

## Executive Summary

Evaluator's approach is based on the role of the TA funds: to help the programs perform. Performance relies on two basic factors:

- Proper management of the program (staff, systems, tools, processes, etc.)
- Existence of sufficient projects to absorb the funds („project pipeline“)

Current programme clearly support the first factor. One consequence of this is, that the programme is relevant, its objectives coherent with the ones of other OP's and NSRF, but the other one is that second factor has to be addressed elsewhere, in the other OP's.

The drafts of the programmes have been provided by the appointed MA for the TA OP. Drafts included all relevant elements and structures required for an OP, therefore provided proper basis for the ex-ante evaluation.

During the evaluation two feed-back sessions have been organized, both with the participation of the staff of the TA OP Managing Authority and members of the Technical Assistance Working Group (WG), made up by officials of MA's for sectoral and regional OP's, responsible for the TA priorities within the OP.

Current programme contains the proposed amendments discussed and accepted by the MA and the WG. Programme – and report -also contains relevant results of a specialist expert's proposal and a workshop on the indicator system of the OP's.

To summarize relevancy of the programme, evaluator concludes that analysis and concept of TA OP covers the most important challenges Romania faces in relation to the coordination of the management of structural and cohesion instruments (SCI), an essential element to improve absorption capacity. Also in a wider socio-economic context the utility of the programme is justified by the clear need to move towards a more coordinated delivery of the programmes. Although lack of available data in certain areas slightly affects clarity of the analysis, main issues are identified correctly, analysis sufficiently supports global objective of the programme.

The proposed objectives and measures are logically linked to the situation analysis and their contribution to the global objective is clear, too. Minor amendments are proposed by evaluator to improve fit of strategy with situation in Romania, related to the proposed indicative operations.

Strategy is coherent with relevant national policies and EU legislation and policies, too. Its complementary nature with the TA priorities represents an important risk of overlap that can efficiently be managed by intense coordination in the implementation phase.

Expected results are sufficiently quantified and targets can realistically be achieved in the current programming period. Real impact depends largely on how strongly the activities of the programme can be coordinated with TA priorities of

other OP's, how this coordination will be able to help MA of TA OP to provide timely and relevant assistance to the other entities of the management and implementation system and, finally, to the extent flexibility can be maintained, enabling the MA solve upcoming systemic problems during the implementation.

Most of the activities of TA OP contribute to the development of institutional or IT systems. The probability of lasting operation and further development of these systems (their "sustainability") is high, given the general strong commitment of the Romanian government to increase effectiveness of public administration.

Implementation mechanisms are simple, number and quality of staff of the MA is sufficient. Effective implementation largely depends on the efficiency of the operational coordination at Working Group level (Steering Committee proposed by evaluator). At MC level the extension of the partnership with stakeholders interested in increased absorption is proposed.

To conclude, the programme in general is of sufficient quality and well prepared. Further minor amendments aiming to improve expected impact can be made, either by fine-tuning of the OP or at the level of implementing document (PC).