

Chapter 1. Introduction

1.1 Context of the project

The project "Examination of the evaluation culture" is financed under the Operational Programme Technical Assistance (OPTA), within the "Framework Agreement for evaluation of Structural Instruments during 2011-2015 - Lot 2 Capacity Building in the Field of Evaluation". The beneficiary is the Central Evaluation Unit of the Authority for the Coordination of Structural Instruments.

The above mentioned Framework Agreement is part of the projects financed under KAI 1.2 of the Operational Programme Technical Assistance in order to enhance the development of a common evaluation culture.

Namely, the project stems from the OPTA interim evaluation, completed in September 2010, according to which the evaluation culture concept in Romania is not tailored for the specificities of Structural Instruments and thus it is necessary to develop a monitoring mechanism which may assess and estimate the development of the evaluation culture related to Structural Instruments, both in qualitative and quantitative terms.

The **overall objective** of the project is to contribute to the improvement in the quality, efficiency and consistency of KAI 1.2 "Evaluation" of OPTA through the **provision of a monitoring mechanism** which can assess the level of achievement of the key area of intervention, namely the development of a common evaluation culture within the Structural Instruments management system, both in quantitative and qualitative terms.

The **specific objective** of this subsequent contract is to support the Evaluation Central Unit (ECU) and the MA of the OPTA in the:

- ▶ Development of the evaluation concept adapted to the peculiarities of EU funds and of the EU Cohesion Policy in Romania;
- ▶ Examination of the theory underlying the strategy of KAI 1.2 of OPTA and reporting on any issue related to its design or implementation;
- ▶ Development of a methodology for regular monitoring of the development of evaluation culture and establishment of the research panel;
- ▶ Annual quantification of the progress regarding the evaluation culture.

1.2 Contents of the report

This report represents the first Annual Measurement of the Evaluation Culture and it includes according to the Terms of Reference:

- ▶ an analysis of the current state of evaluation culture within the framework of Structural Instruments in Romania, consisting in the measurement of the achievement of evaluation culture among the structures involved in the management of Structural Instruments based on and ad-hoc Evaluation Culture Measurement Index (ECI);
- ▶ an analysis of the internal consistency of the design of KAI 1.2 as described in the programming and implementation documents and the analysis of the response in terms of project implemented in terms of contribution to the improvement of the level of diffusion of evaluation culture in the system of Structural Instruments.

The Report is structured in four chapters:

- ▶ **Chapter 1:** provides a description of the context of the project and of this report
- ▶ **Chapter 2:** provides an analysis of the current state of evaluation culture within the framework of Structural Instruments in Romania.
- ▶ **Chapter 3:** provides an analysis of KAI 1.2 of OPTA in terms of its design and of the response in terms of contracted project.

- ▶ **Chapter 4:** contains a set of conclusions based on the findings included in Chapter 2 and 3 and proposals for development of the future activities of KAI 1.2.