

*consistency* (intervention logic), *policy coherence* and the *quality of implementation systems*. Finally, the ex-ante evaluation should also examine the potential risks for the programme, both in relation to the policy choices made and the implementation system proposed.

For drawing up the programmes more detailed evaluation questions have to be answered in relation to the national, regional or sector strategies to be evaluated. According to the Commissions' Working Paper Ex-Ante Evaluations for the new programmes 2007 - 2013 outline, the evaluation should answer the following questions:

<b>BOX I</b>
<b>Main questions to be answered by the ex-ante evaluation</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Does the programme represent an appropriate strategy to meet the challenges confronting the region or sector?</li><li>• Is the strategy well defined with clear objectives and priorities and can those objectives be realistically achieved with the financial resources allocated to the different priorities?</li><li>• Is the strategy coherent with policies at regional, national (including the National Strategic Reference Framework) and Community level? How will the strategy contribute to the achievement of the Lisbon objectives?</li><li>• Are appropriate indicators identified for the objectives and can these indicators and their targets form the basis for future monitoring and evaluation of performance?</li><li>• What will be the impact of the strategy in quantified terms</li></ul>

Source: Draft Working Paper on Ex-ante Evaluation on the New Programming Period, 2007 - 2013 (Draft October 2005)

The standard procedure for ex-ante evaluation is laid down on the Commission's draft guidelines document (October 2005). Concerning the ex-ante evaluation of the S.O.P. Transport the following additional elements of the methodology and evaluation approach can be given:

The main sources of written material taking into account in the ex-ante evaluation are:

- Regulations on the Structural Funds (General and ERDF) for 2007 - 2013.
- Community Strategic Guidelines on Cohesion 2007 - 2013<sup>2</sup> as well as the Lisbon Agenda.
- The National Strategic Reference Framework 2007 - 2013.
- Commission Draft Working Papers on ex-ante evaluation (October 2005) and on indicators (January 2006).
- The reference documents received from the Evaluation Central Unit during the informal kick off meeting.
- The results of previous evaluations executed for current PHARE programmes (e.g. ISPA).
- Additional information on Romanian Policy papers as they appear important during the execution of the evaluation activities.
- The Operational Programme and Programme Complement of the ACD OP and the other OPs.

<sup>2</sup> COUNCIL DECISION of 6 October 2006 on Community strategic guidelines on cohesion (2006/702/EC)