

DG REGIO Evaluation Plan 2009

DG REGIO's Evaluation Plan lists evaluations which the DG will undertake (or continue) as well as other activities related to evaluation which will be pursued by the DG.

(1) Ex post evaluation of ERDF in Objectives 1 and 2 programmes (2000-2006)

In 2007 and 2008, a significant number of evaluations were launched in the context of the 2000-2006 ex post evaluation of Objective 1 and 2 programmes (ERDF), as required by the Regulation 1260/99. This exercise is broken down into 11 interlinked and phased work packages (WP) – mostly contracted out - and will be finalised by the end of 2009. First interim results were already available in spring 2008.

(a) WP1: Co-ordination, analysis, synthesis

This study describes the macroeconomic background for Cohesion policy in the 2000-2006 period, analyses regional development trends, assesses the quality of strategies and assembles information facilitating the implementation of other work packages. This work package will also produce a synthesis report of all other work packages in early 2010 with conclusions and recommendations for the current period and the on-going policy debate.

(b) WP2: Data feasibility study

The study assembled information on physical indicators from 2006 Annual Reports of Objective 1 and 2 programmes co-financed by the ERDF as well as verified the availability of certain data. This work serves as an input for other work packages. It is planned that a similar exercise will be repeated in 2010, based on the Final Reports of programmes.

(c) WP3: Macro-economic modelling

The DG REGIO macroeconomic model will estimate the impact of Cohesion policy in Objective 1 regions. This will be complemented with results from the DG ECFIN model, QUEST, which covers all Member States.

(d) WP4: Structural change and globalisation

This study assesses the impact of Objective 2 programmes supporting regional structural change and enabling adaptation to globalisation. The research focuses on selected NUTS 2 level regions.

(e) WP5a: Effectiveness: Transport

The objective of the research is to evaluate the contribution of the ERDF to the development of the EU transport system. The study will collect information on the main financial and physical outcomes from the ERDF investments in transport infrastructure during 2000-2006. Several regional case studies will be developed highlighting the difference between Objective 1 and 2 strategies. The research will also prepare data for WP8 of this ex post evaluation.

(f) WP5b: Effectiveness: Environment and Climate Change

The objective of the study is to evaluate the contribution of the ERDF to the implementation of environmental strategies in the EU. It covers the ERDF interventions in the environmental sector as well as the contributions of the ERDF to mitigate the climate change. The research will be supported by regional and sectoral case studies.

(g) WP6: Effectiveness: productive environment, RTD, Innovation

The objective of this evaluation is to take stock of the various instruments used over the 2000-2006 period to promote the enterprise environment and innovation, and to explore their impacts. The research will be supported by regional and sectoral case studies.

(h) WP7: Effectiveness: Demographic change, gender issues

This evaluation assesses the impact of the ERDF in supporting gender equality and enabling adaptation to demographic change across the EU. On the basis of case studies, the utility and sustainability of interventions will be examined.

(i) WP8: Sectoral model on transport

The objective is to quantify the economic and environmental impacts resulting from ERDF interventions in the transport sector under Objective 1 and Objective 2 using the TRANS-tools model. The research will be conducted on the basis of 109 selected road and rail projects to establish their effects on regional GDP and the other economic aggregates. This model simulation will be carried out by the Institute of Prospective Technological Studies (IPTs) at the Joint Research Centre (JRC).

(j) Rural development

This evaluation assesses the nature and importance of the contribution of the ERDF to rural development and examines its impact on the basis of few regional case studies. It defines the role of the ERDF in rural development and analyses the difference between the ERDF and the EAGGF.

(k) Efficiency: Unit costs of major projects

The objective of this study is to evaluate the efficiency of ERDF major projects with respect to two aspects: (i) output efficiency: unit investment costs of infrastructure projects and completion times, together with an analysis of possible cost and time overruns; (ii) result efficiency: cost per job created by productive investments. The scope of the evaluation is a sample of 155 ERDF supported major projects under Objective 1 and 2 programmes.

(l) Management and implementation

The objectives of the evaluation are:

- In the EU10, to assess the effectiveness and sustainability of management and implementation systems as well as spill over effects on the overall institutional and administrative culture in these countries;

- In the EU15, to examine the added value of cohesion policy management and implementation systems in comparison to national and regional systems; and
- To examine the extent to which management and implementation systems support the integration of sustainable development in cohesion policy programmes across the EU.

(2) Other ex post evaluations

(a) **Ex post evaluation of Urban**

The evaluation analyses the impacts of selected 70 URBAN II programmes (2000-2006) on economic and social cohesion. This includes an assessment of the efficiency, effectiveness, Community added value and management of the programmes. In addition, the effects of the URBACT network for exchange of experience and good practice are examined.

(b) **Ex post evaluation of Interreg**

The evaluation analyses the impact of the INTERREG III Initiative in the 2000-2006 programming period in the following three areas:

- Strand A (cross-border cooperation);
- Strand B (transnational cooperation);
- Strand C (interregional cooperation) - including ESPON and INTERACT.

(c) **Ex post evaluation of ISPA**

The objective of this evaluation is to assess the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of ISPA. All types of projects co-financed by ISPA will be evaluated and the lessons to be learned identified. The Community added value obtained at national and EU level, with particular regard to contribution made to the development of TEN-T and implementation of the Community environmental *acquis*, will be also examined. This evaluation will be launched in 2009.

(d) **Ex post evaluation of the Cohesion Fund**

The study will evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of Cohesion Fund projects (2000-2006) for accountability purposes and to draw lessons for the current and future programming periods. This evaluation will be launched in 2009.

(e) **Ex post evaluation of 1994-1999 ERDF and Cohesion Fund projects**

The evaluation – covering around 60 ERDF and Cohesion Fund projects – will determine their impacts and critical success factors for use in the current and future programming periods. This evaluation will be launched in 2009.

(3) Evaluations relating to 2007-2013

(a) **Study on regional innovation governance**

The study focuses on governance of regional innovation strategies, financed in their totality or partly by Cohesion policy. It analyses different concepts and approaches to regional

innovation governance as well as their strengths and weaknesses in the given political, institutional and socio-economic context.

(b) Study on the translation of Article 16 of Regulation (EC) N°1083/2006 on the promotion of gender equality, non-discrimination and accessibility for disabled persons in Cohesion policy programmes 2007-2013 co-financed by the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund

The study will analyse gender equality, non-discrimination and disability issues in Cohesion policy programmes co-financed by the ERDF and Cohesion Fund in 2007-2013. Examples of good practice across the Member States and in selected policy areas will be identified and analysed.

(4) Other evaluation-related activities

(a) Update of EVALSED: the online resource for the evaluation of socio-economic development:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/evaluation/evalsed/index_en.htm

The objective of this contract is to review in order to update the content of the Sourcebook on evaluation methods and techniques and to provide new material in relation to models and counterfactual impact evaluation.

(b) Communication

Organisation of a series of events to publicise, discuss and disseminate evaluation results as well promote good practice in applying appropriate methodologies (hearings, DG REGIO Open Days, etc.). An international evaluation conference will also be organised by DG REGIO in co-operation with the Polish Ministry of Regional Development (October 2009).

(c) Evaluation Network with Member States

Two or three meetings with Member State representatives will be held in Brussels. The focus will be on reviewing and exchanging best practice and on developing capacity for monitoring and evaluation.

(d) Network of Evaluation Experts

External evaluation experts will be selected in each Member State to gather evaluation evidence and discuss it with national administrations and the Commission at regular meetings in Brussels.