

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:

BOX I	
Main questions to be answered by the ex-ante evaluation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does the programme represent an appropriate strategy to meet the challenges confronting the region or sector?• 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?• 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?• Are appropriate indicators identified for the objectives and can these indicators and their targets form the basis for future monitoring and evaluation of performance?• What will be the impact of the strategy in quantified terms	

Source: Draft Working paper on ex-ante evaluations

1.3 Main components of the ex-ante evaluation

As said before the ex-ante evaluation should be an *iterative and interactive process* with evaluators undertaking the different components of the evaluation at different times as the programme is prepared. At the end of the process, the evaluator pulls the components together into a final evaluation report which represents an evaluation of the programme as submitted to the European Commission and also reflects the changes and improvements to the programme which have been made through the evaluation process.

According to the draft working paper the ex-ante evaluation will contain the following five main components, which are further elaborated in chapter 2.

- A. Appraisal of the socio-economic analysis and the relevance of the strategy to the needs identified;
- B. Evaluation of the rationale of the strategy and its consistency
- C. Appraisal of the coherence of the strategy with regional and national policies and the Community Strategic Guidelines
- D. Evaluation of the expected Results and Impacts
- E. Appraisal of the proposed implementation systems

These components are the same as the tasks described in the Terms of Reference. In addition to that the ToR asks to execute as well an ex-ante evaluation of the Programme Complement (PC). According to the new EU regulation for the Structural Funds the PCs are not necessary anymore, but for internal purposes – to support the implementation process - the Romanian authorities still wish to receive a more detailed evaluation of the proposed measures, the quantification of the indicators proposed and the implementation and monitoring arrangements. This wish is taken into account during the further elaboration of the evaluation tasks in the next paragraphs.