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# CONFERENCE on the Evaluation of EU Cohesion Policy

16-17 September 2021 Porto, Portugal

## Shaping Transitions with Evidence



### Evaluation of the impact and effects of Operational Programme Transport (OPT) 2007 -2013

Ministry of transport, information technology and communications, Republic of Bulgaria  
(Managing Authority of Operational programme on "Transport")



#### FUND COVERED

► CF, ERDF

#### PROGRAMMING PERIOD

► 2007-2013

#### PROGRAMME COVERED

► Operational programme on Transport 2007-2013  
(Period of the Evaluation - 2007-2019)

#### THEMATIC OBJECTIVES

TO7. Transport and energy networks

#### TYPE OF EVALUATION

► Impact



#### YEAR OF COMPLETION

► 2020

#### MAIN OBJECTIVES

The main objective is to study and analyze the effects achieved by the projects, to assess their effectiveness and efficiency and to improve the decision making process for strategic problems and challenges in the transport sector.

#### Main evaluation questions:

- 1) Is there a difference with the intervention? How have investments led to a change?
- 2) What is the contribution/added value of the intervention?
- 3) In view of modifications of OPT 2007-2013, was the programme effectively working within the new context and if so, why?
- 4) What degree of integration into the European transport network has been achieved by the national transport system?

5) How has accessibility to settlements improved as a result of the projects implementation?

6) Is transport infrastructure less busy and was a balance between different transport modes achieved?

#### METHODOLOGY USED

The methodology and methods vary for the different evaluation questions.

Interpretation of data: counterfactual analysis, decomposition analysis, additional statistical analysis – DiD, integration of applicable case studies and CBA results, GAP analysis, contribution analysis, structured interviews with key stakeholder, etc.

#### DATA SOURCES

##### Programming documents

- Strategic documents
- Information systems and statistical information.

#### MAIN FINDINGS

OPT has achieved very good financial and physical implementation rates. The financial implementation rate is 98.6%. For the majority of product and output indicators above 90% of the targets have been achieved.

The net impact of the OPT is positive, the most tangible effects are seen on the labor market (employment and wages), the real GDP, exports of goods and services, private consumption, and public/private investment. Overall, the OPT impact is mostly seen in the regions of Southern Bulgaria.

Performance assessments and analysis of the macroeconomic impact show that infrastructure projects play an essential role in improving the competitiveness of the Bulgarian economy. They lead to

higher economic growth and to improvement in life quality. The efficiency analysis show that product performance was achieved at significantly lower average costs than the respective EU ones.

OPT demonstrates a high level of coherence with the strategic objectives and guidelines for development of transport policy at EU level, both at programming stage and after the programme modifications. The implementation of railway and urban transport projects has contributed to diversion of road traffic, reduction of private vehicles and carbon emissions. The contribution of OPT to environmental protection has been justified by the environmental benefits generated by the projects.

#### CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation was sent to the concerned parties, to take into consideration the proposed recommendations. The implementation of the recommendations will be reviewed.

Also the evaluation report was sent to the European Commission Services.

The evaluation was also presented to the Monitoring committee members and EC representatives in May 2021.



СТИГАМЕ ДАЛЕЧЕ



GETTING U FURTHER

#### LINKS

[www.eufunds.bg/en/optti/node/6552](http://www.eufunds.bg/en/optti/node/6552) - English version  
[www.eufunds.bg/bg/optti/node/6552](http://www.eufunds.bg/bg/optti/node/6552) - Bulgarian version