

The programme design proposed in the draft Operational Programme for the environment sector in Romania is generally of satisfactory quality. The relevance of objectives is ensured, the main problems are identified and prioritised, and subsequently addressed by appropriate measures. The main deficiency relating to programme design is the lack of objectively verifiable indicators of achievement.

Main recommendations

It is recommended to unify measurement units throughout the text and edit the text itself in the sector analysis. For the SWOT analysis, the 'strength' part needs to be supplemented, while the 'opportunities' part needs to be reduced to the factors external to the sector. In addition, land use management needs to be added to the 'weaknesses' part. And the 'Comments to SWOT Analysis' section needs to be adjusted accordingly. The main recommendation made in the evaluation of the programme design relates to setting objectively verifiable indicators as a means for improving programme design.

Under the water and waste water priority axis, it is recommended restructure and to shorten the rationale and strategy parts focusing on the essential issues. Merging floods prevention and water and waste water management under one priority axis may be considered as a means for simplification of programme implementation. In addition, the list of indicative measures may be reviewed and shortened. Under the waste management priority axis, it is advised to consider inclusion of environmental education activities in the list of activities, especially in the area of waste sorting in the urban areas. It may be important to consider increase financing for this specific priority axis. Under the air quality priority axis the main recommendations deal with reconsideration of objective related to public health, lack of references to other sectors operational programmes addressing environmental problems, reassessment of effectiveness of measures, inclusion of relevant indicators and editing of text. There is a need to include measurable indicators also under the nature protection and nature protection priority axes. Under the technical assistance priority axis, it is recommended to separate the list of activities by recipients, to include measure targeting land use planning; to include references to Human Resource development Operational Programme and to complete the table of indicators of achievement. Revisiting of relevant sections containing indicators of achievement is necessary to provide the basis on which programme results can be measured.