

1. Context of the evaluation

1.1. Objectives, scope and deliverables of the evaluation

1.1.1. Objectives

The general objective of this project is to analyze the way in which the principle of equal opportunities has been transposed / mainstreamed in all phases of Cohesion Policy Programmes in Romania under the European Social Fund, European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund.

Conclusions and recommendations are aimed at consolidating the equal opportunities dimensions in the current and future programming period. Examples of best/faulty practices in mainstreaming the equal opportunity at Programme level and of successful targeted interventions have also been identified. The specific objectives of the project are supporting ACIS and MAs for:

- ▶ offering a framework of trends, policies and agreements, emphasized at European and national level;
- ▶ transposing legal obligations and policies, as regards anti-discrimination, accessibility and gender equal opportunities, into implementation rules and procedures coherent with the relevant regulations;
- ▶ mainstreaming European agreements and Cohesion Policy objectives in relation to anti-discrimination, accessibility and gender equality of vulnerable groups in implementing rules and institutional aspects;
- ▶ defining targeted/ special interventions focusing on improving the opportunities of vulnerable groups and on assisting the beneficiaries to comply with relevant norms, for the current programming period and for the future one.

1.1.2. Evaluation questions

The evaluation covers the 7 Operational Programmes falling under Convergence Objective in Romania and answers to the following evaluation questions defined in the Terms of Reference:

Table 1: Evaluation Questions from ToR

EQ1. EUROPEAN AND NATIONAL FRAMEWORK RELEVANT FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES	EQ2. MAINSTREAMING OF THE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES PRINCIPLE IN SI PROGRAMMES
EQ1.1: Which are the areas / topics aimed at equal opportunities relevant for the Structural Instruments?	EQ2.1: How have the European and national provisions been mainstreamed into various stages of the Programmes related to the cohesion policy, co-financed through ESF, ERDF and the Cohesion Fund in Romania?
EQ1.2: Which is the national legal framework relevant for the equal opportunities?	EQ2.2: What other topics on equal opportunities have been promoted / mainstreamed in various OPs?
EQ1.3: Are there any European regulations or policies on equal opportunities which have not been mainstreamed into the national legislation?	EQ2.3: Are there any good practices in the mainstreaming of equal opportunities into the Structural Instruments framework?
EQ3. BARRIERS LIMITING ACCESS TO FINANCING	EQ4. TARGETED PROJECTS FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS
EQ3: To what extent have the existing programming and implementation mechanisms triggered access to financing for people in vulnerable groups?	EQ4.1: Which are the specific projects directed or dedicated to vulnerable groups?
	EQ4.2: Which of the specific projects directed or dedicated to vulnerable groups are identified as (having a potential of) good practices?