



UNIUNEA EUROPEANĂ



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## 2 Introduction

### 2.1 Background and context

This report is part of the Ex-ante Evaluation of the Partnership Agreement (PA), commissioned by the Ministry of European Funds (MEF) to the Consortium Ecorys Nederland – LIDEEA Development Actions srl. The Ex-ante Evaluation of the PA 2014-2020 is delivered under the framework agreement no. 23/22.08.2011 for the evaluation of structural instruments during the period 2011-2015, lot 1 – evaluations, subsequent contract no. 5.

One of the three objectives of the Ex-ante Evaluation of the PA is

- To ensure the adequate administrative capacity of the authorities and beneficiaries for a good implementation of the CSF funds.

According to the ToR, the evaluators are asked to respond to the question: “Is the authorities’ and beneficiaries’ administrative capacity sufficient for an appropriate implementation of CSF<sup>4</sup> funds?”

A first assessment of the administrative capacity of the authorities and beneficiaries was prepared and finalised in September 2013. The report aimed to inform the Ministry of European Funds on what is the current level of the administrative capacity, assessed on a selection of the most relevant dimensions and criteria, highlighting what worked and what did not work in the system, which weaknesses have to be addressed, and which strengths could be used in building the administrative capacity for the 2014-2020 period.

The present report is an update of the first assessment, aiming at reflecting the progress in strengthening the administrative capacity of the authorities and beneficiaries and the measures undertaken since 2013, when the first assessment was made.

Both reports presents comparatively the level of the administrative capacity in 2013 and 2014 using a selection of key dimensions, qualitative and quantitative indicators as well as a graphic representation.

The report includes the checklist of the administrative capacity of the authorities and beneficiaries as well as a database with the key indicators for the most relevant dimensions and variables of the administrative capacity, with the two measurements made in 2013 (for the first assessment) and in 2014 for the update of the assessment.

### 2.2 Evaluability of the administrative capacity of the beneficiaries and the authorities

The assessment of the administrative capacity of the authorities and beneficiaries is a very complex assignment, due to the large number of processes, institutions and factors that influence it. Therefore in this section we explain the frame, scope and limitations of the assessment that should be considered in interpretation and further using the conclusions and recommendations.

The general frame for the administrative capacity assessment is set by the European Funds and Investments Regulations 2014 2020 and by the regulations applicable for 2007-2013 programming

<sup>4</sup> We will use in this report the term European Structural and Investment Funds for all European funds providing financial resources for National Strategic Reference Framework, National Rural Development Programme, Operational Programme for Fishery 2007-2013 and the Partnership Agreement 2014-2020.