

1.2 Component ToR

The ToR identify as the specific objective for the project's NSRF Evaluation component to provide policy and decision makers, as well as programme managers with reliable information and knowledge on the performance of the SI in Romania to date. The NSRF Evaluation should be *formative* in character and as such is expected to point out the external and internal critical factors affecting the efficiency and effectiveness of the SI, drawing the main lessons learned during the first year of SI implementation and outlining 'best practice' encountered among the participants in this process. In terms of results, the NSRF Evaluation should address and provide answers to five specific questions that will be covered in **Section 1.4**.

The following sections deal with the approach adopted for trying to answer these questions, the findings obtained and the conclusions arrived at.

1.3 Approach

1.3.1 Main Evaluation Questions

We have conducted our evaluation according to our understanding of the Main Evaluation Questions included in the ToR, namely:

- **Q1** What is the **real performance** of the SI under implementation in Romania related to: (**Q1a**) the expectations and the goals set; and (**Q1b**) the capacity of the entities involved in their implementation?
- **Q2** What are the **major critical factors** (**Q2a**: external and **Q2b**: internal) influencing the performance of the SI?
- **Q3** How well did the **technical assistance support** the management and implementation of the SI?
- **Q4** Have adequate **information and publicity measures** been taken for reaching the targeted audience?
- **Q5** Are the **project pipelines** and **project selection** processes appropriate for creating the conditions for achieving efficiency and effectiveness of SI implementation?

Relationship between the Main Evaluation Questions and the Chapters of the Present Report

For reporting purposes, the order of the questions has been slightly amended, for two reasons. First, the amended order simplifies the structure of the report. Second, it helps to filter out any overlapping of the answers to the Main Evaluation Questions.

The relationship between the Main Evaluation Questions and the various sections of the present report is depicted in the next table [ref: **Table 3**].

⁵ Work on the first *ad hoc* evaluation commissioned by the relevant authorities, dealing with *Challenges in the Capacity of Public and Private SI Beneficiaries*, started on 05 February 2010 and will be finalised in mid-June 2010.