

### 3. Conclusions and recommendations

Conclusions	Recommendations
<b>EQ 1.1: External consistency with EU documents and strategies</b>	
<b>Consistency with Europe 2020 Strategy</b>	
<p><b>C1.</b> While the OPTA has <b>an overall indirect consistency</b> with the EU2020 Strategy, <b>a direct consistency</b> is observed for the following flagship initiatives of the EU 2020 strategy: <b>An agenda for new skills and jobs</b> and <b>Digital agenda for 2020</b>.</p> <p><b>C2.</b> Direct consistency has been identified at the level of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>SO 2.2.</b> <i>Developing and maintaining a functional and efficient information system to improve the correct management of information needed for the coordination and control of ESIF, as OPTA will finance the <b>development and maintenance of SMIS 2014+</b>, MySMIS+ and other related applications, and it will contribute to the creation of <b>interoperable applications</b> within the information management system of ESIF</i></li> <li>▶ <b>SO 3.1</b> <i>Developing an improved human resources management policy that ensures adequate stability, qualification and motivation for the staff that are working in the coordination, management and control system of the ESI funds, because actions of this SO will facilitate people from EFIS system to <b>acquire new skills and adapt to a changing labour market</b></i></li> </ul>	No specific recommendations
<b>Consistency with the Common Strategic Framework</b>	
<p><b>C3.</b> Overall, consistency of the draft OPTA with the Common Strategic Framework is observed with respect to Thematic Objective 11, through Specific Objectives 2.1 <i>Improving the regulatory, strategic and procedural framework for the coordination and implementation of ESIF</i> and 3.1 <i>Developing an improved human resources management policy that ensures adequate stability, qualification and motivation for the staff that are working in the coordination, management and control system of the ESI funds</i>.</p>	No specific recommendations
<b>Council country specific recommendations (National Reform Programme 2014)</b>	

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<p>C4. Consistency of OPTA with is identified with the Council country specific recommendations (the National Reform Programme 2014 for 3 Specific Objectives of the OPTA):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ SO 1.1. on beneficiaries capacity, for actions related to promotion of financial instruments, is consistent with the NRP priority to launch and implementation of the JEREMIE instrument to guarantee the interest subsidy and credit risk taking</li> <li>▶ SO 2.1. related to the regulatory, strategic and procedural framework is <b>consistent</b> with NRP key action concerning the redefinition of the strategic, institutional and legislative framework in the area of public management as actions 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 finance <b>analyses, studies</b> related to programming, implementation, monitoring and control, horizontal training related to public procurement, irregularities, conflicts of interests etc.</li> <li>▶ SO 3.1. related to human resources is <b>consistent</b> with the action to organize specialised training programmes in the context of increasing the efficiency and transparency of the public administration of NRP, because action 3.1.1 finances <b>specialised training for FESI staff</b>, in fields such as team management, conflict management, time management, leadership and others</li> </ul> <p>C5. OPTA is also <b>consistent</b> with the Council Recommendation to improve the quality of regulations through the use of impact assessments, and systematic evaluations, through Action 2.1.2 Evaluation at the level of PA and OPTA, LIOP and COP level and increasing the evaluation culture for ESIF.</p>	<p>No specific recommendations</p>
<b>Consistency with Partnership Agreement</b>	
<p>C6. Technical Assistance is a horizontal and transversal component of ESIF and it is not directly linked to thematic objectives. However, given the nature of OPTA to ensure the capacity and instruments necessary for an efficient coordination, management and control of ESIF, and an efficient, well oriented and correct implementation of OPTA, LIOP and COP, it is appropriate to assess the consistency of the OPTA with the Thematic Objective 11 of the PA.</p> <p>C7. Overall, consistency of the draft OPTA with Thematic Objective 11, <i>Enhancing institutional capacity and an effective public administration</i> of the Partnership Agreement has been identified for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ SO 1.2, related to <i>communication transparency and effectiveness</i>, for PA priorities for funding which refer to strengthening participatory dimension consultation and participation mechanisms in decision-making, and to strengthening the participation mechanisms to deliver efficient public services at local level</li> <li>▶ SO 2.1, related to the <i>regulatory, strategic and procedural framework</i> of ESIF, for PA priorities for funding</li> </ul>	<p>No specific recommendations</p>

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<p>which refer to development of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, development of skills in the areas of strategic planning, use of management, monitoring and evaluation systems and tools for an improved institutional and public services performance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ SO 2.2, related to the <i>development and maintenance of a functional and efficient information system</i> to improve the correct management of information needed for the coordination and control of ESIF, is consistent with PA priorities for funding which refer to development of monitoring mechanisms for the implemented strategies and policies, and development and use of IT tools and applications to enhance institutional capacity.</li> <li>▶ SO 3.1. on <i>human resources management policy</i> is consistent with PA priorities for funding which refer to <i>creation and implementation of an integrated strategic framework</i> for human resources management in public sector.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>EQ 1.2: To what extent is there consistency with other relevant instruments (policies, strategies)?</b></p>	
<p><b>Consistency with the Technical Assistance priority axis of Regional Operational Programme</b></p>	
<p><i>C8. No risk of potential overlap has been identified</i></p> <p><b>C9. The following complementarities were identified</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>OPTA Specific Objective 1.2</b> is <b>complementary</b> with the ROP, action Support ROP's specific communication and promotion activities (production and distribution of information and promotion materials because OPTA finances horizontal communication and promotion activities, while ROP finances specific communication activities for ROP</li> <li>- <b>OPTA Specific Objective 2.1</b> is <b>complementary</b> with ROP on actions related to support for the MA to manage the ROP, to organizational and logistic support for committees involved in program implementation, because OPTA provides horizontal support for the system, including ROP, while ROP Technical Assistance provides specific support for ROP.</li> </ul>	<p>No specific recommendation</p>

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<b>Consistency with the Technical Assistance axis of Human Capital Operational Programme</b>	
<p><i>C10. No risk of potential overlap has been identified</i></p> <p><b>C11. The following complementarities were identified</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>OPTA Specific Objective 1.1 is complementary</b> with HC OP interventions of Technical Assistance that support OP HC beneficiaries to develop and implement OPHC projects because OPTA provides horizontal support and training for ESIF beneficiaries, and specific for LIOP, OPTA and COP, while HC OP technical assistance provides specific support and training for HC OP beneficiaries</li> <li>▶ <b>OPTA Specific Objective 1.2 is complementary</b> with HC OP interventions of technical assistance that aim at creating and operating an efficient help-desk mechanism for beneficiaries, at the elaboration and implementation of the communication strategy and plan for OP HC, and of communication campaigns, because OPTA finances these types of activities for the system overall, while HC OP finances these only for specific issues of the HC OP.</li> <li>▶ <b>OPTA Specific Objective 2.1. is complementary</b> with the HC OP intervention of Technical Assistance to support the Managing Authority and Intermediate Bodies (including staff costs) on various stages of POCU implementation, because OPTA provides support for the MAs and IBs of OPTA, LIOP, COP, while HC OP provides support for the HC OP MA and IBs. Also, the two OPs are complementary on evaluation activities.</li> </ul> <p><b>OPTA Specific Objective 2.2 is complementary with the HC OP intervention of technical assistance to procure and install IT and office equipment necessary for implementation of the programme, because OPTA finances the overarching IT system (SMIS and related applications), while HC OP finances IT and office equipment that allow the effective use of SMIS and other applications.</b></p>	<p>No specific recommendation</p>
<b>Consistency with Administrative Capacity Operational Programme</b>	
<p><i>C12. No risk of potential overlap has been identified</i></p> <p><b>C13. The following complementarities were identified</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>OPTA Specific Objective 1.2 is complementary</b> with the ACOP operations to consolidate structures, processes and competencies at the level of institutions and authorities from central public administration, because both OPs support networking and exchange of experience with other national or European institutions</li> <li>▶ <b>OPTA Specific Objective 2.1. is complementary</b> with the ACOP operation to increase transparency,</li> </ul>	<p>No specific recommendation</p>

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<p>integrity and responsibility at the level of public authorities institutions, because they both finance actions related conflict of interest, incompatibilities, antifraud</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>OPTA Specific Objective 2.2</b> is <b>complementary</b> with AC OP, because AC OP finances the creation of mechanisms for coordination and collaboration between relevant stakeholders, including IT solutions, while OPTA finances IT systems and applications that allow the collaboration and coordination of relevant stakeholders in managing the monitoring of the OPs</li> </ul> <p><b>C14. OPTA Specific Objective 3.1</b> is <b>complementary</b> with AC OP operations to strengthen the capacity of institutions and authorities from public administration because they both finance actions related to networking and exchange of experience with other national or European institutions. Moreover, the two are complementary on human resources policy related measures, because they both finance actions related to performance management, motivational policies, and human resources policy in general. OPTA finances this type of activity for ESIF system and project initiatives will be launched by the MEF, while AC OP finances this activity for the national public administration.</p>	
<p><b>Consistency with the National Rural Development Programme</b></p>	
<p><b>C15.</b> No risk of potential overlap has been identified</p> <p><b>C16. The following complementarities were identified</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>OPTA Specific Objective 1.1</b> is complementary with the NRDP technical assistance measure to increase administrative and management competencies of beneficiaries' staff, because OPTA finances horizontal trainings for ESIF (potential) beneficiaries and specific for LIOP, COP and OPTA, while NRDP finances the increase of management competencies for NRDP beneficiaries' staff</li> <li>▶ <b>OPTA Specific Objective 1.2</b> is complementary with the NRDP technical assistance measure to implementing a NRDP information and promotion campaign through information, communication and promotion activities, because OPTA finances horizontal and LIOP, COP and OPTA specific information and publicity activities, while NRDP finances NRDP related information, communication and promotion activities. Moreover, the OPTA is complementary on actions related to partnership culture development, more specifically with NRDP measure to enhance network collaboration through stakeholders' involvement and exchange of information and good practice.</li> <li>▶ <b>OPTA Specific Objective 2.1</b> is complementary with the NRDP technical assistance measure regarding the fight against corruption with impact on financial management, expenditure transparency and control efficiency., because OPTA finances activities related to antifraud, conflicts of interest, transparency, on a horizontal level and specific for LIOP, COP and OPTA, and NRDP finances this</li> </ul>	<p>No specific recommendation</p>

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type of activities for NRDP only. Moreover, the two programmes are complementary on evaluation activities.	
<b>Consistency with the Fisheries Operational Programme</b>	
N/A	No specific recommendation
<b>Consistency with the Strategy for Consolidation of Public Administration Capacity</b>	
C17. No risk of potential overlap has been identified	No specific recommendation
<p>C18. <b>The following complementarities were identified</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>OPTA Specific Objective 1.2</b> is consistent with SCPAC action to finance information and promotion campaigns because they both finance information and promotion campaigns. Also, there is complementarity with respect to OPTA action to support the partnership culture, as SCPAC supports the consolidation of associative structure capacity of the local public administration authorities.</li> <li>▶ <b>OPTA Specific Objective 2.1</b> is consistent with SCPAC of interventions related to fraud prevention, identification of conflict of interest, the realisation of guides and methodologies that facilitate internal processes, realisation of guides of good practice and promotion of best practices, support for the elaboration of methodologies and methodology frameworks for monitoring. Also, OPTA and SCPAC are complementary on activities related increasing the “evaluation culture”.</li> <li>▶ <b>OPTA Specific Objective 2.2</b> is consistent with SCPAC and its intervention related to IT solutions for the efficiency of the public administration, because they both finance the provision of IT solutions for the efficiency of the public administration.</li> <li>▶ <b>OPTA Specific Objective 3.1</b> is consistent with SCPAC action to adapt the policies and the human resources system to the objectives and demands of a modern administration, in respect to training and counselling activities for staff</li> </ul>	No specific recommendation
<b>Consistency for the EU strategy for the Black Sea</b>	
C19. Consistency is identified between the OPTA and the EU strategy for the Black Sea in terms of support provided for development of projects in areas such as environment, energy and transport because OPTA provides technical assistance to Large Infrastructure OP beneficiaries who may develop and implement energy, environment or transport projects, but also to the managing structures of LIOP to implement the programme	No specific recommendations

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<b>Consistency for the EU Strategy for the Danube Region</b>	
C20. Consistency is identified between the OPTA and the EU Strategy for the Danube Region in terms of support provided for development of projects in areas such as environment, energy and transport and also for the managing structures of LIOP to implement the programme.	No specific recommendations
<b>Consistency for Horizon 2020</b>	
C21. The two programmes – Horizon 2020 and OPTA - target different types of interventions, and they are neutral in all aspects	No specific recommendations
<b>Consistency for COSME Programme</b>	
C22. Consistency is identified between OPTA and COSME programme in terms of initiatives taken to diminish the administrative burden for its users / target public.	No specific recommendations
<b>Consistency for Creative Europe</b>	
C23. The two programmes – Creative Europe and OPTA - target different types of interventions, and they are neutral in all aspects.	No specific recommendations
<b>Consistency for Social Change and Innovation</b>	
C24. Consistency is identified between OPTA and the PROGRESS programme of Social Change and Innovation because OPTA supports communication activities on horizontal principles such as gender equality or anti-discrimination, and the functioning of working groups focused on these principles	No specific recommendations
<b>Consistency for Connecting Europe Programme</b>	
C25. Consistency is identified between OPTA and Digital Service Infrastructures of Connecting Europe on actions related to infrastructures of digital services, because OPTA finances SMIS 2014+, My SMIS which centralize the information on projects implemented in the ESIF system	No specific recommendations
<b>EQ 2.1: How is the internal consistency of the programme ensured?</b>	
<b>Needs assessment</b>	

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<p>C26. The needs identified in Section 1 of the OPTA provide a <b>clear and structured image of the local context</b> in terms of needs for technical assistance and they cover relevant themes.</p> <p>C27. The <b>needs are structured around 3 major categories</b>, with referring to beneficiaries and information and publicity, the ESIF system and human resources with a distinction between needs for horizontal support and specific support for LIOP, COP and OPTA.</p> <p>The needs are presented in a hierarchical structure, as displayed in the below:</p> <p><b>1. Administrative capacity of beneficiaries</b> in the preparation and implementation of projects financed from ESIF and information and communication regarding ESIF and partnership culture in the management and implementation of ESIF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1.1. The need to strengthen the project management capacity of beneficiaries of ESIF, OPTA, LIOP and COP as a robust basis for further development</li> <li>- 1.2 The need for information and publicity regarding ESIF, OPTA, LIOP and COP, as well as the development of partnership culture in the implementation of ESIF</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Administrative capacity and providing the necessary tools for coordination, management and control of ESIF</b>, including by ensuring the evaluation function and operation of SMIS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2.1. Need to improve the legal and procedural framework for the coordination and control of ESIF, as well as management of OPTA, LIOP and COP</li> <li>- 2.2. The need to develop and improve SMIS, and electronic information exchange systems</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Human resources</b> involved in the coordination, management and control for projects financed with SI / ESIF - including training of staff from these structures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 3.1. The need for development of an improved human resources quality and management policy for the staff involved in the coordination, management and control of ESIF</li> </ul> <p>C28. The main points outlined by the needs assessment are supported by <b>evidence information</b>, by making reference to a variety of reports, or other relevant national and European documents</p>	<p>No specific recommendations</p>
<b>Overall Programme Strategy</b>	
<p>C29. Overall, the logic of intervention of the OPTA is <b>coherent and follows a logical structure</b>, starting from identification of <b>needs</b> which are grouped into three categories.</p> <p>These needs are addressed through three <b>priority axes</b>, PA 1 and PA having two specific objectives each, and PA having 1 specific objective. PA 1 focuses on beneficiaries and information and communication activities, PA 2 is centred on the ESIF system overall, and PA 3 is concentrated around the human resources of the ESIF structures.</p>	<p><b>No specific recommendation</b></p>



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<p>The <b>specific objectives</b> are consistent with the needs identified, and they capture them appropriately. The <b>expected results</b> of these specific objectives correctly envisage a desired change. Moreover, the result indicators are relevant for the specific objective, and the <b>actions</b> proposed for each specific objective are appropriate. The specific actions proposed for the specific objectives, which are implemented through grants, are suitable for the action.</p>	
<b>EQ 2.2: Are the proposed support forms the most appropriate?</b>	
<p><i>C30.</i> Overall, the forms of support proposed by OPTA are appropriate in terms of contributing to the realisation of the specific objective to which they correspond.</p> <p><i>C31.</i> The analysis revealed that the forms of support and specific actions related to information management system (SMIS 2014+ and related activities) are appropriate, despite the fact that similar forms of support had a low performance in during 2007-2013. This raises attention with respect to other factors which may have contributed to the low performance of these forms of support, such as low capacity of the SMIS Central Unit, insufficient staff or excessive workload. In terms of support for the capacity of the SMIS Central Unit, the OPTA already provides the necessary support, both under SO 1.1 and SO 2.2. However, actions related to increasing the headcount of the Unit cannot be implemented by the OPTA.</p>	<p>No specific recommendation is made with respect to the forms of support proposed by OPTA and their correspondent specific actions.</p> <p>R1. In order to avoid blockages in the information management system and low performance of the OP overall, the Ministry of European Funds should take into account measures which can increase the capacity of the SMIS Central Unit, and which cannot be approached by the OP (such as increasing the staff of the Unit).</p>
<b>EQ 3: To what extent is the allocation of financial resources consistent with the Programme objectives?</b>	
<p><i>C32.</i> PA 1: the size of allocation for Priority Axis No. 1 adequately expresses the development need for an increased administrative capacity of the beneficiaries in the implementation of projects financed by SI/ESI funds identified in the OPTA.</p> <p><i>C33.</i> PA 2: The allocation to Priority Axis 2 adequately addresses the development needs in the area of administrative capacity and providing the necessary tools for coordination, management and control of funds ESI, including ensuring the evaluation function and operation of SMIS.</p> <p><i>C34.</i> PA 3: Increase in the funding dedicated to the efficiency of human resources, compared to 2007-2013, is adequate given the identified development needs.</p>	<p>R2. No specific recommendations.</p>
<b>EQ 4: To what extent the indicators proposed in the program are relevant and clear?</b>	
<p><i>C35.</i> Result indicators:</p> <p>► <b>SO 1.1.</b> Strengthening the capacity of beneficiaries of ESI funds to prepare and implement mature projects</p>	<p>R3. <b>Result indicator 1.1:</b> No specific recommendation</p>

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<p><b>Result indicator 1.1</b> <i>Projects that have an absorption rate of more than 70 percent of the total number projects whose development was supported through OP TA (%)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Result indicator is <b>relevant</b> for the specific objective.</li> </ul> <p>▶ <b>SO 1.2.</b> <i>Ensuring communication transparency and credibility regarding ESIF and the role of the EU Cohesion Policy</i></p> <p><b>Result indicator 1.2.</b> <i>Level of awareness with respect to projects co-financed by the EU</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Result indicator is <b>relevant</b> for the specific objective.</li> </ul> <p>▶ <b>SO 2.1.</b> <i>Improving the regulatory, strategic and procedural framework for the coordination and implementation of ESIF</i></p> <p><b>Result indicator 2.1.</b> <i>The share of beneficiaries that consider the procedures regarding ESIF to be adequate (%)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Result indicator is <b>relevant</b> for the specific objective</li> </ul> <p>▶ <b>SO 2.2.</b> <i>Developing and maintaining a functional and efficient information system for SFC, as well as strengthening the capacity of its users</i></p> <p><b>Result indicator 2.2.</b> <i>The degree of use of SMIS 2014 + for reporting obligations to the EC at the level of the OP</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Result indicator is <b>relevant</b> for the specific objective.</li> </ul> <p>▶ <b>SO 3.1.</b> <i>Developing an improved human resources management policy that ensures adequate stability, qualification and motivation for the staff that are working in the coordination, management and control system of the ESI funds</i></p> <p><b>Result indicator of SO 3.1.</b> <i>Average annual staff turnover of ESI system structures lower than 10%</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Result indicator is <b>relevant</b> for the specific objective</li> </ul> <p><b>Result indicator of SO 3.1.</b> <i>Average of grades obtained at evaluation of staff from the coordination, management and control system of ESIF</i> Result indicator is <b>relevant</b> for the specific objective</p>	<p><b>Result indicator 1.2:</b> No specific recommendation</p> <p><b>Result indicator 2.1:</b> No specific recommendation</p> <p><b>Result indicator: 2.2</b> No specific recommendation.</p> <p><b>Result indicators for 3.1:</b> No specific recommendation</p>
<p>C36. Output indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>SO 1.1.</b> Indicators are clear and relevant.</li> <li>▶ <b>SO 1.2.</b> Indicators are clear and relevant.</li> <li>▶ <b>SO 2.1.</b> Indicators are clear and relevant.</li> <li>▶ <b>SO 2.2:</b> Indicators are clear and relevant.</li> <li>▶ <b>SO 3.1:</b> Indicators are clear and relevant.</li> </ul>	<p>R4. <b>SO 1.1:</b> No specific recommendation</p> <p><b>SO 1.2:</b> No specific recommendation</p> <p><b>SO 2.1:</b> No specific recommendation</p> <p><b>SO 2.2:</b> No specific recommendation</p> <p><b>SO 3.1:</b> No specific recommendation</p>

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<b>EQ 5.1: How will the estimated outputs contribute to results?</b>	
<p>C37. There is a causal link between the estimated output and intended results for each Specific Objective. Assumptions underlying the results chains are plausible.</p>	<p>No specific recommendations</p>
<b>EQ 5.2: To what extent are the results influenced by external factors, including by other instruments?</b>	
<p>C38.</p> <p><b>Among the factors which may influence result indicator 1.1</b> <i>Projects that have an absorption rate of more than 70 percent of the total projects whose development was supported through OP TA (%)</i> the following are included: economic situation in the country, institutional changes and political instability, beneficiaries' capacities and heavy workload, changes in the public procurement rules and procedures, the quality of consultancy services provided for beneficiaries, the development level of the local training market, the motivation level of beneficiaries.</p> <p><b>Among the factors which may influence result indicator 1.2.</b> <i>Level of awareness with respect to projects co-financed by the EU</i> the following are included: economic situation in the country, institutional changes and political instability, beneficiaries' capacities and heavy workload, changes in the public procurement rules and procedures, public perception of ESI funds in the general public.</p> <p><b>Among the factors which may influence result indicator 2.1.</b> <i>The share of beneficiaries who find the procedures for ESI funds appropriate (%)</i> the following are included: economic situation in the country, institutional changes and political instability, beneficiaries' capacities and heavy workload, changes in the public procurement rules and procedures, the capacity for conducting evaluation.</p> <p><b>Among the factors which may influence result indicator 2.2.</b> <i>The degree of use of SMIS 2014 + for reporting obligations at the level of the OP</i> the following are included: economic situation in the country, institutional changes and political instability, beneficiaries' capacities and heavy workload, changes in the public procurement rules and procedures.</p> <p><b>Among the factors which may influence result indicator 3.1.</b> <i>Average annual staff turnover of ESI system structures</i> the following are included: economic situation in the country, institutional changes and political instability, beneficiaries' capacities and heavy workload, changes in the public procurement rules and</p>	<p>No specific recommendations</p>

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<p>procedures, the development level of the local training market.</p> <p><b>Among the factors which may influence result indicator 3.1.</b> Average evaluation rating of the staff in the ESIF system the following are included: economic situation in the country, institutional changes and political instability, beneficiaries' capacities and heavy workload, changes in the public procurement rules and procedures, the development level of the local training market</p>	
<b>EQ 5.3: Are quantified target values of the indicators realistic, having in mind the funding available?</b>	
<p><b>C39.</b> Plausibility of most of the target values could not be assessed due to lack of data. In those cases when the assessments could be made, plausibility level of target values proved to be high or medium.</p>	<p><b>R5.</b> In those cases when the plausibility of the target value is medium, it is recommended to revise the target value in the middle of the programming period.</p>
<b>EQ 6: To what extent are the selected indicators and intermediate and final targets (milestones) for the performance framework adequate?</b>	
<p><b>C40.</b> Since the performance framework is not required for the Technical Assistance Operational Programmes, the analysis regarding the performance framework of this evaluation question will not be made.</p>	<p>No specific recommendations</p>
<b>EQ 7: To what extent are the human resources and administrative capacity adequate to manage the Programme?</b>	
<p><b>C41.</b> The choice of continuity in the structure in charge with the management of OPTA 2007-2013 and for 2014-2020 sets the premises for a sound implementation of the future OP. Nevertheless organizational and human resource aspects required specific attention.</p> <p><b>C42.</b> The new organizational asset of the Ministry of European Funds should ensure a clear distinction between the tasks of MA OPTA 2014-2020, other MAs and the horizontal coordination role of MEF.</p> <p><b>C43.</b> Based on the discussions with Programme stakeholders, the staff of MA OPTA 2014-2020 will be carrying out in parallel activities related to the implementation and closure of OPTA 2007-2013 which will generate additional workloads if the headcount remains unchanged.</p> <p><b>C44.</b> The implementation of the OPTA has been negatively affected by the low capacity of beneficiaries, including those structures currently integrated in MFE, to prepare and implement projects in particular in what pertains public procurement issues, while the burden related to administrative project implementation has created additional workload and delays.</p>	<p><b>R6.</b> The new organizational structure for MFE should ensure a clear definition of functions and roles and staff allocation for the management and implementation of the OPTA. Allocated headcount should be increased and staff with relevant experience should be recruited.</p> <p><b>R7.</b> In order to avoid potential conflict of interest within the MA OPTA, the implementation function should not be integrated in the MA.</p> <p><b>R8.</b> In order to reduce the administrative work on projects at the level of contract implementation in the MA, it is recommended to simplify the procedures and to give particular attention to Simplification Cost Options, and investigate the potential interventions for which SCOs could be used</p>

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<p>C45. The implementation function, a part of the MA at the moment, will carry out activities correspondent to the MEF as EU funds beneficiary, for the projects implemented by MEF. This can potentially increase the conflict of interest within the MA OPTA.</p> <p>C46. Administrative requirements related to contract implementation have on the other hand according to Programme stakeholders determined additional workload at contract beneficiary level</p> <p>C47. Reduction of the administrative burden for beneficiaries is a matter of interest for the OPTA Managing Authority and, in this respect, simplification cost options are being considered to support the MA in evaluation and training activities.</p>	
<b>EQ 8: To what extent are the monitoring and data collection procedures adequate to perform evaluations?</b>	
<p>C48. The programming document does not contain a detailed description of the planned arrangements for the timely collection and aggregation of statistical data and their publication.</p> <p>In order to fulfil the ex-ante conditionality on Statistical data and indicators, the Programmer is elaborating “Fiches of Indicator” for each of the indicators.</p> <p>C49. In terms on project monitoring and help desk services for beneficiaries, at the moment monitors provide support on specific aspects of project implementation for any beneficiary who needs support in that particular aspect.</p>	<p>R9. It is recommended that the monitoring function be separated from the verification function. Moreover, it is recommended that monitors are assigned to particular operational programmes, and that they provide help-desk support for beneficiaries of that operational programme for any phase of project implementation, from definition of project idea to project closure.</p>
<b>EQ 9: To what extent the programme contributes to the European Union strategy for a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, considering the selected thematic objectives and priorities, taking into account the national and regional needs?</b>	
<p>C50. Considering that OPTA will provide specific Technical Assistance support to Competitiveness and Large Infrastructure OPs, it will have a stronger indirect contribution of the achievement of the EU Headline Targets on R&amp;D, CO2 emission reduction, renewable energies and energy efficiency</p>	<p>No specific recommendations are made</p>
<b>EQ 10: Which is the relation of the Programme with other relevant instruments (policies, strategies)?</b>	
<p>C51. Lack of quantified targets only allowed a qualitative assessment of contribution to Strategy for Consolidation of Public Administration Capacity. Overall the OPTA contributes to the achievement of the SCPAC in the improving framework conditions, evaluation, human resources policy and staff training, development of IT</p>	<p>No specific recommendations are made</p>

Conclusions	Recommendations
<p>systems, partnership culture.</p> <p><b>C52.</b> Given its nature, OPTA will have a horizontal influence over all OPs financed from ESIF, and will also provide support for ETC programmes beneficiaries, while it will have a specific contribution to LIOP, COP, and OPTA itself.</p>	
<p><b>EQ 11: Equal opportunities</b></p>	
<p><b>EQ 11.1: Are the planned measures to promote equal opportunities between men and women and to prevent discrimination adequate?</b></p>	
<p><b>C53.</b> Minimum legal requirements regarding equal opportunities are respected by the OPTA. Moreover, OPTA will provide support to the functioning and capacity strengthening of the Working Group related to horizontal principle that is mentioned in the Partnership Agreement. Furthermore, information and publicity activities supported by the OPTA will include initiatives aimed at promoting equal opportunities and non-discrimination.</p>	<p>No specific recommendation</p>
<p><b>EQ 11.2: Are the planned measures to promote sustainable development adequate?</b></p>	
<p><b>C54.</b> The OPTA mentions a set <b>horizontal interventions</b> that will be financed, with respect to sustainable development, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Trainings on sustainable development especially for people involved in project monitoring and evaluation</li> <li>- Training on sustainable development for project promoters</li> <li>- Creating opportunities for conferences, discussion platforms, working groups, thematic networks in the field of sustainable development</li> <li>- Elaboration of studies or evaluation in the field</li> </ul> <p><b>C55.</b> With respect to the measures used to promote sustainable development at the level of each of the programming phases, for 6 of the 7 phases there are measures included in the OPTA that refer to technical assistance. For Financial Management and Control Phase no such measure is provided. However, the application of such measures in the area of Financial Management and Control is hardly possible.</p>	<p>No specific recommendation</p>

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