exploration by Evaluators



Evaluation Programme

- Indicative timing of key outputs....
-although flexibility to adapt

	Spring 2018	Spring 2019	Autumn 2019	Autumn 2021
Strand 1: Relevance/Consistency	Initial Review		Detailed Assessment	Update (subject to prog status)
Strand 2: Review of Progress	Initial Review		Detailed Assessment	Update (subject to prog status)
Strand 3: Process Evaluation	Detailed Assessment		Light Touch Update	No Specific Proposal
Strand 4: Impact Evaluation	Confirmation of Methods & Support to GR	Development/conduct beneficiary surveys	First assessment of impacts	Full Programme Impact Assessment
Strand 5: Economic Evaluation	Confirmation of VFM Framework		Initial Assessment of Cost-effectiveness	Fill Cost-effectiveness Assessment



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Project Summative Assessments



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Why is it important?

- Programme evaluation is an EU requirement and SAs are a key input
- GFA requirement for all projects to submit a Summative Assessment in line with the guidance
- Also a valuable exercise for DCLG and government, Grant Recipients and local stakeholders



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What the SA guidance says

- Guidance issued to GR August 2017
- Summative assessments should be tailored to the specific project
- Key projects expected to undertake a more thorough summative assessment and their plans peer reviewed
- However, a number of basic principles followed to ensure consistency



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What the guidance says

- Main principles are:
 - Commensurate
 - Independent & externally commissioned
 - Standard coverage but tailored approaches
 - Encouragement of minimum standards
 - Use of consistent measures / definitions (esp around impact)



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What the guidance says

- The Summative Assessment process is broken down into 3 stages:
 - Planning
 - Data collection and reporting
 - Final Report
- Full process not applied if projects already in delivery, but SA still required in line with logic model



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What the guidance says

Planning of the Summative Assessment:

- Logic model
- Specification of additional indicators
- Summative Assessment plan
- Checks by Contract Managers



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What the guidance says

Data collection and reporting:

- Part of usual reporting systems
- Standard checks by Contracts Managers
- Access to data and selected projects for National Evaluators



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What the guidance says

Reporting and dissemination:

- Assessments form part of final claim:
 - Standard summary in excel format to enable analysis by National Evaluators
 - Full Summative Assessment reports
 - Use of standard data tables for key metrics
- Contracts Managers check compliance with GFA and SA guidance



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Availability of support

- In addition to guidance, various tools and templates to help Grant Recipients and evaluators
- Support will be available to grant recipients (and contract managers):
 - Contract Manager & Evaluation Champions in GDTs
 - National support for more technical issues
 - Engaging with TA teams locally.
- Signing-post to additional guidance



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Discussion

- How can GPB members promote the importance of project evaluation to grant recipients?
- What can be done to maximise the insight and value across all evaluation activity locally?



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