

Evaluation of the Cohesion policy in 2021-2027

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Overall policy streamlining:

11 thematic objectives -> 5 policy objectives.

56 investment priorities -> 23 specific objectives + Interreg.

Monitoring and evaluation during 2021-2027:

- No more annual implementation reports.
- Automatic performance review replaced by mid-term review and flexible amounts.
- Extended list of common output and result indicators: 83 output + 58 result (for ERDF, CF)
- More frequent reporting for financial data and indicators.

Evaluation – the main provisions

For the Member States:

- No more mandatory ex-ante evaluations (but programmes should explain the lessons learned).
- Evaluation plan continues to be necessary.
- Include one or more evaluation criteria (effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and EU added value, and possibly other criteria, where useful).
- Impact evaluation for each programme by mid-2029.

For the Commission:

- Mid-term evaluation by Fund, by end-2024.
- Ex-post evaluation, by end-2031.

Evaluation of Cohesion policy, lessons learned

- Over the past 8 years, over 1300 evaluations of cohesion policy were produced in Member States on both present and previous programming periods.
- Over 400 impact evaluations, the rest mainly monitoring and process.

Some of the lessons learned:

- Focus on better evaluations:
 - fewer, better targeted evaluation questions (What do we really need to know for future policy decisions? What is the evidence/data needed?).
 - improve the reliability of findings (more rigorous use of the evaluation methods).
- Plan and allocate evaluation resources: decide between implementation and impact evaluation. The latter should concern key or innovative interventions, with large budgets, or which may be replicated in the future.
- Data needs: anticipate, make arrangements for collection at the beginning of the intervention.
- Build and maintain evaluation capacity.

Evaluation support to the Member States

- SWD on Performance Monitoring and Evaluation 2021-2027.
- Evaluation Helpdesk targeted support (two sessions for Romania, so far).
- Evaluation summer school.
- Evaluation Network.

Current and upcoming developments

Ex-post evaluation 2014-2020

- Under preparation.
- 13 thematic packages.
- Tenders published between end-2021 and mid-2022.
- Finalised: end-2024.

Evaluation conference, 16-17 September 2021, Porto

Thank you



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