

0 Methodology

0.1 Objectives of the evaluation

The purpose of the ex-ante evaluation is to ensure the quality of the programming process and the final programme document. The ex-ante evaluation is not only a programme evaluation in a strict sense, it goes beyond that as the evaluators are part of an interactive and iterative consultation process. Their role is not restricted to assessment and evaluation, but relates also to coaching and guidance.

0.2 Methodology

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

- assessment of the socio-economic analysis (plausibility, focus, analytic depth of focus);
- assessment of the logic and consistency of the SWOT analysis (including methodological support);
- assessment of the strategy relevance and coherence;
- assessment of the policy coherence;
- assessment of the reliability and applicability of the indicator system;
- assessment of the quantification of objectives;
- assessment of the viability and feasibility of the administrative implementation system.

Process

The process of the ex ante evaluation has the following landmarks:

- The activities of the ex ante evaluation started in the second half of August, 2006.
- The official kick-off seminar was on the 25th of September.
- The ex ante evaluation team elaborated two interim reports which were discussed during debriefing meetings with the MA CSF, the MA SOP HRD and representatives of intermediate bodies on respectively October 4 and November 1, 2006.
- There has also been a workshop on indicators on November 13, 2006, which included a discussion on a set of indicators for the SOP HRD proposed by the key expert on indicators between the MA SOP HRD, the MA ROP, the MA SOP IEC and the key ex ante evaluator.
- The draft final evaluation report was presented and discussed during a meeting with the MA CSF, the MA SOP HRD and representatives of intermediate bodies on December 13, 2006.
- There will a presentation of this final report in February, 2007.
- The Programme Complement will be evaluated separately in March, 2007.