

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Objectives of the evaluation

The purpose of the ex-ante evaluation is to provide quality assurance to the programming process and the final programme document. Quality means in this connection also a cost-efficient budgeting. The ex-ante evaluation is not only a programme evaluation in a strict sense, it goes far beyond that as the evaluators are part of an interactive and iterative consultation process. Their role is not restricted on assessment and evaluation but much more on coaching and guidance.

## 1.2 Methodology

The methodological approach comprises the following aspects. These are both, based on the methodological guidelines from the DG Regio (Working paper on the ex-ante evaluation) as well as on specific ad-hoc requirements:

- Assessment of the economic baseline analysis (plausibility, focus, analytic depth of focus)
- Active advise and support for improvement (including text parts for the programme)
- Assessment of the logic and consistency of the SWOT synopsis (including methodological support)
- Assessment of the strategy relevance and coherence (intervention logic) including coaching
- Assessment of the policy coherence including coaching
- Assessment of the reliability, feasibility and applicability of the indicator system (advisory liaison with the client)
- Assessment of the quantification of objectives (advisory liaison with the client)
- Assessment of the viability and feasibility of the administrative implementation system (in co-operation with a local short term expert)
- Training on specific aspects (demand driven)

The evaluation of the SOP IEC could be carried out according to the a.m. aspects. The indicator system and the quantification of the objectives have been done centrally for all OPs.

The following inputs were provided in terms of coaching:

- Detailed advise to review and recast the Economic Baseline Analysis including submission of data and instruction how to obtain Eurostat data from the internet (see annex)
- Detailed advise to review the SWOT synopsis (see annex)
- Analysis of the consistency and intervention logic (see annex)
- Detailed advise to re-formulate the strategy chapter (see annex)
- Advice to improve the specification of priority axes and measures including the treatment of overlapping and co-ordination issues