

Phare Interim Evaluation in Romania

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The Phare Interim Evaluation Scheme has two objectives

- Contribute to accountability for the successful implementation of Phare;
- Support the strengthening of the evaluation capacity in the Romanian public sector.



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There are two types of Interim Evaluation

- **standard** – if a sector is performing well and has no major changes from the previous evaluation, this can be a brief carry-over report
- **in-depth** – deeper consideration of the evaluation criteria, comparison with other countries and use of more extensive analysis.



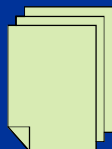
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Sources of Information

Review of documents

Monitoring Reports
Financial Memoranda
Project Fiches
Etc.



Interviews

PIUs
National Aid Coordinator
National Authorizing Officer
CFCU
Beneficiaries



Report



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There are five Evaluation Criteria

- Relevance
- Efficiency
- Effectiveness
- Impact
- Sustainability



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Relevance is concerned with programme design

- Was the programme appropriately designed to tackle the problems identified, both at the time the project was designed and also at the time of the evaluation?
- **Assessment of the overall *design* includes:**
 - quality of the LogFrame especially objectives and indicators,
 - clarity of the stated overall objectives, purpose and results
 - Suitability of proposed implementation methods.



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Efficiency looks at both contracting and implementation

- Have things been done right?
 - Timeliness of contracting and implementation
 - The quality of day-to-day management
 - Cost effectiveness and value-for-money
 - Adequacy of resources
 - Quality of monitoring
 - Suitability indicators of efficiency



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Effectiveness asks if the immediate results are being achieved.

Did the programme achieve its purpose? Looking at the likely position at the end of the project:

- whether the planned benefits have been achieved
- Have behavioural patterns changed (in institutional reform projects)
- Did assumptions and risk assessments materialise?
- Have unplanned results affected the benefits received?



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Impact looks at wider longer term effects

The extent to which the benefits received by the target beneficiaries had a wider overall effect on larger numbers of people in the sector or region or in the country as a whole.

- Effects on economic and social development
- Reaction of donor management and the Government to unforeseen external influences
- Effects of unplanned impacts on the overall impact
- To what extent the economic effects have been spread between economic growth, budget, etc., and to what extent this is related to the achievement of the project's overall objectives



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Sustainability considers if the positive outcomes will continue after the project ends

- Is there enough ownership of objectives and achievements
- Is the legal framework stable?
- Is the overarching strategy up to date?
- Are the implementing institutions fully resourced?
- Is there adequate financial sustainability?



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There is a five point performance rating scale

1. Numerical rating:

■ -2 -1 0 1 2

2. Qualitative rating:

- Highly satisfactory Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory Highly unsatisfactory



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Qualitative Rating

- **Highly satisfactory** - the programmes reviewed are expected to achieve or exceed all the objectives set during their lifetime
- **Satisfactory** - the programmes reviewed are expected to largely achieve the objectives set during their lifetime



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Qualitative Rating (2)

- **Unsatisfactory** - the programmes reviewed are not expected to achieve most of the objectives set during their lifetime
- **Highly unsatisfactory** - the programmes reviewed are not expected to achieve any of the objectives set during their lifetime



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There are several types of Interim Evaluation reports

- Ten sector IE reports per year
- Country Summary reports for each JMC
- Thematic evaluations:
 - Procurement practices
 - Lessons learned from Phare
- Applied methodology reports



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What does an IE Report look like?

- A standard template
- Foreward
- Table of Programmes
- Executive Summary
- Introduction (Scope, objectives, methodology, previous IE follow-up)
- Evaluation findings (Project based assessment)
- Conclusions and recommendations (Sectoral assessment)
- Annexes



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The IE Timetable is quite long:

- Fieldwork – 2-3 months
- Draft report - 1 month
- Finalisation – 1 month
- Debrief – usually within 2 weeks of finalisation
- Follow-up monitoring – every 6 months until recommendations are closed.



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Current issues in IE work

- Relevance – Phare programming has come to an end
- More focus on results indicators
- More concern about impact and sustainability
- Contracting efficiency is historically weak
- Effectiveness is generally very strong
- A large number of projects cannot be fully rated



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